



LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING



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A-level Environmental Science: a day on the farm – Stoke 6th Form College



A-level Environmental Science students had a fantastic day learning about Agriculture. The whole day revolved around many of the aspects covered in their specification and was a great way to put their learning into context.

The A-level Environmental Science students from Stoke-on-Trent 6th Form College visited Southfields Farm on a wet and windy day in March, but this did not dampen their enthusiasm for the day.

It started with a birth in the lambing shed, the second lamb of twins, which set the tone for the day with the students being enthralled from this point.

This was followed up with some work in the barn looking at the crops grown and some hands-on soil texturing, which was then succeeded by a tractor trailer ride and some further work in the field looking at soil maintenance methods and digging for worms.

After drying off over lunch and participating in an enlightening Q&A session with John (the farmer), the students were back outside looking for bugs and birds, as well as seeing the older lambs in the field and meeting the goats, donkeys, guinea pigs and Fred the pig!

The day finished off with a visit to the cattle shed, learning about food provisions for the cattle and how this is managed, and then ending up back in the lambing barn for another birth, **which Tom assisted with!** This was followed by lots of hugs with the new-born lambs!

The day was interesting and informative, and was designed around the A-level specification, putting the student's classroom learning about agriculture into an on-site and practical context.



It was a day the students will never forget – Thank you!!!

We will definitely look to come back next year!

Rich Campbell – A-level Environmental Science Teacher – City of Stoke on Trent 6th Form College

The most interesting part of the day was Tom just “yanking out a lamb” helping with the second birth of the day.



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