



30 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

National Apprenticeship week: 5 - 11 February 2024

Apprenticeships are now an established and recognised further education option for students leaving Soham Village College in Year 11. They generate a lot of interest when students start looking at their options during Year 10, and sometimes even before that. Last year 20 students left to take up an apprenticeship in the local area.

The process of researching, finding and securing an apprenticeship can be quite complicated but there is lots of help and support available, either from the school's Careers Team, local colleges or national websites. National Apprenticeship Week is an opportunity to celebrate the apprenticeship pathway, and to highlight where information can be obtained.

Attached is some key information about apprenticeships, with links to good quality resources to aid research.

Kind Regards,

Mr Nick Oakhill

Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance Manager

noakhill@soham-college.org.uk



What is an apprenticeship?

A genuine job with a linked assessment and skills development programme

A way for young people to earn while they learn

Generally, 80% of time spent working and 20% of time in college/being assessed at work

Contract of employment including holiday pay

Available at a number of levels across a wide range of occupations and sectors

A viable alternative pathway for students who wish to enter the world of work rather than continue in full time education

Recommended links and resources

National Apprenticeship website: general information, find an apprenticeship - <https://www.gov.uk/education/apprenticeships-traineeships-and-internships>

Amazing Apprenticeships: a leading organisation promoting apprenticeships, monthly parent packs
<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/?parents-packs=1>

Local colleges that support apprenticeships

Cambridge Regional College - <https://www.camre.ac.uk/apprenticeships/>

West Suffolk College - <https://www.wsc.ac.uk/find-a-course/apprenticeships>

College of West Anglia - <https://cwa.ac.uk/apprenticeships>

Cambridge Regional College – ‘why choose an apprenticeship’ video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9w24DhwEHXk>



Apprenticeship events

www.camre.ac.uk/apprenticeships

**JOIN US AT OUR
CAREERS FAIRS**

**CAMBRIDGE CAMPUS: 5TH MARCH
HUNTINGDON CAMPUS: 7TH MARCH**



APPRENTICESHIPS FOR ALL.
INFO EVENING AND CAREERS FAIR

THURS 8 FEB 5 - 8PM
UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
73 WESTERN WAY, BURY ST EDMUNDS, IP33 3SP



- DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN EARN WHILE YOU LEARN.
- MEET OUR APPRENTICESHIP TEAM AND EMPLOYERS.
- BROWSE OUR CURRENT VACANCIES AND FIND OUT HOW TO APPLY.

**REGISTER
TODAY AND
KICKSTART
YOUR CAREER.**



www.wsc.ac.uk/about-the-college/events/upcoming-events/12556-apprenticeships-for-all-careers-fair-2024



Soham Village College
Sand Street, Soham
Ely, Cambridgeshire
CB7 5AA

Tel: 01353 724100
Email: svc@soham-college.org.uk
www.sohamvc.org

Other schools in our Trust:
Kennett Primary School
The Shade Primary School
The Weatheralls Primary School

Guide to applying for an apprenticeship

Research – is the key. The earlier you start (where to find vacancies, how to apply etc) the better your chance of getting the apprenticeship you want

Process – you are effectively applying for a job, so expect to complete an application form, have a CV, possibly write a covering letter, and attend an interview

Competition – don't forget there might be lots of competition for vacancies so here are some top tips get ahead of the crowd:

- contact businesses early – get yourself known in the local area so businesses know you will be looking for an apprenticeship. **Doing this during Year 10 is not too early!**
- family and friends contacts – who do you know already working in or has links with your chosen industry?
- industry knowledge – increase your knowledge through research
- work experience – helps with your CV and shows businesses you are keen
- think about what you can do to show you are more interested in the industry or job than everyone else

How to apply – how you apply will differ depending on where the vacancy is being advertised, and also which college is supporting the business offering the apprenticeship

An apprenticeship is not the 'easier option' compared to going onto college. A fair amount of work needs to go into researching and securing an apprenticeship.

Best advice is apply for a full time college course as well as searching for an apprenticeship, so you have at least a back-up should your apprenticeship plans not turn out as expected.