

## ESC Directors impressed by Ballakermeen students' sustainability knowledge

Dr Dave Quirk and Ralph Peake recently visited Ballakermeen High School to discuss sustainability and renewable energy with Sixth Form students.

Dave and Ralph gave a talk entitled 'Emissions-Free Island' at an assembly, followed by a Q&A session. The visit was prompted by an invitation from the school's Head of Sixth Form, Richard Karran.

Commenting after the event, Ralph said: "A major part of ESC's mission is to use our expertise to help everyone in the community to understand the complex issues relating to sustainability and renewable energy. Understanding these issues is crucial in the context of the Island's progress towards achieving its 2050 net zero targets. The current generation of high school students will be well into careers in the public and private sectors by the time that deadline approaches – so it's particularly important that young people are engaged in this debate. That's why we were delighted to accept the invitation to attend the assembly. Dave and I were very impressed by the high level of knowledge shown by the students about sustainability and environmental issues. However, what impressed us even more was their energy, enthusiasm, and clear determination to play a part in helping the Island to transition to a green economy by seizing the opportunities presented by renewable energy technologies, and the Island's natural, renewable resources."

Richard Karran said: "The students really enjoyed the visit from Mr Peake and Dr Quirk. The level of engagement in issues regarding sustainability is very strong but I felt that the students were particularly attentive to Dr Quirk's talk. I have heard a lot of conversations in the common room about the need for action and that is such a positive thing."

ESC – which is a UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Partner – welcomes invitations to give presentations or take part in public debates and forums – to make requests please email [ralph.peake@energysustainabilitycentre.im](mailto:ralph.peake@energysustainabilitycentre.im)



*Pictured at the Ballakermeen High School assembly are (left to right) ESC Director, Dr Dave Quirk; Ballakermeen Head of Sixth Form, Richard Karran; ESC Director, Ralph Peake; and Ballakermeen Sixth Form prefects, Lucy Passey and Rebecca Walmsley.*