

EARTH ALLIANCE



Hello everybody ! We're the 2022 Earth Alliance team from Plymouth High School For Girls, Ailish and Klara, and we've just finished our first term as leaders with the help of our events organiser, Maria Elliot.

Earth alliance group is a climate awareness group created by the students, for the students, to make the school and city more environmentally friendly. We have many aims which we would like to complete, not only on a school level but on a much wider scale throughout the academy, and we hope to influence other schools and our local community to go more green as well. It's been such a pleasure to talk to both students, staff and other figures in and out of school. We had a lot to live up to but we're hoping we're exceeding expectations.

One of our main things in January was the Earth Alliance board in the Science corridor. It was a daunting task because of its size but after many weeks, we completed it (if you're a Taylor Swift fan then you would get the reference !)



An initiative we're bringing on from Amy and Lara , the 2021 Earth Alliance team, is the installation of smart metres in the summer term. Earlier this year we met with James Fenlon, the Head of Estates and Health and Safety for the Trust to discuss when (summer holidays), where (still to be decided), how (during the summer holidays after an analysis of the school site) and the competition these smart metres will bring to schools. The aim of these metres is to encourage different schools in the trust to lower their energy and gas usage with a bit of friendly competition. Also, at the time we're writing this our litter picking scheme with CleanOurPatch has just been approved. This scheme will supply equipment and PPE to enable students to host litter picks. Clean Our Patch will also come and host 2 litter picks which engage pupils in open and productive discussion around the blight of litter on our planet. This will hopefully be in place at Plymouth High later on in the year and will be a really great opportunity for all students and can be used for the volunteering section of your DofE.

We've also met with Sarah Daffey to discuss the future and progression of sustainability in the school's Refectory and Bertha's. Last year, our school switched all of our packing to recyclable ones and this year, Tsat are looking into the food waste produced by our food preparation. Alongside this, our School's food areas ensure local products are being used when possible to reduce food miles. A board with tips to recycle as well as the Refectory and Bertha's progress will hopefully be put up soon. One of our massive aims of this year

has been setting up the yearly conference which started in 2021 by Amy Higgins and Lara Brindsen. More information on this will start to be put up around schools but our aim is to produce three workshops in varying topics to educate people. Alongside this, we are having a keynote speaker from the University of Plymouth, called Dr Tim Daley who is the associate Professor of Physical Geography and the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences. The overall title of our 2022 conference will be, "Why schools need student leaders on environmental issues and why it's important to maintain a focus on reducing our impact on the environment." This also coincides with one of our biggest aims, which is to extend Earth Alliance into the schools in the Tsat trust, meaning we could potentially reach 10,000 people and around 20 schools. And most importantly, getting more people involved in the fight to tackle climate change.

A very exciting new development is our new waste contractor, Zero to Landfill. This will mean that we will reduce the proportion of our waste that goes to landfill or the incinerator from 97% to 0%. We will be meeting with the new company in the hope that we might be able to get them in to talk to students. However, in the early weeks of the contract, we only recycled 30% of what we as a site are able to. This basically comes down to students not using the correct bins. Mr Berrey has been monitoring waste coming from the court area, 100% of the waste from this area is recyclable but too many students simply throw it all into general waste and this cannot be recycled as it is contaminated with mixed food waste. We are aiming to encourage students to use the correct bins by making the different bins more accessible and obvious and educating students to help play a huge part in this new scheme. Without this change in attitude, we fear we will not hit our expectations of zero to landfill.

And that was our 2022 Spring Term! We've been very busy but optimistic and proud of our achievements and the attitudes of students. We have a lot on our agenda and would love more student participation and enthusiasm for change both in and out of school. We've recently just kickstarted our instagram ([@earthalliance.phsg](https://www.instagram.com/earthalliance.phsg)) so make sure to follow us for updates, positive eco news and events happening in Plymouth! Also check out our article in the school magazine, Hear Me Out's Spring edition.

Thank you!

Ailish Field, Klara Evans and Maria Elliot.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY EVA KLECKHAM AGAR FROM PHSG'S HEAR ME OUT 2019, SPRING EDITION MAGAZINE

