

Post-16 Careers News

Copse Café & Kitchen Garden – the story so far...

Kestrel group is so big that we have come up with a creative way for everyone to have a concentrated work experience. Every other week the group is split in two. Half work out in the Kitchen garden following a Horticulture theme of work and the other half work in the Copse Café practicing our catering and hospitality skills. Each week the groups rotate so that each learner can experience both worlds!



We believe that offering learners opportunities to work in different environments helps to build confidence and cooperation skills. By delivering different activities in different locations learners become more aware of their environments and are more likely to accept changes.

We believe that it is important to experience different kinds of work. Some environments are more preferable than others but it is important to have the contrast so that learners can make decisions about what they like and don't like (independent choice making).

Learners are encouraged to develop their independent living skills and embed them into a variety of vocational learning opportunities across the curriculum.

We see that the skills learnt are skills for life and these will help learners in the future when given the opportunity for external work experiences and placements.



Health and safety and good hygiene are very important skills that are embedded into every session. Learners are frequently asked why it is important to wash their hands and why it is important to keep the Café clean and tidy.

Work experience through events...

Falcon group have been busy! Our first projects in term two were to plan and bake cakes for charitable events. After a successful Macmillan coffee morning (raising over £30 for this amazing cause) we decided to do a similar event for Children in Need. Learners all took part in choosing what cakes to bake before going through the process to produce a lovely batch of cakes. Covid restrictions meant we could only sell in Post-16, but we still raised £15 for a worthy cause.



Skills for life!



Developing skills for the workplace

Whilst learners are quietly getting on with their work they are also learning valuable skills; for example: following instructions to get something done, learning the importance of good time keeping, understanding the rules of the workplace - including health and safety. These skills are challenged and reinforced in every session to ensure they develop and retain the knowledge.

Our garden – learning where food comes from...

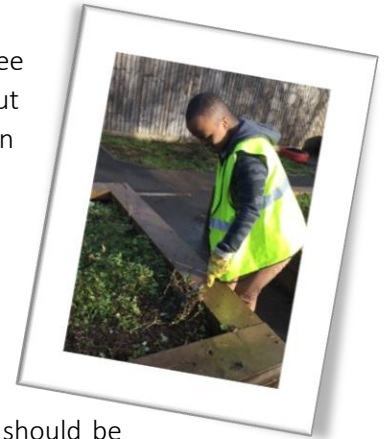
Horticulture offers learners the opportunity to work outside in the fresh air. In the current climate we feel that this is really important, not only does it keep us alert but it promotes good mental health too.

Kestrel group are learning how to clear and prepare the raised beds for our next crops. Preparation can be time consuming

and you don't always see immediate results, but everyone is happy to join in with the group effort.

We are starting to plan ahead and decide what crops we will be growing next year. We have already potted up Broad Beans and these should be ready to plant out in the new year. We are also awaiting the delivery of our fruit trees which we hope will also be arriving in February and we plan to grow an orchard consisting of apples, plums and pears.

How lovely will it be to watch our own fruit develop and grow! We hope this will bring a whole new level of understanding on where our food comes from!



'Enjoy, Engage, Learn'

Our school motto is key to everything we do!

These pictures speak for themselves – we are so proud of our learners and all their achievements!

Products make profit!

Our students in Eagles have been learning that the products they make can be 'sold' and that we gain money in return. This money can be used to reinvest into our enterprise scheme or to allow them a treat for all their hard work.

In the coming term, Eagles will be learning more about money and what it is used for, with the intention of using it in real settings in our local community!

Falcon's in the Crafty Corner...

Falcon group's next project has been selecting what crafts to make and sell in our Post-16 Craft shop, the Crafty Corner. A selection of Christmas candle jars and festive snowmen were a big hit!



Soap, glorious soap...!!

The Eagle group have worked very hard over the past term. Our first Enterprise project of the year was to make our own brand of soap!

Through trial and error – and a disappointing first batch – we learned from our mistakes and perfected our technique each week. The results are totally unique with no two bars the same! We have really enjoyed this product and hope you enjoy finding out about our hard work.



The importance of cooperation...

In Falcon group, learners work closely with adult support to have meaningful and supportive work experience. Variety is key and there are always lots of opportunities to explore resources and have plenty of sensory engagement as we work together.

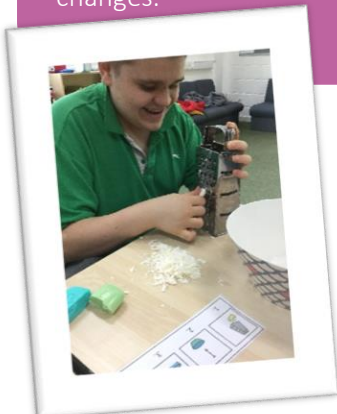
Learners are always encouraged to participate as fully as they can.



New & different

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By delivering different activities in varied locations, learners become more aware of their environments and are more likely to accept changes.



Learners have a 'can do attitude'...

Support, guidance and encouragement is given to all learners to help them achieve their true potential.

Having dual work experiences in the Kestrel group helps them to develop and hone their skills in different areas to find out what they like and don't like.

At the end of our courses, we always take time to reflect on what went well and what didn't. Reflective practice is at the heart of everything we do. It helps us to develop our skills and the way we practice in the future.



Following instructions to complete a process...

Students in Eagle group have learnt how to make soap by following simple, four step instructions. Many were able to find the equipment and resources that they needed and start working with minimal prompting. This is the beauty of a repetitive process; it is learnt and so allows learners to be more independent in their work.

We have also learnt about the importance of packaging, making sure our product is as attractive as possible to maximise sales. Students learned how to use a template to make a box which they then assembled. They then chose the type of cellophane they wished to wrap the product in.

If you wish to purchase some of our soap, please send orders in a sealed envelope with your son/daughter's name on and we will send products home! Soap is £1.00/bar.