



Sixth Formers get their hands dirty

Community-spirited King's Ely Sixth Form students have used some of their spare time to help with the creation of a new eco-garden at Isle of Ely Primary School.

Thirteen Sixth Formers were part of a green-fingered team from King's Ely who removed a huge area of weeds and prepared the soil ready for Isle of Ely Primary School pupils and staff to start planting their new garden.

The Sixth Form students were accompanied by Chris Youngs and Will Temple, who are members of the King's Ely Garden and Grounds Team; Jane Halls, Sixth Form Supervisor at King's Ely; and Celia Etchegoyen, King's Ely's Director of Outreach.

Annie Hunter, Outdoor Education

Pictured: With four of the team are Chris Youngs and Celia Etchegoyen

and Science Lead at Isle of Ely Primary School, said: "We have put a big push into revamping our environmental garden here at Isle of Ely Primary School recently. It had run a bit wild so taming it has been a big challenge for our little hands! When we were told about volunteers from King's Ely offering to help, we were delighted that other members of our community could also join in making our school more eco-friendly. They cleared a huge area of well-established weeds, which will make way for tyre beds filled with berry bushes for autumnal harvests. Thank you so much to the volunteering team at King's Ely, we would love you to come back and try our berry jams next year!"

A meeting of local minds

The mayor, other elected representatives from the local community, local retailers and senior staff from neighbouring schools recently attended a special community evening at Bryanston School, Dorset. With an attendance well in excess of 100, the event aimed to highlight the importance and celebrate the success of collaborative initiatives such as the well-established Blandford Schools' Network and new programmes like Bryanston's loyalty card scheme for local High Street shops.

Hosted by Bryanston's Headmaster, Mark Mortimer, the evening presented the perfect opportunity to share thoughts and ideas on future collaborative ventures for the benefit of all areas of the local community and featured musical interludes provided by a number of Bryanston's music scholars.

Said Mr Mortimer. "Everyone who attended is, in effect, one of today's custodians of the local area with a responsibility to

nurture and improve the spirit of our community – and that was very much in evidence throughout the evening.

"For our part, all of us at Bryanston cherish and value our own place in the community and we are very keen to strengthen our links and extend our engagement throughout this wonderful corner of Dorset. We're delighted with the enthusiastic response to our loyalty card scheme from so many local retailers. Naturally, they are very supportive of any initiative that provides direct encouragement for people to shop locally and boost customer footfall, and I am pleased more and more local stores are continuing to join the programme. It's also very clear just how beneficial the Blandford Schools' Network continues to be for younger members of the community. These two examples just go to show what can be achieved through effective collaboration and mutually beneficial partnerships."

Help for Childline

Pupils, parents and staff at the Froebelian School, Yorkshire, spent 2019 raising money for Childline. And now they have presented a cheque for £3500.

With activities from bake sales, non-uniform days, The Froebelian Parent Association's events and a whole host of other activities, the entire school community has come together to raise the incredible amount.

Headteacher, Catherine Dodds, said: "I am extremely proud of what we achieved for our designated charity last year and would like to thank everyone for their

generous contributions. £3500 is enough money to train two Childline Volunteer Counsellors and, with each counsellor helping around 200 children per year, this means the money we have raised will help at least 400 children."

Founded in 1986 by Esther Rantzen, Childline is there to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're facing. Contacting Childline by phone on 0800 1111 or online by email through a 1-2-1 counsellor chat is free and doesn't show up on the phone bill.

