



Pendle Community High School & College

Rated **Outstanding** in all areas **Ofsted** 2017

Oxford Road, Nelson
Lancashire BB9 8LF
01282 682260
reception@pchs.lancs.sch.uk
www.pchs.lancs.sch.uk

Headteacher: D Grogan
Deputy Headteacher: J Bayliss
Asst. Headteacher: C Endersby
Asst. Headteacher: J Chatburn

Dear Nineveh Charitable Trust,

Included is a brief report of what we have managed to achieve so far from your generous donation to our school.

Our Project

With the help of Nineveh Charitable Trust we have been able to set up and begin our Forest School programme for all of our learners, who are all aged 11-16 and all have additional learning or medical needs. Many of the learners in our school have limited access to the outdoors which was further impacted by Covid-19. Like many of us, students were unable to spend time away from their homes.

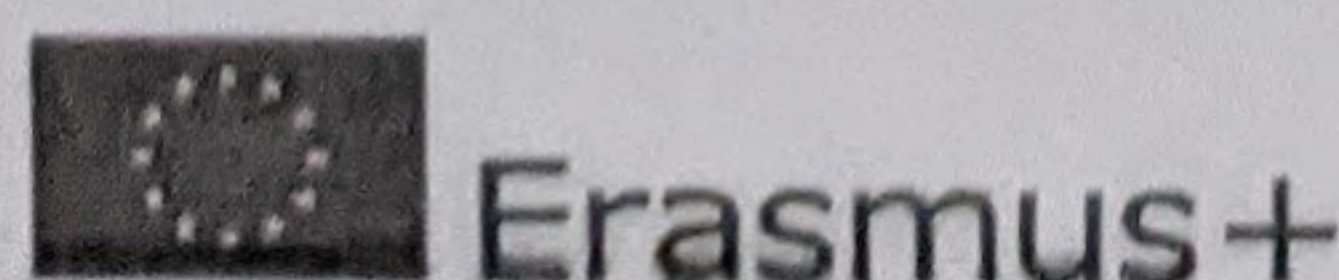
We believe that having joyful, memorable experiences in nature have a positive impact on both our brains and bodies and mean that people are more likely to take care of the environment in later life. We also know that Forest School supports holistic learning, fostering creativity, independence and confidence as well as supporting their understanding of traditional curriculum based topics.

We planned to set up and facilitate a Forest School programme for each class.

We also aim to increase our engagement with parents by running seasonal family events which will offer families the opportunity to spend time together in the outdoors.

So far we have:

- Purchased suitable equipment to ensure the safety of learners when visiting our forest.
- Purchased some equipment for activities.



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- Purchased equipment to ensure the woodland can be managed appropriately, ensuring safety is paramount whilst also valuing biodiversity.
- Purchased insurance in order to run safely.
- Completed all necessary risk assessments.
- Began our project with taster sessions for each class.

The Covid-19 pandemic meant we had to wait until Easter until it was safe for us to travel to our Forest School site. Once it was safe we started with some taster sessions for each class where they could become familiar with the environment and begin to explore. The time spent in the outdoors has been beneficial and enjoyed by all students. Some students have had some brand new experiences that they wouldn't have had without the donation from Nineveh trust.

Some of the activities they have enjoyed so far:

- Storytelling
- Nature art
- Crafting and weaving
- Exploring and playing
- Building dens
- Playing games together
- Cooking outdoors
- Foraging
- Mindfulness in the forest

Through these activities the learners have begun to learn and understand more about the natural world. They have begun to recognise and identify trees, plants and animals and have been introduced to more complex ideas surrounding sustainability, conservation, biodiversity and the ecosystem.

Next Steps:

As of September, each class will attend Forest School weekly throughout the seasons in order to build a connection with the natural world and begin to learn ways to take care of the environment. Next year our aim is to increase parent engagement and offer opportunities for families to spend

time together in the outdoors through family events. We will update you when the next step of our project is complete.

Thank you to Nineveh Charitable Trust. Without your generous donation we would not have been able to start this project and we are grateful for the support.

From the staff and students of Pendle Community High School.

