

A new hope?

Last year was a terrible season, the allotment flooded in the beginning of June, destroying virtually everything I had planted in the spring (which was very warm and everything started so well.....). A lot of allotment gardeners were discouraged by the unfortunate events, but let's not over-interpret climate change etc... things like this happen every now and then and one has to move on and look to the future. This year we had an early start and planted potatoes. Later on we will plant different types of bushy beans and sweet corn. During the Easter holidays, an enthusiastic group of pupils and teachers got busy on the allotment and helped to clear out some weeds and prepared two rows of shallots and red onions. Well done!



If we want to be successful this year, we have to stay well on top of things, help our fragile crops along and take out any weeds. There is also unused land on the site that we can claim back from the weeds, but not without major effort. My suggestion is to organise a sunflower contest, who can grow the largest sunflower? If you want to enter the contest, please contact me by the 6th of May and I'll prepare a plot for that activity. (j.denecke@leeds.ac.uk).

Apart from this, I am fully open to suggestions. Interested pupils and their parents may wish to visit the allotment during the weekends. If a group of children want to have their own little mini-plot, they can contact me as well. No need to complete application forms or complicated health and safety compliance forms, just e-mail me and make an appointment to see me on a Saturday morning on site, and we'll take it from there.

Best wishes,

Jurgen