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## Summer 2021

Welcome to the termly Soham Village College Careers Newsletter. This goes out to all SVC staff, parents, the governing body, selected local businesses and other stakeholders.

Careers education is seen as a fundamental part of preparing students for their future. The careers programme at SVC is fully inclusive of all students, and is constantly monitored and evaluated to ensure it meets the needs of all students.

We hope that you continue to find this newsletter useful and interesting.

If you want to find out more about anything in this newsletter, please contact the Careers Team.

Likewise, if you have any feedback on what you have read or have items you wish us to include in future editions, please let us know.



## The Gatsby Benchmarks



The Gatsby Benchmarks provide a framework around which schools can develop and improve their careers programme. We are working toward adopting all of the benchmarks over the next couple of years, and have made good progress since Sept 2018 with Benchmarks 1, 5, & 8 fully achieved, and Benchmark 7 close to completion.

Although Covid has stalled some of the speed of progression, work will continue during 2021 to achieve as many of the other Benchmarks as possible. This is far from being simply a tick-box exercise to meet government expectations — through pilot schemes the Benchmarks have been proven to raise students' aspirations and make them as work-ready as they can possibly be.

1. A stable careers programme	100% (100%)
2. Learning from career and labour market information	60% (40%)
3. Addressing the needs of each student	81% (63%)
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers	81% (62%)
5. Encounters with employers and employees	100% (100%)
6. Experiences of workplaces	25% (75%)
7. Encounters with further and higher education	90% (90%)
8. Personal guidance	100% (100%)

(figures in brackets = previous attainment level)

# Quality in Careers Standard Award



We continue to work towards gaining this national award which aligns perfectly with the Gatsby Benchmarks. The award ensures the school is delivering the type of careers programme the government has indicated and that students will benefit from.

In order to gain the award, we must provide sufficient current evidence to demonstrate that we meet all the national quality assessment criteria. As with the Gatsby Benchmarks, we can already provide evidence in many of the areas, such as the way we provide personal guidance to students through 1-2-1 meetings, meaningful employer engagement, and how we assess the impact of activities through student, tutor and parental feedback.

We are hoping to be able to present our submission to the assessment team during the summer term, and are confident that we can achieve the award shortly after.

## Careers Policy, Strategy and Programme

We are required to publish our policy, strategy and programme so that they are available for all to read. All schools had a statutory requirement to do this by September 2018.

All three publications can be found on the Careers section of the school website:

**Policy** - this is our guiding principle and determines what should be done at the top level. It is approved by the Advisory Board and reviewed every 3 years

**Strategy** - this is our comprehensive plan which helps to shape what we do and provide more detail and structure. It is a flexible plan and is reviewed every six months

**Programme** - this is the detail behind the strategy that highlights the key activities through the year. It is not an exhaustive list and is updated annually but it gives a good flavour of what the Careers Team deliver

Please take the opportunity to glance at these documents as they all provide a good insight into what we do and why we do it.

## Careers Website

<https://www.sohamvc.org/post16careers>

The section is always kept as up-to-date as possible, and is a great source of information across many aspects of Careers Education. There are some links to key websites that you are encouraged to visit.

We would also encourage students to regularly access and use the website so please take time to talk to your son/daughter about it.

If you feel we are missing information that would be useful to you, please let us know!!

# Careers Guidance Meetings - Yr10 & Yr11

Benchmark 8 focuses on providing every student with the opportunity for guidance meetings with a careers adviser. We are fortunate enough to be able to call upon the services of Julie Anderson to fulfill this criteria. Julie holds a Level 6 Diploma in Career Guidance and has previously worked at Hills Road, and is a valuable asset within the Careers Dept.

The meetings can involve all manner of discussions - establishing what jobs or job sectors a student might be interested in, whether a student is on target to achieve the required grades to study at a specific college, or simply looking for some professional reassurance that the intended pathway is the most suitable based on the student's goals and aspirations.

We have a defined process to allow us to identify those students in Yr 10 that would benefit from a guidance meeting. These students are recognised as being at potential risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) when they leave school, and so they will be our priority. As the year progresses, other students will be seen. These will be from tutor referrals, self referrals, and also requests from parents. Other indicators are used, such as those students that failed to attend college taster days, in order to ensure as many students who need or request 1-2-1 guidance receives it. More than one meeting can be arranged if necessary.

As students move into Yr 11, Julie will continue to meet with students as they move closer to making their Post 16 choices by the end of December.

Although we focus primarily on Yr10 & Yr11 students for formal guidance meetings, students from Yrs7 to 9 are also encouraged to come and speak to Julie if they have any questions about their own situation. Julie's door is always open!

Any current Yr10 student can request a guidance meeting by emailing [janderson@soham-college.org.uk](mailto:janderson@soham-college.org.uk), or popping into the Careers Office anytime



## Resumption of the careers activities

Many of the usual activities and events organized by the Careers team were cancelled during the pandemic, although certain activities could be carried out virtually where possible.

With the gradual easing of restrictions both in school and in our local community, it is hoped that we can soon get back to delivering the activities face to face and continue supporting students with the Post 16 and career choices.



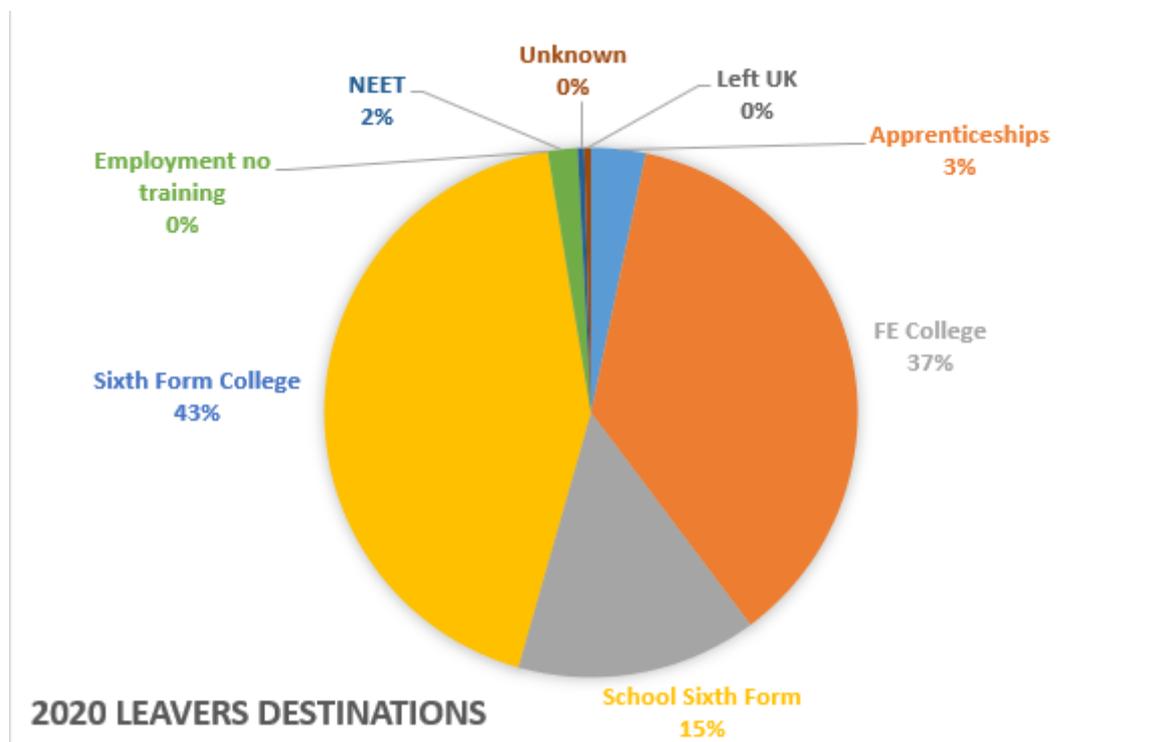
# Destination Data

We use Destination Data (further study destinations for our Yr11 leavers) each year to evaluate the careers programme. The Local Authority also has a duty to report this information each November to the government.

The level of detail used in the evaluation process can vary depending on what information is required and who is accessing it. The school website (<https://www.sohamvc.org/careersdata>) shows top line data of which type of post 16 centre students are attending and the qualification levels they are studying. This data can then be compared to previous years to spot any trends that might need further investigation ie why are the number of students attending one specific college increasing or decreasing, or are more students going down the academic or vocational study route

Further analysis can then be carried out at a student level, for example comparing the number of boys and girls that take up an apprenticeship, or the destination of students with special educational needs or those that take free school meals. This analysis can be used to assess the impartiality and inclusive nature of the careers programme, to ensure all students are being offered the same access to support and guidance.

The data is also used to report our NEET figures (those students Not in Education Employment or Training) This is ultimately the most important piece of Destination Data schools focus on, as it indicates those students that haven't moved onto any form of further education or employment. The school will work hard with the Local Authority to try and assist those students wherever possible.



# Snapshot - research & reports

## Careers advice crucial post-Covid, say teachers

The Careers Education in England's Schools and Colleges report, published by the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) at the end of 2020, found that 72% of college and school leaders said careers advice would be either their top priority or in their top five priorities in the year ahead.

The report also found that the majority of business leaders (82%) believed that employers needed to work with young people in schools and colleges on careers guidance, and three-quarters (77%) believed that they had a responsibility to ensure school leavers do not become a "lost generation".

## UK careers education improvement

Within the same report, study has shown that of the 4000 schools that are part of the CEC's careers education network (which SVC is one of them), 92% said careers provision has improved, with the Gatsby Benchmarks being the main game changer. 93% feel positive about the future of careers provision

## 27% of students & grads changed career plans due to pandemic

New research from March 2021 finds that 27% of students and graduates have changed their career plans due to the coronavirus pandemic. Prospects at Jisc surveyed over 6,500 students and graduates to find out how Covid-19 was impacting their career decisions and experiences. More than a quarter of respondents had changed their career plans due to the pandemic and 37% said they are still uncertain about what they will do. Reasons included being inspired by people who were actively involved in supporting the pandemic response while others said they wanted to escape industries that were struggling such as travel and hospitality.

Some respondents said they were looking at apprenticeships as an alternative to study, so they could start to earn money. Three quarters said that they had looked for an apprenticeship or training scheme in the last 12 months. Training and development opportunities, career progression and work/life balance were the top three most important factors students and graduates cited when considering their career options

## Visual Impairment awareness video

In an attempt to promote equality and inclusiveness in the workplace, The Thomas Pocklington Trust has produced this useful video (click on link below) showing how the world looks through the eyes of people who are visually impaired as they go about their everyday lives

[What do we see? How the world looks to blind and partially sighted people](#)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxqXEt5tuQs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxqXEt5tuQs)

# Virtual Work Experience opportunity



Springpod offer some fantastic virtual work experience opportunities across a range of sectors for all Year 10 and Year 11 students. Some students have already taken advantage of some of the programmes during the Easter break, with communication sent out to parents/carers just before we broke up for Easter.

The programmes are free to use, once students have registered on the Springpod website, following which all instructions will be available to the students. The programmes consist of a number of live webinars, in which students get to hear from professionals in the specific sector, together with some additional work to complete in their own time. The webinars can be accessed 'on demand' if students are unable to view live. Once students have completed the programme which equates to 10 hours of work in total, they will be awarded a finishers certificate. These can be then be used or referred to when completing college and university application forms, or applying for jobs.

The next round of programmes are now available for students to register for. The programmes will run from 1st - 11th June, with the application deadline being 24th May.

Sectors include -

Engineering

Teaching

Finance

Marketing

Journalism

Law

Politics

Fashion

Veterinary work

Graphic Design

Technology

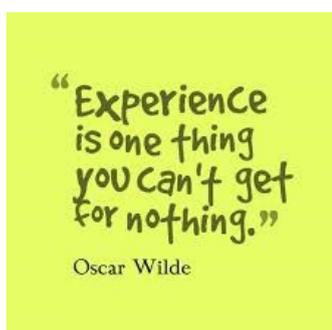
Business Management

Dentistry Work

TV & Film

Visit the website at [www.springpod.co.uk/virtual-work-experience-programmes](http://www.springpod.co.uk/virtual-work-experience-programmes) for full details.

More programmes will be available over the coming months so keep checking the website!



# National Citizen Service

The National Citizen Service (NCS) is a national personal and social development programme for 15-17 yr olds, largely funded by the Government. NCS takes place in the summer holidays, lasts for 2 or 3 weeks, and there are 2 options available. **The most any single person will pay for the whole programme is £50**



## Option 1

**Week 1-** Young people stay away from home at an outdoor activity centre (Monday to Friday.) It's a chance to meet new people and do amazing activities like rock climbing, canoeing, and abseiling.

**Week 2-** A personal and professional development week based at home which sets young people up for their future (Monday to Friday). Teams will then plan design and pitch their social action project.

**Week 3** Teams deliver this social action project (Monday to Thursday) to raise awareness or money for something they are passionate about.

## Option 2

If you don't fancy going away, you can choose the 2-week option, where you'll have an amazing experience locally with no residential involved.

**Week 1-** A personal and professional development week based at home which sets young people up for their future (Monday to Friday). There will also be fun activities like escape rooms and taskmaster. Teams will then plan design and pitch their social action project.

**Week 2-** Teams deliver this social action project (Monday to Thursday) to raise awareness or money for something they are passionate about.

## Why do NCS?

NCS looks good on college and UCAS statements and develops skills employers want

NCS gives young people a chance to meet new people and build confidence

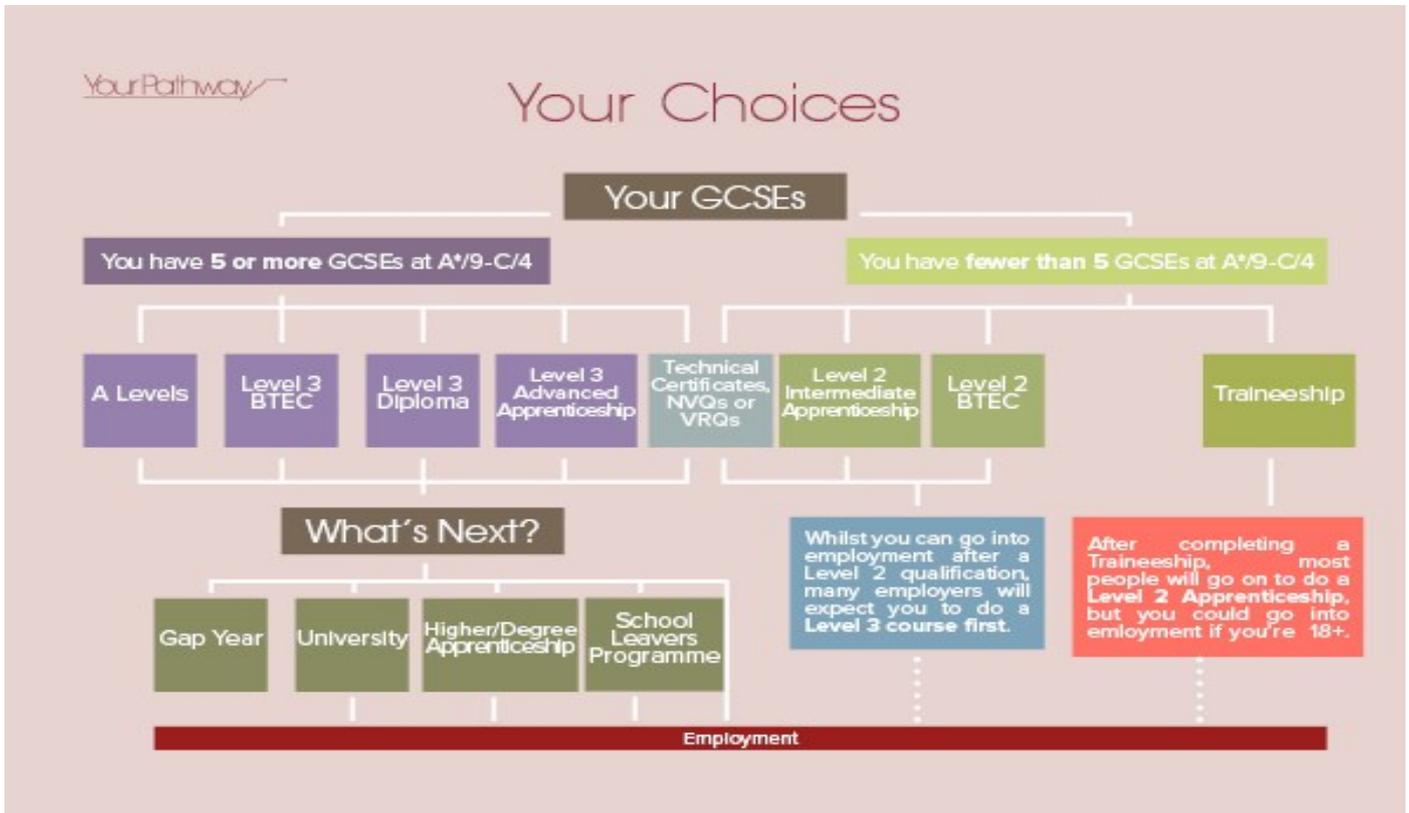
NCS helps young people be heard in their local community

NCS is fun and a great way to spend the summer

NCS held a virtual assembly before Easter to introduce the programme to students. They plan to come into school twice over the next few weeks to run lunchtime stands, where students can take registration forms away with them. Registration can also take place directly on the NCS website [www.wearencs.com](http://www.wearencs.com)



# Qualifications



The range of courses available to students can appear to be a bit mind-boggling sometimes, and this is one area that students need to be clear about when they start looking at their options.

Colleges will have their own specific entry requirements but the table above can be used as a general guide.

Some colleges will require specific grades in certain subjects in order for students to study that course. Colleges that offer courses linked to apprenticeships may advise that a student should apply for a 1 year vocational course first to gain the basic industry knowledge rather than move straight to an apprenticeship. This will increase the chances of finding a suitable employer.

**Research** is the key for all of this, so the sooner students can start looking at options and ask questions the better.

## Feedback

If you have any feedback about specific careers events we organise then we are very happy to receive them.

Likewise, if you have any suggestions about events you feel we should be putting on, or employers/businesses you would like us to invite into school, then feel free to let us know. We are always open to new ideas or proposals!!

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