

KAS Connected

Personal Geography

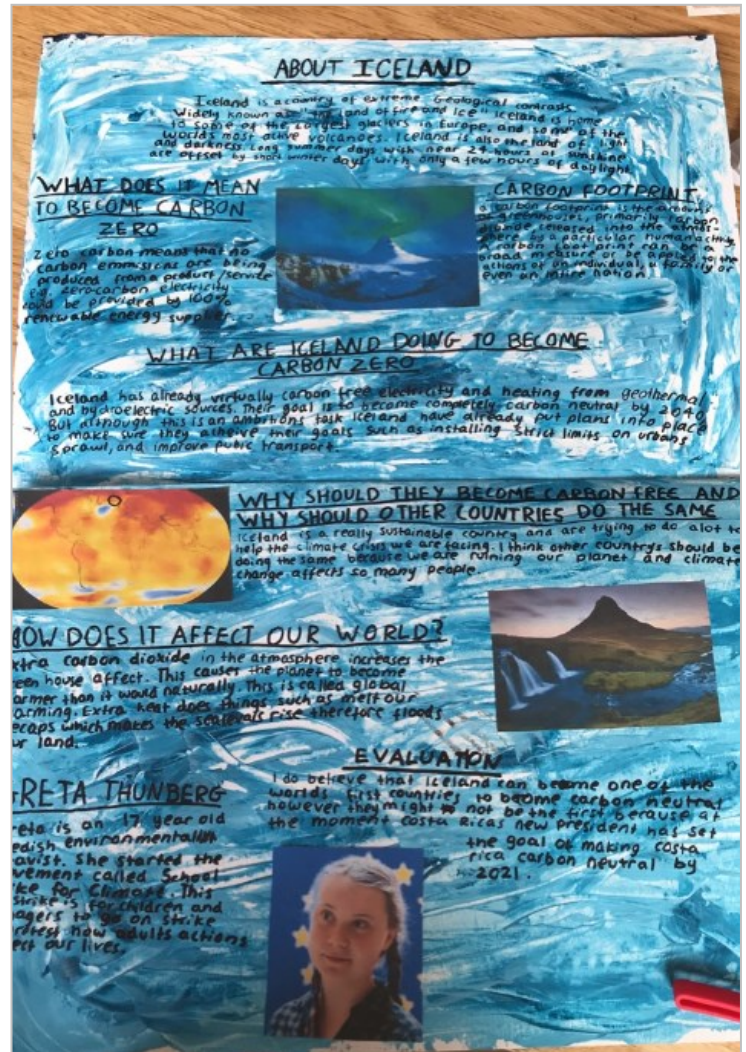
Y9 students were asked to do an investigation into a Geographical enquiry which interested them.

With a whole world at their fingertips teachers weren't sure what to expect. A real range of student submissions have been received, which have been a pleasure to read and an education for Head of Geography, Fay.

Here are just two brilliant examples:

Maddie S wrote an excellent study to explore why murder rates vary between El Salvador, Norway and the USA. You can see a section of her work below.

Riley took a different approach and produced a visual representation of a discussion about whether Iceland can achieve its carbon neutral aims.



Why the murder rate is so high in El Salvador:

Unregulated Urbanisation.



Unregulated urbanisation increases murder rates

- Unregulated urbanisation is when an area becomes urban but without proper infrastructure and funds from the government. An example of unregulated urbanisation are slum areas in El Salvador.
- There is a positive correlation between the two, and there are many reasons. "Latin America urbanized before it industrialized" Canadian political scientist Robert Muggah once said. When a place grows at such a rate the government is unable to keep pace basic infrastructure such as: electricity and water, daily, police patrols, education systems, rehabilitation systems, streets and lighting infrastructure and many more. When the state can't give basic support it allows gangs to take their place in giving authority, using violence, including murder.
- Gangs take advantage of people in vulnerable situations, especially young, unemployed men living in poor areas and trying to earn money for their family. They suck them in with prospects of a new life. It is a cycle that is very hard to leave without being killed.

Wise words

Y11 English students were given the (timed) challenge of writing a blogpost for teenagers about the Covid-19 lockdown.

Here are two extracts from these blogs which give great insight into how this situation is affecting our young people.

Sod You Corona Blues

Now it is about facing each day with a productive and healthy mindset. Your ultimate goal is to approach each day of confinement with an open and eager mindset. This is much easier said than done and no one can do this consistently because everyone has good and bad days but, once again, don't will away those bad days. When I say, an 'open' mindset, that includes the times you are feeling low. Be open to the negative emotions as well as the positive ones because if you push them underground they will later rise to the surface but in great, unattainable mass. Moreover, when those emotions arise, and trust me they will, make use of a person in your life that you can talk to about this, whether this is a carer, teacher or friend.

by Marianne Y11

We are the Quaranteens

Being teenagers we crave social interaction outside our immediate family. Whether it's at school or on a weekend out with our friends, these years are about slowly growing apart from total dependence on your family, eventually enough to one day spread our metaphorical wings and be self sufficient adults.

So in these strange, unfamiliar and frankly quite scary times us teenagers really need to take care of ourselves and each other.

For the exam years, you either found yourself elated when the word was out about exams being cancelled, or you were like me and were hit with the instant feeling of betrayal, like all these years have amounted to nothing. I couldn't help but realise all the things we wouldn't experience; the final physics exam, being able to jump out of those uncomfortable exam hall chairs and throw papers in the air (very high school musical-esque); prom, changing out of the sweats into the dress or suit you chose months prior; results day, the goodbyes, the festivals, the parties, the hugs and the 'spur of the moment' kisses. But instead we face possibly months away from the family we had created at school, some of us who we've known since we were toddlers. And the cherry on-top of the cake we are stuck with our real family, when all we want is control.

By Anonymous Y11

Y8 student Sofia took part in a Wider Reading Project where students were tasked with reading a book and choosing a way to feed-back on it. Here is an extract of her essay on why 'Diary of a Young Girl' by Anne Frank is such a great book.

"Reason one: it's a real story, and often real stories can be better than fake ones. We connect to a character if they're real because when you are reading a regular book about war or anything educational there's always this question of: how do they feel? What do they think? The Diary of a Young Girl has all the answers because it was real, and you can really know more about how this impacted Anne's life and others."

Under The Sea With Year 3

Y3 have been working on their topic of 'Under the Sea' and have been developing their descriptive language skills to create poetry.



Penny's poster of ocean-based descriptive words

Each stanza relates to a different underwater zone from the surface down to the midnight zone. Here's part of Luke's poem:

Blue whale dives 500 meters
 Lusitania found sunk
 Emperor penguins shoot through water
 Loggerhead turtle went 'plunk'

The toxic pufferfish puffed himself up
 The tuna tried his tricks
 The big fat clownfish smashed and crashed
 The sea kelp flicks and kicks

The squirmy sperm whale tried to eat
 The slippery slimy squid
 The squid fought back and broke his back
 Squirted his ink and hid

NAMIBIA UPDATE

Y11 pupils had been fundraising and preparing for the annual trip to Namibia in July—the trip date is currently TBC for obvious reasons. In the meantime the KAS community has continued to support the charity we partner with.

Coronavirus is having a huge impact on Elephant Human Relations Aid in Namibia, the organisation who coordinate our partnership with schools in Namibia.

Thanks to the KAS community's amazing generosity, and support from other volunteers and donations, EHRA has managed to raise enough money to keep going until at least September and continue its important work both with schools and the wider community and in protecting the elephant population.

Rachel, Director of EHRA wrote to us: "Dear Friends, Thank you. I know I have said this again and again, but I can't stop! Thanks to the overwhelming support we have received, we have been able to continue our important work, with peace of mind. Which is just amazing! I am so very grateful.

Thank you for all the support you've given. If you would like continue supporting us you can buy EHRA t-shirts, hoodies, tote bags and more from our [online shop](#). Best wishes and hope to see you soon. Rachel."





Pet portraits

Year 6 student and budding artist, Nova, has been putting her skills to use to raise money for The Great Ormond Street Hospital. Asking for donations of at least £2.50 per portrait, she has been drawing amazing and adorable portraits of people’s pets. The pictures have brought joy to the pet owners (and the pets themselves) and raised over £1,500 for her chosen cause so far. Incredible!

Visit [@petsbynova](https://www.instagram.com/petsbynova) to see more of her work and [Just Giving](#) to donate.



ROBERT AND KAREN’S MESSAGE

We’ve been fortunate with glorious weather over the last few weeks, but the recent greyer skies remind us that this is a time of ups and downs. Whatever your situation, it’s not feasible to be cheerful every day, and we all have to put in the work to stay positive. We hope you saw Robert’s video message from April 24 which looked at mental health and well-being - you can still find it on our website. Karen’s videos of the farm are also there and provide a reminder that for some, life carries on as serenely as ever (it’s been remarked that the sound of bunnies nibbling is strangely therapeutic). At this end, we’re very much seeking to play our role, and we hope being part of the KAS community is supporting you and your families to see the positives, keep optimistic and stay in good spirits.

