

*The latest news and updates from The Trafford College Group*



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*by Luke Knight, The Cheadle College.*

The Green College Assembly are a group who aim to give students a voice and a chance to take action tackling issues such as pollution, wildlife conservation and many more environmental issues.

We believe that students deserve to have a say on the issues that will affect their lives and feel like their opinion matters...[]...Sometimes, as students or young people, it can feel like your voice isn't heard or it's harder to make a real difference, but the goal of the GCA is to make sure everybody's voice is heard, which will in turn lead to a better, more eco-friendly college environment and society.

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# NEWSLETTER

## GCA Special Edition

*by Michelle McLaughlin, Student Engagement and Student Voice Lead, The Trafford College Group*

**Dear students,**

I have been asked to introduce this Green College Assembly Special Edition.

This year the UK has hosted the most important environmental summit in a generation. COP 26 was held in Glasgow last month and was attended by world leaders and citizens from across our global community. During this important time The Trafford College Group hosted and delivered their annual Student Question Time, and on the prestigious panel our student members of The Green College Assembly took their seats beside politicians, business leaders and environmental change makers.

This newsletter seeks to inform you of our GCA members opinions and to encourage you to join with them in addressing sustainability and the climate crisis by looking to see how young people can change the future for the better. In so doing, making our college, our local community and global community a better place. The power to help make those changes is in YOUR hands.

To join the Green College Assembly, get in touch – on teams or by email. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

## COP 26: What Will Come Out of It?

*by Oliver Cullen and Jaie Gawlowska, The Trafford College and The Cheadle College.*



Conference of the Parties 26, also known as COP26 concluded in Glasgow on the 12th November 2021, to varying outcomes. Among other nations, the UK has made a series of promises, both on its own turf and abroad to help battle climate change and meet the 2050 Net-Zero target. But is this enough to save our planet from boiling over?

Throughout the conference, there has been one overarching theme – one idea which has been sought out since day one. We need to make a change now. Not “shortly”, not “in a bit”, not “we’ll get to it soon”, but now. We are close to the point of no return for humanity. The promises made during the 12-day conference are designed to prevent this from happening.

There are four main goal categories at each COP meeting that are pledged to be achieved through thorough discussion and agreement. These goals are to secure Net-Zero by 2050, protect communities and wildlife and mobilize finances, all while working together to achieve this. This year, the UK has successfully set out goals in all these categories.

Day one started very strongly. The UK government made a landmark announcement stating that almost 100 countries had pledged to end deforestation and restoring the world’s forests by the year 2030. This is incredibly important to prevent the destruction of habitats of endangered species and, to a lesser extent, the destruction of indigenous tribes.

The UK has also pledged £290 million to help developing countries, particularly those across the Pacific and Asia to help them be better prepared for extreme weather, such as hurricanes, and other changes which could risk the safety of their people.

Unsurprisingly, coal is being put in the hot seat by all the attending countries. Due to this, a first-of-its-kind agreement has been reached between first world countries such as the US and many European countries, in an attempt to assist third world and developing countries. Thanks to this, South Africa will receive around \$8.5bn to assist their transfer from fossil fuels, their current primary source of energy, to more eco-friendly alternatives. Such switches are not limited to South Africa, as 190 countries and organisations have agreed to reduce their reliance on coal and other fossil fuels. However, despite the agreement of major countries such as Poland and Vietnam, the main producers of pollution, such as China, India and Australia are pushing back their net-zero dates and are refusing to fully commit to our goals of saving the planet.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced that all UK's financial institutions and listed companies will be forced to publish their plans on how they will transition to and maintain net-zero. This shows the public that it is not just governmental institutions making changes.

As we can see, the UK has agreed to a multitude of targets and consensus both nationally and internationally to help combat climate change at its core. While this is not a conclusive list, it does outline the lengths to which the UK is willing to go to help save the future. However, will this prove to be enough to pull our planet from the brink of destruction?





## Who Are The GCA?

by Luke Knight, The Cheadle College

The Green College Assembly are a group who aim to give students a voice and a chance to take action tackling issues such as pollution, wildlife conservation and many more environmental issues. We believe that students deserve to have a say on the issues that will affect their lives and feel like their opinion matters. We are always looking for new members to join, no matter what issues you are interested in. A short survey has been created by a GCA member which all college students will be given an opportunity to fill out. This survey is designed to find out what issues that students are most passionate about, meaning the GCA can focus on these issues. We want to make sure everybody's concerns are treated with equal respect, and everybody has the chance to make a difference.

We are also planning on running a student led tutorial via teams, which will be available for every tutorial throughout the colleges to attend. The tutorial is being made 100% by students, for students and will hopefully resonate with more students who are interested in taking part. We hope by educating more people



about who we are and what we do that more people will get involved and feel like they have the opportunity to have a say. Sometimes, as students or young people, it can feel like your voice isn't heard or it's harder to make a real difference but the goal of the GCA is to make sure everybody's voice is heard, which will in turn lead to a better, more eco-friendly college environment and society.

## My Experience as a Panellist at The Student Question Time Event

by Liberty Joul, The Trafford College

I recently had the opportunity to sit on the panel at the Group's annual question time and I have to say it was a spectacular experience. I got to have my say on what I thought about climate change and how we can come together to solve it. Getting to meet so many amazing people helping to lead the way to a more sustainable future made me feel like my voice was heard properly. Though it was quite a nerve-wracking experience at first, I soon settled into it. The main reason why I wanted to speak up is because I feel like the government has made little progress in climate related matters and keeps pushing it to the side. However, this isn't a problem that is just going to go away. It's something that affects all of us and not just us at this present moment but future generations too. I'm hoping to see progress within college in the near future too, hopefully working with Senior Leadership to make a greener and more sustainable future for students across the Group.

I want to take the time to say that Oliver Cullen, Jaie Gawloska and Olivia Martin who also spoke on the panel, you all did amazing. Also I want to say congratulations to the winner of the Trafford College Group poetry competition Holly Crebbin. This year's theme was "choice" and I thought you captured it perfectly. Holly Crebbin from Marple Sixth Form College performed her winning poem at the Question Time Event.

Happy Christmas and an amazing new year from all of us in the Green College Assembly. We hope that your break is restful and full of festive fun!





# The Green College Assembly: Terms of Reference and All You Need to Know

by Ann Fernandes, The Trafford College

## Background

The Green College assembly is a group that aims to campaign about the environmental issues that are prevalent locally, nationally as well as internationally. Our group works towards a greener environment and have actively participated in events that contribute to our overflowing concern for our planet. The Green College Assembly runs across all of our campuses and is a student working group, that looks to outline our vision for a greener college and local community.

## Objectives

Our objectives as The Green College Assembly are to encourage the youth to improve their way of living by understanding the benefits of reducing their environmental footprint through tutorial classes and by holding events that incorporate people that are actively working towards an eco-friendly environment.

We plan on contributing our skills and knowledge by educating and involving students to voice their opinions on the various issues that are widespread.

## Aims

The Green College Assembly aims on working towards making our college a more environmentally friendly space as well as educating other students about the importance of being eco-friendly and understanding the impact of global warming on our planet.

We also participate in events and work with people that are further working towards a greener Greater Manchester. We will work with the environmental groups attached to the British Youth Council and will involve The Trafford College Group in a shared goal of supporting a sustainable future.

## Membership

Members will be actively taking part in spreading awareness about the existing environmental issues as well as being involved in the various events that will be held.



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Members will confidently share opinions and ideas to improve environmental outcomes in college and in the community. Members will attend meetings each term.

Our group is certain to be able to grow your existing care for our planet by making your voice heard and create a positive impact.

## Responsibilities

Each member will:

- Attend Meetings – which will be held
- Organise events
- Attend events
- Contribute to the events
- Initiate change
- Work with college leadership
- Support recruitment
- Share ideas and initiatives in the Student Newsletter

## Review/Report

Termly review of activities and outcomes to monitor progress and engagements. Meetings held twice each term across college to discuss future activities and events of the group.

Terms drawn up by – Ann Fernandes (Member of GCA 2021 – 22)





## Eco Epidemic

*by Mollieann Jeacott, The Stockport College*

We must cut down on plastic pollution and food waste before it's too late. The world is almost past its limit.

We all must do our part to help the world, the consequences will be catastrophic. You can do your part with simple lifestyle changes: using your car less, reducing the amount of energy you use, recycling, repairing and reuse and talking to those around you and getting them involved.

People who protest usually have a reason in their mind that justifies protesting, yet if the execution is bad then it becomes an issue. If you take part in protests, you shouldn't cause disruption to the general public, instead, take a stand to politicians. The general public won't be able to make a change to laws or justice or climate change like politicians can and you generally need the public on your side, causing them inconvenience and even danger in some cases won't achieve that. The most powerful protests in history have been peaceful .

## Eco Friendly Tips for The Holidays

by Beatriz Lopez, The Trafford College



- **Gifts Wrapping and Christmas Cards.**

In case you didn't know, wrapping paper and some Christmas cards are made out of different materials, and therefore some belong in different recycling bins than others.

Make sure you're aware of the material your wrapping paper and cards are made of to once used, put them in the correct bin (eg. Cards with glitter, in the pgeneral waste bin) and if you can, try to use eco-friendly wrapping paper and cards (such as colourful cloths, biodegradable paper, etc).

- **Delivery Boxes**

In the same note, make sure to put in the same place all your delivery boxes, and then fold them very well so they can all fit in your recycling bin-even the largest ones. Also, remember to separate any protecting plastic, adhesive stickers, etc from the boxes and put them in their specific bin as well.

- **Check your household bin collection.**

Lastly, always keep in mind your household bin collection dates. Visit your council website to learn and find said dates, as well as more information on recycling.



ENJOY A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TIME,  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

TO ALL THE STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND  
STAFF OF THE TRAFFORD COLLEGE  
GROUP!

