

Translink Travel Challenge Case Study – Ulidia Integrated College.

Teacher Name	Sandra Patterson
School Name	Ulidia Integrated College
Number of pupils	582
Eco-Schools Status	Ambassador Eco-School
Topic	Transport

Information on the Translink Travel Challenge.

Translink are sponsors of the Eco-Schools Transport topic. Together with Eco-Schools they have run the Travel Challenge for the past 6 years. The 2 week Challenge encourages pupils to travel to school in a more sustainable way by switching the car for a refreshing walk, cycle or journey by public transport. As well as helping the environment and saving money the Challenge has the added benefit of reducing congestion at the school gates, promoting physical and mental health, and teaching pupils valuable life skills. The Challenge comes with a handy toolkit of resources including lesson plans, inspirational ideas for completing your Challenge, and monitoring sheets for recording your results. The Challenge helps schools progress towards Eco-Schools Green Flag award success and of course there are some great prizes on offer too. Prizes can be won in different travel categories and the new #Smartmovers Project category for the most creative approach to sustainable travel to school. Visit the Translink [website](#) for more information.

Questions and Answers with Ulidia Integrated College.

Why did you want to take part in the Translink Travel Challenge? Was this your first year taking part?

This was our first year taking part. We decided that the Challenge sounded like good fun and to give it a go!

How did you decided to run the Challenge in your school? Describe how you promoted it and encouraged other pupils to take part?

We decided to run the Travel Challenge with all Year 9 as we felt that they had the most time and enthusiasm to put into it. The Challenge was run using the pastoral system to support it. We launched the Challenge in year group assembly using the Power Point that was provided in the Translink Travel Challenge toolkit. Each pupil was given a copy of the tally sheet from the toolkit to staple into their planner and was reminded each morning by their form tutor to complete the sheet. Pupils were encouraged to take part with positive reinforcement by all staff throughout the college who asked



them in their lessons about it and their actions. Within forms, groups of pupils were given opportunities to arrange group meet ups to walk to school, and sharing lifts was encouraged with groupings suggested by form tutors.

Explain how you reported your results to Translink and Eco-Schools –

Prior to beginning the Challenge each pupil's travel distance to school was measured using ICT resources in form time and with support of school secretarial staff. At the end of the 2 weeks Challenge period the pupils' travel tally sheets were collected by the form tutor, and then sent to the school Eco-Committee. The results were input into the Excel spreadsheet provided in the Challenge toolkit; the process was very straightforward as the spreadsheet completed all the calculations. The calculations were then used to work out fun facts as to where the sustainable kilometres saved could take the pupils! An assembly was then held to share the results with all the pupils and to give out prizes to individual pupils who made an excellent effort over the Challenge.



Translink Travel Challenge Results

63 pupils, all of Year 9, took part. They travelled 7387 sustainable kilometres during the Challenge and recorded 218 fewer car journeys than before the Challenge.

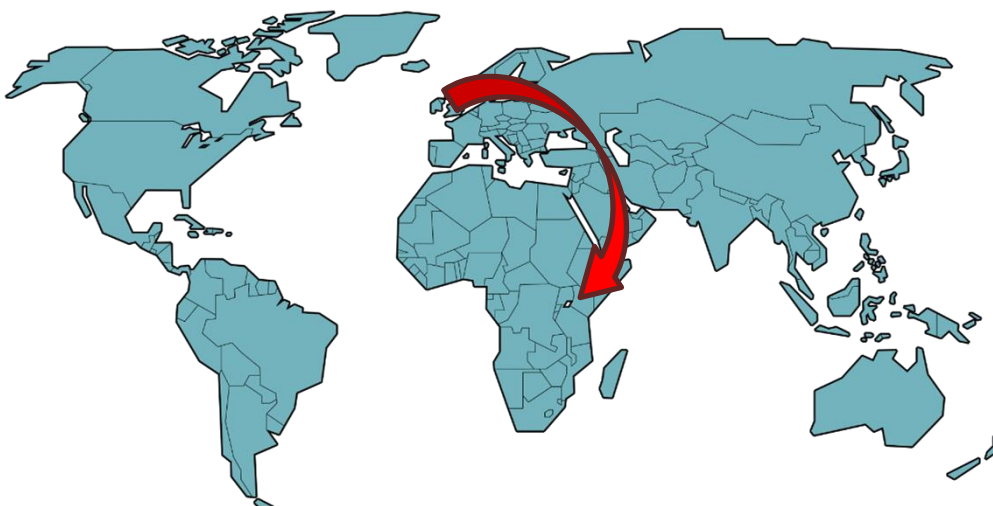


Figure 1 - Year 9 travelled enough sustainable kilometres to take them to Nairobi, in Kenya, during their Translink Travel Challenge.

Class 9CNV recorded that 98% of their journeys were made sustainably during the Challenge. This was an improvement of 62% from 36% of their journeys being sustainable before the Challenge. They won the Translink Travel Challenge award for 'Most Eco-Journeys Made by a Class'.

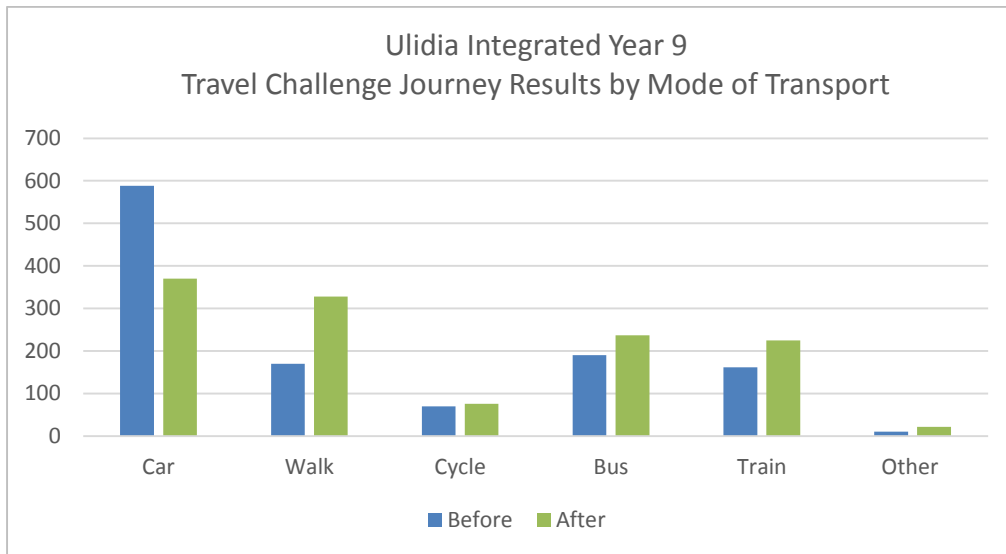


Table 1 - Ulidia Integrated Year 9 Travel Challenge Journey Results by Mode of Transport before and after Translink Travel Challenge.

The results in Table 1 show that there was a decrease in car travel over all the classes in Year 9 and an increase in all other more sustainable methods of transport during the Challenge.

Describe your morning at the Translink Eco-Schools Event in Central Station –

We were delighted to learn that we had won the prize for ‘Most Eco-Journeys Made by a Class’ and were invited to attend the Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge event in Central Station to receive our prize.

A group, made up of Eco-Committee members and other pupils, travelled by train to Central Station. We presented to guests at the event about how we had approached the Travel Challenge. We were officially presented our third Green Flag which we had achieved earlier in the year and our prize certificate for the Translink Travel Challenge. We were also given goody bags, press photos were taken and then we enjoyed a nice lunch!

What are your future hopes for travel at Ulidia?

We now hope to run the Translink Travel Challenge with Year 9 every year on an ongoing basis as part of our pastoral programme.

What would you say to other schools to encourage them to take part in the Translink Travel Challenge?

Have a go, you might enjoy it!

The project was user friendly and increased awareness of sustainable travel throughout the year group. Teachers enjoyed the project as it was easy to manage and the prepared resources made delivery of the campaign simple.

