

**Apprentice Gardener (Level 2)/Grounds Person**

**Required from: Immediate start**

**Job Description and Person Specification**

**Introduction from the Head**

Our wonderful Senior School and Sixth Form are enviably located in the historic Saighton Grange buildings, with stunning views across beautiful countryside towards the Welsh mountains and the Cheshire sandstone ridge; and our dedicated Infants and Junior School is just down the road in the charming and picturesque village of Aldford.

Our College is a unique, inspiring, and memorable place to learn and grow, where our caring and committed teaching and support staff will do all that they can to help our pupils to be the best that they can be.

We are a safe and friendly school community, where we look out for each other and where we work with each child’s individual interests, passions, and strengths; while also encouraging them to try new things, take risks, and be creative.

Our aim is to lead and coach our pupils during these critical, formative years, so that they may leave us at the end of Sixth Form having achieved the best that they can academically; and with a clear sense of who they are as a person and how they can go on to make a positive difference to our world in the uncertain future ahead – with courage and with compassion.

Thank you for taking the time find out more about us. If you feel that you could bring the right balance of care, commitment, expertise, and enthusiasm to this role, we would welcome your application.



Craig Jenkinson, MA (Oxon), PGCE, MInstLM

**The Post**

We are seeking a passionate and enthusiastic Apprentice Gardener/Grounds Person, who will support, alongside the estates team, the daily upkeep of the College grounds. They will work as part of a team to carry out daily tasks as per designated work. They will take pride in their work and in maintaining the overall image and look of the College grounds.

This is an apprentice position and as such you will be expected to enrol on an approved course. A mentor will be assigned to you from the course to oversee your training and progress. You should gain Level 2 in Horticulture through completion of the course and successfully completing the apprentice contract with Abbey Gate College.

The NVQ level 2 qualification will be completed by the employee under the care of an accredited College.

You will be trained to use machines such as:

* Mowers
* Strimmers
* Blowers
* Hedge cutters
* Line marking machine

You are required to show commitment to the completion of the course and ensure that all work required as part of the course are completed in line with the trainer requirements.

**Key Qualities and Person Specification**

* Prior experience in horticulture is not a requirement however a keen interest in horticulture is essential.
* Must have a positive and enthusiastic approach
* Punctuality and reliability are essential
* Willingness to learn
* Ability to plan and work under own initiative
* Excellent inter-personal, communication and organisational skills
* Ability to work constructively as part of the team of staff at Abbey Gate College
* Full clean driving licence (and vehicle to get to the College)
* Minimum GCSE English and Maths grade 2 or above (or equivalent)

**Responsibilities and Duties**

* Propagation
* Weeding
* Hedge cutting
* Topiary work
* Some soft landscaping
* Some hard landscaping
* Vegetable production
* General garden maintenance
* Maintenance of the glasshouse
* Lawn work - seeding, and turfing
* Mowing both hand and ride-on
* Water feature maintenance
* Edging
* Planting
* Pruning
* Sports field maintenance including pitch marking
* Any other duties as required

**Terms and Conditions of Employment**

The successful applicant will be required to work Monday to Friday 7.30 am to 3.30 pm (including one hour unpaid lunch break) all year round. Due to seasonal variations, start and finish times may vary throughout the year.

Salary - £8.91 per hour

Holidays – 25 days in addition to the normal 8 bank holidays per annum.

**Child Protection**

Abbey Gate College is committed, as a priority, to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Whilst criminal convictions are not necessarily a bar to appointment, this safety consideration will be central to all decisions regarding the employment of staff, approval of volunteers, and standards of external contractors.

**Equal Opportunities**

We are committed to treating all employees with dignity and respect, regardless of race, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, age, sexual orientation, sex, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership, and disability. We, therefore, welcome applications from all members of the community.

**Process for Applications**

**Deadline:**

**Interviews: TBC**

Please apply by completing our Abbey Gate College application form along with a covering letter addressed to the Director of Finance and Operations, Mrs Rachel Kennedy, explaining your interest and suitability for the role, and returning it tohr@abbeygatecollege.co.uk

References for shortlisted candidates **will be taken** prior to interview; please inform your referees.

Please visit our website at[www.abbeygatecollege.co.uk](http://www.abbeygatecollege.co.uk)for more information about the College.