
30th April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

My name is Emma Whalley and I teach Science at North Walsham High School.

As well as teaching, I am also trained in cob building, a traditional building method which uses mud and straw to form strong, sculptural structures. It is for this reason that I am writing to you.

I have a passionate and personal interest in mental health issues, particularly those facing our young people today. The school and I, were recently affected by the tragic suicide of a young ex-student and I would like to build a cob round house, as a quiet space for students, in his memory.

Building with cob is an incredibly therapeutic form of construction – the material itself is very tactile, forgiving and safe to use, so the students at North Walsham High School will be helping with the build. I am hoping that parents, carers and the local community will also come and try their hand. There is an enormous sense of satisfaction from seeing the building grow and an immense sense of achievement on completion, knowing that you have constructed something beautiful from waste materials with your bare hands. My hope is that the students and those involved in the build will experience this and the huge benefits it can bring.

So I am writing to ask for help. I have no budget for the project so I am looking to beg and borrow equipment and materials wherever possible. Cob building is a very green and economical way of building – reclaimed materials are generally used. If you can help in any way with any of the following, I would be eternally grateful!

- Sub soil
- Pre used concrete lumps
- Lime mortar
- Straw
- Timber
- Old windows
- Water bowser
- Rubble
- Glass/Perspex sheets
- Concrete lumps
- Paving slabs

I would also welcome sponsors for the cob build if that is something you would be interested in.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please email me if you would like any further information, if you could provide any of the materials or if you would like to come and have a go at cob building. I am looking to start the build on the 28th May this year with the footings and the stem wall. The actual cobbing will commence from the 10th June.

Many thanks again

Best wishes

Emma Whalley
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