



Exciting News!

XPolli:Nation (Cross Pollination) Project

Following on from the amazing efforts of the St Alban's School Community, our school has been chosen to be part of a new *National Geographic* project which will help to take *Polli Promise* to other schools in Hampshire and Italy! The project is being led by Dr Poppy Lakeman-Fraser from *Open Air Laboratories (OPAL)* at *Imperial College London*. *Hive* will remember that it was OPAL who supported us in launching *Polli Promise* nationally. *XPolli:Nation* will begin this spring and complete in the autumn of 2020.

What is the XPolli:Nation project?

XPolli:Nation will take the *Polli:Nation Survey* and our *Polli Promise* and mix in some computing based tools. It will share, or 'cross pollinate', these ideas and learning experiences between different people in the UK and Italy.

Who is involved in the XPolli:Nation project?

The *XPolli:Nation* team is made up of technologists, scientists and educators (including Miss Newman) and will be led by OPAL. *National Geographic* is funding the project, which also includes *University of Aberdeen*, *Open University*, *Learning through Landscapes*, the *Maremma Natural History Museum* and of course, St Alban's Church of England Primary School, Havant! Enthusiastic schools from Hampshire and Italy will also be joining us.

What does the project involve?

XPolli will be carrying on *Polli Promise* at school and taking it abroad, as *Hive* has always wanted to do. The project will be focusing on KS2 and KS3 pupils but there will be opportunities to involve the whole St Alban's community. One of the exciting things for us is that the technology, for the project, will be developed with groups of St Alban's pupils. We will be helping to develop computer-based pollinator identification and planting tools that will be used in *XPolli*.

Dr Lakeman Fraser said "We are absolutely delighted that St Alban's students and Miss Newman are involved in *XPolli:Nation*. Your *Polli Promise* campaign was so inspirational that we wanted to take it to other countries. We also wanted to combine it with some helpful technology to develop a citizen science programme that not only collects useful data for scientists, but that motivates other young people and their communities to learn about, and protect pollinators. We can't wait to start work with your school. You will be so valuable in helping us to improve our tools, supporting research by recording pollinators and convincing others to provide homes and food for these vital insects."

So, a huge thank you to everyone who has helped to develop *Polli Promise*. Working together, you have already made a difference to pollinators and people in the UK and will continue to do so across Europe this year.

