WORCESTERSHIRE APPRENTICESHIPS CASE STUDY:

Apprentice name:	Anja Seymour
Employer name:	Cotswold Garden Flowers
Type of Apprenticeship:	Level 3 Horticulture - Crop Technician

I started my apprenticeship with WCG Pershore College in 2020 just as the Covid-19 lockdown took hold.

I had a keen interest in horticulture but little to no knowledge of plants and the industry. Cotswold Garden Flowers gave me the opportunity to work in almost all departments of the business, leading me to develop skills in plant maintenance, customer service and retail, and administrative work. I also picked up an interest in binomial nomenclature, which is the scientific naming system for naming plants.

My roles were diverse and included potting on, weed control, hand watering and adjusting irrigation systems, plant production and maintenance, identifying pests and diseases and taking appropriate action. Managing the social media aspects of the business allowed me to develop some marketing skills and work more closely with customers.

In February 2022 I entered Young Horticulturist of the Year and got through to the regional final in which I achieved 3rd place. Towards the end of my apprenticeship, I was awarded Apprentice of the Year by the Midlands Regional Growers Group and won the Worcestershire Advanced Level Apprentice of the Year Award.

My apprenticeship has given me a solid foundation on which to build my horticultural career which has led me to gaining a place on the Kew Diploma course which is a 3 year course working in all areas of the gardens at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew