

Horticulture students support restoration project of East Anglian landmark



Further Education Horticulture students from **Writtle College, Essex, UK**, have recently returned from **Holkham Estate** in Norfolk having completed a restoration of the Kitchen Gardens and the Glasshouses that sit within these gardens.

The student campaign, to reform the derelict state of the Kitchen gardens, lasted for four days at the beginning of the academic year – 28th September to 1st October. The work included the clean up of the garden glasshouses and the pruning of the horticultural vegetation within them. Ben Wincott, Horticultural Lecturer, who led the campaign, said: “The project at Holkham is set to become an annual campaign for our College hort students and offers to their advantage, practical experience external to the hort projects at the College. We decided to camp in the Kitchen gardens to enjoy the full atmosphere at Holkham and students even embraced their surroundings by heading for a swim at the nearby beach every evening! Both years of the Horticulture course are now fully integrated and can continue to benefit wisely from one another’s knowledge.”

The Earl of Leicester and Director of Holkham Estate, wrote a letter to praise the efforts of the students he said: “Thank you to you for volunteering 55 of your horticulture students to come to Holkham and help us undertake the first Phase of our planned restoration of the Kitchen Gardens. I was very lucky to meet a number of your students at the barbecue our Gardeners held for them during the four days. I was very impressed by all of them; they were all charming, polite, enthusiastic, and eloquent and reflected very well on Writtle College.”

55 students from years one and three of the Diploma in Horticulture volunteered to undertake the campaign at Holkham. For year one students the campaign was an excellent ice-breaker welcoming them to the College. For year three it was a warm welcome back and an exciting addition to add to their CV of practical experience.

Horticulture is a thriving subject area within the specialist portfolio offered at Writtle College. A new course in Further Education Horticulture has been introduced this year, the First Diploma in Horticulture. To find out more about this course or any other horticulture course offered at the College please contact, admissions@writtle.ac.uk or call 01245 424200.