

My Day at RHS Wisley – Charlie Jerman

KS3 Finalist - RHS Young School Gardener of the Year

When we first got to Wisley, we were met by one of the RHS staff at the entrance and shown to the Garden Hall by Sam, one of the RHS diploma students. The Garden Hall had been specially decorated with pretty bunting and all the young finalists and their families were sat at tables and the results were announced. There was also a category for teachers/volunteers.

The awards were presented by Frances Tophill who is a TV garden presenter on BBC Gardener's World and ITV's Love Your Garden. It was really exciting to meet her. Each finalist received a framed certificate, a picture with Frances and an amazing engraved trowel with our names, date and the competition. I was extremely surprised and proud to receive the trowel in particular!

Then we went on a special tour of the gardens with one of the RHS students. When you study horticulture at Wisley, you have an allotment in your first year which you have to plant and look after. You get graded on it but you don't know when they're going to visit so you always have to keep it looking perfect! We went to see these allotments and they all looked beautiful. The students were growing lots of different vegetables, herbs and flowers. There were some gigantic courgettes! We also visited the big glass house which had an amazing waterfall and rainforest/deserts.

We finished the day with a delicious afternoon tea with finger sandwiches, victoria sponge, scones, gingerbread men and grapefruit squash. We watched the videos from the KS4 level and teacher category winners. They were amazing and really showed how much passion they had for gardening and helping others to learn gardening.

Overall it was a fantastic day. The sun shone all day. I loved meeting lots of new people, seeing the RHS Wisley gardens and talking about gardening. I'd been so looking forward to this day since I found out I was a finalist and it was brilliant fun. I'd really like to thank Mrs Price and St Faith's for nominating me for the award and for making such a wonderful video.



