On Monday 14th March, Year 6 school council spent the day at Lancaster University with the local Pupil Parliament learning about climate change and how we can alter climate change. The aim of the next 3 weeks was to work together with local schools, scientists, environmental groups/studies to produce a Schools and Community Charter which we can all support and use as our aims for the future.

On this first week, the guest speakers were Dr Paul Young, Climate Scientist and Ali who is a researcher at the Lancaster University Environmental Centre. We looked at all the stuff in our lives at home, school and in the community. What can we do with all this stuff? We need to reduce and reuse all this before we think about recycling.

**Do you need so much stuff in your life????**

On Monday 21st March, our Year 6 school councillors spent the day at Lancaster University again. The pupils recapped their learning from the previous week about sustainability and facts about the university and Lancaster Environment Centre. Staff started the day with a Q&A game to see how much everyone remembered!

The pupils listened to two more guest speakers, Dermott and Charlotte, and this Monday’s learning was focused on the use of plastic. The speakers explained the origin of plastic, the process of making it and the reality of how too much plastic really does damage our environment!

Our first activity in our groups with pupils from other school was about our personal ‘Plastic Stories’. What is your experience of plastic? What do you use plastic for in everyday life? We wrote/drew down our stories and some pupils shared them to the group.

The weather was wonderful so lunch time was lots of fun! There was a game of football, and some of the pupils even took part in a video with the university helpers!

After lunch time, the guest speakers continued their power point and the main question to focus on was **‘How/why do we commit to the change? and ‘How can we encourage others around us to support the change?’ ‘Have you ever considered taking part in plastic free July?’**

The final activity was to think about our schools or a large company (such as Tesco, Sainsbury’s or Coca Cola) and create a story for change. Most of our groups chose the supermarkets and picked recommendations for how they could use less plastic in stores. They also considered how they could change their packaging or have more recycling points available.

In the final week we thought about the things that are really important to enable us to make a change. ‘The world is in your hands – future generations but we need to act now!’ We continued working in our small groups on some key sentences which would motivate and make a good motto. We then came together as larger groups to merge our ideas and formulate our Climate Charter.

In the afternoon we had 3 important visitors who had been impressed by our work over the 3 weeks and wanted to present the finished Charter to us:

Charlie – from the Eden Project Cornwall and Eden Morecambe Project link;

Wes – Principle Lancaster & Morecambe College, also co-ordinator with The Morecambe Bay Curriculum around the Eden Morecambe Project;

Kevin – Deputy leader of Lancaster City Council who spoke about the Climate Emergency and the Council’s commitment to be off fossil fuel by 2030.

Well done to our Year 6 Council for working well with the other schools and listening to our guest speakers, sharing ideas and being respectful to the university helpers. You are a credit to our school.