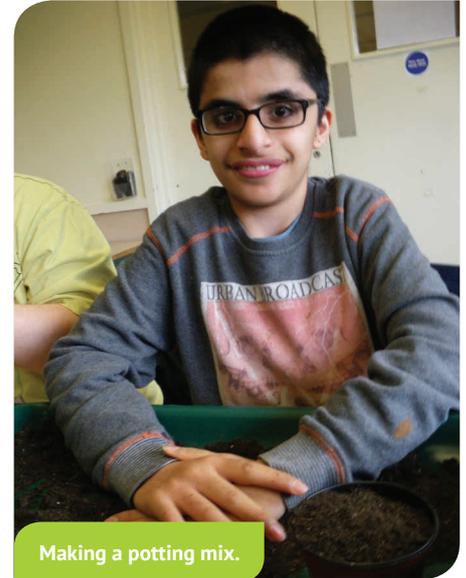




Planting out beetroot.



Making a potting mix.



Careful seed sowing.

## Benefits to the School...

The Growing Enterprise Project provides social and therapeutic horticulture to a wide range of students from local special schools and colleges. Local school, Baginton Fields, has been attending since 2014, offering places to secondary school students aged 11-19.

The students have a wide range of additional learning needs so activities, tasks and outcomes are differentiated to allow for individual success. To achieve this they take part in a wide range of gardening tasks which help to maintain the project's dedicated garden area at Ryton Organic Gardens.

Students have taken pride in their work and benefited from a real life context

to practise money handling, using communication and enterprise skills to sell plants and crafts which they have grown and made.

To continue their growing back at school, the group have taken spare plants from the project for their vegetable garden, which several students have continued to help care for in their lunchtimes, showing real commitment outside of the project.



Lavender bags for sale.

Being away from the school environment and involved in a constructive project, in a safe location, has been a very important stepping stone into adult life.

Several of the students have real difficulty leaving the school, so activities like our gardening project have supported their transition, as well as building employability skills.





Funded by the Daylesford Foundation



## Highlights

Several individuals have made significant achievements during their time attending the project. One student in particular who has a severe vision and hearing impairment was very anxious about getting his hands dirty and the unusual new sensory experiences were a real challenge for him.

Despite the challenges, this student persevered with the project and after a term he began to enjoy touching and smelling plants and even tasting some of the harvested crops! Staff were amazed at the difference in this student's behaviour, remarking on how engaged he had become during activities.

*“Students have really enjoyed the opportunity to taste different vegetables and fruit straight from the garden.”* -Helen Bishton, Assistant Headteacher

The project aims to get groups outside in the gardens whenever possible in order to get students involved with hands-on, practical growing activities.

The activities really engage students with the outdoors, experiencing the therapeutic benefits which can be felt from simply being outside sowing seeds and plants, or harvesting crops you have helped to nurture and grow.

Students hugely benefit from outdoor activities, this has the potential to change behaviour in the long-term.

Notably, one student who, when asked to complete a task at school, would rarely use both hands made significant progress.

This student soon found that potting on plants, making lavender bags and watering in the greenhouse required the use of both hands, and was soon happily using both hands to achieve these tasks.

Support staff who know him well reported on how significant that behaviour change was and how beneficial it was to help him to continue developing his motor skills through the activities which he enjoyed.

