

TURNING THE TIDE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

With the rise of documentaries such as the **BBC's Drowning in Plastic**, recent events such as the schools' climate change protests inspired by **Swedish** teenage activist **Greta Thunberg**, **environmental awareness days** such as **World Environment Day (June 5th)** and **World Oceans Day (June 8th)**, **'The Time is Now'** - the largest ever mass lobby against **Parliament** - which saw **12,000** people take to the streets, including five of our own students, and our **Year 12 conference—Climate Change—Time to Act!**, as well as **Ms Waters' school wide ban on plastic bottles**, we have seen an increase in environmental awareness among our young people over the last couple of years.

So, we thought, what better time than the present to tap into our students' interest in environmental issues.

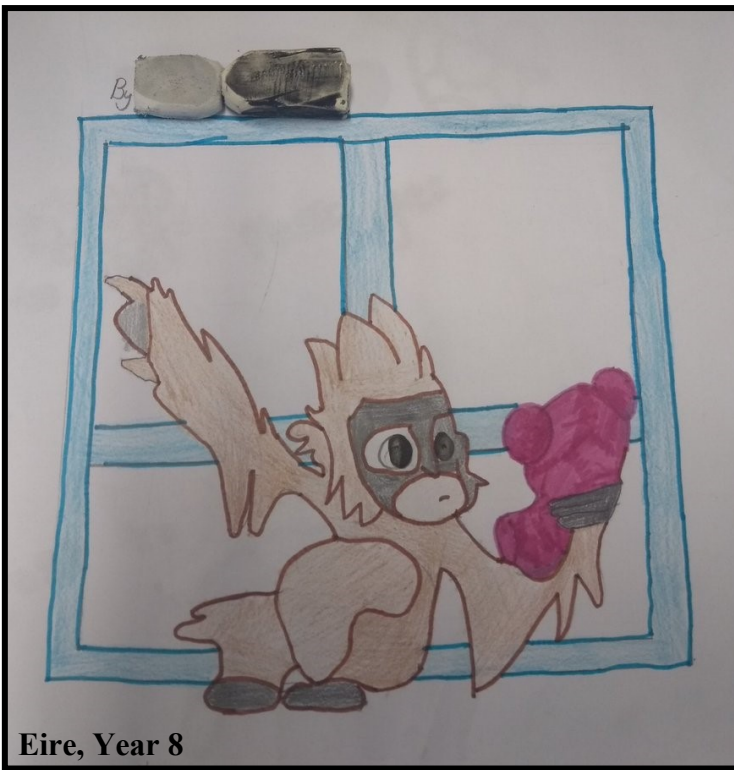
In the **LRC**, our junior librarians created two displays: one which focuses on the problem of plastic pollution, and the other, which is inspired by the 2018 **'There's a Rang-tan in my Bedroom'** campaign from **Mother London** and **Greenpeace**, which aimed to bring awareness to the negative impacts of unsustainable palm oil production.

Below: Our Plastics display



Facts about plastic usage, waste and pollution, banners, shocking images and student artwork, as well as tips from our student librarians on how we can reduce our plastic usage in everyday life can be found on our plastics pollution board in the entrance to the LRC.





Eire, Year 8



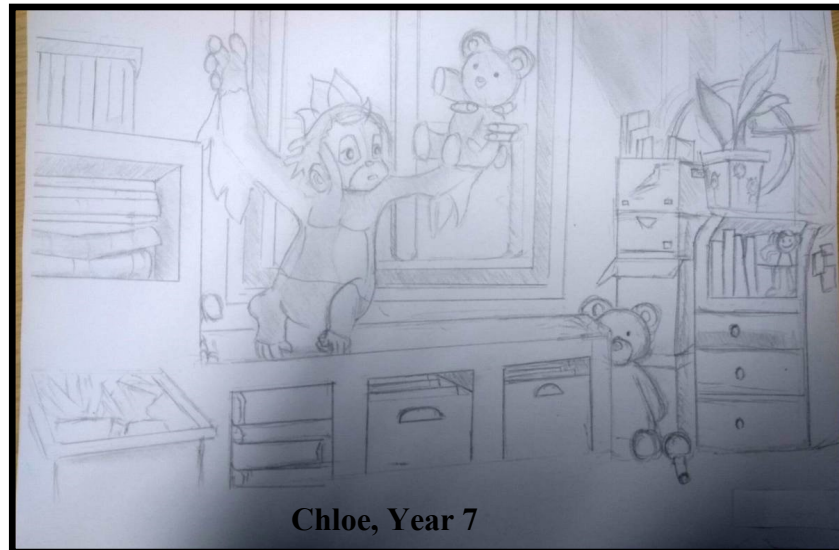
Alice, Year 9

Our second display highlights the negative impacts that **unsustainable palm oil production** is having on the environment, and on the endangered species of **Indonesia**, such as the **Orangutan**—the subject of the ‘**There’s a Rang-tan in My Bedroom**’ campaign, as well as the **Sumatran Rhino** and the **Sumatran Tiger**.

Students have produced some fantastic drawings of these animals, including Rang-tan from ‘**There’s a Rang-tan in my Bedroom**’ video. Particularly noteworthy is **Chloe, Year 7**’s drawing of a scene from the video—seen on the right –hand side of the page, but you’ll have to visit the library to see it in all its glory!!!

Students can also find information about what palm oil is, why it is so popular, what products it is used in, as well as tips on what can be done to reduce our intake of products that contain palm oil.

One suggestion that we’ve made is to download the android and iphone app **Giki** - dubbed as ‘**Your sustainable shopping companion**’ - which enables you (or parents, or whoever does the food shopping) to scan the bar code of your product, to check to see if it has been made using sustainable palm oil or not.



Chloe, Year 7

You can watch the ‘**There’s a Rang-tan in my Bedroom**’ campaign video by following this link: https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/rang-tan-video?source=WB&subsource=FOIDPOPEWB01YH&utm_source=gpeace&utm_medium=WB&utm_campaign=FOIDPOPEWB01YH

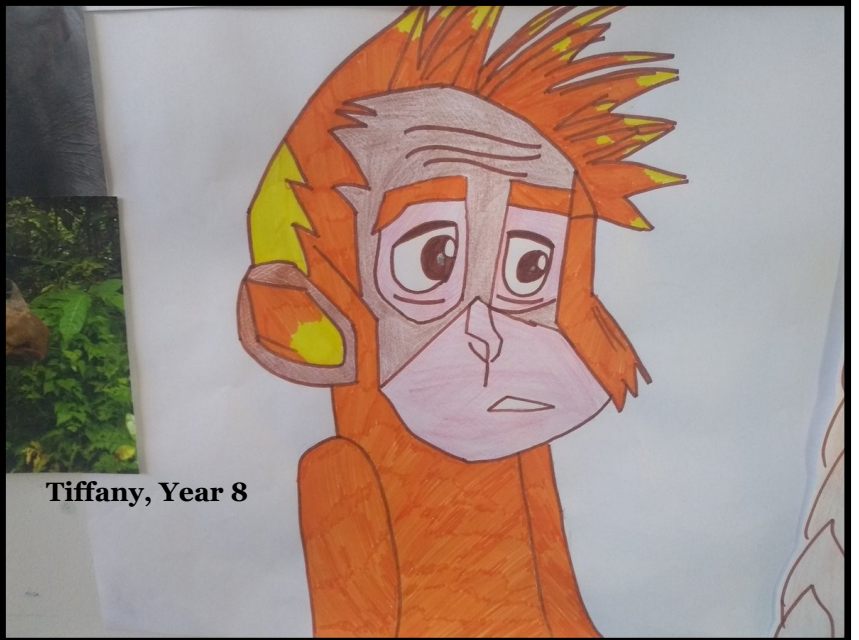
or by typing: ‘**There’s a Rang-tan in my Bedroom**’ video into Youtube’s search bar.



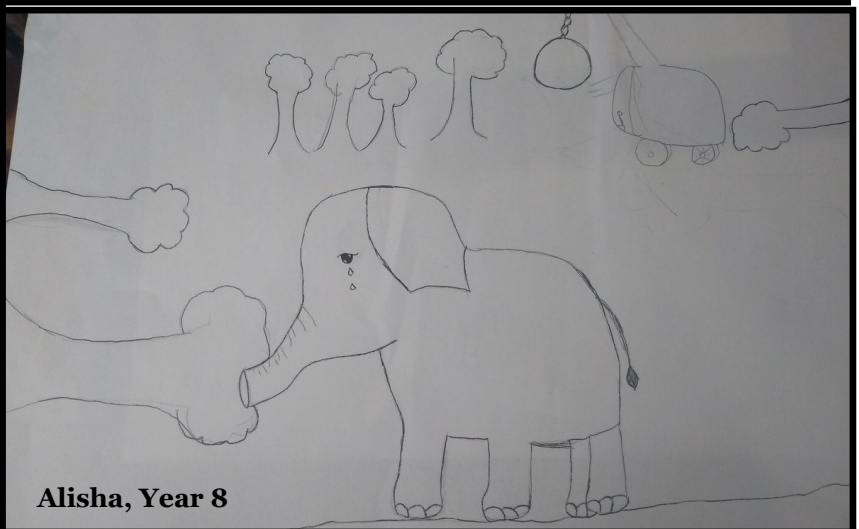
The macaw



Mikaela, Year 8



Tiffany, Year 8



Alisha, Year 8

Above: endangered creatures: the macaw and the orangutan

Right: a student's drawing of a Pygmy elephant—watching as its home is destroyed

Right: Our Palm Oil Display



Anja, Year 10

We were given a world
We have a duty to protect the
Earth!

STOP destroying our home

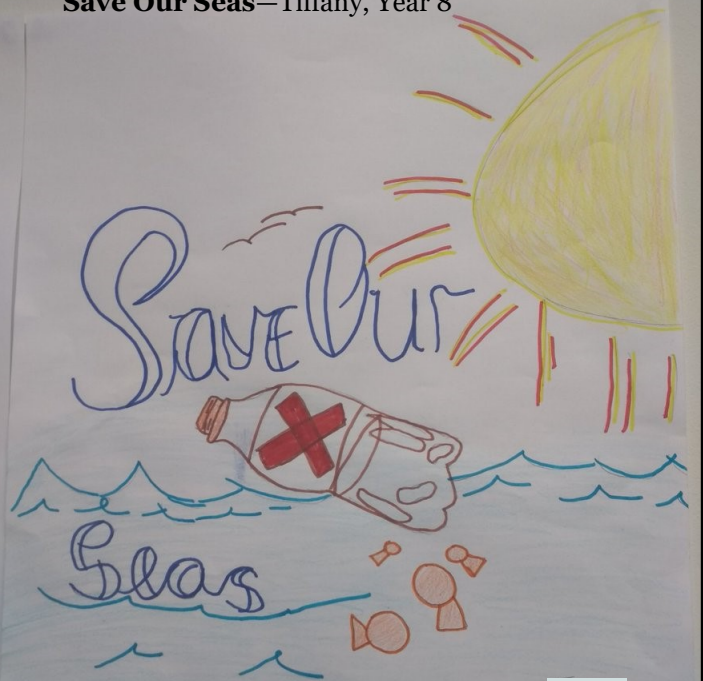
Think about consequences in the
FUTURE

The Earth is crying for help
The Earth also has a heart

It is in pain, a pain that no one can
ever imagine, a pain which makes it
give up slowly

Let's take care of our
Home

Save Our Seas—Tiffany, Year 8



SAY NO TO PLASTIC

Don't let the world fill
with disposable plastic

Break free from
plastic

Save our seas
stop plastic
pollution
If you can't reuse
it, refuse it

Say No To
Plastic—
Alexandra,
Year 7

Save the ocean
stop the pollution

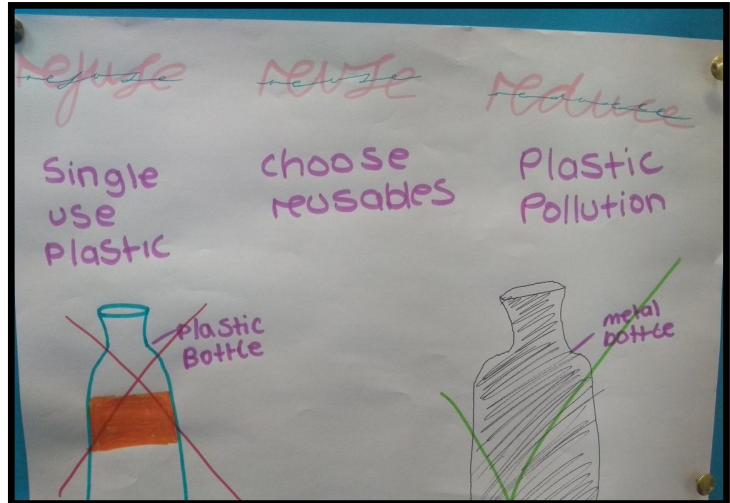
Turning the tide
against plastic
pollution

Think before
you drink

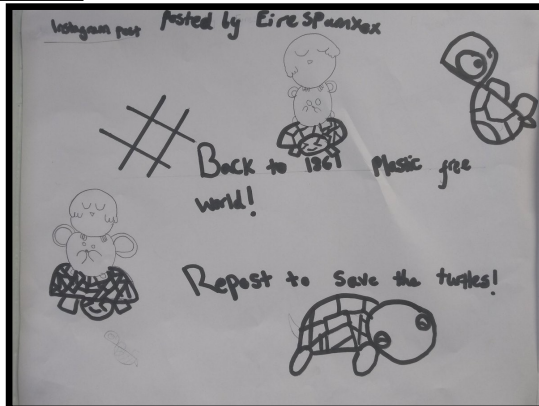
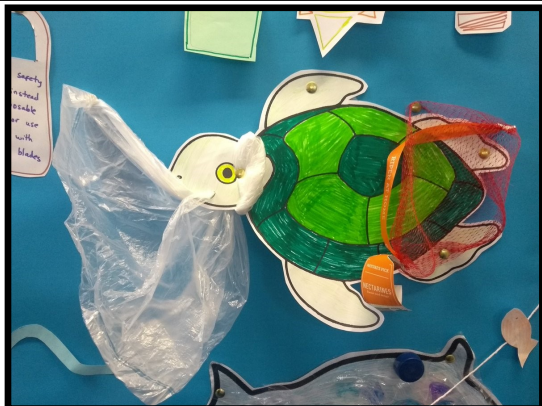
Single-use
is no use.

Save the
hurt animals
from plastic

Beat plastic
pollution



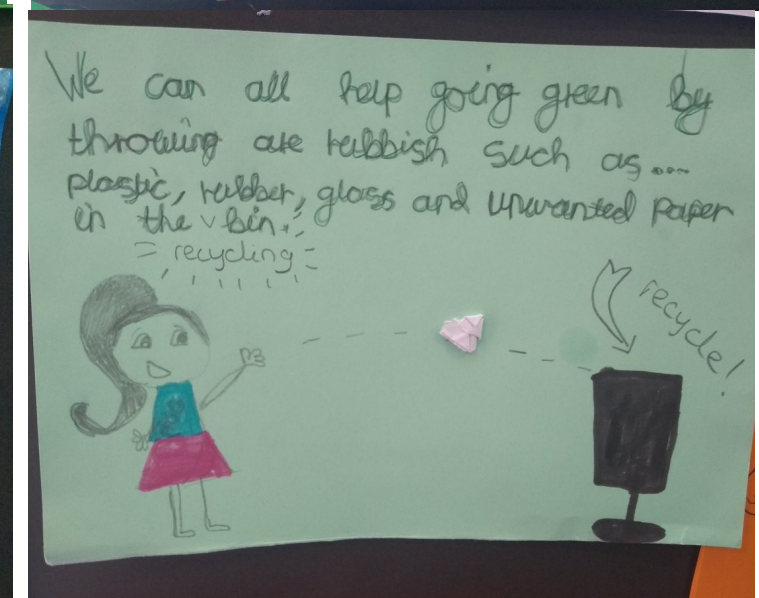
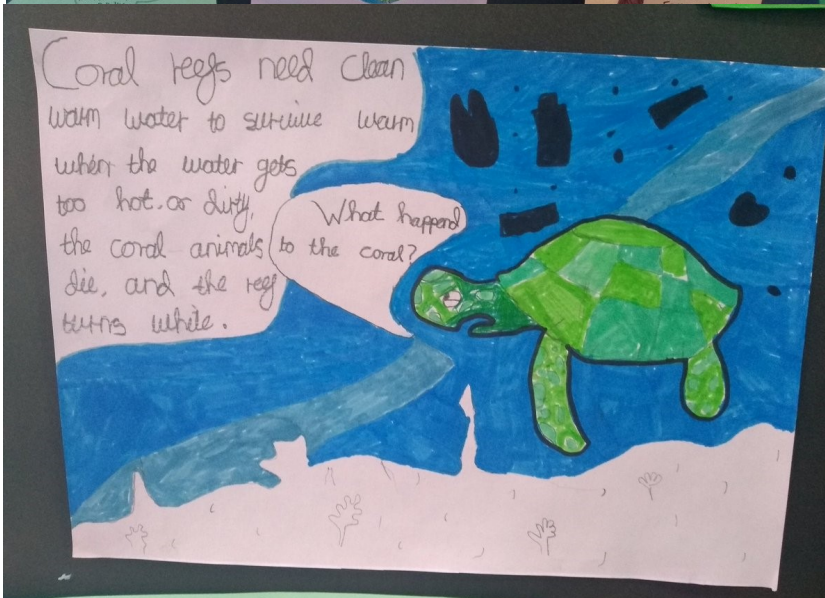
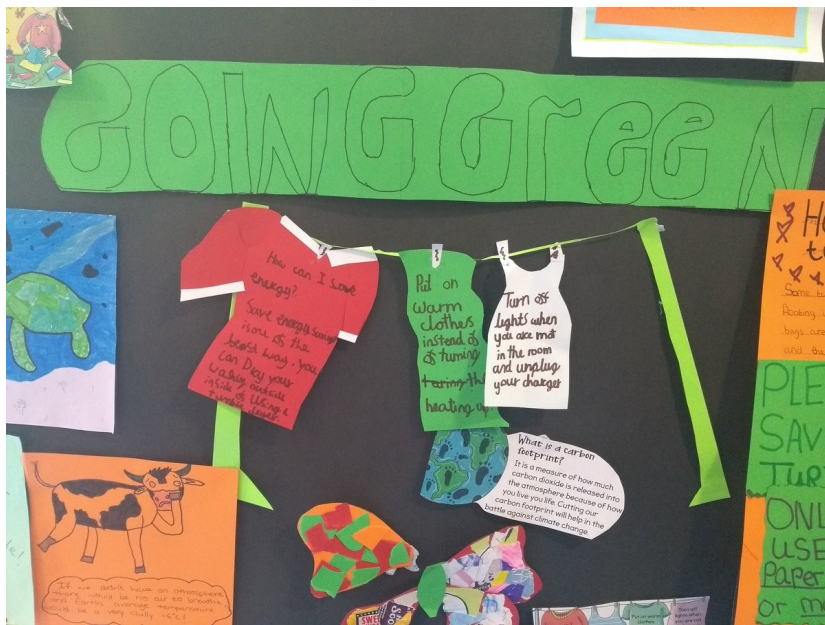
Refuse, Reduce, Reuse—Alexandra, Year 7



Back to a
plastic-free
world—Eire,
Year 8

While the junior librarian team have been working on these boards, Mrs Johnson (whose idea to create an environment inspired the other LRC boards) and her and students have been working hard to produce a wonderful 'Going Green' display, which focuses on the impact that human activity has had on the environment. Packed with plenty of fascinating facts, artwork from students, animals made from plastic and students' tips on how to save the planet, it's worth a visit to the **LRC** to take a look at! You can find it at the back of the library.





Going Green: Fantastic work from Mrs Johnson's students

ECO READS



Below are some **Green Reads** that you can find in the **LRC**—books that will no doubt make our students consider the potential consequences of uncontrolled **Global Warming** or which offer advice on how to live a greener life.

Mates, Dates and Saving the Planet—Cathy Hopkins—advice on how to go green

Causing a Stink - the Eco Warrior's Handbook - Caroline Clayton—advice on how to live a greener life

Watership Down—Richard Adams—a classic about rabbits who are forced to leave their homes due to its impending destruction by humans.

Journey to the River Sea—Eva Ibbotson When Maia's parents are killed in an accident, she is sent to live with relatives in Brazil. Her hopes of being welcome into a loving family however are dashed as she finds her relatives very difficult. When she meets a mysterious boy, she decides to embark on a journey down the Amazon River with him.

The Carbon Diaries 2015—Saci Lloyd Written by a teacher of **Media Studies**, **The Carbon Diaries 2015** follows the life of sixteen-year-old **Laura** as carbon rationing is brought in due to extremes in weather and she and the rest of humanity are forced to adapt to the change.

The Carbon Diaries 2017—Saci Lloyd Follows the same character as that in **The Carbon Diaries 2017**, but this time, **Laura** is at university. Carbon is still being rationed however, in an attempt to save the planet.

Mortal Engines—Philip Reeve Set in a futuristic, post-apocalyptic London, where resources are running low

Running Wild—Michael Morpurgo recounts the adventures of **Will**, who lost his father in the Iraq War. Amid the grief that follows, he is saved from a tsunami by an elephant, who runs off with him on his back to the wild Indonesian rainforests. There has to learn to survive in the wild.

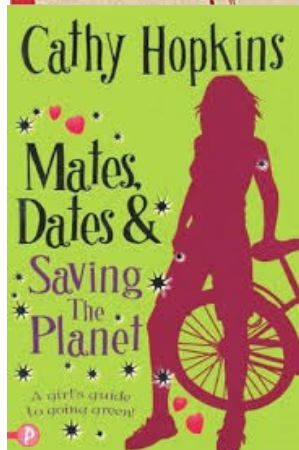
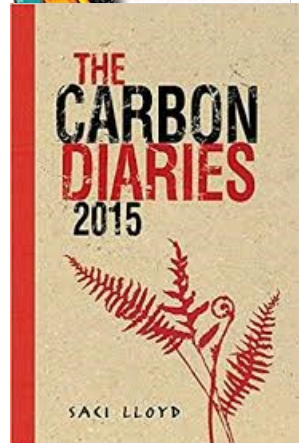
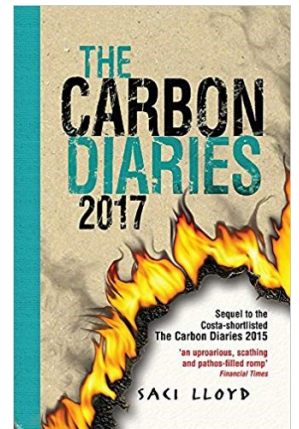
Zenith—Julie Bertagna

Aurora—Julie Bertagna

The Dead and the Gone—Susan Pfeffer

Life as we knew it—Susan Pfeffer

Breathe—Sarah Crossan [Breathe](#)



Charlotte, Year 9 wrote a brilliant piece for our Journalism Club magazine a few months ago, so it seemed fitting to include it in this edition of the LRC Newsletter.

PLASTIC

Do you remember the first time you went to a beach? The soft sand, the breathtakingly blue water, the waves, and the small colourful creatures in magical tide pools. I remember being so inspired that I knew I wanted a career that had to do with the ocean and marine life. From that point on, whenever I went to an aquarium, I always felt an overwhelming sense of beauty, balance, and life.

Sadly, due to increasing trash, that beautiful ocean I remember loving is in danger. Trash is making its way into our oceans and building up in massive amounts. This is a worldwide problem that is starting to effect marine life, and, unbelievably, we can easily stop it.

Floating between the U.S.'s West Coast and Japan is the largest ocean dump in the world. Known as the Eastern Garbage Patch, this “trash soup” mixture of garbage is almost twice the size of the United States and growing. Almost 90 percent of the Eastern Garbage Patch is plastic. Plastic bags, bottles, and wrappers are all ingredients in the mix that make up this “ocean fill.”

This is a scary fact: most common plastics today don't biodegrade. The chemicals that go into making plastic containers only degrade through a slow process involving the sun. Depending on the chemicals the plastic is made from, this may take hundreds of years. This means that every piece of plastic that has ever been made still exists and will for hundreds of years.

Marine life is taking the hardest hit. Our trash is invading animals' homes, forcing them elsewhere. Often, it results in their death. In many places around the world, and especially in the Eastern Garbage Patch, trash and plastic take up the space that the animals need. Our trash is suffocating sea life that the ocean food chain depends on to live. If the trash is where those plants and fish once lived, other animals can easily mistake it for the real thing. But their digestive systems can't handle the trash, and often it will kill them. The deaths and migrations of too many animals in a particular area can throw off the already delicate food chain.

Although this problem might only be hurting marine life right now, if it continues, it will eventually impact us too. Have you ever been to a big city's downtown and seen trash in the roads? Overflowing dumpsters in alleys? That trash has to go somewhere, and once our oceans are full, our cities and homes will be next.

How can we stop using plastic and creating trash? The unfortunate truth is plastic is everywhere, especially in grocery stores and packaging materials. Almost everything not found in the produce section in the grocery store has some plastic packaging. Not to mention the plastic bags to carry your produce and groceries home in.

Despite this, there are steps you can take to minimize your plastic usage. Instead of plastic or paper bags in the checkout lanes, buy a reusable bag made of recycled materials or canvas. Recycle everything you can. Most fleece jackets are now made from recycled plastic bottles.

Finding alternative uses for plastic bags that you have is another way to lessen the amount of plastic used. For example, you could use one for a lunch box or to carry something in.

There are endless possibilities to help stop the spread of trash and plastic in our world. If everyone helps, we can get our oceans back and save many animals. However, if we don't start taking steps soon, the results will be devastating. Have you seen the movie “Wall-E”? Remember what earth looked like when Wall-E was left alone? It was so polluted with trash that practically no life existed. The people who made that movie were trying to get a message across: we have to take care of our earth and home before it is too late. We are slowly destroying it. Remember the plant Wall-E found? Moreover, how hard the people in space tried to protect it?

Similarly, we have to protect our environment now. If we continue to be wasteful and use plastic and other non biodegradable materials, the results will be frightening.

RECOMMENDED PURCHASES for our eco-conscious students

Exodus—Julie Bertagna A novel about climate change, set in a drowned future.

Oryx and Crake—Margaret Atwood—a speculative fiction novel, concerned with the damage that humans are inflicting upon the environment and the possible catastrophic results that could arise.

The Ecology Book—Dorling Kindersley One of many brilliant books from Dorling Kindersley's Big Ideas Simply Explained series

What a Waste : Rubbish, Recycling, and Protecting Our Planet - Jess French Another winner from Dorling Kindersley, What a Waste is a great book for Year 7 students to learn about and explore environmental issues. Packed with plenty of facts, figures, graphic representations, photographs and dialogue boxes, as well as what can be done to help, this is a book that'll be read over and over.

50 Things you should know about the environment - Jen Green

The Ultimate Teen Guide to Living an Eco-Friendly Life—Linda Sivertsen

Plastic: past, present, and future—Eun-ju Kim

No More Plastic—what you can do to make a difference—the 2minutesolution

The Incredible Ecosystems of Planet Earth—Understanding Our World and Its Ecosystems - Rachel Ignatofsky

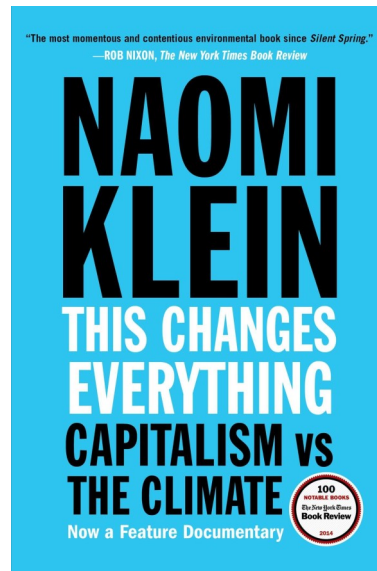
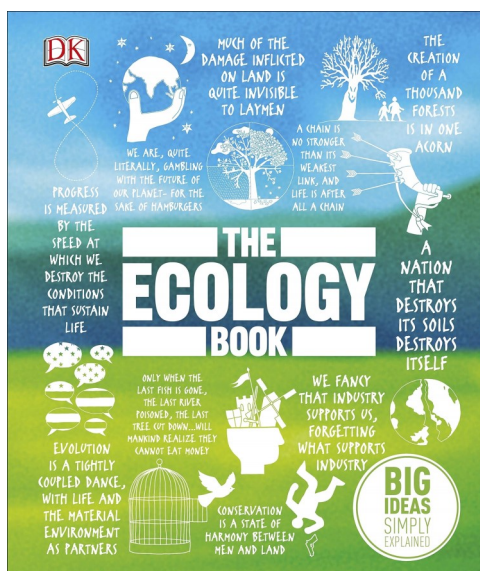
How To Live Plastic Free—A Day in the Life of a Plastic Detox—Marine Conservation Society

The Ocean Book: How endangered are our seas - Esther Gonstalla

Sixth Form Reads:

This Changes Everything—Naomi Klein—author of **No Is Not Enough** and **No Logo**

An Inconvenient Truth—Al Gore



BOOK REVIEW

Mates, Dates and Saving the Planet—Cathy Hopkins

Published **eleven** years ago, some of the book's facts may be out-of-date, but, for the most part, the majority of the tips and advice provided are still extremely relevant today.

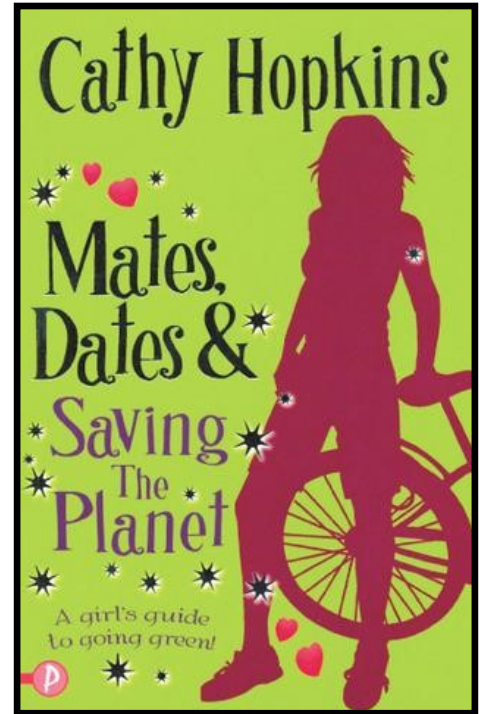
Mates, Dates and Saving the Planet opens with conversations between a group of fifteen year –old school friends—**Izzy, Lucy, Nesta** and **TJ**, as well as TJ's brother's friend "**Tasty Tim**" - who works for a green campaigning organization and whose good looks win the affection of boy-crazy Nesta.

Through the friends' discussions, the reader learns a huge amount about the importance of looking after our planet.

The book then moves away from conversations between friends, with the focus instead being on presenting interesting facts from Tasty Tim', as well as providing **Quick Fixes**—i.e. simple things that can be done each day to reduce electricity usage, **Easy Can-Dos**—simple changes that can be made, as well as **Top Tips for Green Girls, Green Queens and Green Goddesses**, all of which highlight just how easy it is to make a difference, reduce our carbon footprint, be green at home, make our wardrobes and diets greener, and cut down on waste.

In spite of the book being a bit dated, I would highly recommend **Mates, Dates and Saving the Planet** to our students, particularly those in **Years 7—10**.

9/10



UHS Reader of the Year

Zoe, Year 8 is the winner of the **Reader of the Year Award**, having read an impressive **40** library books this academic year.

In second place, we have **Elizabeth in Year 11** - having read **35 books**—a great achievement given that she had to sit her GCSE exams this year.

Lily in Year 7 takes third place, with **34 books**.

Well done girls!





Refugee Week

Each **June**, thousands of people around the world celebrate Refugee Week—a

week of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK.

In the LRC, we marked **Refugee Week** by creating a large display with information, visual diagrams of the journeys that refugees typically makes, a spotlight on Syrian refugee Nujeen Mustafa and her autobiographical book 'The Girl From Aleppo', in which she recounts her life before the outbreak of the **Syrian Civil War** and the punishing **sixteen-month-long journey** that took her from **Aleppo, Syria** to Germany.

Links to web-based role play and simulations games were also placed around the **LRC**, designed to help students better understand the refugee experience.

We also promoted a range of '**Refugee Reads**'. These were:

- Boy 87** - Ele Fountain
- The Bone Sparrow** - Zana Fraillon
- Asylum** - Rachel Anderson
- In the Sea there are Crocodiles** - Fabio Geda
- Refugee Boy** - Benjamin Zephaniah
- The Girl From Aleppo** - Nujeen Mustafa
- Inside out and back again** - Thanhha Lai
- A Long Walk to Water** - Linda Sue Park
- The Diary of a Young Girl** - Anne Frank
- Number the Stars** - Lois Lowry
- When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit** - Judith Kerr
- Girl in Red** - Gaye Hicyilmaz
- Shadow** - Michael Morpurgo
- Zlata's Diary** - Zlata Filipovic
- Oranges in No Man's Land** - Elizabeth Laird
- The Good Braider** - Terry Farrish
- Exodus** - Julie Bertagna, **Threads** - Sophia Bennett
- Who are Refugees and Migrants? What Makes People Leave Their Homes? And Other Big Questions** - Michael Rosen & Anne Marie Young



BOOK CLUB

We recently started Sophie Anderson's '**The House with Chicken Legs**', a magical tale told through the eyes of twelve-year-old **Marinka** who lives with her grandmother, a **Yaga** (a guardian of the dead).

Each night, they are visited by the recently deceased, who celebrate with Marinka and her grandmother before passing on. As much as **Marinka** loves her grandmother she's not all enthusiastic about this aspect of her life, nor is she keen on the idea of becoming a **Yaga** herself.

What **Marinka** actually yearns for is a normal life—to be able to attend school and stay in one place long enough to feel settled. Their nomadic lifestyle however makes this impossible—the house in which they live, and which, rather bizarrely, stands on chicken legs, has a habit of taking off several times a year—transporting the pair to yet another new place.

One night, tired of feeling lonely, **Marinka** betrays her grandmother by secretly preventing one of the dead—**Nina**, a girl no older than herself, from passing on into the afterlife. Initially, it appears as though Marinka has gotten away with it, and she finds herself greatly enjoying the company of her new companion. Her selfishness however leads to devastating consequences and **Marinka** has to reconcile herself to the idea of living in a world in which her grandmother no longer exists.

'**The House with Chicken Legs**' is ultimately a reimagining of the Slavic folktale **Baba Yaga**, and is inspired by the childhood stories that were told to the author **Sophie Anderson** by her **Prussian grandmother**.

Many of these stories were **Slavic fairytales**, from **Germany, Poland and Russia**, and their influence is no doubt evident in her debut novel.

The character of **Marinka's** grandmother is based on the **Slavic folktale character of Baba Yaga or Baba Jaga**, who appears in **Eastern European folklore** as a deformed and ferocious-looking woman, and in Russian fairytales, as a woman who lives in a hut in a forest that stands on chicken legs.

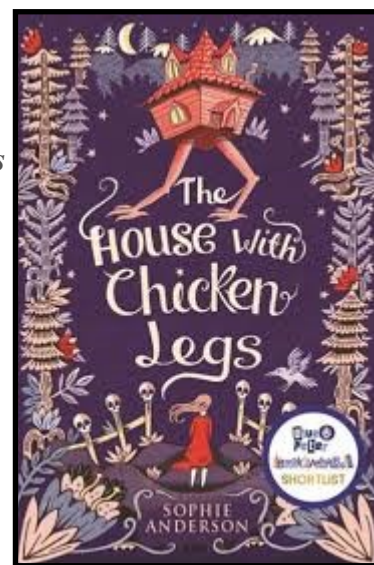
Anderson says of the inspiration behind her book that 'although **Vasilisa the Beautiful** and **The Snow Maiden** are her favourite Slavic folktales, "*it was **Baba Yaga** and her house with chicken legs which fascinated and terrified me.. She's a fabulous character; although she's cruel, she can be very kind and compassionate, so I wanted to write a story that explored that side, while still giving her a role to explain why people were scared of her, and also her links with death.*" '

The House With Chicken Legs surprised me. Although it was sent to us as part of this year's **BookTrust Secondary School pack**, I hadn't heard about the book and certainly wasn't expecting the story to be quite as compelling as it was.

While the concept of **Yagas** and **houses on chicken legs** may sound a little strange—the world that **Anderson** creates is completely believable and the story is so beautifully written, that the reader will quickly forget the book's oddities and grow to love it.

As author of **The Girl and Ink and Stars**, **The Island At The End Of Everything** and **The Way Past Winter** says of the book: **The House With Chicken Legs** is "... a bold and beautifully-bold adventure, **Anderson's storytelling transported me from the very first chapter.**"

I couldn't agree more!



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Joined June 2017
44 Photos and videos

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Ursuline High School LRC @uhs_lrc · 45m
Our Junior Librarian team have been working on a board that looks at the problem of plastic pollution, offering tips on what can be done to reduce our plastic usage. #plasticpollution #saynotoplastic #saveouroceans @GreenpeaceUK

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It's Goodbye From Me

I'm sad to announce that this will be my last edition of the **LRC Newsletter**, as I will be leaving the **Ursuline** at the end of the academic year.

Working in the school library has been a wonderful experience, and I will cherish the memories of my time at the **Ursuline**, not just working in the library, but also in the **SEN Department**.

Some of my fondest memories include running Monday book club, as well as working with the junior librarian team. Dressing up as **Lady Macbeth for World Book Day 2018** comes in at a close second.

While I may be swapping words for code (yes—computer code), outside of the workplace reading will remain an important part of my life, and that is what I wish to stress to our students—no matter what field you want to work in, no matter what you want to do in life—it is important to read as much and as widely as you can.

Not only will your general knowledge greatly improve and your vocabulary flourish, but, as author Malorie Blackman once said: *“Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else’s shoes for a while”* and we all know how important the power of empathy is.

Ms Spencer