

English and mathematics at Sussex Downs College



A MESSAGE TO PARENTS

At Sussex Downs College we are committed to ensuring that **all** learners will complete their programmes, fulfil their potential and gain qualifications and skills for their future career.

If your son or daughter has not yet achieved a GCSE level C or above in English or Mathematics (or equivalent), Sussex Downs College will ensure they are given a **second chance** to achieve these alongside their main programme of study.

We want **every Sussex Downs College learner** to achieve a good level of English and Mathematics as these skills are extremely important for their future success—whether this be Higher Education or following a career into the workplace.

This view is reinforced by Government:

“Good qualifications in English and maths are what employers demand before all others. . . They are, quite simply, the most important vocational skills a young person can have.”

(Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education)

“Good English and Maths grades are fundamental to young people’s employment and education prospects,” she added. “Individuals with very low literacy and numeracy are severely disadvantaged in the labour market.”

(Professor Alison Wolf, Head of Government review of qualifications for young people)

Facts from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills:

- **The UK has nearly 5 million people of working age with no qualifications.**
 - In England there are 8.1 million adults who lack functional numeracy and 5.1 million who lack functional literacy.
- **Young people who lack qualifications are more likely to be unemployed for longer.**
 - Around 45% of long-term unemployed 18-24 year-olds have skills below GCSE grade C or above, compared with 20% of the total 18-24 population.
- **Disadvantage persists even among people in work**
 - Employers are far less likely to train low-skilled staff, which in turn limits their availability to rise through the ranks. Evidence also shows that low-skilled workers are the least likely to change jobs, even though wage increases are secured by moving on and up.

We very much hope that you will support us by encouraging your son or daughter to work hard on their English and mathematics courses, as well as their main programme of study. We want to help you help them to have the best chances for their future. Thank you.