

One of the many things that Queen Mary's High School takes pride in is being a Fairtrade school. Even amidst the ongoing disruptions brought upon by the pandemic and the bustle of academia, we still made sure Fairtrade had a presence in our school. This term, we held a range of activities and events that had Fairtrade at the forefront, putting a focus on the farmers who grow and cultivate our food - through raising money, our school is helping to ensure that these farmers get a fair pay for their work, safer conditions, legal rights, and better trading with other farmers for goods.

We kicked the Fairtrade calendar off by introducing it again in a PowerPoint to forms. An unusual addition to the calendar this year, however, was the Glasgow COP26 Summit

held on 31 October-12 November 2021, with Fairtrade partnering the summit. The question raised was, simply, *what does Fairtrade have to do with COP26?* This was a question we as a school wanted to answer.

In forms, the school's Fairtrade team released a PowerPoint to forms detailing the link between the two. To put simply, COP26 was a global conference meeting about climate change, aiming to ensure as many countries as possible get involved to try and halt climate change. Farmers are affected by global warming as well, as extreme weather can affect their homes, communities,

food supplies, and crops, all of which affects the farmers' way of earning a living.

As a school, we wanted to represent not only Fair Trade, but also its new partnership with COP26, and thus we held a COP26 x Fairtrade Event on the 5th November. This involved wearing nail polish or odd socks to school which represented the Fair Trade colours of black, green, and blue, as well as a simple Fairtrade chocolate sale, all of which raised money to support the farmers and their livelihoods in the face of climate change.

In the second half term, Year 7 held a Christmas Fair on the 14th December, holding vibrant stalls involving a straw draw, tombola, and a fair trade quiz. And as if that weren't enough, our Junior Show matinee performances were supported by a Fairtrade stall, looked after by our Sixth Former Fair Trade representatives, raising even more funds to support our farmers in ensuring they get a fair wage, legal rights, and safer working conditions.

It is undeniable that Fair Trade has been at the forefront in this autumn term, and we have achieved our aims of not only raising money for the cause, but also spreading awareness about what Fair Trade works for, and why climate change plays a role in this as well. We look forward to what the next spring term will bring, but for now, have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

*Khushi Dhutty, Deputy Head Girl*

