

## **Business Studies and the Allotment**

Business studies is a challenging and demanding subject, it offers a number of different ways for us to keep extending our knowledge, outside of the normal parameters expected from the average student. The subject enables us to start developing new skills that, until this point in our schooling life, we have not been offered the opportunity to develop. A number of rare and interesting qualities are needed, in order to work effectively in business studies, some of which are: entrepreneurial flair, enterprising, resourcefulness and a certain amount of diligence and dedication. Business studies can also help to encourage a mature outlook on life, as we are taught about taxes and how real businesses are run on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, a number of people can take away valuable skills from the business studies course.

In a similar manner to businesses studies, the work done on the allotment and on the Anderson shelter in Plymstock School offers another unusual set of challenges. The work on the allotment is important for a number of reasons; not only does it allow us to contribute to the aesthetic value of the school, but it gives us a chance to further extend our range of skills, already beginning to be developed in business studies.

The work on the allotment gives us a chance to enhance our gardening skills and to further develop our entrepreneurial flair, enterprising resourcefulness, diligence and dedication. Diligence is tested through having the work ethic to get out on to the allotment, get your hands dirty and start digging. While the dedication side is about having the determination to care for the allotment, come rain or shine, day after day and week after week. However, once the physical work is done, your mind is tested. With the crops grown and ready to be sold, the hard work is far from over. At this point it is time to decide how to market the products we are selling, along with the packaging of the product the pricing and many more of the major factors that affect the consumer and how appealing the product is to its target audience. All of these things start to expand the knowledge that we are given in the businesses studies classroom and, perhaps more effectively, it puts the lessons into real perspective. Therefore, it allows us to see the work it takes to set up a business, which makes money and can reward the hard work and months of effort.

Overall, the businesses studies and the work done on the allotment can run alongside each other in perfect harmony. The work done at the allotment allows us to extend the knowledge we have received in the classroom and act on the qualities, like leadership and enterprising, that are given such importance by teachers every day. Therefore, in my opinion the allotment is an essential way for us to not only enjoy our education more, but to further and to test it.

By Harry Bird