



## Why study Animal Care at Mary Hare Sixth Form?

WE LOOK AFTER THEM, THEY LOOK AFTER US.

# Animal Care: Level 2 & 3

### Why study animal care?

The Animal Care course helps you to get on work placements. The course enables you to move onto higher education having gained practical and knowledge skills. You are given opportunities that you may not necessarily be able to get again outside of Mary Hare.

### What does the course cover and what is expected of you?

The course starts off with a gentle introduction to the animals and making sure that you feel confident handling the animals before starting your coursework. The type of animals you will be looking after, include: guinea pigs, chickens, dogs and tortoises. Depending on which units are chosen for your course, you may be required to clean out the chicken house, walk the dogs, be in charge of feeding and watering the animals, understand the animal welfare needs, maintain animal accommodation and understand basic animal biology.

Students spend a day on the farm doing practical work and during the spring the students participate in lambing! There is also the opportunity for a placement during this period at the farm. Over the last year the students have helped hatch chicken, duck and turkey eggs as well as being involved in breeding and raising a litter of puppies. In previous years one of the challenges was to be able to show confident animal husbandry, the students did this by showing sheep at Newbury Show in September at Newbury Showground where they got 3rd place, 4th place and 6th place.

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This is something that the students really enjoyed, and they participated in the whole process from catching the sheep and cleaning them to training them to walk on the halter and then showing them at the show.

We aim to spend quality time with our animals, so they are used to being handled and are well socialised. We have an annual trip to a local zoo and visit local pet shops to gain insight into other care and feeding systems.



Students are expected to turn up on time and if they are unable to attend the lesson they must have the courtesy of informing the teacher 24 hours before the lesson. If a student misses a lesson you will be required to find a suitable time with the teacher to catch up with the lesson that you missed

### **What should you wear?**

You will need a pair of farm overalls and a school hoodie. You will also need your own wellington boots which you will wear when doing practical tasks

Please make sure that you bring some clothes with you that are warm as it can get very cold and you are likely to get them very dirty so please don't bring your best clothes – preferably something that can get ruined and thrown away at the end of the year.

There are support materials which students may borrow and other relevant books are available. Many students attend prep after school to get any support they need.

### **Course Assessment:**

The course consists of various units which need to total 30 credits. There is some theory work, a few tests and a lot of practical work. When completing the course, you will either get a pass, a merit or a distinction.

All students are required to do written assessments alongside their practical work. Your teacher will be taking photos and videos of your practical work that you do as evidence in your folders. Your teachers will go through the units with you and discuss with you the work that will be required for the unit. You will be given a sheet before every lesson stating what is going to be covered, this should include keywords and vocabulary that you will find helpful and need to use in your written work.

The written work is just as important as the practical and your teacher will help you as much as they can, you must however make sure that you do the work when you are asked to. If you fail to do your work, you will have a lot to do at the last minute and you will find this very difficult.

### **Teachers Tip:**

*'Remember if you don't understand something then you must tell your teacher, otherwise when it comes to the written work you will find it very difficult'*