



Wakefield NEU
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Dear Spokespeople for the Planet,

It was a privilege and an honour on Tuesday to host the Youth Voice- Speaking up for the Planet meeting. You, young people who spoke at the meeting should feel very, very proud of yourselves, you were fantastic. Those of you who were there in person, in the Zoom meeting asked some great questions and the way you interacted with each other from different groups was truly inspirational. The children and young people speaking to the meeting in the videos were so clear, so enthusiastic, and so knowledgeable about the world. It is really good, that the films you made can be available for others to see afterwards.

Thank you to you all.

For the inspirational educators, film makers and youth workers who brought together these groups, Thank you. I am so glad we were able to make this meeting possible, over the airways. Lockdown and the dreadfulness of trying to make on-line learning possible, for children and young people, had very positive outcomes last night. Without the technology, that meeting would not have been possible; it would have been highly unlikely to have happened at all in reality, with the distances involved and the commitment of all the parents and children needed.

Please pass on a huge thank you to the parents, for enabling their children to take part last night, and for bringing up such questioning, creative and articulate children, they are a credit to you parents for the time you spend with them.

Please pass on our thanks to your schools and young people's organisations that have supported this work and made this possible through having the vision to get involved.

The meeting last night was fantastic for all those present, and it is great that the filmed resources and reports of the meeting and lessons learned will be available and developed over the coming weeks and months.

This event was made possible by the Wakefield branch National Education Union as part of our work with other unions to bring greater understanding of the challenge of the Climate emergency. Throughout May there are workshops and events on different aspects of this challenge, as part of With Banners Held High. Our commitment as a Union will continue. We declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and know that we must play our part to develop environmental understanding across our schools and communities.

We will be keen to support in the future others working on this, to show what is possible when educators and other adults, listen to the next generations speaking up for the Planet.

I am so pleased that it was possible to bring your groups together; the connections between the young people at the gathering were so positive; it gives real hope; tremendous thank you to all of you.

With very best wishes,
Catherine Porritt

Wakefield NEU, and Wakefield Trades Council, and coordinating online With Banners Held High 2021

