

Education

Greenhouse Project success

By James Mutch

james.mutch@nqnw.co.uk

A HIGH school's new project to support disadvantaged children has been lauded as a success.

De La Salle School on Mill Brow in Eccleston has created the "Greenhouse Project" with the support of Catholic charity, the St Vincent de Paul's Society.

It is giving 11-year-old pupils the chance to have special one-on-one attention who are "significantly academically and socially" behind their classmates.

Teacher Anna De'Ath devised the project which will see her colleagues in the school spending their spare periods with children who have additional needs.

They are taking notice of the pupils' social interaction, educational ability and communication methods to better understand their needs.

In 12 weeks, the reading and numeracy age of the seven pupils in the project has increased by an average of 11 months.

Their behaviour and school attendance has also increased significantly.

Anna said: "The Greenhouse



Ian Kempself, John Lawless and Anna De'Ath from the project

Project pupils have experienced environmental, social and economic deprivation.

"They often lack contact with positive role models to show them good, positive social interactions."

"Some of them have never had a day out or a holiday, have never been part of the Brownies or a football club.

"They have missed out on usual key milestones and this impacts on their social development and their educational experience."

The project uses primary school aged materials to help the children catch up with their literacy and numeracy skills.

Days out and afternoon teas are also organised by the pupils to

make the experience more fun.

The teachers have joined the society as volunteers of the charity.

This allows them to visit parents of the pupils not just in their official roles at teachers but as charity volunteers.

Anna added: "Now we can go, not as a teacher but as an SVP member."

"We take the lanyard off, take off the jacket and we suddenly look like a normal person and our relationship is very different."

"Usually these families meet people from school telling them their children are in trouble. "But as an SVP volunteer we go to the parents saying 'what can we do to help you?"

"These children will now get qualifications which mean they are employable."

"It therefore has a vital place not only in the lives of the children, but in society as well."

For more information about St Vincent de Paul's Society visit svp.org.uk.

Alternatively contact 0207 703 3030 or email info@svp.org.uk.

For all the latest news in your area visit our website sthelensstar.co.uk.

Scouts' funds appeal for jamboree

SCOUTS from across the borough have been selected to represent St Helens at next year's World Scouting Jamboree.

The event sees up to 85,000 children from the scouting and girl guiding communities from across the globe get together to develop new skills

To make the trip however they need to raise at least £21,600 between them to attend this event.

Jeanette Birchall said: "The generosity of the people of St Helens and the wider community, and local businesses, has been amazing, but we still have a long way to go."

"The children have recently undertaken the gruelling Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, Manchester 10k, Cake sales, Darkstar events, a race night, bag packs, the list goes on."

"Our next events are a 'new to you sale' and a family quiz night plus Kerrie Ann Lomas singing on September 14 at Haydock Conservative club."

To support the fund for the children's trip, contact Jeanette on 01744 635977.

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