



Sutton Valence School

Candidate Information

Apprentice Groundsperson

Apprenticeship Information

The post is for a full-time Apprentice Groundsperson, responsible to the Head Groundsman. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone with a keen interest in Sports Turf.

The ideal candidate for this post will be someone who really enjoys working outdoors in all weathers, is able to work within a team or unsupervised and is very self-motivated. The candidate must be keen to learn, enjoy a challenge, be honest, hardworking, reliable and personable and have a keen interest in horticulture/grounds maintenance.

There will be a series of assessments, both practical and online, at the end of the period to measure competence.

A provisional driving licence would be an advantage as this enables more opportunity to work on the machinery. The work involves lifting, bending and carrying, so applicants will need to be physically fit.

Training will be provided in the workplace through Hadlow College, where you will work towards an Intermediate Apprenticeship in Sports Turf Operative. Our contact at Hadlow College is Hayley Macfarlane, and her contact details, should you wish to contact her, are T: 01732 372207 E: hayleymacfarlane@westkent.ac.uk

You will need to attend Hadlow College (TN11 0RF) on occasion for group tutorials or trips with the other apprentices on the programme.

The apprenticeship is made up of a number of different nationally recognised qualifications which are as follows:

Combined Competence and Knowledge Qualification

Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture—Sports Turf Operative

Functional Skills

Level 1 English
Level 1 Mathematics

If you already hold Level 1 then you will be required to undertake Level 2 Functional Skills with Hadlow College. This will be approximately 6 days' college attendance per qualification.

Employee Rights and Responsibilities

Delivered and assessed online

Personal Learning and Thinking Skills

Assessment and recognition through a Record of Achievement

Hours of work

Monday to Friday 7.30 to 4.30
With an hour for lunch (unpaid)

Some weekend and evening work will be expected for which overtime will be paid.

Salary (£ per hour)

Age 18-21 £7.47
Over 21 £7.80

The annual holiday entitlement is five weeks.

Apprenticeship duration 18-24 months
Expected start date September 2020

Please note that the formal training with Hadlow College will not start until September 2020.

[Click here](#) to find full details of the apprenticeship programme.

[Click here](#) to view the apprenticeship on the Government website.



Additional Information

Sutton Valence School is situated off the A274, six miles south of Maidstone and three miles north of Headcorn; most staff find they need their own transport, as the local bus service is very limited. Lunch is available in the refectory free of charge during term time, however, this is subject to any Covid-19 restrictions that may be in place in September. Staff may use the excellent fitness facilities in the Sports Hall at the senior site in the evening, if not being used. The School operates a contributory pension scheme which is open to all members of staff. Staff are provided with a uniform and full training will be given. Staff with a contract for at least one full term and who have children who attend the School will be eligible to receive a discount in respect of School fees (excluding nursery). The current rate of discount is 65% for full-time staff, and for part-time staff the relevant percentage will be calculated on a pro rata basis.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to satisfactory references, the completion of a successful medical examination and criminal record check via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The Head Groundsman is Ian Avery and he would be happy to have an informal discussion if you require any further information. Ian can be contacted on 07841 693366 during working hours.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Application Process

Accompanying letters of application should state what particular attributes you can bring to Sutton Valence School, including specific details of skills, experience and achievements, brief details of why you want the apprenticeship and what you wish to gain from it.

To apply, complete the [application and monitoring form](#) and email it with a covering letter to hradmin@svs.org.uk or post it for the attention of the Assistant Bursar, Sutton Valence School, North Street, Sutton Valence, Kent ME17 3HL.

Sutton Valence School is an equal opportunities employer.

A member of The United Westminster and Grey Coat Foundation.
Registered Charity No 1181012

The School

Sutton Valence School consists of Sutton Valence School (SVS) and Sutton Valence Preparatory School (SVPS). SVS is an independent, HMC co-educational day and boarding school. It is part of, and overlooks, the picturesque village of Sutton Valence six miles from Maidstone. The roll at Sutton Valence is currently 550 pupils between the ages of 11 and 18 of which 120 are boarders.

Contained within the 100 acre site, there are excellent games pitches, a superb all-weather playing surface and a sports centre which contains a state of the art fitness suite.

The School has a fine musical tradition and a flourishing drama department. Sutton Valence Preparatory School occupies its own site in the neighbouring village of Chart Sutton and currently has 240 pupils between the ages of 3 and 11. In addition, the School has a number of residential properties contained within the School sites and also in the village of Sutton Valence.

Vision, Mission and Ethos

Vision

Through membership of our community and the academic and co-curricular opportunities it provides, we believe that all young people in our School will be enabled to fulfil their true potential. We want our students to be confident civilised, tolerant and open-minded individuals who possess a love of learning and a strong set of values reflecting our principles as a Christian Foundation.

Our **Mission** is to provide:

- A caring, supportive and inclusive community for the education of children aged 3-18, day and boarding;
- A challenging, relevant and broad curriculum delivered in ways that allow all to achieve;
- An outstanding range of sporting, artistic, cultural and social activities, and opportunities so that children can develop skills such as self-discipline, commitment, leadership and teamwork;
- A safe, secure and stimulating environment which promotes excellence, independence and high standards whilst providing support to all who need it;
- A grounding in moral and spiritual understanding which will promote respect for others, along with self-respect.

Ethos

A community where each cares for all and individuality is cherished.



Sutton Valence School

North Street
Sutton Valence
Kent ME17 3HL

www.svs.org.uk

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