Job Description

Job title: Gardener – Fixed Term

Responsible to: Head Gardener

Background:
Homerton College was founded in the 18th Century, moved to its current location in 1894 and was granted a Royal Charter as a self-governing College of the University of Cambridge in 2010. The College is set within 25 acres of landscaped gardens and parkland and is located within easy reach of the historic city centre and within 10 minutes of Cambridge mainline station. The College has over 1,000 students and a Fellowship of over 70. Nearly 700 students live on the site.

Job Purpose:
To be an enthusiastic member of the Gardens Department and to assist the Head Gardener in the maintenance of the College gardens and grounds.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

• General maintenance of mixed and herbaceous borders; including weeding, hoeing, mulching and planting
• Developing and renovating areas of the gardens
• Planting out new areas
• Pruning of shrubs (including wall shrubs), topiary and fruit tree pruning (orchard)
• Hedge cutting and tidying
• Grass cutting with a variety of pedestrian (rotary and cylinder) and ride-on machines
• Turf maintenance; including edging, scarifying, fertilising, spiking, applying herbicides and repair
• Tidying of paths and the site in general
• Leaf collection and snow/ice clearance of paths and car parks on site
• Operation and basic care of a wide range of machinery from pedestrian mowers to tractors
• Maintenance and regular tidying of the gardener’s work area
• Any other duties that reasonably fall within the role of a gardener

Person Specification:

Knowledge/Qualifications:

Essential:

• Good understanding of health and safety
• Good working knowledge of plants, shrubs and trees
• Good plant identification skills
• Experience of working in amenity horticulture
• Experience of working with a large array of garden machinery, e.g. mowers (large and small), tractors, hedge cutters etc
• IT skills
• PA1 & PA6 Spray Certificates

Desirable:

• NVQ Horticulture/RHS Certificates

Skills/Abilities:

Essential:

• Enthusiastic and energetic
• Good communication and interpersonal skills
• Able to work outside in all weathers
• Good sense of humour and a team player
• Able to work with autonomy
• Interest in conservation and environmental protection