

Key Stages Overview:

Key Stage 1: Developing Interest, Responsibility and Independence

Students explore different roles within the community through play-based activities and engaging with visitors to the school. Recent activities included participation in circus workshops during Arts Week.

Key Stage 2: Building on Career Encounters

Employee encounters and career opportunities continue to evolve in Key Stage 2. The curriculum through humanities-based topics and PSHE continue to allow students to explore the world of work. Students also have the chance to take on roles like School Council representative.

Key Stage 3: Developing Skills and Aspirations

Students focus on developing aspirations, confidence, and skills to achieve success. Weekly Tutor sessions give the students time to explore these topics. Students also have 1:1 support with their class coordinator to complete their section A for their annual review setting out their expectations. Simmonds and Hawking pathway students also have dedicated Careers lessons within the PSHE programme to explore different professions, workplaces. Within cooking students complete tasks to produce items for the school shop.

Key Stage 4: Transitioning to post-16

In Key Stage 4 students start considering career opportunities and options for post-16 education. In PSHE, they identify their skills, areas for development, and how they connect to various job opportunities. In Independence, students in the Simmonds Pathway complete a World of Work unit, consolidating knowledge from PSHE and gaining valuable work experience placements around the school site where appropriate. The Independence curriculum for Simmonds also focuses on independent travel. Students complete accreditations tailored to their interests, abilities, and needs, including options like Cooking, Computing, Sports, and Art. For Key Stage 4 and 5 students, Valence Alumni and other appropriate visitors are invited to deliver workshops and presentations around their experiences of independent living and careers.

Key Stage 5: Exploring Post-19 Options

In Key Stage 5 students explore various work opportunities and transferable skills. PSHE and Independence curriculums continue to build upon knowledge of career opportunities and the skills required while also self-analysing their own skills. Independent travel training continues and is reinforced in the Residential Education Provision. Students have the opportunity to visit and complete work experience at Valence on the Green, the school run shop in nearby Westerham. Students in the Hawking Pathway take part in an Enterprise project where they liaise with Valence of the Green, Cooking Department and the Outdoor Learning Department regarding the growing, making and selling of produce. They begin considering their options beyond the age of 19. Accreditations continue in the Sixth Form. We are dedicated to helping our students and their families fully prepare for adulthood. Our Careers tutor leads individual 1:1 sessions and conducts student and parent workshops to explore post-19 options. Career discussions are also integrated into Annual Review meetings, where EHCP outcomes and targets are co-produced to align with a young person's aspirations. Residential students follow the Preparing for adulthood curriculum and develop independence skills to support their post 19 destination.