

Case Study

Envision School Team



School: Cherwell School
Region: Oxford
Age range: 16 - 17 years old
Issue: Green spaces



What issue did they tackle and why?

The Cherwell team wanted to tackle the neglected green space at their local hospital. The team wanted to bring the community together to renovate the garden and planned to get the local allotment society involved to create a more pleasant environment for patients and their families to spend time in.

The team felt very passionately about the project. Not only are some of the team members applying to study medicine, but most of them have visited someone at the hospital and a few students were born there!

What did they decide to do?

The students identified a neglected green space at the Churchill Hospital. They got in touch with the hospital's charitable trust, who were very enthusiastic about the idea. The team applied for Pitch 4 Change, Envision's Dragon's Den style event in order to get funding for their project.

The team gave a highly original and engaging pitch and were awarded the full £500 they requested. They have since contacted the local allotment society to recruit volunteers and local newspapers to increase awareness of their project.



What is the Envision Schools Programme?

Envision works with teams of young people based in schools and colleges. Starting with the question, "What do you want to change?" teams are supported to investigate issues relevant to their lives as local and global citizens. Led by their own ideas and supported by staff and trained volunteers, teams plan and implement a project to tackle whatever issue they are passionate about - learning to be young leaders and gaining vital employability skills along the way.

For further information please contact Emma Bird
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Achievements

Being positive role models in the community.

The girls have created links with the local community and proved that young people do care about their local environment. The hospital staff has been amazed by the girls' dedication and maturity in carrying out the project.

Awarded £500 for their project.

The team were awarded £500 at Pitch 4 Change and drew up a budget to ensure that they would not overspend.

Created a legacy

The team's work in the garden has created a green space for the patients to enjoy in the future. The team have forged links with the allotment society to ensure the sustainability of the garden.

Skills and Knowledge Gained

Presentation skills

The team identified that the biggest challenge was their presentation at Pitch 4 Change. The team worked really well together to plan the pitch and made sure that they shared the speaking between them all.

Managing a budget

Zoe drew up a budget for the team and worked hard to keep costs down. Thanks to careful budgeting they have money left over and plan to buy a bird feeder for the garden.

How to garden

The team have learnt about flowers and plants, researching what would be best planted in different places. They renovated the garden and worked as a team to clear the plot and then plant, weed and assemble a trellis.

Testimonials

"May I say how delighted we are that the Cherwell Envision project is happening. The Director of the Churchill has offered support to the group – offering meeting rooms within the hospital if they wanted to host a presentation about their project, or to help with presentation/powerpoint skills, etc."

Marianne Jubelin, Churchill Hospital's Charitable Trust

"I have been really impressed with the self-motivation of the team and how dedicated they are to the project."

Leila Nicholas, Envision Coordinator for Cherwell School

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