



AUTHENTIC
EDUCATION

Horticulturist

March 2025



Together we are ...

COURAGEOUS INNOVATIVE EXCELLENT



Fay MacRitchie
Chief Executive Officer

Welcome!

Thank you so much for your interest in this exciting new role. We're looking for someone to lead the set up and maintenance of our new 'farm to fork' project. This comprises of four commercial grade polytunnels across two to three academy sites. Two of the most important aspects of this role will be enthusiasm for growing produce, and enjoyment for inspiring others.

Sustainability and links with the local community and businesses are of huge importance to us.

Please read on to get to know about the role.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fay".



James Treble
Estates & Sustainability
Director

An essential aspect of this role will be not just a passion for growing produce, but also a commitment to sustainability. By fostering connections with local communities and businesses, you will help create a model for environmentally friendly practices that promote biodiversity and reduce food waste.

Your enthusiasm will inspire our students and community members to embrace sustainable living, ensuring our project thrives and sets a benchmark for future initiatives.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James".

ABOUT US

Authentic Education oversees the education of more than 6100 students at thirteen primary, secondary and special academies in Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset, many of which serve vulnerable communities.

Ours is a fully inclusive Trust, committed to transforming schools and to improving outcomes for our disadvantaged students. We want to see them live our values of courage, innovation and excellence in their daily lives, embracing the opportunities to discover more about themselves and to explore the possibilities our world holds for them.

We employ more than 1000 members of staff and are passionate about providing them with a wide range of opportunities for development across our Trust. We offer comprehensive programmes of CPD alongside cutting edge digital systems in academies, People, and Finance.

We are determined to create a world class culture and attract and retain the very best talent. We believe in fostering a collaborative and supportive culture where everyone can thrive and contribute to our shared success.



OUR ACADEMIES

Authentic Education operates two all-through special schools supporting pupils with SEMH and ASC, with campuses focusing on 5-11 or 11-16 age ranges. In partnership with the Local Authority we have built capacity for SEND places and have created an innovative internship programme for post-16 pupils.

Our academies ensure that tailored curricula meet the needs of pupils, and our safeguarding and high quality pastoral support allow them to thrive. We are proud to support students who experience challenge across several spheres of their lives, and to offer an educational environment that allows them to grow emotionally and academically.

In the primary phase, we oversee six schools: one junior and five primary academies.

Our school improvement model starts with the development of strong leadership and quality teaching along with improving provision for SEND.

We pride ourselves on having created environments where children are happy, safe and able to learn effectively. Children enjoy a wide range of experiences as part of the taught curriculum and excellent extra curricular opportunities which include residential trips in partnership with Farms for City Children and other providers.

Our academies are vibrant, successful schools where feedback from staff, pupils and parents is very positive.

With five schools in the secondary sector, we pride ourselves on offering a broad curriculum with a range of specialist and vocational options to meet the interests and talents of our students.

Four of our secondary schools are situated in areas of significant deprivation with high levels of disadvantage and SEND. We are determined that all students at Authentic academies are supported to achieve their full potential and strive to improve outcomes at all stages.

Our learning environments are built on strong relationships between adults and students, and mutual trust and respect. All academies within our Trust prioritise wellbeing and employ a range of strategies to ensure students and colleagues are well supported to achieve their best work.

As we seek to improve outcomes at all levels we continually analyse learning to ensure we are utilising the most effective global best practice. We embrace change and innovation to make positive impact.

Thank you so much for your interest in this role.

If you would like to book an informal conversation, please arrange through Tanya Hall - Tanya.Hall@weareauthentic.education



JOB DESCRIPTION

POST: Horticulturist

SALARY: £30,559 - £34,314 (Pro-rata)

LOCATION: Authentic Education Head Office; with frequent travel amongst Trust schools a requirement of this role

HOURS OF WORK: 2/2.5 days per week

CONTRACT: Permanent

REPORTS TO: Estates & Sustainability Director

Are you passionate about growing vegetables? Could you inspire and engage our students and share your expertise with the next generation?

We are seeing for an enthusiastic horticulturist, able to set up and support our new 'Farm to Fork' initiative which will be based in four commercially sized polytunnels, sited on two or three of our academies.

This is an exciting new project that will also help develop our 'one team' culture across the Trust and give our young people, many of whom are from disadvantaged backgrounds, opportunities to enjoy learning new skills in produce growing, alongside marketing the produce and selling to a real audience.

We envisage students interested in gardening or studying sciences to engage with growing, and business studies students to lead the marketing of the produce. You will also be working alongside educational colleagues and the central team to form partnerships with other stakeholders.

This is a varied and exciting role and will suit someone who enjoys a range of tasks. You will need good communication and interpersonal skills; have 'wheelbarrow' loads of positivity; and an infectious enthusiasm for horticulture.

Role Description

- Setting up internal growing space in our polytunnels;
- Leading on all aspects of plant care;
- Liaising with colleagues, students, local officials, customers, local stakeholders, community groups and customers;
- Support with marketing and coordinate selling of produce;
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation;
- Inspiring and working with our students to grow a small range of produce.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
A knowledge and passion of garden horticulture	*	
A qualification in horticulture, land management or similar		*
Ability and experience of using a range of horticultural tools and equipment	*	
Ability to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of Health and Safety issues in horticulture	*	
Ability to undertake physical work	*	
Project management knowledge and experience		*
Positive attitude and strong work ethic	*	
Sense of humour and enjoyment of sharing knowledge and continuing to learn.	*	
Ability to travel between academies.	*	
Experience of volunteering or working with diverse members of the community		*

This post is being offered on a part time basis, the equivalent of two or two and a half days per week on a 52 week contract. Job share considered with distribution of hours across the week agreed to suit.

We are committed to flexibility and supporting all of our team members.

LIVING ON THE SOUTH COAST



The South Coast boasts the title of being the sunniest place in the UK, offering over 400 miles of stunning coastline to explore. Dorset's coastal towns are vibrant and surrounded by areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Bournemouth stands out with its seven miles of award-winning beaches, diverse shops, and restaurants. The town is a hub for arts, music, and literature, making it a culturally rich place to live and work.

Poole, with its rich history and charming cobbled streets, leads to the impressive Poole Quay. The town is home to high-quality restaurants, traditional pubs, and Europe's largest natural harbour, attracting bird watchers and conservationists.

Weymouth, nestled on the Jurassic shoreline, features a picturesque seafront and a bustling fishing harbor. The town offers a range of water sports and coastal activities, thanks to its Olympic legacy from hosting the sailing events in 2012.

With a thriving economy, excellent schools, universities, and a variety of entertainment options, the South Coast is an ideal place for families to settle down and enjoy a high quality of life.



How to apply...

Thank you for your interest in Authentic Education.

To arrange an informal, confidential discussion regarding this role, please contact Tanya Hall

Tanya.Hall@weareauthentic.education

Closing date for applications: 14th April 2025 at 9am

Interview date: 17th April 2025

Early applications are invited and the Trust reserves the right to close the application window early.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Discover more at www.weareauthentic.education