

Action against Climate Change

Friday 15th March has been identified as another day of protest by students across the globe regarding climate change. The stance of the school is clear - we fully support awareness raising of climate change and promoting action to be taken to resolve the issues that it creates. There are a multitude of ways in which this can be achieved, but the school cannot authorise strikes as one of the courses of action.

As a school, we take the issue of climate change and its many causes very seriously and tackle it in a number of ways. Some, but not all, of which are listed below:

- Use of Theatre in Education performances, such as the Y7 Waste Watchers, to raise awareness and affect change
- Teaching key learning points regarding cause, impact and response, such as through the Geography curriculum, to raise awareness and affect change
- Promoting the value of recycling and the positive aspects of this, such as through the 'upcycling' curriculum in Technology
- Planting trees on the school site to reduce the carbon footprint of the school
- Installing solar panels to move to a more renewable form of energy
- Installing rainwater recycling facilities to reduce water waste
- Replacing lights around the school to more environmentally friendly models
- Reviewing our use of rooms and 'mothballing' those that aren't needed to reduce the impact of heating, lighting and cleaning these rooms
- Recycling various products of school use, such as plastic bottles, cardboard and paper
- Reviewing our use of resources and seeing where improvements could be made, such as in our purchasing of products, services and materials

The issue is of vital importance and I am delighted that the children of today are ensuring their message is being heard. For after all, we have not inherited the earth from our parents, we have borrowed it from our children. As ever, the students at Belper demonstrate how amazing they are on a daily basis and I am delighted that Sixth Formers are leading by example to address this important issue with some of the work they are currently doing. Indeed, we are establishing a Sixth Form Climate Change Committee who will be tasked with the responsibility of promoting awareness and affecting action about climate change within and beyond the school through the people associated with it, to enhance what already exists. If we all step up to the plate and try to make a difference then there will be a mighty impact.

M Cooper
Headteacher