

April 2024

Volunteering update:

Hill House School and Furzey Gardens – a wonderful combination!

Hill House School is a residential special educational provision for young people with Autism and further individual, additional needs. For the first time Hill House is participating in The Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Award has opened up its criteria to allow for adaptation that will provide the opportunity of young adults who previously may not have been able to participate to get stuck in to achieving their award.

The collaboration between Furzey Gardens and Hill House is a joyful one. The volunteering section of Duke of Edinburgh has many strands, the most important being time allocation and venue. Furzey being a charitable organisation fitted the bill, but more importantly their willingness and enthusiasm to welcome us has been vital to the success of the work placement.

Six Hill House students look forward to their work at Minstead and thrive in the beautiful environment. Supported by the fantastic Tim, the students take on a range of tasks to help maintain the gardens. Tim understands our young people, he gives them relevant tasks, is flexible with his approach and provides them with knowledge and opportunity to stretch and engage them. Not only are they adapting and expanding their skills, but their personal growth too with regards to working in a different environment with new people and the general public which is an achievement in itself.

Thank you Furzey Gardens for all you do, looking forward to seeing you next week. 😊

By Alex Jamieson – Vocational and Land Science Lead, Hill House School.



