



Case study

Sidmouth College

Schools' Challenge Case Study

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Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
 EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

Background

Sidmouth College has 867 pupils aged 11-18 years. It is a mixed community school of non-denominational religion. The school is located in the holiday resort of Sidmouth, Devon. Until September 2007, the dominant feature of the school's rural dimension was offered via leisure and tourism.

The project

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

Sidmouth College developed six projects linked in with the Year of Food and Farming to achieve the following aims:

- To develop links with farming partners
- To integrate food and farming into the teaching and learning undertaken at Sidmouth College
- To demonstrate to pupils where their food comes from and how it is produced by developing a small holding and undertaking growing projects



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

Step 2 : Planning For Action—Integrating Food & Farming Into The School Curriculum & Beyond

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

A number of linked units in each of the KS3 years. To examine the use of packaging, Composting waste for use on the land. Examination of sustainability issues linked to food miles. Using local produce with a theme of Healthy Eating. The growing of vegetables & herbs in school & their use in food / drink preparation & production.

SCIENCE

Year 9 Photosynthesis planting in mini internal allotment in laboratory. Yr 9 "Plants For Food" examining the effect of fertilisers. Year 8 soil testing for pH. Links later to KS5 A level. Would be ideal to use as a link for KS4 "Food & Agriculture" module if funding allows. Introduction to the Science Of Farming associated with farm visit in Yr 7.

GEOGRAPHY

Work to be undertaken with Yr 7 in the Summer Term based on soils & climate including the global distribution of these. Identification of key LEDC's to compare & contrast with the UK. Examination of farming in the South West of England and especially in East Devon. Use of "Thinking Skills" and the "Food 4 Thought" pack & sustainability issues.

BUSINESS

A Year 9 Technology Dept. project based on the use of our own or local produce undertaken in summer of 2008 as an "Enterprise Challenge" with the Business Studies Dept. Involved in the planning, and promotion of it. Further linked to work to be undertaken in Yr 10 2008/9. This links well with our entry to competitions associated with food production & preparation.

EXTRA

Inspired by the YOFF, Sidmouth College is now in the process of creating a small farm on-site. Pupils of all ages will have the opportunity to partake in this process both in and out of normal school time. A gardening / farming club will be set up as a community resource for all. Linked to "Global Action Plan" work already underway with the School Council



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3. How well are you achieving your aims?

Project 1 – The school has developed links with partners within the farming sector as well as across academic departments within the college. Students visited Bicton College to attend the Festival of Food and Farming, held as part of the Year of Food and Farming, with support from Devon EBP. Year 12 Biology students visited local farms for hands on experiences and, within school, students carried out an audit to assess the amount and type of waste the school produces and how this can be reduced, reused or recycled.



Project 2 – Teachers utilised existing teaching and learning resources such as 'Food For Thought', a KS3 Geography Unit on Consumption, to illustrate and facilitate the delivery of a broad range of current issues associated with food, farming and environmental issues.

Project 3 – The school encouraged the use of challenge/enterprise in KS3 through competitions associated with food and farming. Pupils took part in Potatoes for Schools (2007-2008) and cooking activities using the potatoes grown in school.

Project 4 – The school developed a small holding with access for all pupils; the site that was developed was once part of a small holding run for the benefit of rural studies when it ran as a separate course 20 years ago. Bicton College provided advice on the plans for developing a small-holding with livestock, as well as plants, fences and buildings. Sidmouth College has been allocated a plot of land inside Bicton College's walled





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garden where students have access to poly tunnels, advice from experts, as well as access to equipment such as mowers for GCSE ELBS.

Project 5 –The school integrated all aspects of food and the farming environment into KS4 preparation for work course offered to a small number of students in Years 10 and 11.

Project 6 – Sidmouth College developed an international dimension, especially within the subjects of geography and citizenship. They are working in partnership with the Butiri/Makongoroo Project in Tanzania. As part of this project in 2009/2010 Years 11 and 12 hope to visit Lake Victoria and the Serengeti wildlife reserve