

Wadebridge School in the Community

Wadebridge School students have been actively involved in a number of projects within the local community. It all started just over 3 years ago when a local resident posted a plea for help on Facebook, asking for volunteers to tidy the grounds/gardens at Wyndhurst Orchard in Wadebridge as austerity cuts meant that this was no longer a provided service.

At Wadebridge School a small number of students opt for a curriculum that is called Vocational Pathways, this provides them with a chance to experience the world of work by attending a work placement with a local employer one day each week. In preparation for this during Year 9 the group involve themselves in a wide variety of activities in the community, so the chance to answer the call for help from the residents of Wyndhurst Orchard was quickly accepted by both students and staff.

On a weekly basis students and staff arrive with a plan of the work that needs to be done, along with the tools required and set about their tasks. The students work in groups and are responsible for a set area, some of the tasks include weeding, trimming hedges, and clearing pathways so that the residents can enjoy the gardens and be safe at the same time.

Here are some pictures of the students going about their work:



After each session the students review their progress and reflect on what they achieved whilst considering the skills being developed e.g. teamwork.

The students really enjoy carrying out the work and engaging with the residents, who are always very grateful of the time and effort they put in. To show their appreciation the residents invited the students and staff to one of their weekly coffee mornings, and treated them to drinks and snacks. It was after this that the students said they enjoyed interacting with the residents so much that they wanted to organise a 'festive' get together. There were many ideas as to what this might be, but it was decided that the students would organise a 'festive rag wreath making workshop' for the residents and students to take part in together. The students researched and learnt how to make these items and then created plans to teach the techniques to the residents. They also created posters to advertise the event, which were successful as over 15 residents took part.

Here are some of the pictures taken during the two workshop sessions, which took place on Friday 7th and 14th of December 2018:



The event was a huge success and big hit with both students and residents. Plans are now afoot to follow this up in the New Year with further activities/events involving the residents and students.

The group of students have also been actively involved in environmental community action, working with organisations such as Emily and Rob Stevenson of Beach Guardian to do a number of beach cleans in the local area, as well as working with Cormac's countryside officer Rhys Parry to litter pick on the Camel Trail.

Wadebridge School is keen to continue this community involvement and therefore would welcome any contact from groups or organisations in the local area that would benefit from the assistance of our amazing students in any way.

Please contact Mr L Bateman – Assistant Headteacher

lbateman@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk