

Countryside Skills

Core technical qualifications (you have the opportunity to study all qualifications)

ABC Awards Level 3 Diploma in Work-Based Horticulture

ABC Awards Level 3 Diploma in Work-Based Environmental Conservation

ABC Awards Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture

What will you be learning?

- Learning will be based around planning, delivering and evaluating environmental projects whilst promoting, monitoring and maintaining health, safety and security in the workplace
- Continue to develop countryside and horticultural skills in a practical setting through coordinating and overseeing habitat management work
- Monitor and evaluate the construction and maintenance of structures and surfaces around our school site
- Develop community projects in partnership with various agencies and stakeholders
- Modules studied include developing further skills in coppicing, pruning, felling, planting and land maintenance
- Classroom and practical experience of woodland management, production horticulture and principles of environmental conservation

Methods of assessment

- The course is practical in nature so assessment is evidence based.
 - Students will be expected to create a portfolio with written, photographic and video based documents demonstrating a critical understanding of all the elements of the course.
 - Students will build their knowledge of Environment and Conservation issues, woodland management and rural craft skills.
 - Students will gain considerable practical experience through engagement with local companies and extended work experience in areas of personal interest.
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What are lessons like?

- Lessons are led by Mr James Mitchell, an experienced woodsman who has a wealth of experience in managing rural locations but especially in forestry areas.
- James has many of the woodland skills which are becoming rare and the pupils will be learning many of these by working with traditional hand tools such as spades, mattocks, loppers, forks, handheld and pruning saws, axes, rakes, and trowels, with a high emphasis on learning while doing.
- The majority of lessons will be outside on our 'Woodland Site' and other designated areas around the school site including newly developed crop beds and our proposed polytunnel planting beds. Students will also be involved in various projects working with a range of 'Professional External Partners'.
- Students are expected to work in all weather conditions, safety permitting, and will need suitable clothing and footwear.
- Some of the lessons can be quite physically demanding.
- Specific lessons will be in classrooms for developing the portfolios and conducting research into environmental and conservation issues, arboriculture theory and principles of horticulture.
- This is a very exciting time for our pathway as we have many opportunities to design and develop designated areas of our school site whilst ensuring a legacy for future generations of QEstudio students and our whole school community.

How will we work with employers and the community?

- A core principle of our pathway is supporting students in developing further links with a range of professional partners including: Woodland Trust, Natural England and local craftsmen and companies within the horticulture, conservation and renewables industries.
- Additionally we ensure all students have the opportunity to explore our links with Newton Rigg College, Myerscough College and Scotland's Rural College who can potentially support a student's future pathway and access to higher education and further study.

Where can this pathway lead?

A variety of career options in: Environment and Forestry Management, Farming and Landscape, Conservation, Horticulture, Landscape Design, the Sustainability and Renewables Industry & Rural Craft Skills.