

# Meet Danny, Ground Control's Horticulture Operative, Level 2 apprentice



## What apprenticeship are you doing at Ground Control and what does this cover?

I am studying the Horticulture Operative level 2 apprenticeship via Myerscough College. On the course we look at all aspects of horticulture including different plant types, how they grow and how to care for them in terms of cutting, nutrition and watering.

We also focus on the manual side on the tools and learn how to use machinery safely and properly like digging, hedge cutting and strimming.

We also have to learn about the safe and correct use of pesticides and weed killers and how this can affect the natural environment, so it is very varied.

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## What do you do on a day-to-day basis in your job within our Grounds Maintenance team at Ground Control?

I am based on a client's site full time in the Warrington area. It's a large, varied estate which is great as this means there is lots of different work to do daily.

I get involved in lots of hedge cutting, strimming and grass cutting but there is also plenty of planting as well and recently we have been planting trees in the community garden on site.

We also cover Winter maintenance and gritting of the car parks and pathways when it's cold which is hard work, but a valuable part of the service offered by Ground Control to our clients.

We regularly receive company wide information on Health and Safety and Tool box talks via our site tablet which keeps us up to date on best practice and ways of working.

## What is the best part of your job?

The Summer and being outside! I love this as you can enjoy the sunshine and work on the tools and just get stuck in every day in the fresh air.

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## What advice would you give to anyone wanting to get into a Horticulture Operative apprenticeship like yours?

If you want to work outside, you have to be prepared to work hard in the cold during the Winter but Summer makes up for it!

Some young people just see horticulture as a manual job and nothing more which is a shame as you can have a career in it and it's really rewarding. Don't go into it if you aren't up for the challenge but do if you want a physical role that also has a decent career path.

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## What do you enjoy outside of work?

I am a DJ outside of work and do lots of parties and functions in my local area, which I love.

I also play both indoor and outdoor bowls several times a week, so I rarely sit down in my spare time. I love to be busy!