

Welcome to the Schools Go Smarter newsletter, this is the place to find out about sustainable travel initiatives in Northumberland and news about what our schools have been doing. For more information about anything you see here please email; tracy.aitken@northumberland.gov.uk

Tweedmouth Community Middle Schools wins National STARS Secondary School of the Year 2019

On Tuesday 5th March we travelled to the Houses of Parliament with Tweedmouth Community Middle School for the Modeshift STARS National Schools Award Ceremony.

Tweedmouth went on to win **National STARS Secondary School of the Year 2019** and if that wasn't enough the MP for Berwick Anne-Marie Trevelyan asked the Prime Minister to congratulate the school during [Prime Minister's Questions](#) the following day!

Tweedmouth Community Middle School have been taking part in Modeshift STARS since October 2017, gaining bronze accreditation within a year and winning Modeshift STARS Secondary School of the Region for the North East in November 2018.

In achieving national recognition the school have demonstrated how committed they are to promoting sustainable travel. A huge well done to all the staff and pupils involved; including Nadine Karolewski, Tracey Robson, Mr Hulbert, and the Green Ambassadors, we are really proud of you !!!



Staff and pupils from TCMS receiving their National School of the Year Award from Jesse Norman, Minister of State for Transport also present were Berwick MP Anne Marie Trevelyan and Sarah Grattage from Modeshift.

Modeshift STARS News

The next deadline for submitting your bronze, silver and gold level accreditations is the **31st July**, if you would like some help to achieve this before the summer holidays please get in touch.

Also let us know if you are interested in attending either a **STARS Training Workshop** or a **Drop in Session** to come along and work on your travel plans with some support.



Accreditation Success

Well done to schools gaining accreditation this term; Bedlington West End First School, Heddon on the Wall Primary School, Northburn Primary, Prudhoe Castle First School, Chantry Middle School and Grange View Primary who all achieved bronze and Tweedmouth Community Middle School who achieved silver accreditation. Well done to all.

Hands up Survey Winners

Thank you to the schools who completed their annual Mode of Travel Hands up Survey. Winners of the prize draw were **Whitley Memorial First School** in Bedlington who won £250 for completing their survey this term.

Heddon's Living Wall

We had to tell you about Heddon on the Wall Primary School's fantastic Living Wall, Headteacher Andrew Wheatley is very proud of it and explained more;

'The Living Wall was something that we were keen to include when designing our extension, we wanted it to be planted with a variety of flowers and plants to provide not only an amazing visual focal point, but for its environmental benefits.

We are very aware of the dangers that air pollution poses to the children as well as the local community and the Living Wall seemed an excellent and unusual way to help address these concerns, with the plants naturally and continuously removing potentially harmful toxins from the air. It was deliberately sited near the school gate where there is often a lot of traffic and it would have the greatest impact'.

We think it looks amazing and with all the other good work the school is doing to encourage sustainable travel they are well on the way to achieving Silver Modeshift STARS accreditation.



Love Northumberland Awards 2019

Has your school done something new and amazing this year to promote and encourage sustainable travel for the journey to school? Why not enter your project in this years 'Love Northumberland Awards' we have a category within the awards for 'Best School's Sustainable Travel Project'. Schools can nominate new projects that they have delivered this academic year, watch out for details coming soon on how to enter



Make your own maps

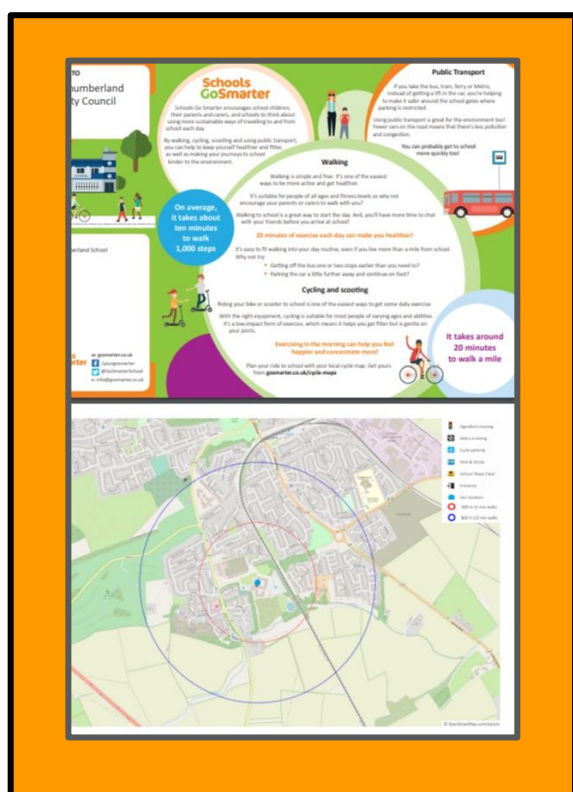
Did you know that we have our own free mapping portal which Northumberland schools can use to generate a sustainable travel leaflet and map for their school.

The system is easy to use and the finished map can be printed out or added to your website.

Schools can use the map to show how far you can walk from the school in 5, 10 and 15 minutes and can be used to encourage parents not to drive to the school gate.

You can access the portal at;

[Go Smarter Mapping Portal](#)



FREE Trees for schools

Would you like to make your school a greener place?

The [Woodland Trust](#) want to make sure that everybody in the UK has the chance to plant a tree and are giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities. They are now taking applications for free trees for schools to be delivered in November 2019.



What's coming up soon?

May is [National Walking Month](#)

[Walk to School Week](#)

20th-24th May

[Bike Week](#)

10th-14th June

[Clean Air Day](#)

20th June

Get in touch if you if you want to take part in any of these events.

How to get started with STARS

10 Easy Steps

Has your school started working towards STARS accreditation yet?

Achieving bronze is easier than you think and once completed you will have a travel plan which meets national standards.

First task is to decide who will be your school travel champion then follow these 10 easy steps to get your school started with STARS.



1. Register at [Modeshift STARS](#)
2. Book on a STARS training session or arrange a visit from the Travel Plan Team
3. Complete the Introduction section with information about your school
4. Set up your working group
5. Look at the existing facilities at your school such as cycle storage and parking spaces and complete your site audit.
6. Complete your pupils hands up survey, staff surveys and set your targets
7. Go through the Initiatives Guide and see what has already been delivered and what you would like to deliver in the coming year- discuss with the rest of the staff.
8. Use the Accreditation Progress tab to see what else you need to complete
9. New **resources** section will be coming soon check this out for inspiration and ideas
10. Remember we are here to help, don't hesitate to ask



Modeshift STARS is the national awards scheme that recognises schools that have shown excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel.

Why take part?

- 🚲 **Healthier pupils** – by encouraging active, healthy lifestyles for young people through more walking and cycling
- 🚲 **Safer pupils** – identifying issues and improving the quality of the environment around your school
- 🚲 **Involving the whole school community** – children, parents and teachers working together to make a difference
- 🚲 **School Travel Plan** – automatic generation of a new School Travel Plan which will deliver significant time and costs savings
- 🚲 **National Accreditation** – you will receive the Modeshift STARS plaque, certificate and use of the nationally recognised logo
- 🚲 **The National STARS School Travel Awards** – a chance to be considered for the National STARS School Travel Awards
- 🚲 **Changing behaviour** – STARS will provide you with the tools to reduce car use and increase the number of children walking, cycling and using public transport on the journey to and from school.