



Soham Village College

Year 11

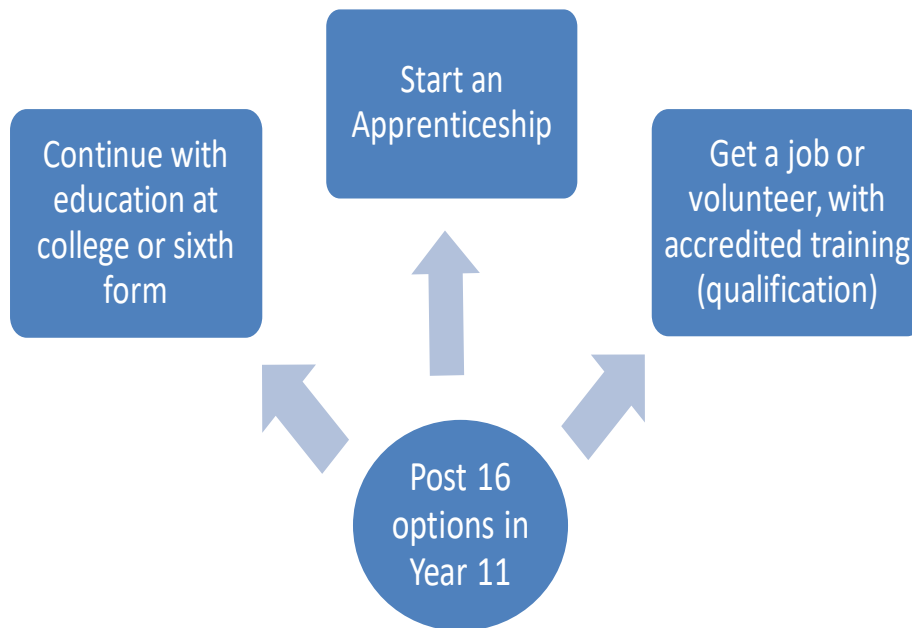
Post 16 Information Guide

www.sohamvc.org



Options

Students are required to remain in education or employment with training until they turn 18.



Research

The key to students making successful decisions about their future is **RESEARCH**. This can be independent, supported, or a combination of both. There are many sources of information available - online, written, tutors and careers staff, Post 16 centres.

A good recommended starting point are the Post 16 centres websites and their prospectuses which show details of each course or subject, including entry requirements. Other useful sources can be found at the end of this guide.

Careers department staff and tutors are always available to talk through options and plans with students.

Examples of qualifications available at the different levels

Qualification Level	Academic qualifications	Vocational qualifications (general & specific)	Apprenticeships (work combined with training & a qualification)
Level 8	PhD	Diploma	-
Level 7	Masters Degree	Diploma	Degree Apprenticeship
Level 6	Bachelors Degree	Diploma	Degree Apprenticeship
Level 5	Degree – yr 2	-HND (Higher National Diploma) -Foundation Degree -Level 5 Diploma	
Level 4	Degree – yr 1	HNC (Higher National Certificate)	Higher Apprenticeship
Level 3	-A levels -IB (International Baccalaureate) -T Levels	-Extended Certificate -Diploma -Extended Diploma	Advanced Apprenticeship
Level 2	GCSEs (4-5 subjects at grades 4-9 inc. English & Maths)	Level 2 Diploma (eg BTEC, City & Guilds)	Intermediate Apprenticeship
Level 1	GCSE (some grades 1-3)	Level 1 Diploma (eg BTEC, City & Guilds)	Traineeship (preparation for apprenticeship)
Entry level	Working towards GCSE Entry Level Certificate	-	-

NB After GCSEs it is only possible to move directly onto courses and training up to Level 3. In order to take any qualifications at Level 4 or higher, you will normally need to be at least 18 and have a Level 3 qualification.

T Levels



- New industry-specific vocational qualification
 - 2 year course
 - 1 T Level = 3 A levels or Level 3 diploma
 - In-depth industry placement, minimum 45 days
 - Focuses on getting you into skilled employment or apprenticeship
 - Covers many of the popular subject areas
- Colleges that offer T Levels:
- Cambs Academy Science & Tech
 - Cambridge Regional College
 - West Suffolk College



International Baccalaureate



GROUP	OPTIONS – DIPLOMA PROGRAMME					
1. Language & Literature	English Language and Literature			English Literature	Self Study	
2. Language Acquisition	French	Ab initio Italian				
	German	Ab initio Spanish				
	Spanish	Ab initio Japanese				
3. Individuals and Societies	History	Geography	Psychology			
	Economics	Philosophy				
4. Sciences	Biology	Chemistry	Physics			
	Computing	Sports Sciences				
	Environmental Systems and Societies					
5. Maths	Maths: Analysis and Approaches					
	Maths: Application and Interpretation					
6. Free Choice	Spanish	French	Latin	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
	Film	Music	Visual Arts	Dance	Maths	
	Politics	History	Business	Psychology		
IB CORE	Extended Essay		Theory of Knowledge		Creativity, Activity, Service	

Impington

Parkside



A Career-related IB programme is also available, in which students choose either the Sport, Performing Arts, or Health and Social Care BTEC, and then select 2 or 3 subjects from Groups 1, 3, 4 and 6

MyChoice16

The online college application portal

www.mychoice16.co.uk

- Each student has their own secure log-in details to access to their profile and application.
- Students can access their on-line profile at anytime, anywhere. Parents are encouraged to provide support and show interest in the progress of the application.
- Students will be shown how to log in and complete their application. This will include their personal statement which is a key part.
- Tutors will complete a reference for each student, focusing on staff and student's relationships, learning attitude, behaviour, attendance and punctuality. This will relate to students' time in both Yr 10 and Yr 11.
- For Post 16 centres outside of Cambridgeshire (West Suffolk College, Abbeygate Sixth Form College) applications are direct via their own websites.
- Students are advised to make at least 2 applications so they have a back-up – either 2 different courses at the same college, or for 2 or more different colleges (**to break the myth, 3 choices are not compulsory**)
- Students can hold more than 1 offer and make a final decision after results day. Colleges realise and expect this to happen.
- It is the students' responsibility to submit their own application by the given deadline.

December 5th 2023 –

MyChoice16 APPLICATION DEADLINE

How to Write Your Personal Statement

It should be around one A4 page. This is your opportunity to tell colleges more about you. Just like in GCSE transactional writing, you should be writing a minimum of 5 paragraphs.

What Should I Include?

1) Introduction— This should be a couple of sentences saying where you are studying now, what you are applying for and maybe a sentence on what your goals are and your personality. You can expand on them later. Don't mention your predicted grades as these appear elsewhere in your application. Explain what you would like to study, and why. Be passionate and enthusiastic. Talk about what inspires you and where you see yourself going. Even if you're not sure, show you've considered it and have some thoughts about your future.

2) Involvement in school life — Give some examples of what else do you do other than your subjects.

This is something that can be truly individual. You probably have more than one interest, hobby or passion. Think carefully about what it says about you, in relation to your personality and what you want to study. This can help you decide what to mention and what isn't relevant.

- Inside or outside school, what responsibilities do you have?
- Mention any sports, music or drama awards, Duke of Edinburgh etc
- Talk about something in the college prospectus that you would love to get involved with.

3) Outside of school— This is your opportunity to show that you are a well-rounded individual. For each of these activities, you must explain what it has taught you. For example:

- Voluntary work or charity fundraising.
- If you've had a job, provide details about the role
- Involvement in sports clubs/arts/other groups such as Air Cadets or Scouts
- Hobbies/interests

4) Personal Qualities—Consider what you are like as a person. Talk about your strengths. Be honest, and be positive.

5) Conclusion—Say you're looking forward to studying your subject/s at a higher level. Overall, you want to leave the person reading your statement thinking that you are someone they'd love to have at their sixth form or college.

College preferences

Some of the colleges have tight rules on where students should place them within their MyChoice application. Please ensure your child is aware of these specific requirements

COLLEGE	PREFERENCE
Hills Road	Must be 1st choice, can be 2nd if also applying to a Cambs sixth form linked to a secondary school (Bishop Laney, Oakes, Parkside, Chesterton) Students should include 2 back up A level subjects – this allows a temporary subject switch to enable an offer to be made if a student doesn't meet acceptance criteria for a main choice A level
Oakes	Best advice is to place 1st or 2nd choice. If 3rd choice, guidance meeting won't be offered in first wave
Parkside	Best advice is to place 1st or 2nd choice. If 3rd choice, guidance meeting won't be offered in first wave
CAST	Best advice is to place 1st or 2nd choice. If 3rd choice, guidance meeting won't be offered in first wave
CRC	Can apply for more than 1 course but will be invited for guidance meetings in order of preference
West Suffolk College	Can apply for more than 1 course but will be invited for guidance meetings in order of preference

Post 16 Open evenings for 2024 entry

AUTUMN/SPRING TERM 2023/24

COLLEGE	TASTER DAYS	OPEN EVENINGS
Abbeygate Sixth Form	-	19 th Oct 5-7.30pm https://www.abbeygatesfc.ac.uk/news-dates/open-events
Bishop Laney Sixth Form	-	19 th Oct 6-8.30pm https://www.elycollege.com/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=10
Cambridge Regional College (Cambridge Campus)	-	18 th Oct 4.30-8pm 11 th Nov 9.30am-12.30pm 16 th Nov 4.30-7pm (Apprenticeship Info Evening) 27 th Jan 2024 10am-12.30pm 5 th Mar 2024 4-6pm (Apprenticeship Fair) 25 th Apr 2024 4.30-7pm 2 nd July 2024 4.30-7pm https://www.camre.ac.uk/about/events/open-days-2/
CAST	-	1 st Nov 5-7.30pm https://www.cambridgeast.org.uk/sixth-form
Chesterton College Sixth form	-	17 th Oct 6-8pm https://csf.tela.org.uk/
College of West Anglia (Milton campus)	-	18 th Oct 4.30-7.30pm 18 th Nov 9am-12.30pm 23 rd April 2024 4.30-7.30pm https://cwa.ac.uk/news/events (other campus dates available)
Hills Road Sixth Form College	-	No Open Evenings are run in the autumn term https://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/sixthform/how-to-apply/open-events
Impington	-	18 th Oct 5-8pm https://www.impingtoninternational.org.uk/
Long Road Sixth Form College	-	No Open Evenings are run in the autumn term https://www.longroad.ac.uk/page/?title=Open+Evenings&pid=165
Parkside Sixth	-	12 th Oct 6-8pm https://www.parksidecc.org.uk/sixth
The Cambridge Maths School	-	3 rd July 5.30-7.30 (Wilberforce Rd campus, Cambridge) 18 th October 4-8pm (Mill Rd campus, Cambridge) https://cms.tela.org.uk/
The Oakes	-	10 th October 6-8pm https://oakescc.org/
West Suffolk College	-	7 th Oct 9.30am-12.30pm 9 th Nov 5.30-7.30pm https://www.wsc.ac.uk/about-the-college/open-events

PLEASE KEEP CHECKING COLLEGE WEBSITES FOR UPDATES & EVENT REGISTRATION DETAILS

KEY DATES

2023

Sept onwards – 1-2-1 career guidance meetings continue

Oct – Post 16 college virtual presentations during tutor time

Oct 5th – Post 16 Parents Information evening

Oct 18th – College application day: Introduction to MyChoice16, personal statement workshops, college and course research

Oct onwards – Post 16 college Open evenings (see dates)

Nov – GCSE mock exams

Dec 5th – **MyChoice16 applications – student submission deadline**

2024

Jan onwards – Post 16 college application interviews (some may take place before Christmas ie West Suffolk College)

April – Offers made (usually within 4-6 wks of interview)

May - June – GCSE exams

August 22nd – GCSE results out

End Aug/start Sept – Post 16 college enrolment days -
Do not book holidays over this period

Early September – Induction day at Post 16 colleges

Useful websites

College Applications:

<https://www.mychoice16.co.uk/>

Apprenticeship Advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Careers advice and guidance:

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

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

<https://www.firstcareers.co.uk/>

<https://www.adzuna.co.uk/>

Other support available at SVC

‘Careers Section’ in the Library

Tutors and Subject Teachers

Mr Nick Oakhill, Careers Guidance Manager

noakhill@soham-college.org.uk

Mrs Julie Anderson, Careers Advisor

janderson@soham-college.org.uk



@SVC_Careers

