

YOUR EDUCATION NEWS

Ten volunteers help create memorial garden in town

A NEW memorial garden is taking shape, thanks to a group of environmentally-aware students.

Members of the Environment Committee at New Rickstones Academy, part of the Academies Enterprise Trust in Witham, joined forces with the community to plant trees.

Along with Witham Tree Planting Group, the ten students from Year 7, 8 and 9 volunteered their time to create the new First World War memorial garden between Bramble Road and Honsyuckle Way.

Adam Wilding, director of pastoral, said: "Our students spent three hours mixing with the other volunteers and helping with the tree planting.

"It was a lovely opportunity for our students to work in their community and help out. It helps to teach them the benefits of volunteering and mucking in.

"Work like this also sends a great message to the community that our young people are positively involved in the community.

"We are not just about the National Curriculum, we are about so much more, including experiences like this that we offer our students. They have learnt vital life skills such as working as part of a team, communication and meeting new people.

"We are open to helping any projects in the community like this."



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Students are given an insight into world of work

INEVITABLY, the World of Work (WoW) is an unknown place for many students when in their teens, but on Friday, January 24, Year 11 students from Anglo European School in Ingatestone had a flavour of the workplace by participating in their WoW day.

David Barrs, co-head teacher at the school, said: "WoW day is key to preparing our young people for their futures and we owe a massive thank you to the 45 employers who made it possible by conducting one to one interviews and delivering workshops".

The overall aim of WoW is to give students an insight into the skills and attitudes required for the world of work and to give them the opportunity to practise, develop and demonstrate these in a familiar environment, but with unknown professionals (to them, but known to AES as many of the 37 interviewers were ex-students/parents/local community professionals).

All students attended in business dress and participated in a number of employability skills workshops, as well as a mock interview with an external professional who gave invaluable personal verbal and written feedback to each student.

Student responses to the interviews included - "I've learnt not to be overconfident, be calm and collected", "If you look the part, it'll give you more confidence", "Interviews aren't as scary as I thought they would be" and "I need to add more to my CV and get more work experience".

Interviewer responses included: "Every one of the students were a credit to themselves and the school", "They were all really good at providing positive and useful advice to each other" and "Fantastic to meet some talented young people who speak very highly of the school".

The workshops comprised of interview skills, learning agility, career strengths and development, proving your worth in IT office skills and financial skills.

Poet Piers proves an inspiration to pupils

SOARING High School in Coggeshall was delighted and excited to welcome poet Piers Harrison-Reid in to school to facilitate a poetry event with the children.

The day was inspired by previous poetry that Piers had been commissioned to write for an inter-generational project called the Warm and Toasty Club in Colchester.

Piers was invited in to work alongside the children and guests invited from local retirement homes Homeweave House and Prail Court whom the children regularly visit as part of the school's inter-generational work.

The day started with Piers reciting one of his poems, Home, based on the memory of a child being evacuated during the Second World War.

He spoke to the children about memories of where they felt most safe and about their flashbulb memories; exceptionally vivid memories often related to an emotional event.

Guests were served tea and cake in



Soaring High School pupils welcomed poet Piers Harrison-Reid

the school library while sharing their school recollections with staff. The children chatted about their memories and drew pictures and words inspired by these events, remembering events such as falling off bikes and jumping around on rocks on holidays.

The older children spent time with

the visitors and asked them questions about their childhood, families and schooling.

The children were amazed at the distances some of the guests used to ride to school. One of the elderly visitors had on occasion had to take a diversion as her normal route was blocked following a bombing.

Others had spent hours looking for shrapnel, seeing who could find the largest piece. One of the guests grew-up in Florence Nightingale's house.

A representative from the school said: "The visit from Piers was positive on so many levels, bringing poetry alive."