



THE HOWARD  
SCHOOL

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW

**James Lyall**  
**Account Manager at CBRE Global**  
**Workplace Solutions**

**When did you leave The Howard School?**  
1994

**What are your favourite memories of School?**

Had a lot of fun, teachers were strict, and taught us how to be men and prepared us for the world of work. How to respects others and ourselves.

**What do you do now?**

I work in facilities management. I currently lead a multi-million contract maintaining the Natural History Museum. Previously I have managed many other contracts, the largest was £12million contract for The Royal Parks where I employed 130 people.

**How did you get to where you are today?**

I left with appalling GCSE results, C in music and Geography, we're my best results. Careers advice asked if I was planning to be a traveling musician lol!  
Left school at 16, worked for many of my dad's mates in furniture removal, and catering for 3 years, then moved into construction in 1997, worked my way up the ladder, started my first managerial position in 2000 aged 21. It was hard without any qualifications, but not impossible, just took longer as I was reliant on my experience and knowledge

**What are your plans for the future?**

Continue in the same industry, for the rest of my career. Next step is a Director position, leading many contracts.

**Finally, what would be your advice to students?**

Qualifications are really important, see them as a route to obtain further knowledge – further education for example university, college or an apprenticeship, or even a job with your dad's mate, that's how I started! At this stage, whichever you decide isn't important, you can change it at anytime and find your own path.

School is only a very short period of your life, and if you end up without the results you need, don't lose faith, it's not the end of the world. Employers do value an education but would rather have someone who is willing to work hard, learn and progress, than someone with all of the qualification who think they're too good for that job!

Approach your next step as a privilege, with a good attitude! You will always start at the bottom, that's a reality you will learn fast! But you will get out of your life, what you are willing to put in.

Good luck with whatever path you take! Remember to stay humble, it will go along way!



**Did yo go to the Howard School?**

