

## Community Engagement at HHS

Article published in the Minstead Trust's - 'Trusted Views' newsletter

**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.



Supporting people with learning disabilities to lead more independent lives.

Seeing  
potential



## Work experience at Northfields Nursery

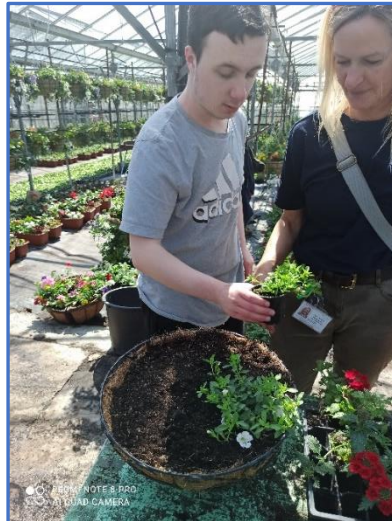
Sixth form students from Hill House School paid a visit to Northfields Nursery in Pennington. There they had the opportunity to work with Adam Gore and staff member Rose to create their own hanging baskets. The students filled their baskets from the compost machine, transported them to the greenhouse workspace where they chose from a selection of flower plugs to plant up their displays. They made holes, inserted the plants and firmed them into place. Once the baskets were complete the students gave them a good watering.

Some of the students were also asked to plant up 'cup and saucer' containers that will be put up on Lymington High Street. Somewhere, secreted on the planter will be the creator's name. We shall be heading to the High Street soon to see where they are!

Some of the hanging baskets were carefully carried back to Hill House and installed in front of our reception building where they will burst into bigger and brighter life as the summer settles in.

There are a number of challenges that are involved when going to work in an unusual environment with different people around you and our students all rose to the occasion admirably and brought home the glorious finished articles. They will be displayed all around Hill House School for students, staff and visitors alike to enjoy











## Open Farm Day at the New Forest Fruit Farm

Some of the young people from Hill House School took part in the nation-wide Open Farms event where upon farms across the country open their doors, or indeed gates to welcome people in to see how their farm works.

The New Forest Fruit Company are local growers who have been working with Hill House School for 18 months. They provide work experience for our sixth formers at their sites in East Boldre and Beaulieu.

Our young people had a wonderful time going on the tractor tours, having their faces painted, exploring a huge range of machinery used on the farm and even the robots that are emerging technology for strawberry picking. PYO was a joyful activity – not all of the fruit made it into the punnets however!

Some young people helped out by meeting visitors and handing out stickers. As always, our young people were a credit to themselves and the school. A really lovely day for everyone!

