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# Climate Change! What are you going to do?



As many people are aware, climate change is a huge issue in the world today. Parklands are playing their part to stop our country and local community from accumulating a big carbon footprint.

Some main sources of climate change are industrial fossil fuels being transmitted into the atmosphere, and animals being bred and slaughtered for meat. Cows alone are responsible for up to 40% of methane released into the atmosphere per year, with humanity releasing even more greenhouse gases through burning fossil fuels.

As a school, Parklands have done a lot for our community. In November, the school led a group of students to the Glasgow protest, in order to show their support for stronger environmental measures. The protests took place on Saturday 6th November. Other initiatives include Eco Club, Litter Picking Club, and a COP26 Week. Chorley's own Sir Lyndsay Hoyle MP has even held conferences and speeches surrounding the issue, and we should thank him for all that he has done.

From geographical research it has been suggested that we should be entering an ice age right now; climate change is affecting that theory and creating a blanket of warmth. The blanket is fossil fuels and

Aaron Denham

carbon dioxide in the air. Every 100,000 years we are supposed to go into a glacial period and after that, an interglacial period. Our last glacial period was over 100,000 years ago and climate change is preventing it from happening. A number of animals have become extinct because of humans, mostly because of our impact upon climate change. The effects of the crisis even reach Antarctica, as it is causing melting ice caps.

English teacher and environmentalist, Mr Cunningham, said: "We should do more than we have done but we have done so much. We should reduce fossil fuel transmissions and go to alternatives. We finally should be able to have extra time to access holidays by boat and electric cars to get abroad." Mrs Dewhurst, Australasia HAL and environmental activist said "As a country we haven't done enough to reduce a carbon footprint but as individuals we have done enough. The government needs to do more than what they have already done. Overall we should work more as a team, and the government is not doing enough for our country."

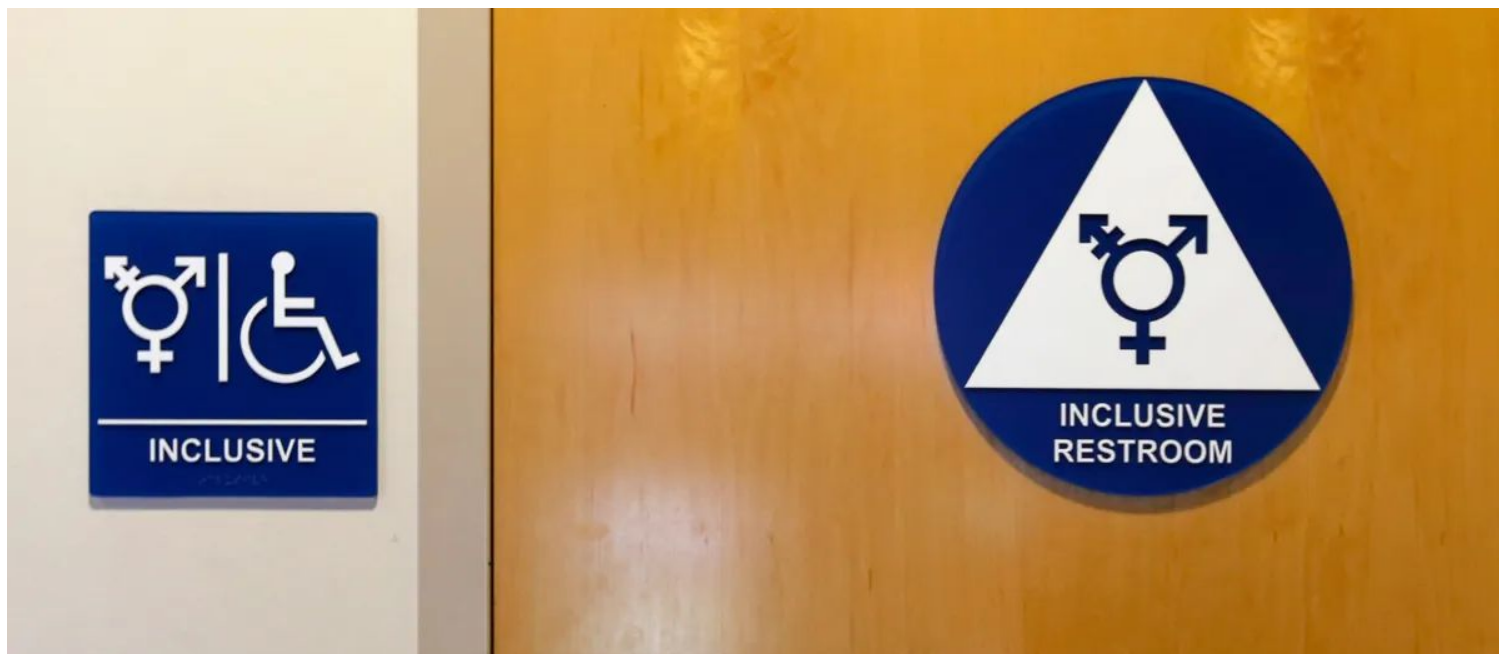
A group of pupils who went to the protest said "We have made a good start by reducing our use of plastics but we have not done enough. We should make electric cars cheaper and get rid of the use of fossil fuels."

Overall, the general consensus appears to be that we need to do more as a school, town, county and as a country in the world. Some good ideas in the overall feedback we have had are:

- A cut on fossil fuels in the country,
- A lower price in electrical cars and a cut on meat consumption,
- We should get rid of fossil fuels for most things as we need them for some things in everyday life.

# Comment

## Should Parklands Introduce Gender-Neutral Changing Rooms?



As many are aware, Parklands High School has been shown to be friendly and accepting towards LGBTQ+ identities and, recently, Gender-Neutral bathrooms in the pupil social area were introduced. This is so those at our school who identify as anything outside of the gender binary don't feel pressured to go into the bathrooms for their biological sex.

However, there are still gendered bathrooms at school, and changing rooms for subjects such as P.E or Dance are only labelled for male and female students. A selection of students were surveyed on whether they thought gender neutral changing rooms would be a good idea. A variety of responses were received.

One anonymous student said: "I think gender-neutral changing rooms would be a good idea", with them going on to state that "people would feel more comfortable." Another student told the newspaper that "It sounds like a good idea", but also admitted that "some people could use this as an excuse to mess around inside them or something." One suggestion was that perhaps changing rooms "similar to the ones [bathrooms] in the social area could be implemented?"

Emily Goring

A few students feel that these new changing rooms could help the school feel like a more accepting place. Although a new changing room, with toilets, showers and other facilities wouldn't be cheap to implement. Some students feel there's also no room in the school near the Gym and Sports Hall to build a new changing room, so people who would prefer to use them may have to walk long distances to get to their lessons and back, giving less time to change and overall being less time-efficient.

There may be an easier way of resolving the problem: removing the publicity of the changing rooms in general, and adding private and separate stalls. This would help students who may feel self-conscious surrounded by others whilst changing. Whilst this would still cost the school, the financial impact would be far less than building a completely new changing room. This solution would also benefit those students who prefer using gender-specific changing rooms.

Overall, it is up to the school itself to decide on whether this situation is deemed important enough to spend money on.

## Get involved at Parklands

Josh Beardsworth & Laura Cocker

Interested in sports? The newspaper is here to tell you about all of the clubs and activities that Parklands offers such as football, badminton, dance and so much more!

### Outdoor

You are right out of the door, a cool breeze rushing past you, the sun's warmth heating your body, listening to your heartbeat slowly rising as you begin running. If this is what you would find pleasure in doing, it is recommended that you try our outdoor activities at Parklands! Despite it being colder, it is still a great way to exercise your body, feel positive and capable of keeping warm throughout the sessions whilst still being outside. Winter does not prevent Parklands from hosting football clubs after school and even offers a running club for all years! From personal experience, the running club is a great way to take your mind off things, to challenge yourself and just enjoy the fresh air and the wildlife around you; even if you struggle, you're able to create targets for yourself.

### Indoor

Would you prefer to do sports inside instead of outside in the cold? The school offers many indoor sports activities all year such as: basketball, netball and dance, which are available to all years. Most of these clubs take place after school, however, if you are interested in participating at lunch then there will be activities available in the sports hall. For example, Year 8 basketball and netball takes place on a Monday in the Sports Hall. If you are competitive, then the House Competitions at Parklands are perfect for you, and they will also give you a chance to use your fantastic skills. One of the most recent competitions that took place was a basketball competition - but these will only be for a different year group each week on a Thursday. If you are not comfortable doing sports with others but would still like to exercise then the fitness suite is open for Year 9 and above after school. You can listen to music and get carried away whilst on the treadmill, or work on gaining stronger muscles with the weights. Parklands aims to give as many

opportunities as possible for those who would like to take part and have looked over some suggestions from the students here.

### Shows and Competitions

On top of all the spectacular opportunities all years are given, the school also offers many possibilities to take part in school shows and competitions. Some breathtaking shows currently going on in the school are:

- **Elf the Musical** - this is with the drama department,
- **Best of British** - the eye-catching school dance show,
- the jaw-dropping "**Parklands Got Talent**", launched to remember **Sally** and her amazing talent!

There are usually Cheerleading competitions for the Cheer team, Pom and Elite Groups, however, due to Coronavirus, this fantastic opportunity has not been available. GCSE PE offers many chances to do competitions and some students participated in a badminton competition on the 8th December.

Parklands offers many opportunities to take part, whether it be at House Competitions, lunch time clubs and school shows. Taking part in as many of these clubs will be beneficial to you as it will help improve your chances of achieving roles such as Prefect and SSLT. Every student should enjoy school and the activities it has. Sports clubs provide ways to meet new people and make new friends which will open new doors to a future full of excitement and joy!



Thu 27th and Fri 28th Jan 2022, 7pm  
Tickets from the School Office.

# Comment

# There is a problem; can you be part of the solution?

Oisín Whitehead-St Pierre

There is a saying: if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem. The big problem for our generation is climate change. Scientists tell us that many things are causing this global crisis. As young people, we have little to no control over many of the contributors. Luckily, one of the things we can control is our diets.

Many people in our school want to do their part by eating less meat. Food production is responsible for  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. There are massive differences in the greenhouse gas emissions of different foods: producing a kilogram of beef emits 60 kilograms of greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents), while nuts emit just 0.3 kilograms per kg.

Unfortunately, for the concerned students who want to be part of the solution, the vegetarian options in the school canteen are currently very limited, unimaginative and not very appetising.

The sort of changes that would encourage students to choose some vegetarian options could be: more imaginative and creative recipes, a better range of fresh vegetables and different sources of plant based protein include tofu, Quorn, and nuts.

Improving the meat free options would make it easier for us all to be a bigger part of the solution. Asking the opinions of people who want to be part of the solution and positive pressure coming from students would encourage the caterers to change their ways.

Source:

[ourworldindata.org/environmental-impacts-of-food](http://ourworldindata.org/environmental-impacts-of-food)

Tool for  
calculating your  
food's carbon  
footprint:

SCAN ME



## The Big Parklands Paper

**Editors: Sammy Taylor &  
Georgia Budge**

If you have any comments on the content of the paper, wish to suggest future articles or want to submit a report to the paper, please email:

[newspaper@parklandsacademy.co.uk](mailto:newspaper@parklandsacademy.co.uk)

## Want to write for the Big Parklands Paper?

Join the newspaper team at  
1.30pm, every Wednesday in W01.