



Downlands Community School Alumni

Matthew Harris

Currently I am a Finance Director for Costain, the engineering company.

After Downlands I went to Haywards Heath 6th Form, and then to the University of Warwick. I started my career at Price Waterhouse where I qualified as an accountant, and subsequently have worked for a variety of companies, the common thread being that they all make things (BMW, Thames Water, American Water, Hanson and Costain). A highlight has been spending 2 years in the US.

I would give my 16 year old self two pieces of advice: be more confident in yourself and sort out your exam technique (I recently read my old school reports and exam technique was regularly referred to but I did not get it until my 20s and I was studying for my accounting. Active revision techniques and sorting out my timing and approach in the exams would have transformed my results).

My hopes for the future are that my son grows up happy, healthy and knowing that his parents are there for him (he will be getting a lecture on exam technique!). My career objectives have always been to add value to my employer - that I have had a successful career with increasingly challenging roles is a by-product of that approach. And I hope to have a Ferrari one day!



Matthew Harris (class of 2005)



Matthew now