

Words for Your World

Commended entry Year 9 - Olivia Walton; St. George's Cof E Academy, Blackpool

Dear Ms Espinosa,

Why should we be made to clean up the mess of 'leaders' who are reckless, careless and quite frankly, inept?

This is the question of most young people's minds at the moment; and my question is: why? Why should we be the ones responsible for cleaning the planet of vile substances which are pumped out every day by factories run by corrupt business people, who do not care about our environment, because they will not be here when it all inevitably goes wrong. And then what? We are the ones with the blood of our Earth on our hands. What will we tell our children?

We are suffocating our people. We are poisoning our oceans. We are ruthlessly destroying the Earth: and nothing is being done about it. Why should we pay the consequences? Why should we live with the guilt that we had the chance to help our planet, yet nothing was done because of corrupt business people who care more about money than the wellness of our Earth.

Think about the animals, as well. I think some people forget that we are not the only species on this planet: we share it with millions of beautiful creatures, all who we endanger more day by day by just taking the so-called "necessary" measures just to live. The endangered list is now 41,415, with over 16,000 of those being threatened with extinction. We are on the brink of a mass extinction and most do not realise.

Additionally, our Ozone is crumbling and we won't stop putting chemicals in what we're trying to breathe. Sea levels are rising due to global warming. We are destroying animals' habitats for our own selfish reasons and no-one is helping. Do you realise this started back in 1985?

In reality, we have proved over the COVID pandemic, that we can run essentially carbon neutral and keep single-use plastic reliance to a minimum. Take Milan, Italy for example, before COVID, the sky was clouded with thick black smog. However after almost 2 years with no planes passing over, the Alps were finally visible above the skyline. I'm saying that this is the time frame which we are talking about to reduce air pollution and I'm sure that many other forms of pollution will quickly be able to be reduced to a minimum in this way.

This message is aimed at the entire human race- not just specifically older generations, most young people in modern society use plastic regularly, and don't think about consequences. The impacts are devastating on wildlife such as turtles.

We can't live and not destroy, at least with the technological advances of the last century- our future is stolen and we are the thieves.

I hope that our voices are heard and that change finally begins as a result of the Climate Movement. Please help with our mission.

Yours Sincerely,

Olivia Walton