

Sparsholt College Group

We're now almost two thirds of the way through yet another busy academic year at our Sparsholt campus with a record number of young people undertaking qualifications with us. Our 16-18 numbers have grown by 7% this year with animal studies and agriculture our two biggest curriculum areas and therefore we have leased a further 100 acres of land at Christmas Hill Farm to ensure our learners have adequate resource to hone their practical skills.

Our curriculum offer continues to expand to meet the skills needs of our region. Thanks to match funding from Winchester City Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund we've been able to invest in training bays to train and upskill both our learners and the local workforce in solar panel installation, battery storage and EV charging points.

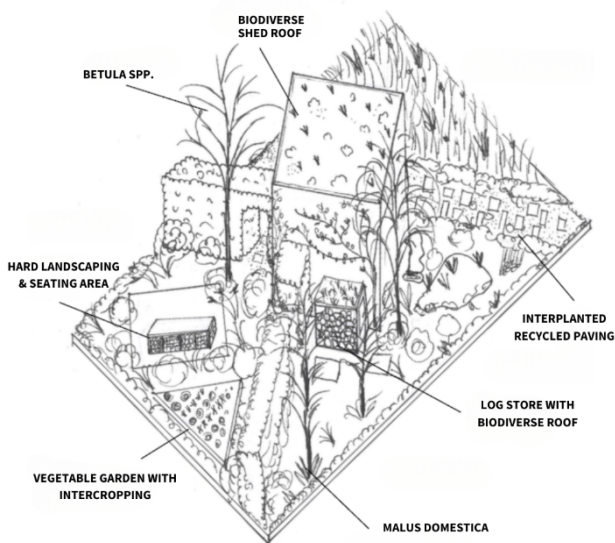


We're also planting our own vineyard on campus this May, which is a particularly exciting addition to our portfolio. There are a growing number of vineyards in Hampshire and this will enable the college to offer qualifications in viticulture to support these local employers and industry. We're currently developing a portfolio of courses designed for gardeners/ hobbyists to aspiring vineyard owners.

The new Higher Education Science Centre has finally opened its doors to HE students providing first class laboratories and teaching accommodation for those undertaking degree, Masters or PhD level studies. The building will be officially opened by Alan Titchmarsh in June as part of the college's 125th anniversary celebrations. The new Vertical Farming Unit will also be officially opened as part of this event.



Finally, this week sees preparation for our annual Chelsea Flower Show exhibit ramping up. This year's garden is titled the 'Ugly Bug Ball' celebrating the unsung heroes of the garden world. We have teamed up with the Royal Entomological Society to show visitors some of the fascinating beauty that lies in the miniature world of invertebrates, and how we can all encourage often overlooked but highly beneficial insects into our home gardens and green spaces.



Wishing all parish members a restful Easter break!

Julie Milburn

Principal and CEO