

Job of The Week

Horticultural
Therapist

Key Skills

- Knowledge of psychology
- Counselling skills including active listening and a non-judgemental approach
- Excellent verbal communication skills
- Sensitivity and understanding
- Knowledge of teaching and the ability to design courses
- The ability to work well with others
- Leadership skills
- The ability to work well with your hands
- To be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

Salary
£18,000 – £27,000

Working hours
30 - 37 per week
Evenings/weekends

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve



Horticultural Therapist



Apprenticeship

You may be able to work towards this role by doing an apprenticeship before taking further training in therapeutic horticulture.

Apprenticeships include:

- Horticulture Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship
- Horticulture or Landscaping Supervisor Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship
- Community Health and Wellbeing Worker Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship

Entry requirements

To get onto an apprenticeship, you'll find it useful to have:

- some GCSEs, usually including English and maths, or equivalent, for an intermediate apprenticeship
- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

College

You could take a college course to get some of the skills needed for this job, which may help you when looking for work.

Courses include:

- horticulture
- garden design
- practical horticulture skills

Entry requirements

Entry requirements for these courses vary.

University

You could do a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree course, then take further training in social and therapeutic horticulture.

Subjects include:

- horticulture
- health and wellbeing
- occupational therapy
- mental health or learning disability nursing

Some universities offer horticulture courses that include modules on social and therapeutic horticulture.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree

Volunteering

It can be really useful to get experience by volunteering as a support worker on a horticulture project. You'll get a better understanding of the role, and make contacts who could help when looking for work.



Career Path and Progression

You could use horticultural therapy as part of a wider role, like occupational therapy. With experience and further study, you could move into a supervisory role, or research. You could become self-employed or teach and supervise trainees in therapeutic horticulture methods.

Day to Day tasks

- >Manage staff and volunteers
 - >Provide outdoor activities to restore strength and mobility after injury or illness
 - >Support clients to take horticultural qualifications or to move into work
 - >Work closely with other professionals like psychologists and social workers
 - >Draw up proposals for projects and raise funds
- Develop clients' practical and social skills, confidence and self-esteem

Working conditions

You could work in a garden, on a country estate or in a therapy clinic. Your working environment may be outdoors in all weathers and physically demanding.

Labour Market Information

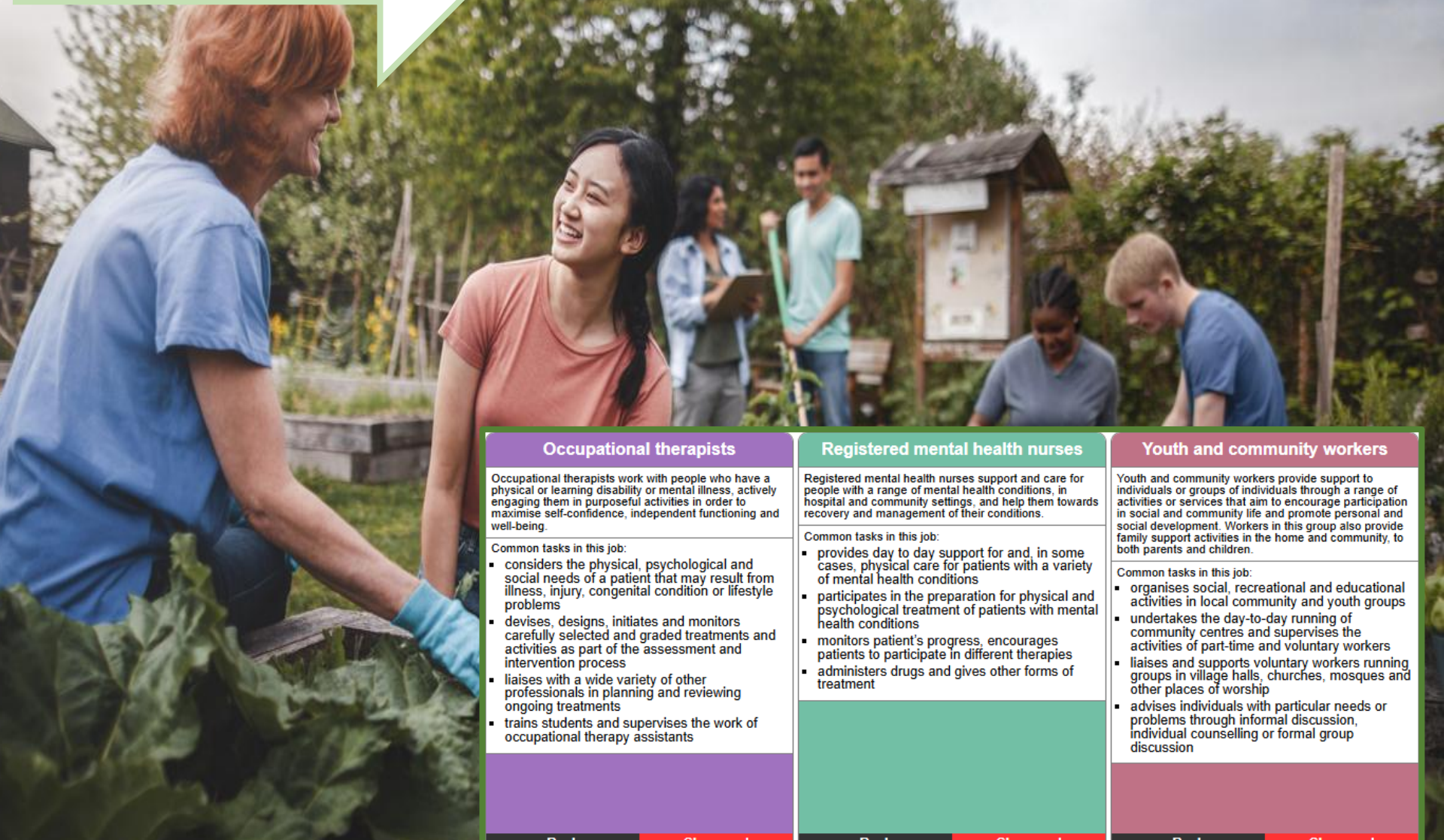
In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.



Occupational therapists		Registered mental health nurses		Youth and community workers	
Weekly Pay £660	Annual Pay £34,320	Weekly Pay £880	Annual Pay £45,760	Weekly Pay £550	Annual Pay £28,600
Hours/Week 38h	Hourly Pay £17	Hours/Week 40h	Hourly Pay £22	Hours/Week 36h	Hourly Pay £15
Workforce Change (projected)		Workforce Change (projected)		Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 8.6%		Growth 8.6%		Growth 8.9%	
The workforce is projected to grow by 8.6% over the period to 2035, creating 4,500 jobs.		The workforce is projected to grow by 8.6% over the period to 2035, creating 4,900 jobs.		The workforce is projected to grow by 8.9% over the period to 2035, creating 7,000 jobs.	
You might find this job in Social work Residential care Legal & accounting Health		You might find this job in Health Residential care Public admin. & defence Other personal service		You might find this job in Health Social work Residential care Membership organisations Public admin. & defence	
More info	Clear card	More info	Clear card	More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information



Occupational therapists
<p>Occupational therapists work with people who have a physical or learning disability or mental illness, actively engaging them in purposeful activities in order to maximise self-confidence, independent functioning and well-being.</p> <p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> considers the physical, psychological and social needs of a patient that may result from illness, injury, congenital condition or lifestyle problems devises, designs, initiates and monitors carefully selected and graded treatments and activities as part of the assessment and intervention process liaises with a wide variety of other professionals in planning and reviewing ongoing treatments trains students and supervises the work of occupational therapy assistants

Registered mental health nurses
<p>Registered mental health nurses support and care for people with a range of mental health conditions, in hospital and community settings, and help them towards recovery and management of their conditions.</p> <p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides day to day support for and, in some cases, physical care for patients with a variety of mental health conditions participates in the preparation for physical and psychological treatment of patients with mental health conditions monitors patient's progress, encourages patients to participate in different therapies administers drugs and gives other forms of treatment

Youth and community workers
<p>Youth and community workers provide support to individuals or groups of individuals through a range of activities or services that aim to encourage participation in social and community life and promote personal and social development. Workers in this group also provide family support activities in the home and community, to both parents and children.</p> <p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organises social, recreational and educational activities in local community and youth groups undertakes the day-to-day running of community centres and supervises the activities of part-time and voluntary workers liaises and supports voluntary workers running groups in village halls, churches, mosques and other places of worship advises individuals with particular needs or problems through informal discussion, individual counselling or formal group discussion

Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our job of the week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...



[Horticultural Therapy Garden at Stratheden Hospital](#)



[Improving mental health through horticultural therapy at Full Circle Farms](#)



[Discover Careers: Horticultural Therapist | Sortyourfuture](#)



[Horticultural Therapy at Eden Project | Vounder Farm in the Outer Estates](#)

Useful Websites

[The gardening for health charity – Thrive](#)

[Health & Wellbeing - Chartered Institute of Horticulture](#)

[The Healing Power of Horticultural Therapy - NHS Forest](#)

[Unlocking Human Potential with Horticultural Therapy Psychology](#)