



Case study

Kirk Hallam Community Technology College

Schools' Challenge - Grow Your Own Grub

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CS

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Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

Background

Kirk Hallam Community Technology College is a co-educational comprehensive with 1,033 pupils on roll who are aged between 11-18 years. It has strong community links and is extensively used as an educational, social and recreational resource by local people. Pupils come from diverse backgrounds, both rural and urban.

The project

1. What were you trying to achieve for your learners through the curriculum?

To increase growing, cooking and farming opportunities for pupils at Kirk Hallam and also from feeder primary schools.



2. How did you organise the learning to achieve your aims for learners?

Over the past two years staff organised an after school gardening club for selected Year 6 pupils from feeder primary schools. The selected pupils include those that are identified as being vulnerable and likely to encounter some kind of difficulties during the transition period to Secondary School. Therefore, the main focus of this project is to develop individuals PSHE to help identify any issues and to try and equip them with the skills to deal with this transition.



Pupils from both the primary school and Kirk Hallam are also given the opportunity to plant, grow and harvest vegetables, which they then use to create a meal. The activities have cross-curricular links with subjects such as mathematics, science, food technology and geography.

3. How well are you achieving your aim?

- As part of the Year of Food and Farming, the college developed the 'Grow Your Own Grub' project that was funded by a grant from the 'Awards for All' scheme. This funding was used to



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extend the reach of the gardening club, to create a new farm unit and also to increase growing opportunities within the school grounds

- During the Year members of the gardening club planted hedges in the school grounds, looked after sheep as part of the new farm unit, planted more vegetables, constructed raised beds and took part in a competition to grow as many potatoes as possible in a grow bag
- Pupils also added an enterprising aspect to the project as the produce grown is sold to raise funds to develop the school grounds further
- Pupils built up relationships with the staff running the gardening club which aids in the identification of potential problems that are then passed onto the head of year. The club helps pupils overcome issues associated with moving up to secondary school and staff have commented on improved confidence in pupils that attend the sessions

