



Engaging with your MP on London's Climate Issues

Context

The week of 26th June to 4th July 2021 is London Climate Action Week. This year all London schools are invited to take part on a **Tuesday 29th June** at our first **Schools Climate Summit**. It's a great opportunity to link curriculum based climate change learning with global and social learning for the Sustainable Development Goals and encourage pupils to practise social action for change. We have created four lessons to help you in the period leading up to the Schools Climate Summit. All are independent so you can use them flexibly to suit. Each of the lesson plans are available here:

<http://www.londonsustainableschools.org/london-climate-action-week-2021.html>



Learning outcomes

- To take part in local democracy by contacting their local MP
- To use their citizenship knowledge, skills and understanding to try to make a positive difference to climate change

This year LCAW partner, GLOBE International, is hosting its annual **Student-MP Climate Surgery** on Friday 3 July, in partnership with MPs across London. A great opportunity to put all students have learnt about climate change and civic action into practice, ahead of this year's UN Climate Summit COP26 in Glasgow in November.

Step 1: Making a difference

 **15**
mins

Explain that today they are going to tell the local MP about the work they have been doing on the Global Goals, climate change and some of the practical ideas they have to start making a difference. Encourage pupils to think about some of the climate change challenges faced by the communities they live in and what should be done about them. The Global Goals teach us that each one of us has a role to play. What things can be done by students, the school community, local businesses, community organisations, the media, the local council, the local MP, etc.?

Next, watch the video from the World's Largest Lesson - <https://vimeo.com/266852848> and videos from Pupil Parliament <https://litfilmfest.com/shop/pupil-parliament/>

After the videos discuss some ideas that they had to improve their community response to climate change (if you have already used the accompanying lesson plans 1, 2 and 3 they will probably have some clear ideas).

In small groups, ask students to:

- Describe the difference between tactics such as protesting, civil disobedience, lobbying and voting for change.

- Discuss which are the easiest and which are the most difficult to achieve and why.
- Can they think of good examples of how to achieve change and urgent action? For example, in their schools, families or communities.



Step 2: Main activity: Write a letter to your local MP

35 mins

Show pupils this video of New Zealand's PM Jacinda Arden talking about New Zealand banning single use plastic bags:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daNIGBWkbWY>

In this activity pupils are going to write a letter to their local MP. This could be done as an individual, group or whole class activity.

First of all, find out the name and email or address of their local MP then decide how they are going to get your message to the MP.

<https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

Once they have found out who their MP is ask some students to research their position on climate change and whether they have supported projects connected to climate change in the past. Knowing as much as possible will lead to a more impactful letter and meeting. The UK parliament declared a climate emergency on 1st May 2019 so the MPs should be keen to help.

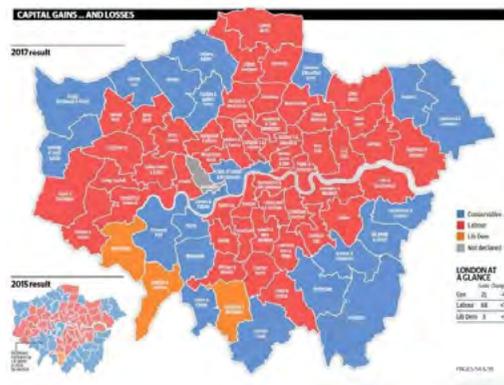
Then they should write their letter. Discuss general letter writing tips with them but they should also do the following:

- Tell the MP who they are (name, school etc as appropriate) and that they are the MP's constituent (if writing individually)
- Tell the MP why they are writing:
 - That between 26th June to 4th July 2021 is London Climate Action Week and London schools are having their first, ever London Schools Climate Summit during this week on Tuesday 29th June 2021.
 - Tell the MP about the work they have been doing for LCAW on the Global Goals, Climate Change and some practical ideas where they are trying to make a personal difference
- Ask the MP if they could help the student(s) with their work by doing one or more of these things:
 - Could they help in any way with their personal project?
 - Could they help put Climate Change back in the curriculum and into more subjects.
 - (If this is possible for you) Could they meet up with the students to discuss Climate Change on Friday 2nd July 2021* as part of the **Student-MP Climate Surgery?**

* We have asked all London MPs to do their best to be available to meet students on Friday July 2nd. Fridays are usually Surgery days for MPs when they meet with their constituents.

#FridaysForFuture

STUDENT-MP CLIMATE SURGERY FRIDAY 2 JULY 2021



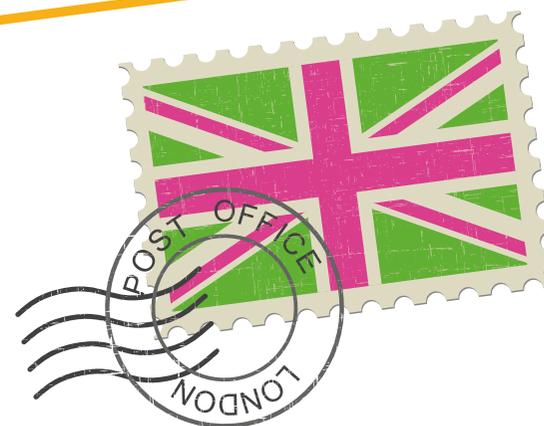
Source: The Evening Standard

Step 3: Action: Send the letter and await your reply

 **10**
mins

NB: *If you wish, please copy the letter to GLOBE International and we will follow-up with the MP and encourage them to reply to the student and be present for the Student-MP Climate Surgery on Friday 2nd July.*

Email: secretariat@globelegislators.org



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