

## Words for Your World

### **Year 9 Runner-up: Marcia Rutter St. George's Cof E Academy**

Ladies and gentlemen: They're lying.

They say that the UK will bring greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050: they're lying. They say all cars will be electric by 2050: they're lying. They say that they care about our climate emergency: they're lying. You see, the government is all talk, no action. They can make all these promises but it means nothing if they can't keep them. They can act like they are making a change, but we will know when they don't; the reality is, this climate emergency isn't going to just disappear. We have to overcome it, together.

Young activists like Greta Thunberg and Dominique Palmer have already begun to take action, and whilst this is great, it's "all wrong." Our climate emergency should be urgently dealt with before it is too late.

Dealt with by those who have the power to make a change, not the younger generations. But if we don't do anything to provoke a change then nothing will happen.

There are many simple changes those in power can make to decrease the risks of our climate challenge. One of these ways is by switching our energy sources from non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels to renewable energy resources such as wind and solar. This makes an impact on the climate as when we burn fossil fuels to generate energy, carbon dioxide is produced, this is a greenhouse gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect and hence global warming/climate change. However, renewable resources do not contribute in any way and can be implemented much easier such as by installing solar panels on the roofs of houses and wind turbines in the sea's.

Nevertheless these aren't the only ways to decrease the effects of the climate struggle. There are many ways of life that society can change to create solutions to our planet's problems, caused by the people on it. A way we can do this is by reducing our carbon emissions. As mentioned before, carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, which can lead to global warming and climate change. We can reduce our carbon footprint in many ways. Some of these include: opting to walk or cycle where possible, limiting meat consumption, reducing waste, avoiding excess packaging and opting for reusable items where possible. Whilst this sounds like a huge change, these small individual changes performed as a society can cause a huge positive impact towards our climate emergency.

I would like to finish by reinforcing that we can beat this climate emergency... together. It isn't the sole responsibility of the government, of our young activists or our society as individuals. It is a joint responsibility of us all. To ensure that the government's promises are carried out and are not the lies we perceive them to be. To ensure that our climate emergency isn't placed on young activists. To ensure action is taken to confirm the survival of our planet. We must take action. We must stand together.

Thank you for listening.