

# Medway Campus Bargain Corner – using the circular economy model to support students

## About

Launched in 2012 at the University of Greenwich's Medway Campus, Bargain Corner began as a small initiative to help international students prepare for the UK's colder climate. Driven by the Chaplaincy and led by Lynne Martin, this programme started by collecting and distributing winter clothing to students. Since then, Bargain Corner has expanded significantly to include items like bedding, kitchen supplies, stationery and books, becoming both a social support service and a sustainability project.



## Work

Through the collection, reuse and resale of essential items, Bargain Corner has diverted thousands of items from landfills over the years. It not only meets a practical need among students but also actively contributes to carbon footprint reduction. In partnership with the Greenwich Sustainability Team, Chaplaincy has documented the CO2 savings achieved, providing a model of how small-scale, community-driven initiatives can yield substantial environmental benefits.

Bargain Corner offers items to students at minimal prices, making it accessible to those with limited budgets. The proceeds from these sales fund Chaplaincy-led social activities and trips, enhancing student well-being and fostering community connections.

This initiative supports international students' transition to life in the UK by providing them with essential items while contributing to a supportive, inclusive campus environment.

Bargain Corner has been a labour of love with Lynne being the driving force behind keeping the programme going. The initiative exemplifies how community-driven initiatives can address both social and environmental goals. By reducing waste, supporting students and fostering a strong community network, this project demonstrates the value of grassroots sustainability efforts that make a positive impact both locally and beyond.

## SDGs

