

Garden

Project Update 2019



Grant

£1,500 from Felixstowe Town Council with **£500** from Friends of Felixstowe Academy

Aim

To transform ½ acre of unused grassland into a productive garden for Felixstowe Academy's staff and students.

Timeline

September 2018	Planning
November 2018	Broke Ground
December 2018	Launched to Staff
January 2019	Launched to Students
February 2019	Garden Club started

Work is ongoing during term time and holidays.

THE SITE

The site is over **1,700 square metres** of unused grassland occupying one corner of the Felixstowe Academy grounds. It has never been used, but was allocated to the Garden Team in 2018 for potential development into a school garden.

Planning took place, and with the assistance of the **Royal Horticultural Society** and **Katie's Garden** a detailed plan was drawn up to include a wildlife pond, allotment areas, reflection spaces & a nature reserve.

THE GRANT

We were delighted to have received **£1,500** from **Felixstowe Town Council**, and an additional **£500** from **Friends of Felixstowe Academy**.

The grant has covered:

- Building 3 large raised beds
- Top soil and compost
- Tools and equipment
- Seeds and propagating equipment
- A large poly tunnel
- Guttering and water butts
- A picnic bench
- Pond liner and vegetation

The additional funds from Friends of Felixstowe Academy has covered:

- A tool shed
- Secure fencing around the wildlife pond

ABOUT THE TEAM

The project is being organised and lead by Josh Hunt (Academy Chaplain) from Boost, but involves a team of staff and student helpers and volunteers.

PROGRESS

The generous grant enabled this to go from an idea amongst a few people to a living, breathing project.

The project was launched during the Academy's themed day around Plastic and Pollution, and offered students the perfect opportunity to be involved with something that would protect and improve their environment.

75 students signed up for the new initiative, and between **15** and **20** regularly turn up each week to Garden Club- running every Thursday after school.



4 additional staff are now involved in the running of the Garden Club, and other staff come in during the school holidays in order to help with some of the landscaping and more complex construction projects.

The Garden has already been used to support students with additional needs, with a small group visiting the garden space during lesson time.

AMBITIONS FOR GROWTH

This year has been focussed on hard landscaping, building and construction, and growing our first batches of seeds. As we look forward to the summer, we can't wait to see continued growth of the garden and the future harvests to come.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

News about the Garden Project has spread quickly, and thanks to the grant allowing us to get up and running, we are now receiving donations of seeds, paving slabs, spades and wheelbarrows from parents and members of the community.

We are currently planning 3 community garden days where visitors are welcome to see the Garden and help out with a few tasks too.

LEARNING NEW SKILLS

Each week at Garden Club is an opportunity to try something different and learn something new. Students have been working in teams as well as on their own, and have quickly learned about sowing, potting and nurturing new plants.

PHOTOS



Fenced Residential Gardens

65m

Reflection
labyrinth

Existing small trees & wildflowers

Fruit Trees & Wildflowers

Fruit Trees & Wildflowers

Wildflowers &
sensory area

growing patches

growing patches

growing patches

Shed

Water

Fruit Trees & Wildflower Corridor

Kept to grass &
Picnic
benches

Wildlife
Pond

Gated Access
from Field

39m

Outdoor
Group
Area

growing
patches

growing patches

Poly tunnel

New Hedgerows

23m

Grass Verge

Car Park

Total Area
~1,750m²

North

