



Dr Michael F James
Nineveh Charitable Trust
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30 August 2019

Dear Dr James

Nineveh Charitable Trust – supporting children to learn more about food, farming and the countryside

Thank you for the email advice you kindly provided in November 2018. Following our subsequent application you once again generously donated £3,875 to our Open Farm Schools Days 2019 programme. I am pleased to be able to provide you with a short update on how your donation has benefitted children across the country.

"what surprises me the most is that there is no waste on the farm and that everything is used so efficiently!" student

The Open Farm School Days project

For several years Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) has offered this nationwide initiative to get children out onto farms throughout June, linked to the highly successful LEAF Open Farm Sunday initiative. LEAF Education has been working hard, with the assistance of yourselves, to promote the scheme, providing practical support to schools and farmers, to increase the number of pupils who benefit.



Our 9 part-time Regional Education Coordinators across the country have worked with teachers to **create memorable farm visits**, linking the work to class based activities and developing reusable resources to ensure sustainability. They fully **supported the host farmer** throughout the visit. The level of support varied from LEAF Education Consultants organising the entire event, through to putting schools and farms in touch.

Visits have taken place across most of the country from York and Lancaster, through Castle Bromwich, Berkshire and Oxfordshire and down to Hampshire, Sussex and Suffolk.

"I think it is amazing that the farmers are taking the time to teach young people about where their food comes from".

0845 838 7192

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<https://education.leafuk.org>

Linking Environment and Farming
Stoneleigh Park
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The benefits

Across the country, with the support of funders such as yourself, we have been able to support 14 schools to undertake 16 visits during June 2019. **A total of 1,147 children benefitted, an increase of 44% on 2018.** Unfortunately, one school visit in Northamptonshire had to be postponed but will be taking place in the Autumn term.

The subjects of the farm visits have covered many aspects of the curriculum, from primary school pupils meeting animals and finding out more about crops through to older students studying food technology, food production, science and STEM, renewable energy and business studies. As a result, young people have become more interested and knowledgeable about food and farming and its impact on the environment. Examples include:

- In Oxfordshire - 30 children from year 3 (aged 7-8 years) from William Morris Primary School visited Greatworth Hall Farm where they met the farm animals and learnt more about produce - taking part in a cookery session. This is a school with more pupils with special educational needs and more pupils supported by the pupil premium than the national average.

*"Some of these children will never have seen or held a chicken before!
We don't have cooking facilities at school so this will be the first time that some of these children will have cooked their own food!" - teacher quote*



- 14 food technology students aged 12 - 14 years from Hamilton Academy in Leicester visited Barnes Dairy near Melton Mowbray. Activities included a trailer ride to visit the cows in the field, a tour of the dairy and practical involvement in butter making and cheese tasting. Unfortunately, none of the pupils liked the locally produced, and very strong, stilton cheese that much of the farms milk is used for! As a result of this visit, and other support provided, the teacher is amending her programme of study so that she can bring 3 different student groups to the farm every year.
- A staggering 254 pupils from Imberhorne School in West Sussex visited Shepham Wind Farm across 2 days to learn about renewable energy, enabling them to compare it to Berwick Solar Farm which they also visited. They explored the impact of the Wind Farm on land use and local opinions. A second group undertook a range of environmental assessments, led by our Regional Educational Consultant, looking at noise levels, local environmental conditions and the impact on crops and land use.

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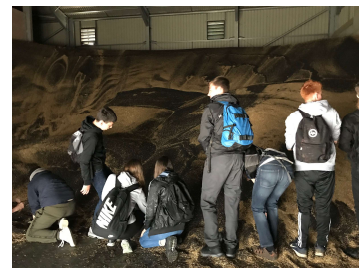
LEAF Education

- 30 food technology students from Furze Platt Secondary School in Berkshire visited Ramsbury Farm near Newbury. Here, the estate has diversified and now comprises not only of farms but also a brewery, distillery, a smoke house and an oil press. Children learnt more about farming on this large estate as well as trying new foods and learning about the food industry as a whole.

"The students are loving it! We take for granted that children haven't seen the countryside, these children are from Maidenhead town centre and some have never left their local neighbourhood!" Teaching assistant

As well as benefiting schools and pupils the overall farming and food production sector is benefitting as children find out more about careers in the sector, which is currently suffering from a skills shortage.

"today has definitely opened my eyes to a career in food " student



Thank you

We are very grateful for your support and would like to say thank you on behalf of all the children, teachers, staff and Trustees for making these visits possible. As well as directly supporting the delivery of the activities, the funding we have secured helps to support transport costs, without which many schools are unable to participate. Visits such as these engage children and help them to find out more about the world around them.

I hope this update has been of interest. I have also completed and enclosed your reporting questionnaire, however, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

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