

## The Growing Enterprise Project – at Garden Organic

### Enterprise Projects

- Plant sales
- Vegetable sales
- Hand pressed apple juice
- Elderflower cordial
- Lavender bags
- Decorated jars
- Herb cuttings
- Comfrey cuttings
- Packets of saved seed (for donations)
- Bird feeders and bird boxes
- Bug houses
- Salad bags with edible flowers
- Windowsill sow and grow pots- herbs and micro greens
- Christmas decorations

Growing Enterprise was set up with funding from The Daylesford Foundation in September 2013 at Garden Organic's headquarters, Ryton Organic Gardens in Warwickshire. This project has engaged with over 65 students, who attend for two-hour sessions each week in blocks of at least six weeks. Six local special schools or colleges, one of which is a pupil referral unit, are currently taking part.



The growing enterprise project provides opportunities for young people with Special Educational Needs to learn about organic gardening and to be involved in developing horticultural related products for sale within a small enterprise. The students are involved in designing, creating, marketing and selling the products that are made.

The young people are responsible for all of the planting and maintenance of a designated organic growing space within Ryton Gardens. In addition to this, they learn employability skills by producing items for sale to the public and contribute towards managing the budget, marketing and sale of products.

[www.foodgrowingschools.org](http://www.foodgrowingschools.org)

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## Hayleigh

Hayleigh has speech, vision and learning difficulties. She had done some gardening in the past, but was lacking in confidence. She enjoyed the first set of sessions that she attended so much that she begged her teachers to let her join another group so that she could spend more time with the project. Hayleigh has been able to show other students what she has learned and has become a very reliable and capable member of the team. Constantly smiling and encouraging others, it is a pleasure to see her enjoying the gardens. Her confidence has improved enormously and she enjoyed selling cups of our pressed apple juice to parents, staff and students at a school fayre.



Hayleigh. Winter projects included taking root cuttings from our established comfrey plants.

Hayleigh has attended The Growing Enterprise sessions for 2 school terms and enjoyed being part of several enterprise projects, from growing and selling vegetables and young plants, making lavender bags, taking cuttings from Ryton Organic's famous 'Bocking 14' Comfrey plants and Elderflower cordial.

The project has given her a real experience of business and money handling skills as well as helping her to engage and work together with her classmates. She is always excited about coming to Garden Organic and enjoys learning how to make, grow and sell our enterprise projects.

To find out more about Garden Organic's educational work and Growing Enterprise project visit:

[www.gardenorganic.org.uk/education](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/education)

### Skills developed

- Working with others
- Communication skills
- Decision making
- Horticultural skills
- Confidence and self esteem
- Creativity
- Money handling skills and maths

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