

## **ST MELROSE SCHOOL FORM 7 – PLASTIC OCEANS PRESENTATION SCRIPT**

### **SLIDE 3**

Archie Mo: This amazing product has helped us throughout the last century.....

All: BUY IT TODAY AND ALL YOUR TROUBLES WILL GO AWAY!

### **SLIDE 4**

Molly: One of the great things about this product is it makes it way more easy to transport and to buy the products that you love.

Eliza: Chocolate bars, Haribos, ice lollies, Lucozade, Coca Cola – they are all wrapped or bottled in amazing plastic!

### **SLIDE 5**

Amelie: You eat it, drink it, chuck it away and just go to the store and buy some more!

### **SLIDE 6**

All: Plastic can mould into any shape for example:

A STAR

### **SLIDE 7**

A CIRCLE

### **SLIDE 8**

A FLAT SURFACE LIKE AN IKEA TABLE.

Molly: If you can dream it you can make it out of PLASTICS!

### **SLIDE 9**

Eliza: You all use this substance. You wouldn't know life without it.

Amelie: We package our food in it, we make our toys out of it, our cars, our clothes – even the medicines that we use are packaged in it.

All: BUY IT TODAY AND ALL YOUR TROUBLES WILL GO AWAY!

Go buy plastic! It's so great! Go right now – it's not too late!

### **SLIDE 10**

Anna: From food packaging to fabrics and face wash, this modern “miracle” invention can be found in some shape or form in nearly all of the products that we purchase and use.

Archie Mo: It is SO cheap.

Molly S: It is SO useful.

### **SLIDE 11**

Eliza: It lasts forever.

Amelie: It is immortal.

All: Plastic is our saviour!

**SLIDE 12**

Lara: This is very convenient for us. However, the very fact that plastic is so useful and lasts for so long means that it has turned into a big BIG problem.

Archie Mac: Since it was invented over 8 billion tons have been produced. Over 4 billion tons were produced in the last 10 years alone.

**SLIDE 13**

Callum: Plastic can last for hundreds or thousands of years.

**SLIDE 14**

Hannah F: Since it does not degrade this means that nearly all the plastic ever produced still exists in our environment in one form or another.

**SLIDE 15**

JUST READ SLIDE

**SLIDE 16**

Caelan: Only tiny proportion is recycled and most goes to landfill.

**SLIDE 17**

Caelan: However almost 8 million tons escapes and ends up in the World's oceans every year

**SLIDE 18**

Mac: Plastic affects every part of the World's oceans.

Hannah C: There are believed to be 46,000 pieces of plastic in every square mile of ocean

**SLIDE 19**

Ollie: There are now 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic in the ocean.

**SLIDE 20**

Mac: 5,250,000,000,000 pieces of plastic!

**SLIDE 21**

Callum: 900 marine species are affected by plastic debris mainly through eating the plastics or becoming entangled in them.

**SLIDE 22**

Molly C: Over 100,000 marine mammals (and turtles) like whales, dolphins and seals are hurt by plastic every year. Over 2 million birds also suffer from plastics.

**SLIDE 23 - 28**

#####PAUSE TO LOOK AT PHOTOS#####

**SLIDE 29**

Lara: This is Midway Island. Midway Island is in the middle of the World's biggest ocean.

Caelan: It is as far away from land as it is possible to be on our planet.

**SLIDE 30**

Thomas: Midway Island produces no plastic waste of its own.

**SLIDE 31**

#####PAUSE TO LOOK AT PHOTO#####

**SLIDE 32**

However, Midway Island has become one of the most polluted places on Earth as ocean currents bring plastic waste to wash up on its shores

**SLIDE 33**

Callum: What can we do?

Eliza: Very simply, we need to stop using single use plastic items.

**SLIDE 34**

Mac: Let's look at two commonly used single-use plastic items; the water bottle and the plastic shopping bag.

Around 500 billion plastic bottles are manufactured every year.

**SLIDE 36**

Hannah F: Just one company, Coca Cola, produces a quarter of these; 120 billion plastic bottles every year. Rosie C: That is 3,400 plastic bottles every second of every day produced by one company

**SLIDE 37**

Hannah C: Between 500 billion and 1 trillion plastic bags are produced globally every year

**SLIDE 38**

A tiny percentage are recycled but most are dug in to landfill or end up in our rivers and seas.

**SLIDE 39**

Lucy Mac: How do we solve the existing problem of plastic in our oceans? The problem is huge but it only takes one person to have a big idea to make a real difference.

**SLIDE 40**

Rosie: Boyan Slat was a Dutch boy, not much older than you who had a big idea.

**SLIDE 41**

In 2011 when he was 16 he went diving in Greece. He saw more plastic than fish. Boyan was told that the problem of plastic in the World's oceans was impossible to solve. Now aged 23 years old, Boyan has dedicated his life to solving the problem of plastic in the World's oceans.

**SLIDE 42**

Anna: Boyan's design uses the power of ocean currents to bring the plastic to floating collection points.

**SLIDE 43**

He hopes that his design could clear 50% of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, an area of floating plastic twice the size of France, within 5 years.

**SLIDE 44**

Emma SW: However, all Boyan's efforts will be for nothing if we do not reduce the amount of plastic that we use every day.

**SLIDE 45**

Jake: We can help to reduce this plastic pollution by doing the following.

Thomas: The most important thing is to use less plastic. There are lots of ways to do this;

Ollie: Look for items at the supermarket that use less plastic packaging like fresh fruit and veg

Archie Mac: Use a reusable water bottle and fill it from the tap

Molly C: Use reusable shopping bags or bring your own paper bags.

Hannah C: Drink coffee from your own cup. You might even get a discount.

Mac: Refuse plastic straws in your drinks

Libby: Once we have reduced our own plastic usage we can encourage others to do the same.

**SLIDE 46**

Lucy: We can also help by helping to gather up the rubbish dropped by others. Last month, Form 4 gathered nearly 30kg of rubbish from along 500 metres of the River Tweed.

Mac: This is a tiny amount but we know that this rubbish will not end up in the sea.

Jake: We are committed to helping to clear rubbish from along our stretch of the river and our part of the town.

Mhairi: We also want to encourage other people to do the same! By reducing the amount of plastic going into the ocean we can hope to slow the rate of pollution.

#####Mr Rawson will talk about the assembly and plastic pollution#####

**SLIDE 47**

Mr Rawson: To give you some idea of this we can show you what one St. Mary's pupil's family produces in one week.

#####Tip out one bag on the stage#####

#####Dig through and pick out some items. Show the audience what they are#####

Eliza: We produce this amount of plastic every week of every year. This only includes the plastic that goes into your kitchen bin.

Libby: Almost none of this plastic will be recycled. This means all of it will go into our natural environment.

Mhairi: Now, that's a lot of plastic but not nearly as much as five families produce in one week.

##### Tip four more bags out on the stage #####

Archie Mo: That's still not as much as 10 families produce in the same time.

##### Tip five more bags out on the stage #####

Jake and Thomas: Double that and you have the amount of plastic produced in 20 St. Mary's pupil's family's homes.

##### Tip ten more bags out on the stage #####

Hannah F: This means that St. Mary's families are producing around ten times as much plastic waste as you see before you every week of every month of every year.

ALL: CAN YOU SEE THE PROBLEM HERE?

#####Mr Rawson will then finish off the assembly#####