

April 2022

Students Create School Packs to Help Ukrainian Refugees

A group of students at the University of Worcester have prepared school packs for two Ukrainian child refugees coming to the UK.

The Early Childhood in Society students put together the packs, containing stationery, lunch boxes and water bottles, as well as treats such as small games, hair gel and confectionary, after a plea to help two Ukrainian boys arriving over Easter.

Course Leader, Niki Stobbs, said: "The BA Early Childhood in Society is underpinned by social pedagogy, which is about education in its broadest sense, not only teaching children but attempting to make their lives better. The level five students had discussed their desire to support children and families in need and were pleased to rise to the challenge of preparing the school packs."

Student Abbie Harris said: "The course has opened my eyes to see from families' perspectives what they are going through. I felt a responsibility to help. It's all about the doing."

Rhian Gakhal said: "It shocked me to see what's going on in Ukraine and I felt I had to do something."

Rosie Dempster added: "It's not enough to just learn about children. Social pedagogy looks at children in their community. I would like this to continue after our course has finished. I would like to do things together to help families in the future."

Tamzin Murphy said: "I was having ideas about ways that I could help as many vulnerable children and families as much as I can. I was struggling to know where and how to begin, I approached my course leader who was completely supportive from the beginning. As part of our university degree, we talk a lot about collaborative working in order to make children's lives better and we want to place children at the very centre of everything that we do. Since being part of the committee, it has truly become apparent to me how working collaboratively enables people to achieve amazing things."

The students are now planning further collections to help refugees and others in need.

For further information, please contact:

The Press Office on 01905 857517 or 07919 293757 or by email at press@worc.ac.uk

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Notes to Editors

- The University of Worcester has been ranked in the top 3 in the UK for Quality Education in both 2019 and 2020 in the Times Higher Education's University Impact Rankings, which assess how universities globally are meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. In 2020, the University was ranked No.1 in the UK for Gender Equality for the second year running. The University is the UK's best performing university for fair gender pay and has been since the statistics were first nationally published. There is no statistically significant difference in gender pay at Worcester.
- Worcester was named Sustainability Institution of the Year in the Green Gown Awards 2019 and was Highly Commended in the global awards at the UN. In the 2019 People and Planet University League Worcester was awarded First Class Honours – an achievement it has recorded each and every year since 2009.
- Worcester has been shortlisted three times as the Times Higher Education's University of the Year – in 2016, 2019 and 2020 - and twice for University of the Year in the UK Social Mobility Awards – in 2019 and 2020.
- The University of Worcester has one of the best graduate employment rates being in the top 10 for 'Sustained employment with or without further study' in the most recent Longitudinal Educational Outcomes data, which looks at employment rates 1 year (9th), 3 years (9th) and 5 years (8th) after graduation. 97% of our graduates are working and/or studying six months after graduation.
- The University's library, The Hive, developed in partnership with Worcestershire County Council, is Europe's first joint university and public library. Opened by HM The Queen in 2012, it has won numerous awards, including Best University Library Team (THE) and Best University Contribution to the Community (The Guardian) as well as Best UK Large Library (Society of College, National and University Librarians).
- The University of Worcester Arena, opened in 2013, is Britain's first major indoor sports arena specially constructed to meet the needs of wheelchair as well as able bodied athletes. It won the 2015 Guardian University Award for Buildings that Inspire. The European Wheelchair Basketball Championships were held at the Arena in 2015, the first time ever that a University had co-hosted these European Championships.

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