



## **Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance**

In The Downs School Sixth Form we are extremely proud of the high quality careers support we provide our students, as we know how vital this support is to our students as they make the life-changing decisions all young people have to make as they plan their futures.

The Personal Development Programme is the starting point of our careers support. Students will be given the skills and knowledge needed to access Higher Education and Apprenticeships after leaving school. The Downs School encourages interactions with local employers, both through employee representatives coming into school to speak to students about their industry, and through students visiting workplaces for taster sessions and work experience. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a number of careers events whilst in the Sixth Form. These can be whole year events, such as the After Eighteen careers day, as well as more specialist careers events for specific industries and careers, such as medicine. Previously these have included trips to Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Industry Spotlight events in conjunction with other local schools and attendance at Berkshire Apprenticeship Careers Fairs.

The Sixth Form students also benefit from the provision of a Key Stage Five Student Manager, who provides individual support for students who are uncertain about which careers pathway to take. The support includes exploring the financial aspects of going to university, investigating the companies offering apprenticeships, and support with creating CVs, writing letters to companies and completing applications. The Student Manager also supports students to develop their organisational skills and the 'work-ready' mindset. As a result of the support provided by the Student Manager, increasing numbers of our students are securing places on highly regarded Higher Level Apprenticeships.

Students wishing to apply to university are provided with highly personalised support from a dedicated UCAS Manager. Supplementing the support advice and guidance provided by tutors, the UCAS Manager ensures that all students are given the guidance they need to select courses and institutions that suit their aptitudes and career plans, resulting in extremely high numbers of students securing places at prestigious universities.

In addition to this, careers advice is available to students through on-line resources and face to face interviews. We secure independent careers advice for students from the Adviza Careers Service, who are able to guide students making decisions about their future, in particular the transition from school to college, university or apprenticeship. All students have access to on-line resources to help them find out about "next steps" and future career pathways. As well as undertaking personality profile testing, they can find out detailed information on every career sector, ranging from qualification requirements to salary expectations.

General careers publications and periodicals, local college information and Higher Education information, including university prospectuses and guides, are all available in the School Library. For information and guidance on careers related matters please email [careers@thedownsschool.org](mailto:careers@thedownsschool.org).