



For Immediate Release

CIBC Caribbean's Internal Audit Team Beautifies Lawrence T Gay Primary

Bridgetown, Barbados, 18 May 2026 – Thirty-Two (32) internal auditors recently turned gardeners and painters, as they took time from their office duties and worked to beautify some areas of the Lawrence T. Gay (LTG) Primary School in Spooners Hil, as part of their celebrations for Internal Auditors Awareness Month.

The team from CIBC Caribbean's Head Office, traded their computers and spreadsheets for rakes, garden forks, shovels and paint brushes to bring the 4H garden area back to life and beautify the front of some of the classrooms. They brought seeds, plants and potting mix to resuscitate the enclosed 4H area that had gone to grass and weeds after not being attended for some time.

The team also painted the group's tool shed.

Teacher and 4H leader Xyanella Wong explained that when she was approached by the group from the bank, she was overjoyed to have them come and revive the area for the children. She expressed surprise at how much the team did. "In addition to the seedlings of tomatoes and Chinese cabbage, they also gave us a hose, watering can and gardening tools for the children to use and help properly maintain the garden."

She explained that gardening teaches the children patience "they come every day and water and watch to see when the seeds germinate or how the seedlings are growing. "It also strengthens their emotional side and fully explains for them where food comes from... not just the supermarket." The teacher also added that she has seen how children transfer the learning 'in the field' to the classroom with their compositions.

She further explained that the children go to the garden in the morning before school starts and at lunch to tend to the plants, weed and water the area.

Audit Director at CIBC Caribbean, Lisa Watson, who spearheaded the project explained that the department chose Lawrence T. Gay for this "Adopt-a-Cause" initiative because of its proximity to the Head office and the bank's Culture of Caring for the community, plus, there are two staff members in audit who are former students of the school and one staff member is a parent of a former student at the school.

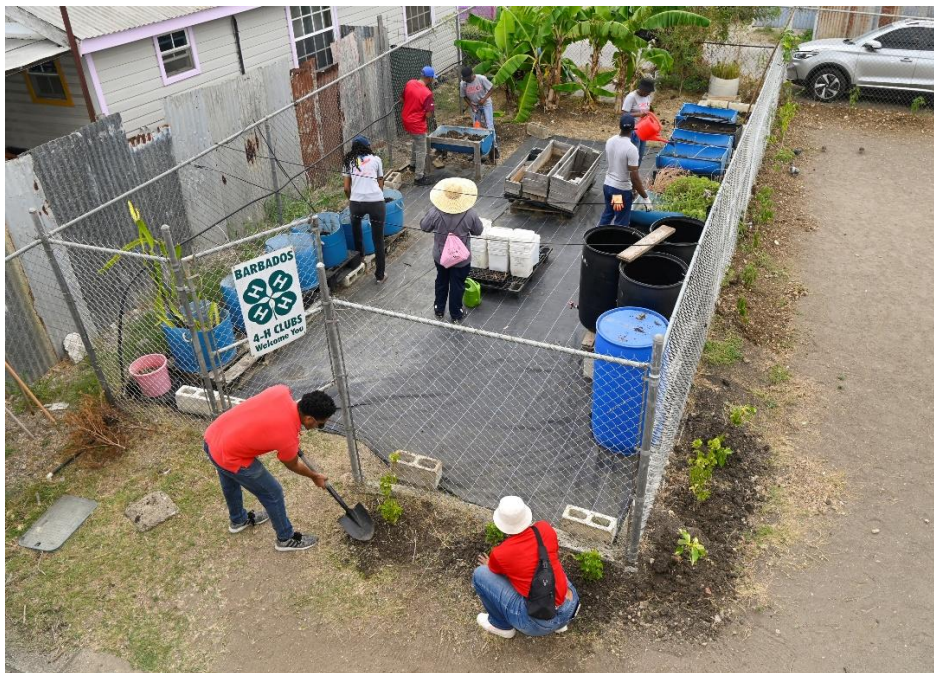
Principal of the school, Brent Blackett complimented the work done by the audit team saying that they did a 'fantastic job in a short time, more than we expected and we really appreciate it.' He added "anything Corporate Barbados can do to help the school is greatly appreciated".

Lisa Watson explained that the team also had an awareness campaign internally to give other staff members an idea of what they do, and to help erase the image of audit as the 'office police.' They were quizzes with prizes and other fun internal community activities.

Ends



Part of the audit team painting the 4H storage shed.



A group from the audit team working in the 4H enclosure



The group from the Internal Audit department with Chief Auditor Khadija Bourne (third from right front) and Audit Director Lisa Watson (left front) with the LTG Principal Blackett (centre front) and 4 H supervisor Wong (second from left front) as they pose for a photo after completing their tasks at the school.



The group which planted flowering plants and shrubs in front of the classrooms from left Khadija Bourne – Chief Auditor leading the group from second left Jeremy Giles, Danielle Grant, Dionne Douglin, Millicent Maximilian, back row – Renee Rudder and Leah Rowe.

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