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# CAREERS



## Spring 2022

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 everyone.

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, 4, 5, 7 & 8 fully achieved, and Benchmark 3 close to completion.

Although Covid has stalled some of the speed of progression, work will continue during the year 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	100% (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



Our submission has been made and so we now enter a period of review and assessment of the evidence provided. We are confident that we have a careers programme in place that meets all the criteria and so look forward to the assessors report.

This is more than a tick-box exercise. The Award is nationally-recognised and will help the careers team continually monitor and evaluate the programme, to ensure it is fit-for-purpose and evolves in line with the ever-changing education and working environment landscape.

**SUBMITTED  
FOR REVIEW**

## 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!!

# It's a question of Resilience.....

Resilience is a skill (or possibly a trait?) that runs through the centre of the careers programme, as well as being talked about in other areas in the school. Resilience is important for emotional well-being, as it enables us to cope with difficult or stressful situations, without feeling overwhelmed or deflated. Below are a number of things resilient people do particularly well....



1. **See the bigger picture:** they have a panoramic view of situations, rather than just the single issue that is causing stress or discomfort. This enables them to stop over-focusing on the smaller things and take in the whole situation.
2. **Open to new ideas:** they welcome feedback and respond positively to new ideas and concepts, as they can see how it may improve them or their situation.
3. **Know their blind spots:** they don't fear any gaps they have in knowledge or personal skills, and enter into activities or situations with full awareness of these
4. **Seek help:** they aren't afraid to ask for help as they realise they won't be experts in everything. They don't see this as a weakness, when others may do so
5. **Value and build relationships:** they seek the value in others and aren't put off by hierarchy or a person's title. They invest in the forming of valuable relationships.
6. **Multiple plans:** they always have a Plan B, C and even D. This allows them to shift their position in response to changes that come their way.
7. **Develop an internal dialogue:** they are able to critique their own performance without getting stuck with their failures but embracing how they feel when disappointed.
8. **Correct use of energy:** saying 'yes' to everything can be exhausting, so they learn how to conserve their resources and use them appropriately

Resilient people also practice self-care, are comfortable spending time alone, they understand sensitivity at a human quality level, and are always grateful even in the most challenging situations.

How many of the above characteristics do you or your family members demonstrate? How can you improve your own resilience or help improve that of those around you?

Taken from [13 Things Resilient People Do | Psychology Today United Kingdom](#)

# Apprenticeships



## What are they?

Apprenticeships allow young people to combine work and study by mixing on-the-job training with classroom learning. The apprentice is employed by the company and given the same rights as a standard employee (sick pay, holiday entitlement etc)

## Who are they for?

Anyone!! But particularly those that enjoy learning new things and want to maybe move away from full time education, and feel that they will respond better to being in a working environment.

**What are the different levels?** There are 4 levels, however only 2 that a 16 yr old can take -

- Intermediate, leading to a level 2 qualification
- Advanced, leading to a level 3 qualification

## How would a young person find an apprenticeship?

Vacancies can be found through the National Apprenticeship Service website, through colleges, or direct with a company. Suitable vacancies for current Yr11s are advertised from about April onwards, although they are encouraged to practice their research skills much earlier. Some companies (ie Marshalls) have end of Jan application deadlines.

## What industries offer apprenticeships?

These days apprenticeships are offered in wide range of professions, from accounting, banking and graphic design, to construction, hairdressing and engineering.

**What can apprentice earn?** Usually between £105 — £260 per week

**How long are they?** It varies, but usually 1—4 years. Many companies can offer a permanent job at the end.

## Some key stats.....

- 321,400 apprenticeship starts in 2020/21 (down 0.3% on 2019/20 Q4)
- 49% of apprentices in 2020/21 were female, 51% were male
- 20% of new apprentices in 2020/21 were under 19 years of age
- The current National Minimum Wage rate for an apprenticeship is 4.30 per hour

# Year 11 College Open Events

## OPEN DAY

15TH JANUARY 2022



**CAMBRIDGE  
REGIONAL COLLEGE**  
GREAT CAREERS START HERE

Join us on the 15th January, from 10am-12-30pm, at our upcoming Cambridge Open Day, where you will have the opportunity to explore our facilities and talk with our expert tutors.

### BOOK YOUR TOUR

Find the courses that interest you and book a place onto our subject tours, lead by our specialist tutors. Visit our website to pre-book your tickets.



### WHAT TO EXPECT

- Discover what it is like to study at CRC.
- Talk to our tutors and ask any questions you may have.
- Learn about each subject through subject presentations.
- Tour our campus, amenities and facilities.
- Visit The Hub and talk to our friendly staff about any queries you may have.



Find out more about our Open Day events at:  
[www.camre.ac.uk/open-days/](http://www.camre.ac.uk/open-days/)

## Abbeygate Sixth Form

Open Event: Saturday 19th March 9.30am—12.30pm

<https://www.abbeygatesfc.ac.uk/about-us/dates-note/open-events/>

## West Suffolk College

Discover Apprenticeship Information Evening: Wednesday 9th February 6.15—8pm

Open Event: Thursday 10th February 5.30—7.30pm

<https://www.wsc.ac.uk/about-the-college/events/upcoming-events>



# Virtual Work Experience opportunities



Springpod continue to offer some fantastic virtual work experience opportunities for all Year 10 and Year 11 students, with students who have previously taken part providing some very positive feedback.

The programmes are free, and 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 14th February (Spring half term) with the application deadline being generally a week before.

Sectors include -

Banking	Business Management	Dentistry
Engineering	Finance and Accountancy	IT & Technology
Politics	Property	Psychology
Publishing	TV & Film	Teaching

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!



# Virtual Work Experience opportunities



Speaker for Schools is a new organisation we are starting to work with, who also offer free virtual work experience programmes. Whilst the programmes that run during the school day are not suitable for students, they do offer early evening and holiday opportunities.

Students need to register an account on their website first, and then they can access the full range of opportunities available.

Visit the website for more details at [www.speakersforschools.org](http://www.speakersforschools.org). And students can set up an account here by clicking on Virtual Work Experience tab.

## February half term -

**14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10.30am – 3pm: Marsh McLennan (min age 16).** Learn more about the world's leading professional services firm, involved in areas such as insurance broking, risk management, reinsurance and business consultation. Also hear about their apprenticeship opportunities. Closing Date 14/1/22 [Experience > View Opportunity Details \(s4snextgen.org\)](#)

**15<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10am – 3pm: Bentley Motors (min age 16).** Hear about this unique company. For students interested in careers in Digital, Business and Project Management, Engineering and Manufacturing. 40 apprenticeship places are offered each year, this could be an excellent way into their apprenticeship scheme. C/D 20/1/22 [Experience > View Opportunity Details \(s4snextgen.org\)](#)

**15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10am – 3pm: Visit Britain (min age 16).** Understand what it's like to work for the National Tourist Board. Hear from the team about the many opportunities that exist in this sector, all critical to help promote and care for Britain's tourist sites and locations. C/D 18/1/22 [Experience > View Opportunity Details \(s4snextgen.org\)](#)

**15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10am – 4pm: Tesco (min age 14/15).** Various areas of the business focused on – Technology, Merchandising, Customer and Marketing. C/D 17/1/22

15<sup>th</sup> [Experience > View Opportunity Details \(s4snextgen.org\)](#)

16<sup>th</sup> [Experience > View Opportunity Details \(s4snextgen.org\)](#)

17<sup>th</sup> [Experience > View Opportunity Details \(s4snextgen.org\)](#)

**17<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10am – 3pm: AXA UK.** An insight into what it is like to work for a large corporation, speak directly with AXA employees (including business leaders!), interactive sessions focusing on developing key employability skills, learn about the huge variety of job roles within AXA UK. C/D 18/1/22 [Experience > View Opportunity Details \(s4snextgen.org\)](#)

## After school -

**20<sup>th</sup> Jan, 4pm – 5.30pm:** Preparing for a Performing Arts Audition (min age 16) C/D 10/1/21 [Experience > View Opportunity Details \(s4snextgen.org\)](#)

**8<sup>th</sup> Feb, 3.30pm – 4.30pm:** Victrex (chemical manufacturers) C/D 21/1/22 [Experience > View Opportunity Details \(s4snextgen.org\)](#)

**10<sup>th</sup> Feb, 4pm – 5pm:** Bond Turner Solicitors. C/D 21/1/22 [Experience > View Opportunity Details \(s4snextgen.org\)](#)

**10<sup>th</sup> Feb, 3.30pm – 4.30pm:** Regenda Homes (construction and housing sector roles) C/D 21/1/22 [Experience > View Opportunity Details \(s4snextgen.org\)](#)

## Looking back at autumn 2021.....

Yr10 took part in the East Cambs Careers Fair, held in Ely Cathedral. Over 45 local businesses, colleges and universities were present, and students spent a valuable hour visiting stands and finding out about their industries and future opportunities. Some incredibly positive feedback was received from some of the businesses about how polite and well-mannered our students were, and how interested they were in their industries.



Yr11 spent the term working towards submitting their college and apprenticeship applications. Students were supported through virtual Post 16 college presentations, a personal statement workshop and a bespoke application day. We look forward to all students receiving offers before too long.

Several Yr10 and Yr11 students registered and took part in the Springpod virtual work placement opportunities that were advertised. These are proving to be very popular with students and we plan to continue our work with Springpod.

As part of our new tutor time timetable, students across all Yrs7 to 10 took part in bite-size careers-related activities and presentations, such as What are Employability Skills?, Labour Market Information, Post 16 Options, What are Apprenticeships?, AIM Higher, and Being an Entrepreneur

## .....and looking towards Spring 2022

Yr11 will be invited to take part in their college guidance meetings (in person or virtual/telephone) with all offers due by the end of March

Yr11 will take part in mock interviews to help them prepare for job interviews, and also have the opportunity to attend an apprenticeship support workshop.

Yr9 will take part in some Cambridge Regional College taster sessions and our usual World of Work activities as students get ready to choose their GCSEs.

Our Foundation Learning Tier students will undertake a weeks' work experience with a local school or employer, to help them experience what the working world might look and feel like.

National Careers Week runs from 7th –11th March, and it is hoped that we are able to invite ex-students in to speak to all students about their career path and experiences.



# Qualifications

The Parents' Guide to  
www.theparentsguideto.co.uk

www.theparentsguideto.co.uk

Level	Qualification / educational route				
8	Doctorate (PhD)			NVQ 8	
7	Masters degree (MA)			Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7	
6	Bachelors degree BA or BSc				
5	Foundation degree FdA or FdSc	Higher National Diploma (HND)			
4				Higher National Certificate (HNC)	Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4
3	A levels Grades A-E	International Baccalaureate	T Levels	BTEC diploma BTEC certificate	Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3
2	GCSE Grades 4- 9 (C, B, A or A*)			BTEC first diploma	Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2
1	GCSE Grades 1- 3 (D,E,F or G)			Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications	Traineeship / NVQ 1
		Academic route		Vocational route	Applied / work route

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.

## 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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