



DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Please complete the questions below and then email back to Katie Isbell at katie@futurefirst.org.uk. Please also send across a suitable photograph (2.0MB or more) - for example your graduation photo, college photo, or one in your job role.

NAME

Rico SurrIDGE

YEAR OF LEAVING

2000

CURRENT JOB/COURSE TITLE

Executive Product Manager, BBC iPlayer

FAVOURITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL AND WHY? (Max 50 words)

Design and Technology, because above all else I love to make things. Many of the skills I learnt in class creating things with my hands have since translated into ways of building things with software. There are few roles in life that don't require an element of creativity.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SINCE LEAVING DOWNLANDS? (Max 60 words)

I went to college and then on to University where I studied Computer Science and later Leadership and Management. My career to date has focused on the media sector working for the BBC, ITV, Sky and News Corp. I've also enjoyed interesting stints at a tech start up and the Natural History Museum.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT IN LIFE AND HOW DID YOUR EXPERIENCE AT DOWNLANDS HELP YOU TO ACHIEVE OTHER SUCCESSES? (Max 80 words)

Professionanally, managing one of the most successful entertainment services in the world in BBC iPlayer has been my greatest achievement to date. Outside of work it would have to be gaining my black belt in karate. Downlands really introduced me to sport, playing on the rugby team and competing in athletics. Learning to get out of the work place to destress through various forms of physical activitiy has been invaluable to maintaining a healthy mind.

WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO CURRENT STUDENTS? (Max 100 words)

I've not met many people who know what they want to do in life. So if you don't have a crystal clear career path planned out then don't worry. Focus on doing the things you enjoy and always keep a back up plan to hand for when things aren't playing out quite as you hoped. Continually pause to reflect. Write down what's important to you (you don't need to show it to anyone) then do everything you can to build a path towards having or maintaining those things in your life.

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT BIG GOAL? (Max 30 words)

I have a long list of goals from learning Japanese, hiking across the Grand Canyon to a possible change in career industry to medical technology.

Thanks so much for your support!