

NEWSPAPER OF THE FUTURE

Build
THE Change

Special Edition of News Detectives inspired by the Build the Change Youth Council

STUDENTS CALL FOR A FUTURE WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS

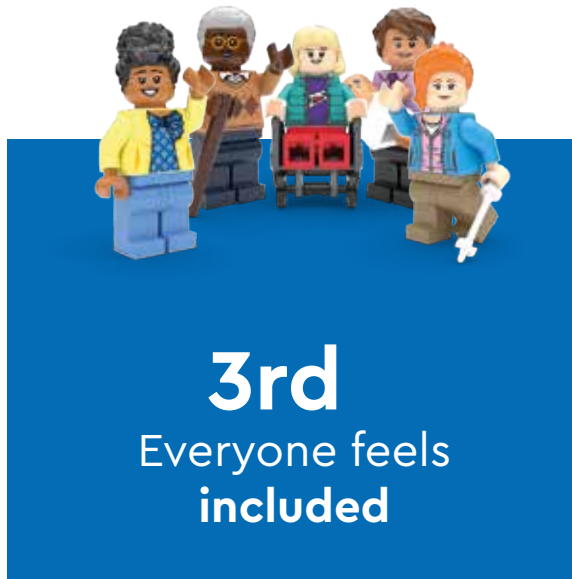


Fairness, the same rights/opportunities

What students want from the world



Emotional, physical and mental wellbeing
supported equally



Every person valued and welcomed
in the community



**The Day's Editor,
Zoe Osterloh**

Wellbeing initiatives designed by young people are focusing on combating loneliness, boosting belonging, and reconnecting people with nature. UK government research shows that people under 24 are the loneliest age group.

This drive for connection coincides with a decline in nature engagement and playing outdoors. Research has shown that 60% of children aged 4-11 never play on their own street.



Creating spaces that foster these connections requires thoughtful design. This is driven by new guidelines from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), promoting human-centric design which ensures buildings are usable for all people, regardless of age, gender or ability.

Representing young people from across England, the 2025 Build the Change Youth Council has inspired our *Newspaper of the Future*, showcasing how they see a world where everyone belongs.

The Youth Council is a group of 17 students who create and voice their ideas on how to tackle key news issues affecting society. This initiative is part of a collaboration between the LEGO® Build the Change social impact program, which inspires children to unleash their creativity and voices to build a brighter future, and The Day, an online news resource for schools.

Listen up grown-ups, we want a better world!

The Youth Council want children's voices and ideas to be heard.

They conducted a survey of hundreds of children in five schools in England. They asked: "If you could make one change to the world, to help bring people together, what would it be?"

The top three changes young people would like to see are for everyone to be **treated equally**, **happiness and wellbeing for everyone**, and for **everyone to feel included**.

The survey also asked students what ideas they had to make their local community a better, more welcoming place. Key ideas included more spaces out in nature to play and more safe buildings where people can socialise.



EMPATHETIC DESIGN IS A NO-BRAINER

By The Day's editors

Today, not everyone can enjoy our cities or built environments in the same way.

Three-quarters of disabled people say they have left a shop or business

because of accessibility issues, which can include barriers such as narrow doors or absent handrails. Meanwhile, many neurodivergent people find the sights, smells, sounds and movement of busy urban spaces overwhelming.

Now architects, planners and designers are waking up to the need for inclusive design — from adaptations to allow physical access for all to peaceful landscapes that avoid bombarding the senses.



Empathy Challenge
Use empathy to redesign a community space so it works for everyone.

Everyone can now dive in at The Triangle

Lucy and Sofia,
Build for Belonging competition shortlist

We've redesigned our local leisure centre called The Triangle! We made it more accessible by including special lifts on the waterslides that bring a chair up and automatically lower the user into the water. We also have ramps instead of stairs and waterproof headphones for those who need them. For visually impaired people, all signs have braille on them. Also, the main pool has lifts too.



“ Fantastic thoughts here for ways to make a leisure centre super accessible – well done. Love the waterproof headphones for those who need to block out sound to feel comfortable, genius! The use of braille everywhere is also super inspiring, as are the waterslides that help those with mobility issues enjoy them too. Super creative and thoughtful! ”

David Pallasch, Director of Build the Change, from the LEGO Group



PRIORY SCHOOL

A space designed with empathy, accessibility and environmentalism in mind

By Sid and Ava,
Youth Council

We have focused on accessibility and environmentalism. We made this space one level to allow easy access for wheelchair users and people with reduced mobility. The doors open both inwards and outwards and there are gradual ramps to support movement from inside to the outside. There is a lot of natural light, accompanied by a view of nature. We decided to add in a comfy area where people with sensory issues can take time to relax which could further develop into a sensory corner.



Quiet places for children to play



Disused car park transforms into a creative community hub

By Jeet and Jay,
Build for Belonging Competition Shortlist

It's a welcoming spot for people with different needs, like those who are shy, neurodivergent, with visual and audio impairments or who use wheelchairs... We designed for individuals who feel left out. The chill room helps neurodivergent kids stay calm, discovery drawers let visually impaired people touch and "smell," and the theatre boosts shy kids' confidence and learn new things, cultures and traditions!

“The design is full of colour and details, with no space left unused. I really enjoy the fact that the space is not just accessible for those who have disabilities, but for people of all ages. The focus on reducing loneliness is clear, and the design tackles it head-on. The LEGO bricks are used creatively, depicting lots of different devices that are cleverly explained. Everything has been thought of - down to the hot chocolate making machine, yum!

Abby Cook
Competition judge



YOUNG PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW THEIR NEIGHBOURS

By The Day’s editors

Only 55% of people know their neighbour’s names, according to a poll of homeowners and renters released this month. But many agree that being more sociable could combat feelings of loneliness.

In fact, Gen Z respondents to the survey were the most likely to value connectedness, with nine in ten saying that being part of a community matters to them.



Community Challenge

Build something that tackles loneliness and helps people feel connected.

HOLYHEAD SCHOOL

New community centre set to tackle loneliness

By Dominika, Suniya, Shokria and Antonia, Youth Council



Creative Connections is a welcoming community hub that brings people together through a series of themed rooms, enabling creativity, connections and self-expression. Everyone is welcome, and the centre prioritises safety and social happiness!

The community hub has themed rooms, making it inclusive for people of all ages and interests. The canteen will provide free, nutritious meals, and the music room enables people to show off their skills and share their love for music. There is a gym for those wanting to work on their fitness, as well as supervised soft-play for parents to drop children off whilst they explore the centre.

This combats the issue of loneliness by welcoming everyone with open arms, allowing them to make connections with people of similar interests. Whether this is on a daily, weekly or monthly basis, it is a great opportunity for local people. All that is asked is that a small donation is made to help Creative Connections run with their day-to-day costs.

What’s not to love? Reducing loneliness and encouraging creativity is a winner for all!



A designer’s interpretation of the children’s build

DULWICH PREP & SENIOR SCHOOL

Friendship garden brings people together

**By Year 4, 5 and 6,
Build for Belonging Competition Shortlist**

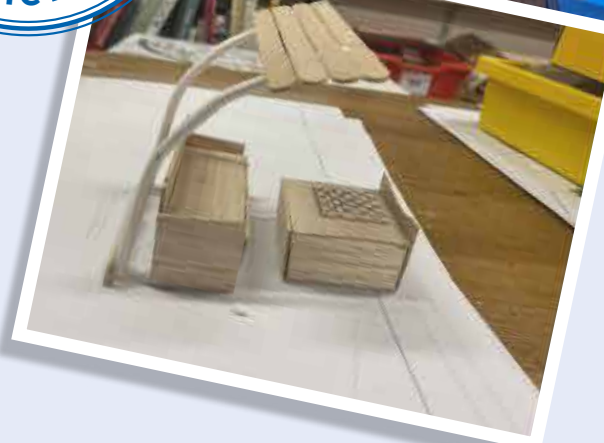
Let me introduce you to Dulwich Prep Senior's tranquil friendship garden project, a modern and newly-built garden and bench used to entice onlookers. It's not only used for attracting people for its beauty, it's also used to calm people down, bringing them happiness and peace to their worlds.

We built these wooden planters out of reclaimed wood from an art installation held at the Dulwich Picture Gallery. Our DT Assistant helped us to sand, paint and varnish them to give them a new lease of life.

In addition, this garden can bring new friendships and changes among us happy lot of Dulwich Prep & Senior children. Finally, in the garden, there is an abundance of activities from relaxing in the sun, to painting, playing music and joining in with the fun.

Also, we inspire our students to explore different methods of cooking. As a consequence, we have added plants, trees, such as cherry, apple and pear, and herbs to increase the curiosity that leaps in our hearts. Herbs create a nice-smelling atmosphere within the air: our eager children can explore the plants, trees and herbs within our garden too!

We want this friendship garden to elevate jolliness within our community of Dulwich Prep and Senior.



ASTON FIELDS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Garden club promotes belonging

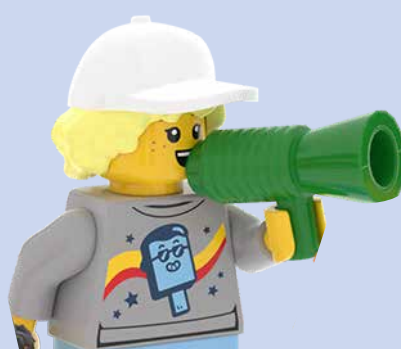
**By James. M, Emile. BS, Katie. A, Darcey. L,
Youth Council**

Two school children, Sophie and Hollie, have introduced a brand new garden club to Bromsgrove.

This innovative facility will bring the residents of the Bromsgrove community together, no matter their age. The club consists of a beautifully presented garden area containing a wide range of wondrous flowers that helps people to relax after a long, hard day.

There's also a jacuzzi for extra relaxation and bonding. This helps the general public come together to talk about the problems they are facing, and support one another. A local resident, Jim, expressed how excited he was to attend this stunning establishment.

We can't wait to see the huge impact this has on reducing loneliness and promoting belonging in Bromsgrove.



BUILD FOR BELONGING COMPETITION WINNERS!

What does belonging mean to you? For young changemakers across the UK, it became the starting point for big, bold ideas in The Day and the LEGO Group's Build for Belonging competition!

Open to 7-14-year-olds, the challenge invited children to imagine a world that feels more connected, more inclusive and more in tune with nature, using LEGO® bricks, recycled materials or artwork.

Chosen by an expert panel including broadcaster Abby Cook and the LEGO Group's own team, the winning entries tackled real-world issues with creativity, compassion and a touch of magic. Here are the stars of the show.



Broadcaster and competition judge Abby Cook

DESIGN:

A nature wall and recycled hub

Jeet

Jeet wowed the judges with his design that transforms a school library into a vibrant, inclusive hub, complete with green walls, wildlife-friendly features and a sensory garden. "I am so pleased that I have won this competition. I really love nature, animals, and I really love LEGO bricks! This was an ideal combination. Once I started to build, the ideas kept flowing... I used to be scared of bees, but now I know that they are so important for our ecosystem."

Abby Cook said:

I absolutely love this design. It's full of colour and creativity. It's inclusive, with a sensory garden and wheelchair access. The use of renewable energy and composting is brilliant!



David Pallash, Director of Build the Change, from the LEGO Group added:

Wow. You packed so many great ideas into this, all beautifully connected. A truly holistic approach. You've created something inclusive, imaginative and meaningful. Well done!



A designer's interpretation of the children's build



DESIGN:

An eco-friendly hospital car park with wellness spaces

Congratulations to Ella!

Ella took on a space many of us overlook, a hospital car park, and reimagined it as a community hub complete with underground parking, gardens, transport solutions, hydraulic lifts containing a 'yogic wall' with sound, exercise room and pet care facilities. "I wanted to include innovative components in my design to reflect a young person's view of the world and what could be done to improve it using architecture."



A designer's interpretation of the children's build

Abby Cook said:

From nature on the roof to wellbeing areas and somewhere for pets to stay, this design thinks of everyone.



David Pallash, Director of Build the Change, from the LEGO Group added:

Such an amazing build, filled with thoughtful ideas. Love the solar panels that track sunlight like plants, and the yogic wall!



DESIGN:

A LEGO friendship bench and phone-a-friend box

Samuel, Coalsnaughton Primary School

Samuel's design is simple, heartfelt and powerful — a friendship bench and phone box set in nature where anyone can reach out when they feel lonely. "I was jumping up and down with excitement at the news of my winning entry. I could not believe it! I am really proud of my design."



A designer's interpretation of the children's build

Abby Cook said:

There's so much thought in this design. It's visually appealing, and the friendship bench is lovely, a safe space for connection in nature.



David Pallash, Director of Build the Change, from the LEGO Group added:

Such a beautiful concept. The image of someone picking up a phone in the woods to talk is so touching. In a world where we don't talk enough, this could really make a difference.



PEOPLE FIND NEW WAYS TO ENJOY NATURE



By The Day’s editors

Fewer people are spending time outdoors, even as studies continue to show the benefits of nature for our health and well-being. UK government statistics show that one million fewer people in the UK enjoyed the great outdoors in 2022 compared to 2020! Many people feel they are too busy with school and work to get outside.



This August, Professor Miles Richardson from the University of Derby warned of an

"ongoing extinction of experience" as nature connectedness decreases across the generations. Richardson's research even found that in the past 200 years, nature words such as "river", "moss" and "blossom" have slowly disappeared from books.

But research shows that spending time outside can improve our mental health by reducing stress levels and our physical health by getting us active.

Spending just 20 minutes in nature can lower your heart rate and blood pressure, making your body feel calmer and healthier!

Let’s Get Outside!

So how can we stop the decline? More and more companies, schools and organisations are introducing nature to urban environments — and in some surprising ways! Take the SUGi Project, for example,

which is bringing pocket forests of native trees to our cities, or the



“bee bus stop” installed in Brighton after 50,000 residents signed a petition calling for a miniature garden on bus stop roofs.

It is certainly not all doom and gloom. Richardson believes there is hope of a cultural shift — his analysis of nature in literature shows that after an all-time low in the 1990s, nature references are once again increasing.



...more people looking after all things related to nature and animals



Nature Challenge

Design something green, awesome and completely unexpected to bring people closer to nature.

KING'S OAK SCHOOL

Forever green

By Ollie, Elias and Logan,
Youth Council



King's Oak school has unveiled its first green garden. It is a place where students can go and refresh themselves — just like the air which the plants and trees will convert into oxygen.

The garden should be a peaceful place where animals and bugs can come and feel safe from the world.

There is hope that in the future, everyone will have a green garden and this will help in keeping the world a safe place free from global warming.



“Introducing nature into schools gives children an essential early connection to the environment. Recent studies show that regular contact with natural elements helps strengthen the immune system and promotes calmness and focus. This idea is both timely and grounded in science, offering a simple but meaningful way to support children's health and curiosity.”



Daniel Diego Lincoln,
Creative Director, SUGi



...create more
natural spaces for
everyone to play

A designer's interpretation of the children's build

AQUARIUMS CAN BOOST WELLBEING SCIENTISTS SAY

By The Day's editors

Living in the modern world can be a stressful experience. NHS statistics show that more than 500 children a day in England were being referred to child & youth mental health services for anxiety in 2024 — more than double pre-pandemic rates.

But scientists say there could be a solution. A team of researchers from the University of Exeter, Plymouth University and the National Marine Aquarium have found that spending time in aquariums boosts both mood and physical wellbeing.

Visitors to the Plymouth aquarium had their heart rate, blood pressure and mood monitored as they spent 10 minutes watching the aquarium's "very large" tank.

The team believe their research could be used in medical settings, for example by streaming live-feeds of aquarium tanks in hospitals.

GREYSTOKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Telephone box transformed into tropical teleaquarium

By Connie and Marnie,
Youth Council

Picture a boring, run down, unused telephone box sleeping in a quiet rural village. Now imagine it transformed into a temperate aquarium designed to improve psychological and physiological benefits. Well now it exists!

This "teleaquarium" is full of vibrant colours, soft light and the gentle movement of plants and fish, which come in all shapes and sizes. Specific temperate fish species have been proven to survive in temperate climates; these can cope with the different temperate ranges from mild summers to colder climates, perfectly suited for life outdoors. Temperate fish are also known to eat algae so the upkeep of the teleaquarium is in "the fins of the fish".

“

This is a great idea, when I am nervous and go to the dentist, I have noticed they have an aquarium too and I must admit watching it makes me feel much calmer...plus that telephone box is empty, with nothing in it but spiders!

Greystoke Primary pupils ”

Best of all, while you are watching the teleaquarium your blood pressure is lowered, which has been proven to decrease your heart rate. This contributes towards stress relief, improving people's moods and also relaxation.

The teleaquarium is an oasis of aquatic wilderness which can unite people. With loneliness a growing problem in rural communities, animals have a way of drawing people together, finding a calm oasis in busy places to help communities grow.

Once an unloved telephone box, now a temperate tank, everyone will be hooked!



A designer's interpretation of the children's build

“

This idea captures the spirit of reuse in a thoughtful and imaginative way. Love the thought that places where people connected through conversation, telephone boxes, could now become spaces where we connect to nature. It raises a larger question about how we might reimagine other pieces of urban infrastructure as habitats or showcases for natural life.

”

Daniel Diego Lincoln,
Creative Director, SUGi



WHY WATER WASTAGE IS A BIG PROBLEM

By The Day's editors

Most Britons have very little understanding of just how much water they waste everyday, surveys have found.
A Water UK survey found that 46%

of people think their household uses 20 litres of water per day — in reality, the average household uses 500 litres.
Meanwhile, the pressures on the nation's water supply are growing.

Experts cite new housing developments, climate change and the increasing thirst of the internet as more and more people use AI as key pressures on our water supply.

KING'S OAK SCHOOL

Water for all!

By Ollie, Elias and Logan,
Youth Council



King's Oak School has designed the first continuous water supply. The "Children's Farm" in Greenwich is now able to reuse all of its used water by filtering it via a new water filter system that has been built on the farm.

All water used on the farm is redirected back into the system so the water can be cleaned, meaning no water from elsewhere is needed. There is also a water catcher within the system that collects rainfall.

The system is powered by people coming and exercising on the equipment in the available outside and inside gyms. Fitness and clean water with no carbon footprint!



A designer's interpretation of the children's build

“Water for All reimagines how communities can share and manage natural resources for mutual benefit. It reflects a collective approach to sustainability and highlights how water can become a foundation for social and environmental resilience. The concept feels like a preview of how cities of the future might function — collaborative, resourceful, and deeply connected to the ecosystems that sustain them”

Daniel Diego Lincoln,
Creative Director, SUGi



THE FUTURE SPEAKS, ARE WE LISTENING?

Build
THE **Change**

By David Pallash,
Director of Build the Change,
the LEGO Group

The world is a complex system of different, and often conflicting, needs. How do we navigate this day in day out? Where do we go to find inspiration and hope? In the LEGO Group we are lucky to be constantly reminded of the power of an idea, the force of creativity and imagination and the strength that empathy brings. I am of course talking about the greatest source of hope there is: our role models, children.

Case in point, this wonderful group of individuals, the Youth Council, have shown us that when we work together, great things can happen and, perhaps most importantly, we can inspire others to think differently. We can see the world through different perspectives. We can design for all.

This is the power children hold. But despite this, children are so



often absent from discussions that impact their now and their future. The Youth Council are a clear wake up call to us grown ups that young people should be involved more, and never, ever just as a token.

My ask of all of you reading this is please find ways that you can bring young people's ideas, thoughts, and concerns into the work you do. Participation and inclusion are so very important. Learning from the past will always be key, but let's start learning more from the future too.

HOW TO BUILD THE CHANGE!

Using your voice and sharing your ideas is what helps make the world a better place. Experience more Build the Change topics at LEGO.com/buildthechange and connect your passions and creativity to inspire others. We can't wait to hear your ideas!



YOUR IDEAS PUBLISHED ONLINE

Upload your children's ideas to our online gallery to inspire the world! Adults can easily create a free account to upload a photo and a brief 200-character description of each design.

Visit the gallery now to see more designs from around the world!



UPLOAD YOUR PHOTOS



VISIT THE ONLINE GALLERY

Build the Change Gallery

Welcome to the gallery of amazing ideas from students all over UK!

