

School: Riversides School

Event: Work Experience at Philpots Landscaping

Number of pupils attending: 1



RIVERSIDES
EVERY STUDENT MATTERS

Aims of the activity

Increasing employer engagement.

Raising industry sectors profiles and appeal to students.

Experience of further education.

Aspiration raising.

Linking to Gatsby Benchmarks- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Overview of Activity

As part of my Year 10 work experience, I completed a placement at Philpots Landscaping, a company that specialises in garden design, landscaping, grounds maintenance, and outdoor construction projects. This experience allowed me to gain an insight into the landscaping industry and understand the skills required to work in an outdoor environment.

During my placement, I helped with a variety of landscaping and gardening tasks, including:

- Assisting with garden maintenance.
- Weeding and preparing planting areas.
- Planting flowers, shrubs, and other plants.
- Helping to clear and organise work areas.
- Using basic gardening tools safely under supervision.
- Supporting team members with landscaping projects.
- Learning about health and safety procedures on site.
- Observing how projects are planned and completed for customers.

These activities helped me understand the importance of teamwork, organisation, and attention to detail.

Throughout my experience, I developed a range of valuable and transferable skills.

Communication

- Worked alongside experienced landscapers and followed instructions carefully.
- Communicated effectively with team members to complete tasks efficiently.

Teamwork

- Collaborated with colleagues on landscaping projects.
- Supported others when carrying out physical tasks.

Time Management

- Arrived on time each day and followed a work schedule.
- Completed tasks within deadlines.

Problem Solving

- Helped identify practical solutions when challenges occurred on site.
- Adapted to changing weather conditions and work requirements.

Organisation

- Kept tools and equipment organised and stored safely.
- Maintained tidy working areas to improve efficiency.

Health and Safety Awareness

- Learned the importance of wearing protective equipment.
- Followed safety procedures to reduce risks in the workplace.

Work Ethic

- Demonstrated reliability, responsibility, and a positive attitude.
- Showed willingness to learn new skills and take on different tasks.

The skills gained at Philpots Landscaping can be used in many future jobs and educational settings:

- Communication – useful in all workplaces and customer-facing roles.
- Teamwork – essential in most industries.
- Problem Solving – helps with making decisions and overcoming challenges.
- Organisation – supports productivity and efficiency.
- Time Management – important for meeting deadlines and managing workloads.
- Adaptability – valuable when working in changing environments.
- Health and Safety Awareness – relevant across many sectors including construction, engineering, hospitality, and retail.

What I learned

My placement taught me that landscaping requires hard work, creativity, and teamwork. I learned how outdoor spaces are transformed through planning, preparation, and maintenance. The experience improved my confidence and helped me understand the importance of professionalism in the workplace.

Post 16 options

After Year 11, there are several pathways that could lead to a career in landscaping or related industries:

College Courses

Level 2 or Level 3 Horticulture

Landscape Construction

Countryside Management

Agriculture

Environmental Conservation

Apprenticeships

Landscape Operative Apprenticeship

Horticulture Apprenticeship

Grounds Maintenance Apprenticeship

Conclusion

My work experience at Philpots Landscaping was a valuable opportunity to learn about the landscaping industry and develop important transferable skills. The placement improved my confidence, teamwork, communication, and organisational abilities while helping me explore potential career pathways and post-16 options. It has given me a better understanding of the world of work and the skills needed to succeed in any career.



