

# Sustrans School Travel Case Study: Colyton Grammar School, Devon

website: [www.sustrans.org.uk/schooltravel](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/schooltravel) tel: 0117 915 0100 e: [schools@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:schools@sustrans.org.uk)

**Title of project:** 'Build a Bike' challenge

**Type of School:** State Co-educational Selective Grammar School

**Location of school:** Rural

**Local Authority:** Devon County Council

**Partners:** Soanes Cycles of Colyton (donor)

**Key Features:** Cycling, Pupil Involvement

**Summary:** The 'build a bike' challenge began in September 2009, when the school cycle club were challenged to build a bike using second-hand parts. The eight people strong cycle club accepted the challenge in order to raise awareness for re-using resources and using sustainable transport.



**Initiative:** The pupils began by advertising their challenge through parents and the local newspapers in order to acquire some second hand parts. The students were astounded by the generosity of donors and ended up with 16 bikes in various conditions, three frames and many other parts.

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The weekly cycle club meetings became bi-weekly, and the members carefully assessed each donated bike part, noting what work needed doing, how long it would take and how much it would cost.

In order to raise capital, the cycle club started working on a BMX with the idea to sell it before Christmas. According to the cycle club chairperson Benjamin Strawbridge, *“The BMX had a ceased up rear hub, punctured back tyre, was missing a bolt on the stem, and its back brake didn’t work. Finding a replacement M6 bolt took a while, but was eventually found in Halfords, and the rear hub was a very greasy and sandy affair! Jack, who had previous mechanical experience, took great care not to lose any bearings, and lovingly cleaned, re-greased and tightened the rear hub.”*

A local cycle shop provided mechanical support, road safety checks and low-cost parts. Using an online sealed bid auction, the BMX sold for £50.

Using some of this profit, the club went on to complete a further six bikes. Five of these were sold at the school’s garden fair and the remaining one was donated to the school to allow staff to travel sustainably. The profits from the bike, along with the sale of the remaining bike parts were very generously donated to Sustrans in order to help us continue our work on walking and cycling routes with Devon County Council.

**Case study contact details:** Colyton Grammar School,  
Whitwell Lane,  
Colyford,  
Colyton,  
Devon,  
EH24 6HN  
Email: [admin@colytongrammar.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@colytongrammar.devon.sch.uk)