



Contact details

Careers Manager

Mr Nick Oakhill

noakhill@soham-college.org.uk

Careers Adviser

Mrs Julie Anderson

janderson@soham-college.org.uk

Autumn 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.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Gatsby Benchmarks	1
Quality Award	2
Policy, Strategy & Programme	2
Careers website	2
T Levels qualifications	3
Virtual work experience—Springpod	4
Careers Activities	5
Qualifications	6

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	90% (81%)
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers	75% (81%)
5. Encounters with employers and employees	100% (100%)
6. Experiences of workplaces	25% (75%)
7. Encounters with further and higher education	100% (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.

Although the pandemic has delayed our award submission, we are hoping to be able to present our evidence by the end of the autumn 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!!

Gatsby Benchmark 4 -

Linking careers to the curriculum



Students can often say what subjects they enjoy but struggle to say what jobs they could go into with a love for that subject. It is therefore important that all students are able to link what they learn in the classroom to its relevance in the working world, so they can start to formulate ideas and plans themselves. This not only improves their level of understanding and awareness and makes them more 'career-ready' but also makes for a more engaged classroom and hopefully a more content teacher!

Over the past 18 months, the Careers Department has been working very closely with all Faculties to understand what currently happens in the classrooms. A huge amount happens already which was great to hear and see. These include -

Visual displays in faculty areas and classrooms

Regular classroom discussions ie career prospects, linking topic to certain jobs

Teachers sharing their own experiences and subject/industry knowledge

Employer engagement—use of alumni, local businesses, parents, workplace visits etc

The next step is to develop the work done already, by allowing faculties to explore new and creative ways to embed careers-learning in the curriculum. We have some amazing teachers in the school and they are all on board with supporting students and making their classroom experience as relevant as possible.



T Levels

T Levels were introduced as a Post 16 qualification option in September 2020, with the range of subjects expanding in 2021 and beyond.

What are they?

- Equivalent to 3 A levels
- Developed in collaboration with employers and businesses, so content meets industry needs
- A mix of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience (approx. 45 days total)

What subjects do they cover?

- Currently limited to a few subjects – ie Health and Nursing, Childcare, Construction, Digital Infrastructure, Electrotechnical and Engineering , Laboratory Sciences
- Range will be expanded over the coming years, to cover most major subjects ie Engineering, Health, Childcare, Agriculture and the Environment, Hair and Beauty, Creative and Design, Catering and Hospitality, Protective Services, Sales and Marketing, Transport and Logistics, Legal and Finance

How do they differ to current vocational courses and apprenticeships?

- Directly linked to future employment opportunities
- Much more hands on
- Scenario based teaching
- Learning employability skills
- Different assessment styles (not just exams based)

Who are they aimed at?

- Students who have a specific career in mind
- Students who enjoy practical work
- Students who struggle with exams
- Students who may not know if they want to go onto university or apprenticeship

Entry requirements

- 5 GCSEs at grade 4-9, including Science (5), Maths (5), and English (4)
- Core Maths also studied, and opportunity to complete an Extended Project Qualification

For more information, visit <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>

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 this year with some very positive feedback received.

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 25th October (autumn half term) with the application deadline being generally a week before.

Sectors include -

Engineering

Journalism

Veterinary work

Dentistry Work

Aerospace

Teaching

Law

Graphic Design

TV & Film

Fujitsu WorkX

Finance

Politics

Technology

Barclays Life Skills

Marketing

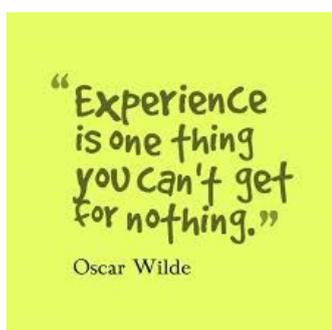
Design and engineering

Business Management

LNER Tomorrows Talent

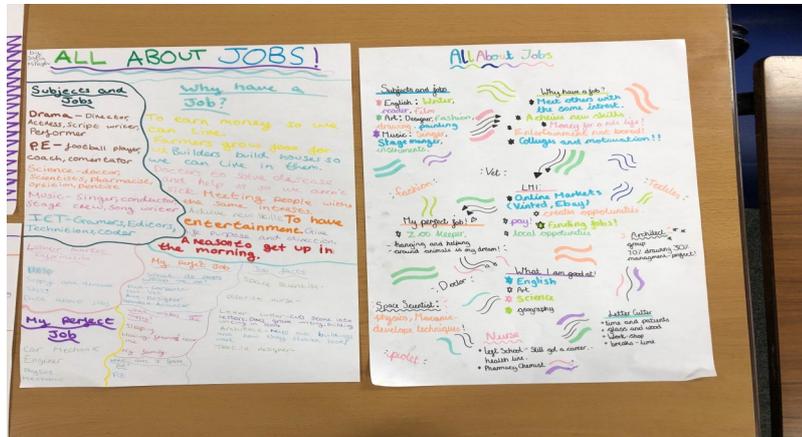
Visit the website at www.springpod.co.uk/virtual-work-experience-programmes for full details.

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



Looking back at summer 2021.....

Yr7 had a Positive Career lesson where they learnt what it means to have a job and career, and to introduce the various pathways available to them. They also took part in a Teamwork workshop where they had to build a chair from balloons



Yr8 Careers Carousel - 5 external speakers came in to speak to all students in their tutor groups

Yr10 took part in College Research and Personal Statement workshops—this was to get them thinking about their college applications in the autumn term

Personal Statement

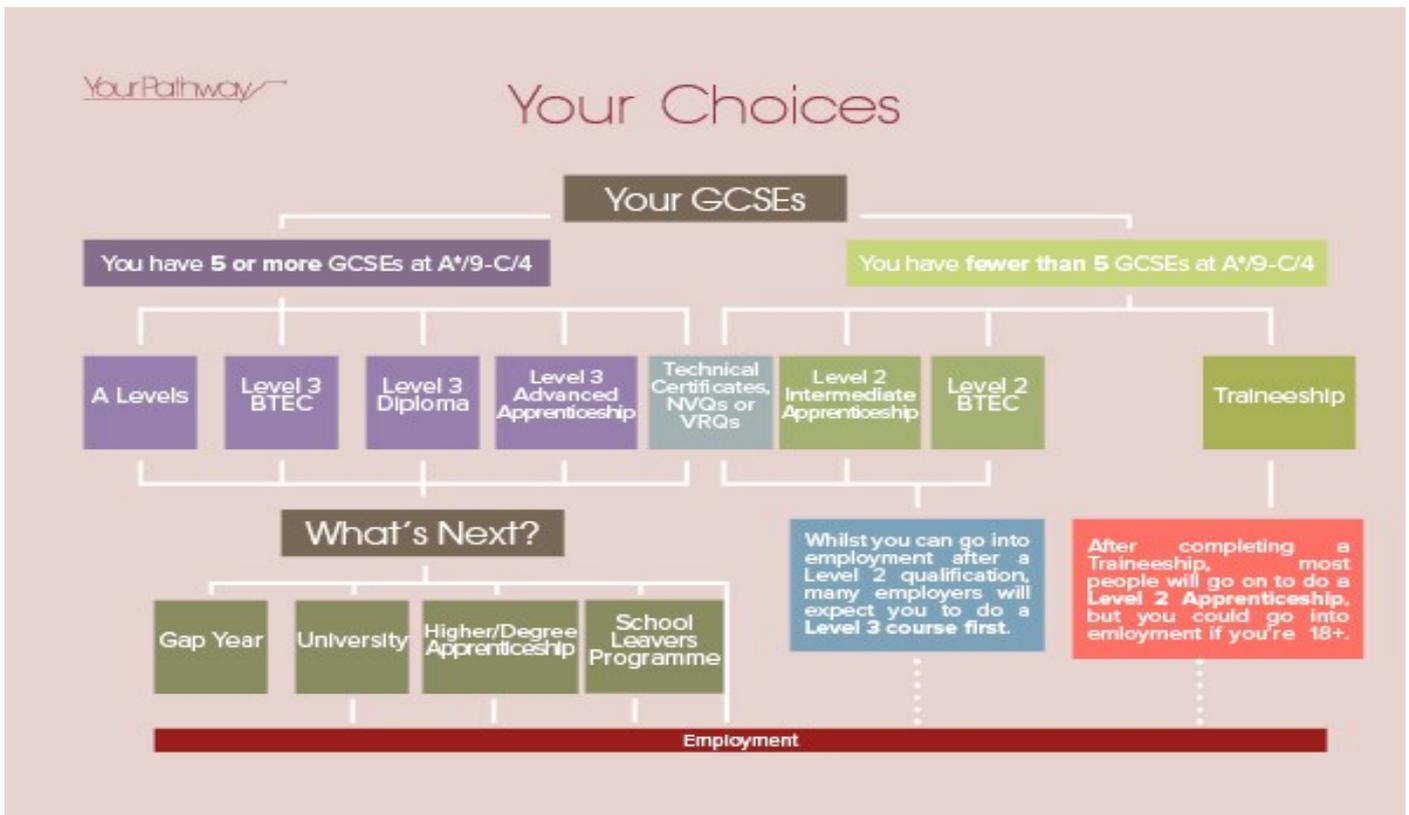
.....and looking towards Autumn 2021

Yr11 will receive lots of support as they work on their college applications. They have already heard from the majority of Post 16 colleges through virtual presentations. In October they will take part in a College Application Day, where they will be shown as to use the online application portal MyChoice@16, and will have a focused Personal Statement workshop.

Yr10 will take part in the annual Ely Cathedral Careers Fair, to give them the opportunity to meet and speak to a range of local employers and colleges.

We also hope to slowly invite employers and our alumni members back into school to engage with students and give them an insight into various industries and trades.

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!!

noakhill@soham-college.org.uk