



The Open Futures Trust
July 2013



Made on a Mac



Camberwell Park and Open Futures at RHS
Flower Show Tatton Park

24-28 July 2013

Camberwell Park Tatton Project

Camberwell Park Specialist Support school is a special school which caters for children between the ages of 2-11 years who have a range of cognition and learning difficulties including severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties and autism.

Inspired by a conversation at the 2012 Open Futures Conference in Birmingham, Head Teacher Mary Isherwood wished to demonstrate how Open Futures may be integrated across the curriculum within Year 2 of this funded partnership programme, within a truly aspirational project. The idea for exhibiting at RHS Show Tatton Park was proposed as a significant topic, which would necessitate collaboration from the entire school community and support from Open Futures and its training partners.



Early planning for this event -consolidating the learning and creating the plans



Preparation and planning with the cookit Champion supported by Open Futures trainer Sandra Rayner



Initial planning stages included discussion with parents through parent governors who were overwhelmed with the achievements of the children and the school and the impact of working with Open Futures as a whole.



Cookit has taught the children basic core skills including hygiene and safety



as well as special life skills such as knife safety. Here children use the bridge technique.



Filmit and Cookit trainers Sandra Rayner and Denise Evans evaluate project progress



The school created story boards for their display to demonstrate whole school inclusion



and created books demonstrating the curriculum links through science and maths



The school, supported through growit decided to exhibit 5 gardens at the show based on the theme of '..can' with the central garden exhibiting food grown in cans- from seed to crop.



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Press day - preparing for the start



Final adjustments are made to the displays. Anne Gunning, RHS growit trainer is on hand to assist.



Visitors to the show from the Open Futures Trust, Lucy O'Rorke and John Storey



With clear links between growit and cookit, the exhibition also included cooking demonstrations, tastings and distribution of Camberwell Park's own adaptation of these recipes at the show.



Children demonstrated their understanding of science and maths through creation of their own recipes



and made their own salad dressing, demonstrating these clear curriculum links through topic work



Tastings were offered to visitors and passers by



The colourful garden exhibit attracted attention from many



including John Edwards, Director of Education and Skills – Manchester City Council

Spreading the Open Futures word

PR and marketing. Camberwell Park created a twitter account and tweeted updates in the run up to and during the show itself in order to raise the profile of the event. On Press Day, the stand was visited by John Edwards (Director of Education and Skills, Manchester City Council) as well as the Lord Mayor of Manchester and George Osborne, MP for Tatton and Chancellor of the Exchequer who spent some considerable time talking to Mary and to the children at the show.



Celebrating the achievement and raising profile in the local community



MP for Tatton, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne



accompanied by an entourage of press and PR

Legacy

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The desired legacy of the project at Tatton was to celebrate the achievements of the children and to demonstrate that cognition and learning difficulties are not a barrier to learning. It was also the intention of the school to be ambassadors for Open Futures and to spread the message widely about the value of Open Futures to all learners.

Asked how Open Futures has impacted upon the school, Mary Isherwood reports that all strands have had a positive impact with the greatest impact seen within growit and cookit in terms of the perspective to changes to school facilities and the way in which curriculum subjects are taught.

Asked although the biggest challenge to this school since all children have cognition and learning difficulties and many are non-verbal has been adapted to ensure that pupil voice is central to what Camberwell Park is about as a school.