



Higher Education Global Initiatives

Overview of Higher Education Guidance & Global Initiatives

HIGHER EDUCATION GUIDANCE

Lower School Guidance

The programme starts in the Remove (Year 7) when girls are familiarised with the range of different careers and roles, and they start to find out more about the skills that employers look for, and the requirements of industry in general. This programme is delivered by the PSHE team. Girls are encouraged to visit their parents' workplace for a day and return to school to share their experience with their peers. For many, this will be their first glimpse into the world of work.

In LIV (Year 8) girls explore the world of work further and are introduced to the concepts of work, leisure, training, career, education, work-life balance etc. They learn some useful decision making skills using the 'Real Game' and they are taught financial terms, such as budget, income, tax and mortgage, and this is their first introduction to managing money in a virtual world.

Upper School Guidance

The Upper School programme is delivered in a variety of ways including formal lessons with PSHE through presentations, our Oyster Society talks, one-to-one appointments and psychometric profiling with the help of an external company. These years are crucial, not just in terms of learning more about the real world, but also in terms of discovering oneself and making the right choices for I/GCSEs in UIV (Year 9) and A Levels/Pre-Us in UV (Year 11).

In addition, the biennial Programme of University Applications starts in LV (Year 10). There is no doubt that the application process for university requires very careful thought, over a sustained period of time, and we develop, in our girls, an understanding of the importance of starting to think beyond Downe House, when they enter the Lower Fifth.

Sixth Form Guidance

The Sixth form programme comprises of a very comprehensive set of processes whereby guidance is on offer, not only on University Admission but also on Internships, Finance and Gap Year activities. Specialist guidance is on offer by our Head of Oxbridge & Medicine Applications, Overseas Universities Coordinator, Creative Courses Coordinator and The Higher Education team. Tutors follow girls' progress carefully throughout the two years and the HE team gives guidance at every stage. In the LVI, girls attend several dedicated university preparation days which include talks from university admissions tutors, professionals and external agencies, Oxbridge & Medicine Applicants are assigned mentors to guide them on each aspect of their application – entrance tests, essays, interview preparation, personal statements and wider academic reading. We work closely with partners and outside agencies, including University Admissions tutors, Oxbridge Interviews, KAPLAN, Oxbridge Applications and the Medic Portal to provide the most current and up-to-date guidance.

World of Work

This part of our programme involves girls finding out more about the world of work, and acquiring the skills and experience needed by industry from an early age; It starts with 'Take your daughter to work day' in the Remove and continues into the Fifth Form with the 'Work Shadowing Scheme', which facilitates short-term placements for girls with employers to provide insights into the workplace. Girls shadow employers primarily to observe and learn – not to undertake activities which require extensive training or expertise. Our series of Oyster Society talks give girls an opportunity to hear directly from professionals in a variety of fields, including law, marketing, design, medicine, accountancy, engineering, hospitality and publishing. The i2i Programme in the Sixth Form helps girls secure active placements in industry through internships. Applying for, participating in and completing an internship as a school student gives our girls the confidence and helps them develop the skills needed to work globally. The DH LINKS Scheme propels them into the work of networking with alumnae and parents of present and past girls.

GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Downe House strives to provide girls with an excellent holistic education which equips them with the knowledge and skills to play a full and positive part in a fast-changing world. We have clear aspirations and exciting plans for the future, and we are expanding our brief of preparing girls for overseas universities, by developing them more broadly as global citizens and women ready for the global workplace.

We have the following initiatives on offer:

- Global Schools' Exchange programme for girls in Fifth form
- Global internships for girls in Sixth Form
- Global staff exchanges
- Academic trips around the globe
- Global awareness through the Curriculum
- Global pastoral charitable links