

Thu 28/10/2021 13:56

Dear Colleagues,


World Leaders Head to Glasgow

When world leaders gather it can be tempting to think there goes the neighbourhood. Among the great, the good and the green, the less keen and less green and downright anti are among them. The COP26 stakes are high and the outcome uncertain. I'm pleased to say however that our own Chair of the Board of Trustees Pete Higgins will be in the zone, flying the flag for common sense and FSC.

DfE announcement and consultation event

Yesterday evening I attended a roundtable event at the Natural History Museum hosted by the Department of Education. The purpose was to join others in the sector to consider and offer feedback to DfE's response to COP26. The details are to be announced next week and we have been asked not to pre-empt that, but there are some interesting proposals that FSC can be involved in. The most important thing is that we were there and that DfE is taking climate change and caring for the environment seriously.

FSC Carbon and Nature Plan

Having declared a climate emergency in 2019 it is only right to get our own house in order. We have significantly reduced our carbon footprint in recent years, but we are now changing gear. The Carbon and Nature plan is ambitious and we need everyone to play their part. We would like your feedback and an easy to read version has been produced which you can see here  [Carbon and Nature Plan for Staff Feedback Exercise.pdf](#). You have until the 26th November so there is plenty of time.

Government ends up in spectacular U bend

Many of you may be aware that the House of Lords and many MPs have been very active in putting down amendments to bills and spanners into works. I applaud their attempts to add teeth, targets and ambition to the [Environment Bill](#). Unruffled by concerns that the ping pong between the houses would mean missing a chance to announce the passing of the bill at COP26 they have pressed on. Anyone who has read the Ladybird book of Communications would see that justifying large scale raw sewage dumping was going to be an impossible sell for the government. The optics, as the experts say, could not have been worse and the media have been on the scent. The bill covers so many areas of interest for FSC and the subjects that we teach about including water, air and soil quality and the protection of pollinators. Work is also ongoing to ensure that new watchdog - the Office for Environmental Protection is independent and has its own set of teeth.

Budget 2021

Having leaked as much as the sewage system, the budget became a 1970s game show where MPs were encouraged to shout Up! or sometimes even Down! at appropriate moments. The choreography doesn't always work very well. Sam Dhadwar will be going through to spot what is a new announcement and what is a reheated one from earlier in the week, to enable us to understand the implications.

Stay safe and keep well

Mark