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**Education as if People and Planet Matter**

**Essay Competition, celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Schumacher College**

In collaboration with Resurgence & Ecologist magazine

First Prize £5,000, Second Prize £2,000, Third Prize £1,000

 **Press Release**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 1am, 26 FEBRUARY**

The world is in a state of shock. The pandemic is forcing us to rethink a whole host of assumptions about what really matters to us. The Climate Emergency is forcing us to rethink exactly what ‘progress’ looks like on an inexorably warming planet. Persistent, abhorrent inequality, both in the global economy and in our own back yard, is forcing us to rethink what we mean by ‘fairness’.

Our responses to this state of affairs need to be both immediate over the next couple of years, as in genuinely ‘building back better’, and longer-term. In that respect, nothing is more important than rethinking our entire educational system – given how utterly ‘unfit for purpose’ today’s system is in terms of meeting those challenges.

It’s against that backdrop that Schumacher College, in partnership *Resurgence & Ecologist* magazine, is launching a major new essay competition on the topic of ‘Education as if People and Planet Matter’. Schumacher College has been a model of holistic, future-fit education for the last 30 years; *Resurgence & Ecologist* recently celebrated 50 years of inspirational leadership in this space.

The competition will be launched on March 1st 2021. Satish Kumar, the co-Founder of Schumacher College and Editor Emeritus of *Resurgence & Ecologist* magazine, is the Coordinator of the Competition. He says:

‘Education is an integral part of transformation from the present paradigm of unsustainable economic growth to a new paradigm of ecological integrity. This essay competition will surely generate ideas which can inform the way forward to renew the educational system appropriate for the new challenges of our time.’

A Panel of judges has been brought together, to reflect a diversity of experience and interests, all of whom are passionate about the need to transform our entire educational system. The Panel will be chaired by Jonathon Porritt, Founder Director of Forum for the Future. He says:

‘This Essay Competition is so timely. If #NoGoingBack means anything, it surely means responding to the world as it is (and not as it once was), and empowering young people both to understand that world and to play their part in it as active citizens and shapers of their own future.’

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**LIST OF JUDGES**

**Chair: Jonathon Porritt**Founder Director, Forum for the Future[www.forumforthefuture.org](http://www.forumforthefuture.org)

**Lauren Banham**Youth Advisor, Peace Child International[www.peacechild.org](http://www.peacechild.org)

**Marianne Brown**
Editor, Resurgence & Ecologist Magazine
[www.resurgence.org](http://www.resurgence.org)

**Pavel Cenkl**
Head of Schumacher College and Director of Learning, Dartington Trust
[www.schumachercollege.org.uk](http://www.schumachercollege.org.uk) [www.dartington.org](http://www.dartington.org)

**Holly Everett**Education and Programme Coordinator, Reboot the Future & Global Dimension<https://www.rebootthefuture.org/>        [www.globaldimension.org.uk](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.globaldimension.org.uk%2F&data=04%7C01%7Csatish%40resurgence.org%7C173b915d3ffb4f0ea48808d8c39155d0%7C116fb76fc6a048fab9c4511d333c62f9%7C0%7C0%7C637474376259329039%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=xprumT5kw3as6apF2oNbFEK2wBVz248sgghLj3HkFa8%3D&reserved=0)

**Ann Finlayson**
Executive Chair, Sustainability and Environmental Education
(Former Head of Education/Social Change at WWF-UK)
<https://se-ed.co.uk/edu/about-seed/meet-the-team/>

**Cindy Forde**Founder, Planetari(Formerly CEO Cambridge Science Centre & MD Blue Marine Foundation)<https://planetari.world/#x-content-band-7>

**Clover Hogan**Climate activist and Founder of Force of Nature<https://www.cloverhogan.com/> [https://www.forceofnature.xyz/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.forceofnature.xyz%2F&data=04%7C01%7Csatish%40resurgence.org%7C173b915d3ffb4f0ea48808d8c39155d0%7C116fb76fc6a048fab9c4511d333c62f9%7C0%7C0%7C637474376259319046%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ciejllN97XkQdyWI3JiqspyddVzwASdioFncSOnAiPM%3D&reserved=0)

**Tim Smit**Executive Vice-Chair, and Co-founder, Eden Project
[www.edenproject.com](http://www.edenproject.com)

**COORDINATOR:**
**Satish Kumar**
Editor Emeritus, Resurgence & Ecologist Magazine
[www.resurgence.org](http://www.resurgence.org)

**Notes for editors**

The essay competition runs from 1st March to 1st July 2021.
For full information please visit: <https://www.dartington.org/essay-competition/>

Jonathon Porritt, Satish Kumar and Pavel Cenkl are available for interview:
Jonathon Porritt: J.Porritt@forumforthefuture.org
Satish Kumar: satish@resurgence.org tel. 01237 441377.

*Please contact* *will.kemp@dartington.org* *for press photos or more info.*