



# CASE STUDY 9

## Community Impact Bucks

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

## Working together makes a difference?

**A team of 25 employees from Innocent, the smoothie drink makers, spent two days making a difference at Alfriston School, Beaconsfield.**

Innocent states on their web site "We sure aren't perfect, but we're trying to do the right thing." But they certainly have at Alfriston School which is a day and weekly boarding school for girls with moderate learning difficulties.

In this thriving lively environment the girls have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities which expands on their general knowledge and experience and prepares them for life, but there is never quite enough money in the budget to realise these activities.

Rayleigh International and Volunteer Workout work together to identify suitable collaborative projects, and for the team from Innocent the challenges at Alfriston School were exactly what they were looking for.

As part of Innocent's employer support volunteering scheme the logistics team spent two days honing their project management skills that made a impact on the learning and living



environment of the school. The team decided to split into three groups.

One group worked in the market garden, laying a path, and placing shingle around planters and raised beds. This will enable students with disabilities to access the raised beds and participate in the market garden growing vegetables, or take advantage of the orchard or quiet area.

Another group worked in the environmental area, repairing and upgrading the bird hide so that student groups could use the facility to learn about the natural environment in safety. New areas included a grass snake overwintering area, a stag beetle habitat and bug boxes to encourage all manner of insects.

Two of the volunteer team leaders from the third group worked with the students to establish colour schemes and types of furnishing in the Independence flat that is used by older student to learn life skills. This team were able to refurbish the girls' bedroom, sitting room and staff bedroom. Group three took on a makeover task in the main school building.



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