

Careers Curriculum Ambition Statement

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At Downlands our ambition is to provide a careers curriculum which will enable all pupils to be confident in their ability to make the best choices for their future selves in whatever pathway best suits them. They will understand how they can make those choices, what factors they should consider and where to seek impartial and up to date advice. They will also have an understanding that success can be measured in many ways, and that by drawing on our ROCKS principles at the school they can ensure that they find themselves pursuing training and work which enriches their lives and those of the communities around them. These skills will take them forward throughout their lives, not just in their immediate post 16 transition.

Our ambition is for a Careers curriculum which is embedded both in the pastoral curriculum through tutor time, assemblies and PDC lessons and through the entire academic curriculum, enabling students to see the links between academic subjects and the wider life application of their skills and knowledge gained. The curriculum will be planned and sequenced throughout KS3 and KS4 to effectively embed the knowledge and skills required for students future learning and employment. The ambition is to provide students with culturally enriching opportunities, such as work experience, visits to and from businesses, university and further education providers to enable all our students to raise their aspirations and to seek to be ambitious in their plans for their future.

Our ambition is to provide equity of access for all our students, by providing adapted support for those identified as having additional needs or coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. All students will have access to a level 6 qualified Careers Guidance specialist, and our aspiration is for all students to take advantage of that access to properly plan and consider their future pathways.

By using the Unifrog platform our ambition is for all front-line staff to be careers literate, to signpost and support students in their exploration of careers opportunities and to encourage students to take ownership of their own career journey. The platform supports our aim of a sequential curriculum, with the opportunity for recording student's progression and the building on prior skills and knowledge. It allows students to have a central point to collate all their research and careers related paperwork, such as CVs, application letters and personal statements. Students can continue to benefit from the platform even after they leave Downlands, giving them an advantage in a competitive world.

By providing this curriculum, we aim to give our students the best possible start on their career journey and the resilience, confidence and self awareness needed to help them in the future whatever unexpected turns that journey may take.