

# Weston Education Partnership Horticulture Enterprise Pathfinder Project Newsletter Number 1 – May 2005

Weston  
Education  
Partnership

## Background to the Project

The Federation was awarded Phase 1 Pathfinder status for projects based on Horticulture with effect from January 2004. A total of £25,000 funding was awarded for one year. It was agreed that Worle would act as the lead school in the Pathfinder project.

In July 2004, the Federation's bid for a further £30,000 funding in Phase 2 was accepted. A total of £46,500 has now been allocated. Decisions on how to distribute the remaining £8500 will be made during May 2005.

The Steering Group comprising representatives from all 6 schools has continued to meet every 2 months to discuss progress and plan future action.

### Baytree

Baytree have worked with Wyvern on an inclusion project. They have visited each other's schools, got to know each other and planted beds. On one visit a film crew from QCA accompanied them and filmed the project which will hopefully continue in the summer.



The Bay Plant Company has been set up, growing and selling on plants to staff, governors, parents, etc, with great success in 2004. The Company runs a Family Learning Day where hanging basket displays are made leading to more profits for the business!



### Westhaven

Westhaven has had great success with the project, notably its plant sales to the school and community in 2004. Horticulture expert, Sarah Richards, is employed one half day a week to work with Year 9 and 10 students. Work has continued with a rockery and the foundations of an enclosed garden are being laid.

Year 9 have been seeding, potting and pricking out plants and presented a tremendous show for sale at the 2004/05 Christmas Fayre.



Year 10 are working in the refurbished glasshouse. Together the students have made 'hypertufa' planters to go around the school and planted bulbs in the grounds.



## Broadoak

From September 2004 the whole school Social Education programme was changed to reflect new initiatives and drives for citizenship. The school's Pathfinder plans have been adapted to take these changes and new priorities into account.

Year 9 students are involved in the recycling initiative for schools. This also features in the team citizenship programme.

Developments and improvements have started within the four paved courtyard areas of the school. The Student Council was involved in decision making related to the location of benches. Consequently, the areas have become much more conducive to socialising. There are now plans to further develop these areas. It is hoped that this scheme will assist with the smooth transition of students from year 6 into 7 and promote a greater ownership/respect for the school site. The initiative involves a number of departments in the redesigning of the courtyard area to include alternative seating, Sculptures and exciting and creative planting.

Discussions are currently taking place within school related to initiative planning, sponsorship and local company involvement. Detailed work will begin in the spring/summer term of 2005.

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## Priory

Pathfinder funding was supplemented by monies from other sources and has enabled Priory to tackle a major area of redevelopment in the school.

The original tennis courts have been subdivided into six sizeable areas. Four have been dedicated to football, one to basketball and the remaining one is being landscaped.

The project has required major groundwork, involving machines, fencing (see photos), paving slabs, benches and planting. A real makeover!



Members of the Student Council, assisted by science staff, have cultivated seedlings for use in the planters and pots and these should be ready for displaying this spring.

Other bland, uninteresting areas of the school are also being given attention. Plans are being drawn up for a range of purpose built shelves and indoor display units that will hold planting.

Ground Force and Changing Rooms look out!

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## Wyvern

A tremendous success at Wyvern over the last two years, the original Pathfinder project here is drawing to a close.



Students who have not always enjoyed good attendance or relationships at school have been transformed through the project and a major social area for the school has been created.





Hard landscaping, raised brickwork beds, murals and planting have transformed the school site. The project featured in a Points West presentation on regional television in December 2004, with student interviews and film of the work undertaken.



TV stars as well as gardeners and builders!

## Worle

Worle has engaged in a number of projects that have similarly re-shaped and renewed their site as well as enriched the curriculum. The school grounds project has concentrated on soft landscaping helped by an account with the local plant wholesaler Wheatfields.



The overgrown land on the edge of the site has been turned into an outdoor classroom, measuring 22 x 12 metres. Students design ideas have been incorporated into the remodelling.

Hire of earth moving equipment and major landscaping over September 2004 has resulted in autumn planting and the construction of a large pergola and seating area. Tommy Walsh was not consulted but Tony Sammon (Assistant Headteacher) and Mark Roach (Assistant Caretaker) led an enthusiastic team with great success.



Further site development has happened with the creation of a history garden during horticulture lessons. Clipped Buxus Sempervirens have shaped a formal garden to be proud of. Science and Technology areas have also been utilised to form an outdoor Science classroom, requiring the removal of a large but diseased lilac tree by tree surgeons. This has meant that trunk sections have been utilised to create a seating area.



A Community bulb planting programme was a great success in November 2004 and is now showing splendid daffodils and tulips around the site. A charity enterprise scheme has also resulted in plant sale profits going to Cancer Research and Christian Aid. Well done to all in 'The Warren' Learning Support Unit for helping to make this happen.

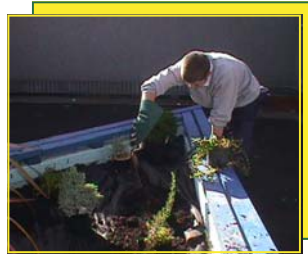
The new Year 10 Horticulture course has now been launched and is utilising the science classroom and resource areas. Protective clothing and health and safety training have all been involved and things are looking bright. A tremendous range of developments, involving students, teaching staff and others.

A real 'Pathfinder' for the Worle community.

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*“Working together to raise expectations and performance”*

**Thanks to all involved in  
supporting the Weston Education Partnership Enterprise  
Pathfinder Project.**



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**The project is managed by the following staff who are also  
members of the Steering Group:**

Tracey Towler	Baytree
Felicity Nicholson	Broad oak
Terry Brown	Priory
Bernie Richardson	Westhaven
Nigel Cromey-Hawke	Weston Federation
Sinead Hannigan	Worle
Jane Dickson	Worle (Community)
Colin Riddington	Worle, Enterprise Pathfinder Co-ordinator
Robert Deane	Wyvern

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