

## **Slide 1 - Title**

## **Slide 2 – Brexit flag**

- The recent national news, has been dominated, by Brexit drama, and parliamentary discord
- Will we, or won't we, leave the European Union, with, or without a deal, set against the background, of anger, heckling and division, in the House of Commons.

## **Slide 3 – House of Commons**

- News commentators, have expressed concern, that young people, are beginning to feel increasingly disconnected, from our political system.

## **Slide 4 – MUNCH**

- However, here at Wilmslow, we as a staff, are often impressed, by your awareness of wider social issues, and with the confident, and articulate way, you discuss your concerns and ideas.

## **Slide 5 – Young protesters**

- In a more positive recent news story, there is evidence, that the voices of young people, are now being heard, as protesters urge politicians, to take more urgent action to address climate change.
- A new generation is being energised, over the need to tackle climate change.
- Global warming, and its effect on climate, is one the most pressing issues, facing the world today.

## **Slide 6 – Climate change facts**

- Despite much having been written, on the urgency with which we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pull carbon out of the

air, most decision makers, from individual consumers (us) to world leaders, have been slow to take action.

- Younger generations, however, seem to be clued into the reality, that there are indeed, climate solutions to this global problem.

### **Slide 7 – Greta**

- Greta Thunberg, the 16 year old, Swedish environmental activist, who started the ‘School Strikes for Climate’ movement, and who recently addressed the UN Climate Action Summit, was quoted as saying:
- *"The climate crisis has already been solved. We already have all the facts and solutions. All we have to do is to wake up and change,"*
- There are of course, many encouraging climate-friendly advances that are now being developed in areas such as, the production of cleaner energy, sustainable food and more eco-efficient modes of transport.

### **Slide 8 – Change habits**

- But, the message, that is now coming, loud and clear from young people, is, rather than seeking the courage to “fight” climate change, we need to find the courage to “see”, the common-sense solutions, which lie, right in front of us.....
- Solutions, that simply require a change in habits, and a more thoughtful approach, to our daily lives.

## **Slide 9 – Less water**

- Greta Thunberg, and her peers, are reminding us, that activism, is not just about lobbying for change, but doing it ourselves....
- That tiny changes, might seem insignificant, but that they are a very important part, of how we can protect the planet.
- There are of course, real obstacles to sustained, environmental progress, but, we must start to focus more on what we are ‘for’, and not just what we are ‘against’.

## **Slide 10 – School progress**

As a school, we can do more to play our part in the eco-friendly movement, but, we have made some progress, for example, we have:

- Installed a more environmentally friendly printing system
- Sent most letters home by email not as hard copies
- Moved to wooden forks in High Options
- Swapped plastic bags for paper bags in Printworks
- Stopped supplying plastic cups for water
- Installed more eco friendly boilers for heating, and...
- Fitted eco-efficient lighting

## **Slide 11 – Individual tips**

As individuals, everyone in this room, can do more at home, as well as here at school. Here are just a few ways in which you as students, could make a difference:

- Turn TVs, chargers and other appliances off at the socket when not in use
- Use re-chargable batteries

- Turn your bedroom light off when you leave the room
- Use less water: shorter showers and when brushing teeth
- Recycle, and avoid buying plastic items
- Donate clothes to charity shops
- Reduce the amount we print and use both sides of the paper
- Eat less meat
- Eater smaller portions and don't waste food
- Don't pay for plastic bags when you shop
- Walk or cycle to school
- Buy eco-friendly products
- Don't drop litter
- And encourage friends and family to follow your lead

You could of course, take it further, and promote good habits within your local community. The BBC filmed our very own Tilly Johnson in Year 8, doing just that:

### **Slide 12 – Tilly video**

### **Slide 13 – Eco Schools**

- Another way in which we as a school, can reduce our environmental footprint, is to help mobilise you, by giving you forums where you can suggest ideas, devise action plans, and challenge us, school staff, to do more.
- The school is now a member of the Eco-Schools Programme. This programme encourages students to think about their school environment, and empowers you to initiate changes.

## **Slide 14 – Areas of eco focus**

- As part of this programme, we will be asking you to discuss in your form groups, which environmental areas we should focus upon.
- We will then be advertising a number of eco-action groups, led by staff and 6<sup>th</sup> form students, for you to join, such as a recycling group with Mrs Birchill, and a Plastic Free group with Miss Browning.
- All the information you need, will be posted on the Fire Fly student noticeboard, and in High Notes.
- I hope that you take something from this assembly, and that you feel empowered, to have an opinion, and play your part, but I will leave the last words to someone who has spent his career, studying our planet:

## **Slide 15 – Attenborough video**

**Thank you for listening.**