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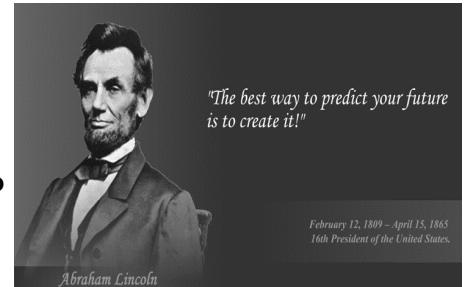
Autumn 2023

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 a fundamental part of preparing students for their future. The SVC careers programme 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 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 national framework around which schools can develop and improve their careers programme. We are working hard towards adopting all of the benchmarks, and have made good progress since Sept 2018 with Benchmarks 1, 4, 5, 7 & 8 fully achieved.

This is far from being simply a tick-box exercise to meet government expectations — research has shown that 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	80% (80%)
3. Addressing the needs of each student	100% (90%)
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers	100% (100%)
5. Encounters with employers and employees	100% (100%)
6. Experiences of workplaces	75% (50%)
7. Encounters with further and higher education	100% (95%)
8. Personal guidance	100% (100%)

(figures in brackets = previous attainment level. Audit carried out every Nov, Mar and June)



A parents' toolkit for career conversations

It has long been acknowledged that the most influential people in a young person's life are their parents or carers, and that many of the ideas related to their careers and future are formulated in their early school years and through conversations with family members.

Talking Futures is a recently released suite of resources, designed to help schools support parents to have informed and constructive careers and education conversations with their children.

The website is full of useful information and guidance on the various pathways available. There are loads of helpful conversation starting points to help parents approach the subject with their children, which can be the trickiest part. The earlier these conversations take place, the more informed and prepared students are when they reach Year 11.

Visit the site at <https://www.talkingfutures.org.uk/> and make it your go-to website for up-to-date information!

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 child about it.

Careers Policy, Strategy and Programme

All schools have a statutory requirement to publish their policy, strategy and programme.

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

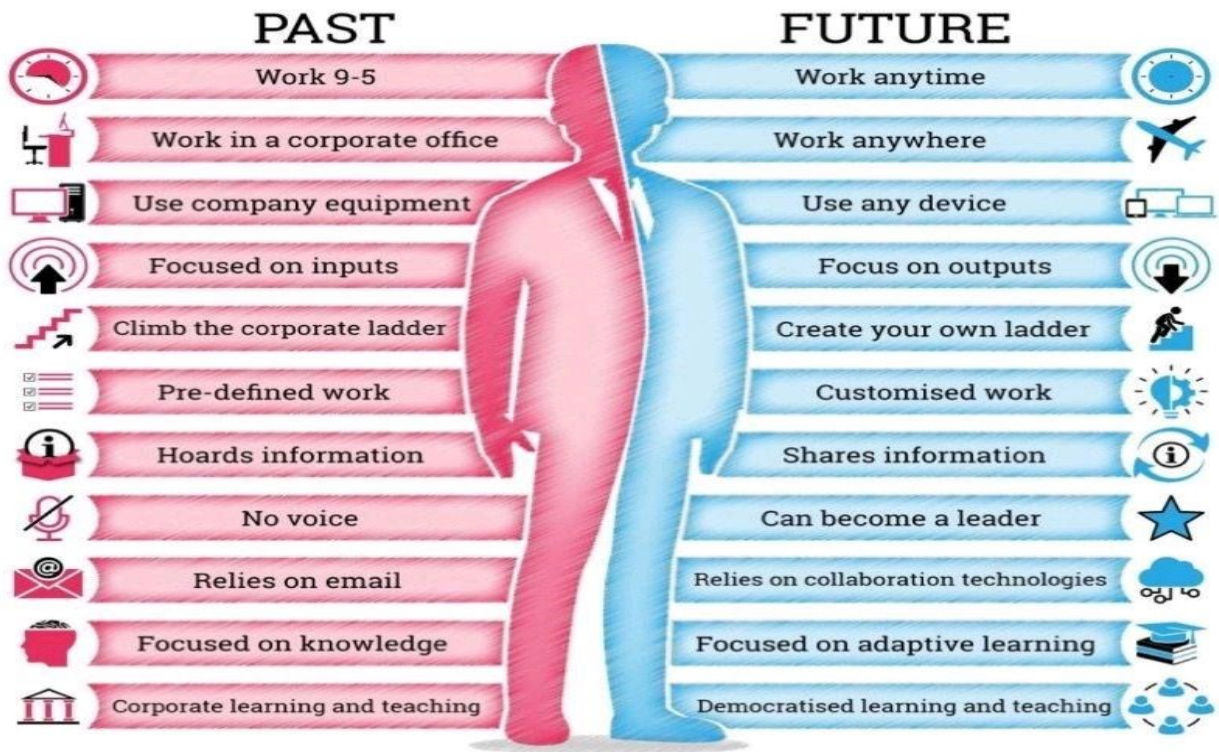
Strategy - this is our comprehensive plan which helps to shape what we do and provide more detail and structure. It is a flexible plan and is reviewed every six months

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.

The evolution of the employee

Data source: @capture_brain | Infographic design by @agrassoblog for educational and motivational purposes



Even before the impact of the pandemic on businesses, the work model that had existed was evolving. Employees are not as they were a decade ago, and as a result businesses are having to adapt and move with the times. The pandemic has merely quickened the pace of this transition.

One of the biggest challenges is ensuring that young people today are given as much support in school and at home so they are as ready as they can be for their working life.

One key driver in this will be the messages that students hear from local businesses. The careers programme at SVC includes presentations and visits from businesses and employers, as well as visits to workplaces by students. It is so important that students use these opportunities to find out how they are approaching the areas noted above, by developing that curious mind and asking questions. Students who have part time jobs or who have taken part in work experience may already be experiencing some of these changes.

Many more young people are talking about wanting to become entrepreneurs when they finish education (some even have 'side hustles' already!) so many of them are probably more clued up on this evolution than we realise. Entrepreneurs and the self-employed all naturally follow the right hand side of the above table.

It is also important that parents and carers are aware of this evolution. They are more than likely living and breathing these new working ways already, and so are in the ideal place to pass on their experience and understanding.

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

GETTING INTO: LAW

The Legal industry is more than just solicitors and barristers - it covers a huge range of roles such as Coroner, Judge, Law Lecturer, Legal Secretary, Mediator, Paralegal, and courtroom ushers and clerks to name but a few.

Whilst it's true that potential earnings in the industry can be very attractive, those top salaries take years of training, hard work, dedication and drive to achieve. The non-financial rewards are huge for the right person, and you must have passion for the industry to be successful.

A lawyer in the UK is not a specific role - it is more of an umbrella term to cover anyone working as a legal practitioner.

A solicitor will help people right at the start of legal proceedings, and may appear in court to help their client

A barrister will only get involved once a case goes to court

Key Skills required:

Motivation

Resilience

Intellectual ability

Teamwork

Leadership

Resilience

Commercial awareness

Communication skills

The standard route to become a Solicitor is usually A levels followed by a degree, and then completion of the Solicitors Qualifying Exam followed by 2 yrs of work experience. The apprenticeship route is also an option.

To qualify as Barrister, again a degree is required (ideally a law degree) followed by the Bar Professional Training course and then a year of practical training (pupillage).

To become a Judge, you have to be a qualified solicitor or barrister and have at least 5–7 yrs of legal work experience, and then go through an extensive application and selection process.

Paralegals and legal assistants can follow either the A level, diploma or apprenticeship routes. A degree is not essential but might help depending on future plans.

The more administrative roles, such as court clerk and usher, require less demanding qualification routes such as Business Administration diplomas and also apprenticeships.

As always, research is the key. Here are some good starting points:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/solicitor>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/judge>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/court-usher>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/law-sector>

<https://www.lawcareers.net/>

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/203901004/>

Labour Market Information

In the last careers newsletter (Summer 2023, still available to read here <https://www.sohamvc.org/careersnewsletter>) there was a piece about Labour Market Information (LMI), what it is and how useful it can be for young people.

Below is a follow-on from that, looking at industry-specific LMI resources.....

Let's Get Creative

<https://www.meet-eric.com/>

This website and associated app provides a breakdown of the 16 creative industries (including Architecture, Fashion, Games, Publishing and Journalism) A huge amount of information and links can be found here, a must-go-to site for anyone interested in the creative working world

Food for Thought

<https://tastycareers.org.uk/>

The Food and Drink industry is a huge and often mis-understood one. It extends far beyond the stereotypical chef and kitchen staff roles - food innovators and producers, quality control, supply chain management, engineering, marketing and sales.....the list is endless!

The Tasty Careers website, produced by [The National Skills Academy for Food and Drink](#) (funded by the Welsh Government), helps to highlight the huge range of careers within this thriving industry. The wonderful [interactive careers map](#) is a very practical starting point

Go Construct

<https://www.goconstruct.org/>

Lots of students at SVC talk about wanting to get into the construction industry and this is the perfect site to check out. Information about the different training pathways, apprenticeship opportunities and types of job roles can be found on this site. The [Go Construct's Ultimate Quiz](#) is a fun and slightly different way to find out which construction personality you are

Green Careers

<https://www.greencareershub.com/>

With young people becoming so much more environmentally-aware and savvy, this website is the perfect place to seek out information around green skills, jobs and careers. Up to 480,000 green jobs will be created in the UK by 2030, and it is critical that we have the right type of people in these roles. The Regional View pages, specifically [East of England](#), is a great way to use local LMI to help inform decisions and choices

(thanks to Chris Webb and his [The Week in #Careers](#) weekly round up for the above links)



Looking back at Summer 2023.....

23 Year 11s spent a wonderful day visiting St Johns College in Cambridge as part of our continuing work with our link college. We were given a tour of the campus by some current students, and then took part in a skills-based workshop. Students also learnt about the Post 18 application process



We then said a fond farewell to our Year 11s as they finished their exams and headed off for a well-earned break, before moving onto the next stage of their education.

Our Year 10s started their own preparations for Post 16 options by visiting some of the Post 16 colleges during June and July for taster days and open events. This activity will go a long way in helping students make well-judged informed decisions about their next steps by the end of 2023.

A group of Year 9 students with an interest in working in the legal sector were invited on a courtroom experience day at the old Ely Magistrates Court. After a presentation and group discussion, students took part in a mock court case in which they all played roles within the case. We were also lucky enough to be joined by an actual sitting judge who oversaw the case



Year 7s and Year 9s completed a Future Skills questionnaire which is used annually to assess students' level of understanding of all things Post 16 and careers related. They were asked to rate their skill levels which employers now focus on, and also how positive they felt about their own future from an education and work perspective. The responses help the Careers Team mould the careers programme going forward.

.....and looking towards Autumn 2023

Yr11 college and apprenticeship presentations

Yr11 college application support.

Yr11 Post 16 parents information evening

Yr10 Ely Cathedral Careers Fair

Yr 8 STEM Project day

Yr7 Introduction to Jobs and Careers

Careers-related Tutor Time sessions for all Year groups

Alumni and Employer presentations and visits

Qualifications

The Parents' Guide to
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.

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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