

STAFF PROFILE

MISS NARDIN THABET, ASSISTANT HOUSEMISTRESS

Before I came to Downe House I trained and worked in two state schools in Kent as a Mathematics teacher. Both schools had strong departments with good teamwork where I was challenged and supported in planning engaging lessons and having effective classroom management. I heard about Downe House through a friend who'd been working here, I already had another job lined up, but she encouraged me to apply, insisting that Downe House was a great school where the girls "actually want to learn". The interview process was reassuring, everyone was friendly and honest, and I knew that I could work with them, but after teaching a Removes lesson my mind was made up. I had seen the girls' enthusiasm for learning and their gratitude, practically every girl said "thank you" to me at the end of the lesson!

My Academic and Pastoral induction processes were excellent, and everyone was supportive and willing to help, answering questions once and twice! In terms of my teaching the School, the Department and the girls have allowed me to experiment with different activities, which enhanced teaching and learning. Of course, this year has been a very steep learning curve for me in the Pastoral Department. I had never worked in boarding before and therefore it took time to understand how to relate to the girls in the House which is different to the way you relate to the girls in the classroom. Yet I found the girls at Downe to be trusting and accepting of new members of staff. That is not to say that there aren't any challenges, times of frustration or disappointment but for every one of those there are also many rewarding and encouraging moments, the challenges as well as the joys in this job make it all the more interesting. I have enjoyed working in the House and can see myself continuing in the Pastoral route. The girls here are like any teenager, they have good days and bad days, need support and encouragement and someone who will invest in them. Working in the House is a way of life and requires a lot of commitment but if you are Pastoral by nature you will find it very rewarding.

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