

Elm Court School

Vocational Studies (Horticulture) Curriculum Overview



Pathway Options Years 10-14 (KS4/KS5)

Pupils in KS4 and Sixth Form can choose Horticulture as a Pathway. This qualification will introduce aspects of land-based study through various outings, but will mainly focus on Horticulture in practical sessions within the school. Pupils will gain practical gardening skills and knowledge of health and safety in the workplace, grow vegetables, herbs, and fruits from seed in our garden, and learn about progression opportunities should they want to specialise in a specific area.

The courses we offer are:

- Gateway E3/L1 Award in Vocational Studies
- Gateway L1 Certificate in Vocational Studies
- Gateway L1 Extended Certificate in Vocational Studies

Pathway Options KS4 (Year 10-11) -EL3-L1 Award

Introduction to theoretical and practical concepts of Horticulture.

Development of sector knowledge through community and educational visits e.g., Loughborough Community Farm visit, Kew Gardens.

Units covered include:

Unit 1.: Health and Safety in the Workplace

- Know the responsibilities of employers and employees for health and safety in land-based (agriculture, horticulture, or forestry) workplaces.
- Know about hazards and risks that can arise in a landbased (agriculture, horticulture or forestry) workplace
- Know about good practices in relation to health and safety in a land-based (agriculture, horticulture, or forestry) workplace.

Unit 2: Cultivating Herbs

- Know about the use of herbs.

Pathways Options KS5 (Year 12-14)- L1 Certificate/Extended

Introduction to theoretical and practical concepts of Horticulture.

Development of sector knowledge through community and educational visits. Sector talks in local parks.

Units covered include:

Unit 1: Working in a Land-based Sector

- Know the range of Land-based workplaces associated with agriculture, horticulture, or forestry.
- Know the roles, responsibilities, and possible career progression routes in Land-based workplaces associated with agriculture, horticulture, or forestry.
- Know the core skills required for working in organisations associated with agriculture, horticulture, or forestry

Unit 2: Cultivating Herbs

- Know about the use of herbs.
- Know about the factors to be considered in selecting herbs for a particular use.

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- Know about the factors to be considered in selecting herbs for a particular use.
- Be able to cultivate herbs.

Unit 3: Sowing and Growing Techniques

Know about indoor and outdoor sowing

- Be able to sow seeds indoors.
- Know about looking after and transplanting seedlings/plants.
- Know about the process of 'hardening off' and 'planting out'.

Educational trips

- Kew Gardens trip
- Brockwell Park Gardens
- The Rookery
- Dulwich Park
- Horniman Gardens

Trips enhance and support the delivery of the curriculum and give experience of horticulture within the natural environment.

- Be able to cultivate herbs.

Unit 3: Sowing and Growing Techniques

- Know about indoor and outdoor sowing
- Be able to sow seeds indoors.
- Know about looking after and transplanting seedlings/plants.
- Know about the process of 'hardening off' and 'planting out'.

Educational trips

- The Royal Docks
- Epping Forest
- Nunhead Cemetery
- Horniman Gardens/Museum
- London Wetland Centre

Trips for KS5 expand the pupil's knowledge and understanding of the variety of land-based activities as a career path. We will also be exploring bio-diversity and the effects of climate change.

How you can support your child in Horticulture:

Encourage your child to understand where food comes from particularly those that are found in the supermarkets and the farms. Support your child to start having their own plants by planting in the garden or a container. Watch documentaries and plant shows such as the Chelsea Flower Show. Help them to do their homework on plants by participating in the home activities.

Please keep in touch with the Pathways section should you feel your child is struggling or needs more challenge – let us know.

Emails can be sent to: admin@elmcourt.lambeth.sch.uk
