

Gateways' pupils shine at Model UN Climate Conference



On Friday, 28th February, selected pupils had the exciting opportunity to engage in the Model UN Climate Conference, marking our first major super-curricular event of this kind. This global conference focused on discussions surrounding the COP29 resolutions, and our Gateway delegates were honoured to represent the views of the UAE.

In preparation for the event, our pupils conducted extensive research to understand the impact and perspectives on each of the six COP29 resolutions:

- **Resolution 1 - Carbon Mitigation:** Reduce coal use by 75% by 2035 and phase out fossil fuel subsidies.
- **Resolution 2 - Financing of Adaptation:** Developed countries to financially assist less wealthy nations in climate adaptation and transition to low-carbon energy.
- **Resolution 3 - Compensation for Loss and Damage:** Developed nations to compensate countries that have contributed minimally to global warming but suffer significant consequences.
- **Resolution 4 - Plastic Waste:** Phase out single-use plastics by 2030 and reduce overall plastic usage by 75% by 2035, ensuring all remaining plastics are 100% recyclable.
- **Resolution 5 - Food Waste:** Developed nations to cut food waste by 50% by 2030 and support less developed countries in achieving the same by 2035.

- **Resolution 6 - Sustainable Fashion:** Encourage eco-friendly materials, reduce waste in fashion production, and promote ethical labour practices.

Seb, from Lower 5, delivered an outstanding introduction to over 35 schools across four continents, introducing our school's delegates and offering a thoughtful and well-articulated insight into the long-term effects of climate change on biodiversity in the UK.

A particular highlight of the day was hearing from Professor Sir Jim Skea, a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), who gave an inspirational speech on sustainability and the crucial role that our young delegates will play in shaping the future.

Our pupils upheld the formal etiquette expected at a UN COP conference and confidently engaged in discussions, proposing amendments and voting on final resolutions. It was remarkable to see how quickly they developed the confidence to contribute over the zoom call, communicating with other delegates from all over the world, offering well-reasoned amendments to the proposals. Over four hours of discussions took place to agree and vote on many clauses within each resolution. It was delightful to hear that our delegates were given a special mention of thanks for the active contributions and participation. Warren, from Lower 5, gave a closing speech of thanks, which was delivered professionally and represented Gateways exceptionally well.

The event was not only an educational experience but also a truly enjoyable one. The enthusiasm and dedication shown by our pupils were outstanding, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements. With such positive feedback, we anticipate an even greater number of delegates representing our school at next year's conference. The word is spreading about what an incredible opportunity this is, and we look forward to seeing even more of our pupils take part in shaping the future of climate action!

Our thanks and congratulations therefore go to the following pupils who were involved:

Ruby Y
Joseph C
Adrian C
Hajrah H
Seb S-B
Gio N
Beth S
Callum T
Remus W

Warren T
Moiz E
Amelia B
Alice H
Fadzai G
Alex G
Jamie C
Iris C
Lydia M

We look forward to hearing their reflections in an upcoming assembly.

Dr Sara Newton & Mr Daniel Reeves