

Andy is a Mental Health Ambassador at the school, proving a positive role model for students, and teenage boys in particular. After learning of the negative impacts of lockdown on young male's mental health, he has held sessions about his own struggles in life with vulnerable Y9 boys to help them normalise talking about mental health, and to promote the fact that it's ok not to be ok. Showing that vulnerability to 14-year old boys is extremely brave and impactful, and we admire him for that.

Andy has played a major role in making this school green. He developed the initiative of recycling plastic bottles from the school canteen to stop a lot of the unnecessary waste that was happening. More importantly, he recently found out that his application for the school to become a Greenpower Centre of Excellence was successful, making Baysgarth one of only nine Greenpower Centre of Excellence schools in the country. Greenpower Education Trust is a UK based charity which gets young people enthusiastic about science and engineering by challenging them to design, build and race an electric car. It is down to Andy's passion and dedication to all things green and engineering that the school was successful in becoming a Greenpower Centre of Excellence, and he should be so proud of this achievement.

The application follows on from Andy's passion with students to build their own green (electric) car, which he does with his Engineering students and those who choose to be part of the project through extra-curricular activities at the school. You often see him with his students racing the car around our tennis courts, and practising Formula-1 style pit stops. In 2019, Andy took his students to race in the UK's first-ever closed-road electric car race to race against other local North and North East Lincolnshire schools. He then also took them to Greenpower International Finals at Silverstone in September 2019, an amazing experience for the students involved. You can view a video of it here: <https://www.facebook.com/baysgarthschool/videos/dt-greenpower-car/452598746127057/>

Despite his subject being traditionally a boy-oriented one, Andy has made significant effort to encourage more girls to take up Engineering too, and we see a year-on-year increase in girls choosing his subject as one of their option subjects. His encouragement and help has led to a Y11 girl to succeed in getting a highly-sought after Engineering apprenticeship following a tough selection process.

Andy regularly takes the initiative to do something that helps others. After realising that the local food banks struggle after Christmas with huge drops in donations, he started a challenge to fill his van full of items to take to the food bank (no mean feat if you could see the size of his van!), engaging students and staff alike to help out those less well off in our local community.

Andy plays a huge part in the life of students and staff at Baysgarth. He is a kind and caring person who will always put his students first to make sure they are cared for and develop themselves. He probably doesn't think he deserves this kind of recognition, and would never even think to ask for it as he does these things from the goodness of his heart and because he is passionate about his subject and his students. To us, that makes him the biggest unsung hero in any school we have ever known.'