



Civitas Academy

Civitas Academy - CSII 9th January 2025 University of Reading



CALM team members **Marta O'Brien**, from the University of Reading, and **Mark Mason** from Design Nature, were joined by approximately 50 Y5 pupils from Civitas Academy for an exploration of indoor Air Quality. The session was held in the Environmental Science laboratory at the university.

Building on previous activities with Civitas Academy, pupils were encouraged to engage in hands-on experiments that recreated various forms of indoor air pollution. They also analysed data they had collected in their classrooms over several weeks, boosting their understanding through practical activities.

Expertly led by **Marta**, the pupils took part in experiments that demonstrated how everyday activities such as cooking with natural gas and burning wood for heating can impact indoor air quality. The children used handheld devices to measure the level of pollutants in the air, that replicated air pollution on a small scale in a safe way, and discussed how pollutants can impact our health.

"Learning by doing is one of the most effective ways to engage pupils at this age."

"By prioritising environmental education today, we are making a vital investment in the future of our planet - something the world urgently needs."

Following the experiments, **Mark** discussed the air quality data that had been collected from the classrooms and helped the pupils and staff analyse the various findings.

"Sharing visual data and graphs highlighted the Particulate Matter 'spikes' which appeared several times during Halloween, Bonfire Night(s), and Diwali, on both the indoor sensors in the classrooms at the school. CALM's observations are a positive example of demonstrating the impact that outdoor air pollution can have on our indoor air quality."

"Y5 had a great time at the University of Reading today in one of their environmental science laboratories. We learnt lots with Marta and Mark completing experiments around air quality as part of their CALM:ER (Clean Air Living Matters: Exploring Reading) studies." 🧑🏫🧑🏫🧑🏫🧑🏫 (Civitas Academy on X)

If you would like your school (or know of one which would) to be involved in the CALM programme, please complete our short enquiry form on the website (click QR code below).

Written by: Mark Mason
Pictures by: Civitas Academy & University of Reading
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