

## Case study

# ENGIE Supports High Well Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

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ENGIE are a Cornerstone Employer for the SEND Careers Hub and they have been working extensively with High Well School, which is a PRU school supporting some of the most challenging young people in Wakefield aged between 11-16 years old. Together, they have produced a fantastic project which has identified excellence and innovation in SEND settings and explored ways of working with PRUs.

Working together with Promoting Construction West Yorkshire, ENGIE spent 12 weeks at the school helping the young people to conceive, design and build a new outdoor classroom.

The result was an excellent garden that the students are now using as an outdoor classroom, a social space for BBQs and an area for growing herbs and produce for the school kitchen. The Building Positive Futures initiative is a perfect example of how schools, businesses and young people can work together on real world, real life and real time projects in a partnership that allows everyone involved to learn.

The pupils, some of which were previously disengaged, learnt to work on a live project whilst gaining new skills and valuable experience of working professionally with a local employer. Staff at ENGIE also learnt new skills and overcame challenges they wouldn't normally be exposed to and built meaningful relationships with the students.

Sarah Hopkinson, Social Value Manager at ENGIE, said: "Working at High Well has been a steep learning curve for many of the external partners involved. To meet the needs of the students our plans, resources and approach had to be adjusted very quickly to deal with some quite challenging behaviour at the outset of the project. Witnessing positive changes in the behaviour, attitude and commitment of students has been the highlight of the project and made all our efforts worthwhile".



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