

Assessment Details

Students are assessed unobtrusively while they are in a working environment or undergoing supervised practice. The assessor, normally the teacher, decides when a student is ready for a formal assessment. Normally this will be in Year 11. Students must keep a record of all workplace activities in a portfolio or folder of evidence. This could be in the form of a diary, worksheets or photographs. The folder is submitted at the end of the course to an External Verifier, who will decide if the standards have been met.

Additional Information

The Ofsted inspectors revealed that

“the capability of most students at Oathall is well beyond NVQ Level 1 but their high levels of commitment to the farm and its stock keep them well motivated”

“Attainment at the end of Key Stage 4 is well above average. Students have a very high level of awareness of issues surrounding the management of livestock and land. They are acutely aware of the reality of the business world and its markets and of the effects of current problems in the farming industry. Students are sensitive to the needs of the animals and they apply scientific principles well to their studies. Students make excellent progress on the course.”

Clothing

Students arrive at Oathall Community College in suitable work clothing and are therefore very separate to the main school student body. Separate relaxation, teaching and working facilities are available as well as canteen facilities. Students should also bring extra tops, overalls and steel toe capped boots for safety reasons to use for practical work.

Accommodation

Students will have a classroom base and access to a WC and canteen. Access to a school minibus for all offsite trips to outlying farms to maintain animal welfare is available at all times.

Skills covered in the Course

Students will develop a range of practical skills working with animals, plants and landscaping materials. It is very much a working environment and students have to learn how to plan and prepare for a variety of projects working as part of a team. Students are encouraged to show initiative and to take on responsibility.



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Oathall Community College

A Specialist School with a Rural Dimension

Work Based - Land Based Operations NVQ Level 1



Increased Flexibility Programme
for students 14 -16
in Partnership with other local schools
in Mid Sussex



Work Based - Land Based Operations



The Oathall Farm facility is a unique resource that aims to serve students in the local community.

After our latest Ofsted inspection in November 2010, the inspectors described the farm as being a *'centre of excellence for the college, the local community and for other schools nationally and internationally'*.

The report also states that an impressive network of partnerships makes community cohesion exceptionally strong and *'motivates students, including those otherwise at risk of exclusion.'*

We are proud of these comments and the recognition from Ofsted and wish to continue to be considered as a Vocational Centre of Excellence that can provide relevant outdoor land based education programmes to a select range of students across Mid Sussex schools.

Assessments

This is not a GCSE course. There is no modular or end of course examination. Instead you will be assessed as you carry out tasks on the farm or in the garden. We will be looking for you to improve your practical skills as the course develops, but you may repeat tasks many times until you are competent.

Your tutor will not simply ask you to carry out a task, but will explain how and why it is done.

Status: **NVQ - Level 1**
Examination Board: **City & Guilds**
Three tiers of achievement:
Award • Certificate • Diploma



Structure of the Course

This is a two year, one day per week course based at Oathall.

Part of your day will be related to farm based activities and the remainder you will work in our gardens, greenhouse or polytunnel.

Requirements for

Student Success

It is important that potential students have an active interest in the area of study.

Basic ICT skills are needed to produce a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate competence. All students will have a bank of digital photographs taken in the workplace as supporting evidence of their skills.

Potential students will attend a formal interview.

Content of the Course

You will learn to work safely and effectively with both plants and animals and, when working with machinery such as mowers or tractors, you could find yourself:

- Carrying out maintenance tasks such as rubbing down, painting, power hosing, constructing raised beds, laying concrete, lubricating machines or laying slabs
- Transporting materials, including sacks, bales, logs or animal foods, around our site using wheelbarrows, trolleys or tractor and trailer
- Growing vegetables, hanging baskets and flowers for sale
- Completing a certificated course in basic tractor driving
- Completing a certified course in first aid
- Preparing accommodation for livestock
- Taking part in a wide range of stock related tasks including feeding, watering, assisting at lambing or farrowing, preparing livestock for show or sale
- Loading livestock into trailers for movement
- Taking part in hard landscaping projects
- You could be working with cattle, sheep, pigs or poultry

Students are encouraged to develop their own opinions supported by evidence and sound reasoning. You will develop a range of competencies and will be able to demonstrate initiative.

Aims of the Course

- To develop confidence in attempting new practical skills
- To work with animals in a realistic workplace situation
- To work as part of a small team when working with plants
- To become certificated as an first aider
- To develop flexibility and adaptability in preparation for the world of work
- For students to enjoy themselves and have fun

