

DVSEd

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Schools Onboarding Guide

Shaping brighter futures.

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Connect with us

Hi, we are DVS Foundation.

DVS Foundation, the philanthropic arm of DVS Property (founded in 1985), is dedicated to supporting initiatives in education, food insecurity and healthcare across the UK and East Africa. Driven by a passion for creating sustainable change, DVS Foundation collaborates with a wide range of partners, including schools, community organisations, and healthcare providers, to address some of the most pressing challenges faced by underserved communities.



Education



Food insecurity



Healthcare

A snapshot of our Foundation:



Grant-making



Awards
programme



Career Discovery
programme



Overseas
philanthropy



Self-development
programme



Empowering
networks

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you as a partner school to the DVSEd programme. We will open up exciting opportunities for your students to grow, explore and thrive.

Through our three key programmes: DVS Awards, Career Discovery, and WhyOhYou, students can develop the skills, experiences and confidence to succeed beyond the classroom.



DVS Awards celebrate qualities such as outstanding progress, excellence and contribution; strengths that often go unrecognised but are vital for future success.

With Career Discovery, students gain first-hand insights into different industries, helping them explore pathways and connect learning with the world of work.

Through WhyOhYou, young people build resilience and skills such as goal-setting and confidence, empowering them to take on challenges with self-belief.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We are excited to work with you and inspire the next generation together.

Priyan Shah
Chair of Trustees

About DVSEd

At DVSEd, our vision is to create a future where every young person is equipped with the skills, confidence and opportunities to pursue their dreams. We believe in breaking down barriers to success, ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, has access to experiences that ignite their potential and prepare them for the world of work.

Through partnerships with schools and corporates, we aim to inspire and guide young people as they discover career paths, build essential life skills and develop the resilience to thrive in an ever changing world. We want to empower a generation of young minds who can lead fulfilling lives, contribute positively to society and be the architects of their own futures.

Recognition



Celebrating qualities in young people that go beyond academics.

Reflection



Building resilience, confidence and self belief.

Realisation



Opening doors to new career paths and future possibilities



DVS Awards

DVS Awards is our flagship initiative, designed to honour the exceptional achievements of Year 12 students across our network of schools. These awards celebrate students who have demonstrated outstanding progress, excellence, and contribution beyond their academic performance. By recognising these qualities, we aim to inspire students to continue striving for excellence, not only in their studies but in all aspects of their lives.

Every year, each school in our DVSEd network is invited to nominate 10 students who receive a certificate of achievement and a £100 gift voucher. To date, we have committed more than £150,000 to the Awards programme alone and have 30 schools participating in the network for the upcoming academic year.

We celebrate these inspiring students at our End-of-Year Award Ceremony. This celebration provides a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge your school's role in shaping future leaders and to inspire other students to follow in their footsteps. Our Award Categories are: Kindness • Resilience • Leadership Community Impact • Integrity & Respect • Environmental Stewardship Teamwork & Collaboration • Innovative Thinking • Personal Growth.

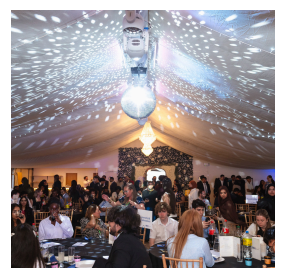
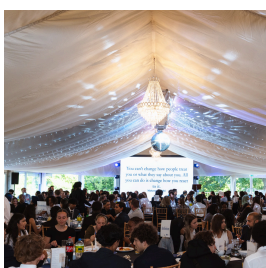
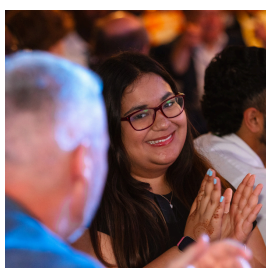
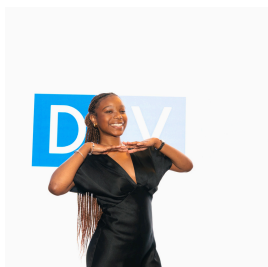


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Career Discovery

Our Career Discovery Days offer Year 12 students a comprehensive introduction to various industries through a range of activities designed to enhance their understanding of the world of work. Students visit the offices of our corporate partners, gaining first-hand insights into different fields and having the opportunity to speak with professionals about their roles and career journeys.

Our Career Discovery Days are designed to give:

Inspiration

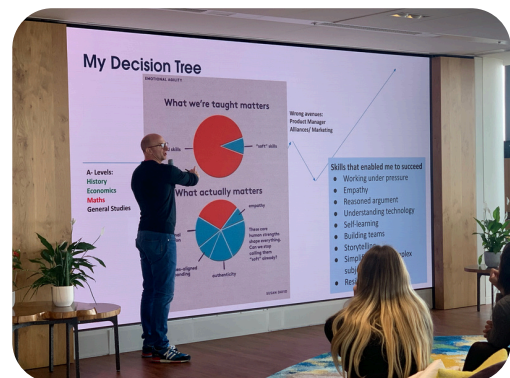
Students are motivated by seeing real career possibilities and meeting professionals who share their journeys.

Insight

Visits to workplaces give students a clear understanding of industries.

Impact

First-hand experiences leave a lasting impression, helping students shape their goals and future choices.



WhyOhYou



Working with a leading educational consultant, we have intensely developed and designed the five-week WhyOhYou programme which is focussed on personal development for youth aged 15-18 years old. This programme empowers young people to explore self-development, set meaningful goals and learn practical strategies to achieve them.

Participants are encouraged to reflect on their strengths, identify areas for growth and explore different career and personal opportunities. The programme not only equips them with essential life skills but also encourages a mindset of continuous learning and self-improvement, setting them up for success both academically and professionally.

Through workshops, goal-setting activities and personal reflections, students will gain real-world insights and envision their future success across different career paths.



Participants gain valuable **self-awareness**, build **confidence**, and develop the **tools** needed to navigate their future paths with **purpose** and **clarity**.

Case Studies



Salesforce

One of our valued corporate partners, Salesforce, hosted an unforgettable Careers Discovery Day for 90 Year 12 students from our network at the Salesforce Tower in London.

The day was packed with valuable insights and engaging experiences, including:

- A show-round of the iconic Salesforce Tower, including a visit to the breathtaking Ohana Floor.
- Inspiring talks from Salesforce professionals, giving students an overview of the organisation and the wide variety of career paths available in a global software company.
- Breakout sessions, where students had the opportunity to ask questions, gain career advice, and learn about the skills needed for success in the tech industry.
- A pizza lunch to fuel their learning and networking!

The students left a lasting impression on Salesforce and as a result, five of them were invited back for a week-long work experience at the end of the 2023/24 academic year. During their placement, these students gained deeper insight into the professional world, participated in workshops, and had the chance to interact with seasoned professionals who provided them with invaluable advice and helped them develop essential skills.



Canva

Canva, another one of our fantastic corporate partners, hosted a dynamic Careers Discovery Day for a group of Year 12 students at their London HQ.

The day provided students with an exciting introduction to life at Canva, including:

- A special tour of Canva's vibrant offices, offering a glimpse into the creative and innovative work environment.
- An opportunity to meet the "Canvanauts" during a career panel and Q&A session, where students learned about different roles within Canva and received valuable career advice.
- A hands-on tutorial showcasing how Canva's AI-powered tool, Canva Magic, can help supercharge their job search and personal branding.
- A delicious lunch where students networked and reflected on their experience.

By the end of the day, students left with their aspirations raised and a greater understanding of the world of work. The experience opened their eyes to exciting career possibilities in the tech and design industry, leaving a lasting impact on their professional ambitions



Accenture

Accenture welcomed 40 students for an inspiring Career Discovery Day at their London offices.

The day offered students a unique insight into life at Accenture, including:

- An introduction to career pathways and apprenticeships at Accenture, providing valuable guidance on the exciting opportunities available.
- A special visit to the Innovation Hub and an office tour, giving students a behind-the-scenes look at how technology and creativity come together to solve real-world challenges.
- A hands-on business challenge where students stepped into the shoes of consultants, working on solutions for a leading trainer brand and showcasing their creative problem-solving and teamwork skills.
- A tasty lunch where students networked, shared ideas and reflected on their experiences.

Students gained a new confidence, fresh career aspirations and a greater understanding of the world of consulting and innovation. The experience broadened their horizons and inspired them to consider exciting future opportunities with Accenture.

Accenture Career Discovery Day Reel:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/LdPur6NAGKg?feature=share>



Baker McKenzie

Baker McKenzie hosted a vibrant Career Discovery Day for 40 students from 8 schools at their London office.

The day was jam-packed with activities designed to give students a real insight into the world of corporate law, including:

- An introduction to careers in law, helping students understand the pathways into the legal profession.
- An engaging Q&A session with trainee lawyers, where students gained first-hand insights and advice on starting a legal career.
- A guided office tour, offering a behind-the-scenes look of a global law firm.
- A networking lunch with lawyers, giving students the chance to build connections and ask questions in an informal setting.
- A range of interactive activities that brought to life the exciting and varied work within the legal industry.

By the end of the day, students left inspired, with a deeper understanding of the legal profession and the career possibilities it offers. The experience not only raised aspirations but also left a lasting impression on their professional ambitions.

Baker McKenzie Career Discovery Day Reel:

https://youtube.com/shorts/mljQfqwcx_c?feature=share

The Baker McKenzie logo is displayed in a large, bold, red font. The word "Baker" is on the top line and "McKenzie." is on the bottom line, with a period at the end. The font is a sans-serif typeface.

Reed Smith

Reed Smith LLP, welcomed 30 students from 5 schools for an action-packed Career Discovery Day.

The day was filled with engaging activities designed to introduce students to the world of law and the essential skills needed in the profession, including:

- Introduction to Law – exploring the exciting world of corporate law.
- Dragon’s Den challenge – developing public speaking and persuasive skills.
- Debate activity – sharpening critical thinking and argumentation.
- Speed networking – meeting Reed Smith lawyers and professionals to hear first-hand career stories.
- Recruitment insights – discovering pathways into law and careers at Reed Smith.
- And, of course, a delicious lunch to recharge and reflect between sessions!

Students had a clearer understanding of the legal profession and the pathways available to them. The experience raised aspirations and gave students valuable skills to take forward into their future careers.

Reed Smith Career Discovery Day Reel:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/Kodpen3MFk4?feature=share>

The logo for ReedSmith, with 'Reed' in black and 'Smith' in red.

Anas – Student Benefactor

I first came across the DVSEd programme when I was selected by my school to attend a DVS Career Discovery Day hosted by Salesforce. It was an incredible event that brought together around 90 students from schools across London.

We were given a tour of the iconic Salesforce Tower, including a visit to the inspiring Ohana Floor and heard talks from Salesforce professionals about the organisation and the wide range of careers available.

The breakout sessions were especially valuable as we had the chance to ask questions, receive career advice and learn more about the skills needed for success in the tech industry. Of course, the pizza lunch was a highlight too!

That day left a big impression on me. Later, when the DVS Foundation visited my school to speak about DVS Awards, I made a point of approaching Priyan Shah, Trustee of the Foundation, to personally thank him for the Salesforce experience.

I decided to take initiative: I connected with Salesforce professionals on LinkedIn and, to my surprise, I was one of a small number of students invited back for a week of work experience at Salesforce. I made sure to give it my all: I posted LinkedIn updates and short reels reflecting on what I learned each day, asked questions and networked widely. This caught the attention of several professionals and I was fortunate to receive ongoing mentorship from the experience.

The DVSEd programme didn't just stop at opening doors for me. It also gave me opportunities to contribute back. I supported the DVS Foundation by creating video content using my editing skills and I was honoured to be invited to speak at the 2025 DVS Awards Ceremony, sharing my journey with others.

The exposure, skills and confidence I gained through DVSEd shaped my career path. With encouragement and insights from the professionals I met, I applied to a range of university courses and degree apprenticeships. After receiving multiple offers, I chose to pursue a degree apprenticeship at EY (a Big 4 company) in risk.ai consulting, which I am now excited to begin.

Looking back, I can confidently say the DVSEd programme has been a turning point in my career journey. It gave me the inspiration to take bold steps towards my future.



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