Should Every School Have a Community Garden?

Learning objective: To structure a balanced discussion text exploring the advantages and disadvantages of introducing a school garden.

Use this writing frame to help you organize your balanced argument. Remember to look at both sides of the debate before reaching your own conclusion. Use formal language and ensure your points are backed up with evidence.

The idea of transforming a patch of unused school land into a vibrant community garden has sparked a lively debate among pupils and teachers alike.

Word bank: Conversely · Furthermore · In addition to · On the other hand · Arguments for · Arguments against · From a different perspective · Consequently · It is often argued that · Evidence suggests that · In conclusion · Taking everything into account

1. Introduction: Briefly introduce the topic and state that there are two sides to this discussion. Start with: It is often debated whether... (2 marks)

2. Arguments For: What are the benefits of having a school garden? Consider points like wellbeing and science learning. Start with: Supporters of the project argue that... (3 marks)

3. Arguments Against: What are the potential drawbacks? Consider costs, maintenance, or space. Start with: Conversely, others express concerns that... (3 marks)

4. Balanced Viewpoint: Explore the middle ground. Can these problems be solved? Start with: While the initial cost of £500 for equipment is significant, it could be managed by... (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise the main points and provide your final recommendation. Start with: Taking everything into account, I believe that... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Ask Bea the Honeybee for advice! Write a short paragraph from her perspective explaining why a garden would benefit the local ecosystem, using at least two of the connectives from the word bank.