



## Botanical Garden Project



### Sixth Form Gardening Volunteers Landscaping of the lower school drive:

Our 35 sixth form volunteers have been very busy working with Mrs Brenda East, our Groundsman Michael Airries, plus Morpeth Town Council In Bloom member Roger Ashmore and KEVI Alumni Professor Alan Davison to begin creating more biodiversity in the lower school drive and Youth Centre areas. Old bushes are being cut back to begin preparing the land and professionals Chris Morrell from Aston Tree & Garden Services and Tree surgeon Darren Wright joined us recently for a few days

to clear out the old Cherry laurel bushes so that we can make the steps and the lower school drive much safer to walk through, especially on dark evenings.

We're very grateful to Heighley Gate for all their support and advice in restoring various parts of the school grounds with their latest project with students about to begin at the Ski slope. Pringles have also been a great help in supplying 300 tonnes of soil with some of this filling in the lower end of the Ski slope.

Heighley gate volunteers Nicky and Ivan will shortly begin work with the students to landscape the whole of the Ski slope. By summer 2016 we hope to have the beginnings of a fruit & veg patch, also a relaxed area – which could also be used by the Observatory students when they invite people to star-gaze and the top of the bank will be a mixed wild area with bees in their hives.



Student designs are also being considered ready to develop low maintenance gardens and a small woodland glade area near to the newly restored X1&2 rooms. Further student and community volunteer projects are also being planned as a team effort, with students working closely with community and businesses to create more interesting garden areas that will benefit everyone.



School Council working with Middle Schools planting a sunflower patch



The new Science Garden



**As we continue to fundraise for the Botanical Garden project, more ideas are coming forwards from students, staff and the community and the start of the list to consider for 2016-17 is as follows:**

- Extension of the School Council Sunflower bed (Heighley Gate have donated 500 daffodil bulbs for spring flowering)
- Development of a woodland glade – Sixth form team
- Succulent gardens next to Youth Centre and X1&2
- Improved garden area around Music block
- Extension of the Kitchen garden area
- Additional work to the new Science garden
- Small orchard and a hedge of rosa rugosa behind the Language dept
- Prehistoric garden

Evidence shows that having quality landscaping and vegetation in and around the places where people work and study is a good investment. Looking at and being within green space, helps to improve the mind's ability to focus. This can improve job and school performance, and help alleviate stress and illness.

As a school, we are very lucky to have plenty of land to work on and great support from a mix of parents, friends, local businesses, staff and students to help us develop an exciting mix of green spaces.



**We are very grateful for all the different areas of support and would like to thank the following:**

**Community partners**

**KEVI PTFA**  
**Newcastle University:**  
**Alan Davison** *Emeritus*  
*Professor of*  
*Environmental Biology*  
**Town Council**  
 In Bloom Committee  
**Azure volunteers**  
 with staff Toni & Elsa  
 Morpeth & District Red  
 Squirrels Assoc.  
 The 'Making' Society

**Business partners**

**Heighley Gate**  
 and their volunteers:  
 Adrian, Sarah, Roger,  
 Nicky and Ivan  
  
**Chris Morrell**  
 Aston Tree & Garden  
 Services  
  
**Darren Wright**  
 Tree surgeon  
  
**Pringles**

**Parent volunteers:**

Maxine Eaton  
 Gill Miller  
 Lee Walker  
 Yvonne Bailey  
**Community Volunteers:**  
 Malcolm  
 Fairgrieve  
 Roger Ashmore



**Chris Morrell**  
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**Darren Wright**  
 Tree surgeon  
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