Beekeeping at Dalkeith High School

Pathways from S5 and beyond

Introduction

Honey bees and other pollinating insects are vital for the UK economy and indeed human survival thanks to the myriad of food crops they pollinate. The NPA t level 5 will train you in the basic aspects of beekeeping including: how to inspect colonies; manage and treat disease; prevent and capture swarms; queen breeding; building beekeeping equipment; siting and managing apiaries; understanding bee behaviour.

What do you have to do?

The course covers three units:

- Beekeeping: An introduction - This unit is designed to provide an introduction to the basics of beekeeping including the identification and use of equipment and the subduing and manipulation of colonies of bees.
- Beekeeping: Practical Skills - This unit allows learners to develop their practical beekeeping skills
- Beekeeping: Theory - This unit allows learners to develop their understanding of the principles that underpin beekeeping.

Assessment of the first two units will largely be by way of observation of candidates carrying out practical work. There will be some written and oral evidence gathered of candidates' achievements in the third unit. There is no final exam or added value assignments.

Who is the course for?

There is no specific knowledge required for entry to this course. However given its practical nature, pupils will need to be happy to work outdoors and in very close proximity to bees. Candidates may be stung even with appropriate protection and so it is not advisable that anyone with a known anaphylactic allergy to bee stings choose this course.

Beekeeping Progression Pathways

It is possible to progress to sitting the SBA Basic Beekeeping Certificate with our partners at Newbattle Beekeepers Association and then on to further awards that can provide a wealth of personal enrichment. The qualification would be appropriate for anyone seeking a career in: animal husbandry; zoology; agriculture; horticulture; scientific research in crop production and pollination.