

## **Environmental Science (AQA A Level)**

Planet Earth is the only planet we can all we must look after it. If we are to manage it must:

- study Earth to see how it works;
- understand how we rely on environmental services for our survival;
- understand that human actions are reducing the ability of Earth to support us and the other species with which we share the planet;
- develop sustainable lifestyles.

To achieve the above we must study how the Earth and human society interact to gain a better understanding on which we can make better decisions. The Environmental Science A Level course aims to do just this.

Our course at Turton provides a thorough examination of Environmental Science and comprehensive preparation to complete the AQA A Level specification (7446).

We aim to:

- provide clear explanations of key concepts and scientific processes and insights into environmental events and cycles;
- describe environmental resources and services, our reliance, exploitation and impact on these, and discusses how the environment is affected by human activities;
- explain and assesses the strategies that individuals, business, industry, governments, and other organisations can implement to manage, minimise and reverse the impact of human actions;
- support students in their study of Environmental Science, enhancing their understanding and skills to succeed in their A level examinations.

In advance of the course students can get ahead with their learning by doing a number of things.

### **Are you a Turton School student?**

If you are at Turton School you can join the Future environmental scientists team on Office 365 where transition activities are being posted for those who want to get a head. If you are not in this team but would like to be please email Mr Searle at [searlc@turton.uk.com](mailto:searlc@turton.uk.com)

You can also take part in the activities suggested below.

### **Are you at school other than Turton?**

If you are not at Turton School, but are thinking of coming to our Sixth Form from another school, we'd love to have you. The following are suggestions for what you might want to do between now and September.

1. Ask for reading material. Send an email to the Head of Geography and Environmental Science, Mr Searle, at [searlec@turton.uk.com](mailto:searlec@turton.uk.com) . We will send you documents and other interesting articles you may wish to read.

2. Have a look at the AQA environmental Science specification (7446) at

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/environmental-science-7447>

It will give you an idea of what the course entails. You can also have a look at the style of exams at the end of the course. There are two three hour exams, so while there is a lot to learn, it is all over rather quickly at the end of the course.

3. If you like listening to podcasts who about listening to Radio 4s 'Costing the Earth' Each half hour programme investigates an environmental issue. Listen via the BBC sounds app or using the following links. These are just a few of the hundreds of programmes.

**Covid-19: the environmental impact** - What are the green issues emerging from the coronavirus pandemic and what might the environmental legacy be?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000h7yb>

**Fantastic Plastic** – Putting plastic waste to good use.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000h0g6>

**Fate of the Falcons** – The Nga people of India and Myanmar have turned from head-hunters to conservationists.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000g3jm>

**Dry me a river** – Whilst rivers in the north of England flood, many rivers in the south-east are drying up.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000b4xn>

**Powering Britain** - Britain urgently needs a zero carbon source of reliable energy for our homes, industry and the new generation of electric vehicles. Are we nearly there yet?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0009b3q>

**Carbon-free islands** - The Orkney Islands are pioneering a zero carbon approach to energy. If it works it should help the UK power itself cleanly.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0009372>

**Ghost-fishing** - 'Ghost Fishing' refers to the nets and lines left in the ocean by fishermen which continue to catch and kill sea-life. What is the extent of the problem?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0008nwr>

**Fire in the Amazon** - How can we prevent a repeat of the devastating fires in the Amazon?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0008hwy>

**The state of nature** - How sick is the planet and what can we do to reverse the damage?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0004sj9>

4. If you like the television, try the following. Some or all available on Netflix and other streaming channels like BBC iPlayer.

### **Our Planet**

Netflix documentary series narrated by David Attenborough

### **Planet Earth and Planet Earth II**

Documentary series on the natural world

### **Frozen Planet**

David Attenborough narrates a natural history of the polar regions.

### **Blue Planet and Blue Planet II**

Attenborough does his magic with the oceans and seas.

### **Chasing Coral** – Netflix documentary film.

A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling adventure to document the disappearance of the world's **coral** reefs.

### **Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret** - Netflix

The jaw-dropping documentary talks about the meat industry.

### **A Plastic Ocean** - Netflix

This film shows the harsh reality of plastic pollution in our oceans.

5. If you like reading, I can't recommend the following book enough.

**The Human Planet: How We Created the Anthropocene** (a e-book is just £1.99 from Amazon)

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0785X6FF7/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?\\_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0785X6FF7/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1)

(Please note: Other book sellers are available)

Good luck over the summer and enjoy getting to know your world.