



"This edition's theme is... Planet Earth"

Taking Action

Everyone says they're concerned about the environment, but there are some major concerns regarding our future. Our planet is precious, and we are slowly losing it. We are losing key habitats; the ice caps are melting away and we must be more careful. It's a cliché that everyone must play their part in helping, but you can and must make a difference.

For the past twenty-six years, the leaders of all the world's nations have met yearly to discuss climate policy and prevent the disaster that climate change could cause in the UN's Conference of Parties. And COP26 was possibly the most crucial yet. For the first time since the start of the Trump presidency, the US took a leading role in battling the global crisis. Now that they have re-joined the Paris Agreement made at COP21 in 2015, the US, along with the rest of the world, is committed to preventing global temperatures from rising by more than two degrees, with a target set at one point five degrees at most. This year, India committed to a firm deadline of 2070 for going carbon neutral, making it the first developing nation to do so.

As much as countries working together is vital, it is often the work of large corporations such as BP or Shell who cause the most damage to the planet. A commonly discussed concept is a person or group's "carbon footprint"; however, this idea was actually designed by BP, an oil company, in 2004. The "carbon footprint calculator" was designed to help individuals measure their impact on the planet, and sneakily distract them from the damage that BP is causing. It is important that we remain critical when looking at companies' apparent 'green' aims as they can be tactics to avoid addressing the real issues at hand.

For example, fast fashion and wasted food are only some of the harmful impacts that we inflict upon our environment every day. Although that small plate of leftovers from dinner the night before may not look like much, studies show that every minute 1,000 tonnes of food is wasted. That food could have gone on to provide your lunchtime meal, or perhaps it could be compiled into compost to nourish the earth. One thing we're all guilty of is the abundance of clothes passing in and out of our wardrobes every year from the ever-changing fashion industry, but do we really need a whole new wardrobe every year and will our wasteful habits ever stop?

It was clear in the outcome of our survey that was completed throughout school that although many of us feel the benefits of spending time outside, both mentally and physically, everyone is worried about the planet. This shows the importance of the changes that individuals are taking, as well as how crucial it is for large organisations to take action. Nature documentaries, which appeared popular in our survey, have been a catalyst in showing people what they need to save, and what has already been lost.

With all of these concerns about our planet's environment, it can seem very overwhelming at times. However, it is important for us to remember the natural beauty of our world; as our survey revealed, spending time in the outside environment can really benefit mental and physical health. Appreciating nature and recognising the continued growth and evolution of the planet can help to remind us of the positivity still prevalent within the natural world. We need to be aware of the issues of climate change and sustainability, but we can do this in conjunction with admiring our wonderful planet.



By The Gazette Sixth Form Editorial Team



Smash and Grab!

Firstly, think of a china teapot. Delicate and fragile. If you're selfish with the teapot, if you drop it, and knock it, and damage it all over, over time, it'll break. And you'll wonder how it happened, but deep down you'll know how your actions affected the delicate teapot. Now imagine your planet, delicate and fragile. Eventually under the pressure of your selfishness it'll break.

Secondly, over the next few decades if we do not revert our malevolent actions our world will break just like a china teapot. We are living in the age of humans, we are the determiners of nature's survival. Over a short period of time we've halved the land that we need to survive. 60% of wild animals have been lost and we are dependent on fossil fuels and industrial meat.

On the other hand, the rise in population is at an all-time low, with fewer people having children, and people living longer lifetimes. The result in this is less land destroyed in the production of housing and supply demand. Our wildlife is at an all-time low with 96% of mammals being humans and pets that we hold dear.

Ultimately, we must become more delicate with our china teapot. We mustn't poison it with fossil fuels and our industrial lifestyle. We must save our oceans, our food supplies and our population of wildlife. Be the one who catches the teapot before it falls, not the one who drops it and watches it break.

Niamh Millar 110

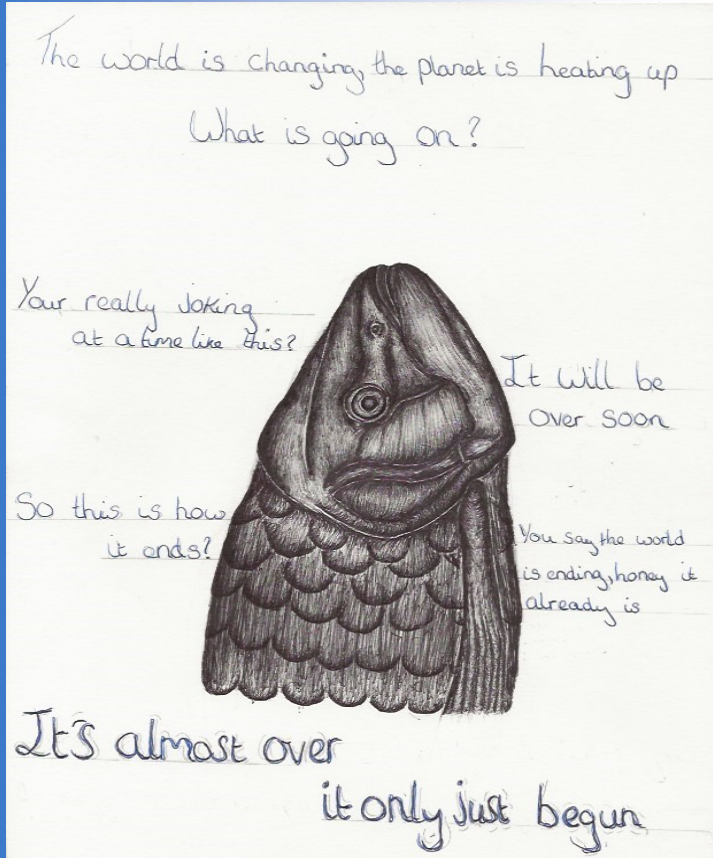
We're Only Human

This is our only home. The problem with Earth is simply us – humans. Around 10,000 years ago, there was no electricity, cars or anything like that. We lived alongside nature. It wasn't until around the 1700s that we started an irreversible war between humans and our planet. We introduced the use of fossil fuels as they would help the machinery in factories. Since the 1800s, we have advanced and multiplied rapidly. As the population vastly increased, the demand for anything and everything did too. The unnecessary amount of greenhouse gases being produced are causing nature to be unfriendly. The Earth is getting drier, wetter, hotter, windier and unpredictable.

To become more conscious about what is going on you can help by simply encouraging nature; this could be not mowing your lawn as frequently, planting wild flowers or just contributing in any way at all. You can also eat less meat as it uses so much energy and resources to create a singular burger.

Another way to be more responsible is that when you go shopping, think to yourself 'will I wear this thirty times or more?' If the answer is no – carry on looking. There are plenty of small solutions you can make in your daily life – what are you willing to do?

Leaya Alexander 10D



Catherine Whelan 10F

We Can fix This

Humans are the main cause of all the problems that the Earth faces today. We have cultivated more than half of the free land on the planet and cut down more than a trillion trees. The amounts of CO2 in our atmosphere today is the most it's ever been in human history. This then in turn leads to climate change, which destroys habitats and even eliminates whole species.

We can fix this.

We can decrease our carbon emissions by walking or taking public transport and by eating local, seasonal food. We can reduce our consumption of meat, therefore providing more land to the wild and giving us as humans more cheap and sustainable food. We can start to manage the ocean better, increasing the population of fish and looking after our reefs. Finally we can encourage nature where we can, it might just be in your back garden or maybe on a much bigger scale, but any form of encouragement will help to re-wild our planet. It's our responsibility.

What will you do?

Dylan Fry 10H



Darcy Longford 9B

"It is everybody's shared responsibility to look after our planet"

Do you ever consider your individual impact on our planet? The further into the climate crisis we get, the more critical it becomes to reflect on it. As humans, we consume an awful lot as fuel that contributes to the build up of greenhouse gases. These can cause ice caps to melt due to the rising temperatures and can lead to wildlife being wiped out resulting in a lack of biodiversity. It might sound like there is no hope however, we can all make some changes such as cut down on our meat consumption to reduce methane from farming, cut down on the amount of clothes we buy to lessen our carbon emissions and to build up sustainability, and finally, make our houses more efficient through either improving insulation or more sustainable lighting. Overall, our small actions can be significant in the grand scheme of slowing down this disaster. If we caused this, we can stop it.

Olivia Busby 10B

Why aren't we doing more to help?

20,000 years ago the human race consisted of 1 million hunter-gatherers who depended entirely on nature to survive. Now, in the twenty-first century, it is down to us to save the planet our ancestors relied on. Over half the land humans and animals once roamed freely on together has now been cultivated, and, in the last 50 years, the animal population worldwide has decreased 60%. Of the remaining 40%, 96% of mammals and 76% of birds have been tamed and domesticated in some way.

Only humans have the ability to save the planet we depend on, and everyone has their part to play. Whether it be helping reduce fossil fuel emissions, using public transport, or simply eating less meat, everything helps. Since the start of the Industrial Revolution, humanity has been playing down the severity of Climate Change, pretending they don't know why it's happening or that it's really not that serious; but this is the eleventh hour, and there's no hiding now. Every human alive today lives and breathes because of nature. At its core, humanity depends on Earth and its environment, so why aren't we doing more to help?

Emily Peck 10G



"Let Us Breathe", Beth Hopkins 12HG

Climate change!

Can you help change the world?

Life is too short

Imagine your grandchildren's futures being wrecked

Manage your plastic use

All of us must work

Together to protect the

EARTH

Change how much meat you eat

Help stop deforestation

Animals' lives matter

Nothing can stop this but us

Getting together as I want to

End this assault on the world

Harrison Keen 9L



"Be Like A Tree, Stay Grounded, Keep Growing and Know When to Let Go",
Sam Lyons 12HG

Let's Fight For Our Planet

There is no second planet. We are almost at a point of irreversibility; our planet has been neglected for too long and we are suffering the consequences of the problems we have created ourselves.

In the last 50 years, the population of wild animals has reduced by 60% and 96% of all mammals are now domesticated. We need to start by phasing out fossil fuel, regreening our land with vegetation and pressuring our world leaders to make vital changes in their regimes.

No fish zones, for example, need to be thoroughly introduced to repopulate our oceans. We need to make these changes before it is too late, or we shall lose our one and only home.

You would fight for your own home so why are we reluctant to fight for our planet?

George Perkins 10W

"There is no Plan B for Planet Earth"

We all live on Planet Earth, so why are we destroying it day by day? Each individual has a responsibility to protect the environment we depend on. The concentration of CO₂ in our atmosphere as of July 2021 is the highest it has been in human history. We all need to change.

Together we can renew our planet's balance with nature to how it should be. Our past neglect can drive our ambition to combat the issues we will face with climate change. These problems are droughts, floods and sea-levels rising.

As Greta Thunberg said "No one is too small to make a difference." Reducing our consumption of meat, planting a tree and renewable energy are all steps in the right direction.

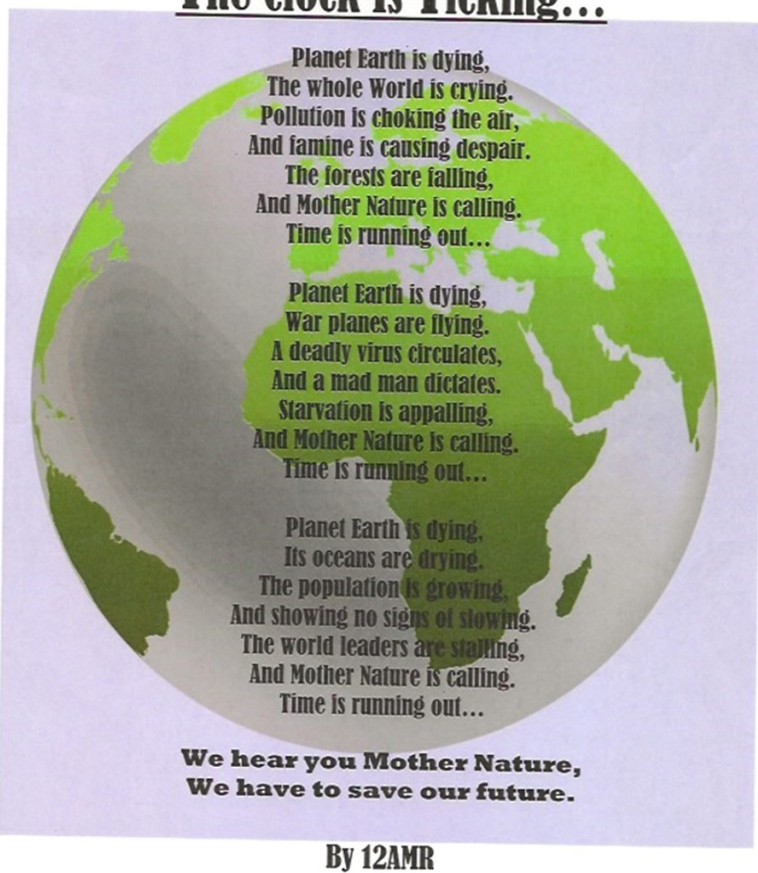
Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

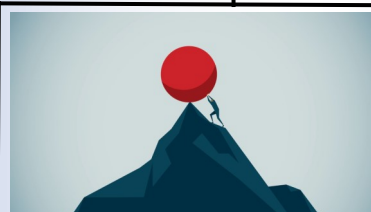
Lottie Weathrup 10Q

The Clock Is Ticking...



"The Fluidity of
the World",

Emily Wallace
12HG



The theme of the Summer Edition is 'Resilience'.
Listen out for the Assembly for entry deadline details.