



28 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 10 - Post 16 Choices: The Options and How to Find Out about Them

I am writing to introduce you to the process of Post 16 Choices for students at Soham Village College. Over the next twelve months, students will be provided with the necessary support and resources to enable them to decide on their place of study or training once they leave the school. This is quite a lengthy letter but there is a large amount of important information to make you aware of, so please do keep it for future reference.

Students are required to continue in some form of education until they are 18; this could be an academic, vocational or apprenticeship pathway. Students can choose from a range of colleges and sixth forms in Cambridgeshire and further afield. There are also many local companies offering apprenticeships, and this is now a viable and realistic option that always generates a great deal of interest for students.

All students are advised to make at least two applications. Even if they are certain which one option they wish to pursue, it is always advisable to have a back-up plan. These should be based either on what they think they will enjoy studying and hopefully do well in, or based on their research into what is required to progress onto the university course, apprenticeship, or career they are aiming towards.

Students were recently asked to complete a '**Your Future**' questionnaire, which gave them the opportunity to reflect on their career-related knowledge and skills, and also help them to start thinking what jobs or careers they may like to pursue. Their responses will help me focus on specific areas of interest and scope the careers programme for their remaining time at school.

Opportunities to Research Options

The following activities are planned for the next 12 months –

- Personal guidance meetings
- College taster days
- College and employer talks in assemblies and virtual events
- College open evenings
- PSHE Days involving mock interviews and personal statement writing session
- SVC Post 16 evening (parents and students can talk to colleges and apprenticeship employers)
- College prospectuses available for students
- Apprenticeship workshops run in partnership with AIM Apprenticeships
- Support provided with college applications, and opportunity for students to work on their application personal statements

Personal Guidance Meetings



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

We have started to offer 1:1 meetings to Year 10 students, delivered by our Careers Adviser Mrs Julie Anderson, who meets with students to discuss their current choices and long term plans. At the end of this letter is some detail as to why students should have a meeting and how they can be booked. Some students have already had their guidance meeting and have an action plan to support them. Guidance meetings that have taken place are now shown on students' G4S Detailed Progress table. Appointments are available up to the end of the Autumn term. Some students prefer to have their meeting early in the process, others want to wait until they are ready for one later in the year.

College Applications

Students applying to Post 16 Centres in Cambridgeshire will use [MyChoice16](#), an on-line application system used by all secondary school and Post 16 Centres in the county. Login details will be given to students in July, and details of how to use this system will be shared during the autumn term. Students will be required to produce a personal statement which explains to colleges why they feel they are a suitable candidate and to also share some of their achievements and future plans. Students applying for apprenticeships will be encouraged to use the government's apprenticeship website where they should be able to find many opportunities, as well as applying directly to larger companies such as G's Fresh, Marshalls, Anglian Water and Barclays.

Your child's college applications will include predicted grades and a tutor reference (based on their attendance, punctuality and attitude) which reflects their work in Year 10 & 11.

Local Colleges

- Abbeygate Sixth Form, Bury St Edmunds
- Bishop Laney Sixth Form, Ely
- Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology (CAST)
- Cambridge Regional College (CRC)
- Chesterton College Sixth Form
- College of West Anglia, Milton (animal & land-based courses)
- Hills Road Sixth Form
- Impington International Sixth Form
- Long Road Sixth Form
- Parkside Sixth
- The Maths School
- The Oakes College
- West Suffolk College, Bury St Edmunds

For colleges outside of Cambridgeshire, applications are made direct via their own websites.

For more information about these colleges please find links to their websites on the school careers website:

<https://www.sohamvc.org/post16centres>

What Can Parents Do To Help?

Students will be guided through the process of applying, and will have time in school to research colleges and options, write their personal statements, and start their applications.

There can however only be **a very limited time** during school hours to consider choices and make decisions as this is an individual process that often cannot be achieved solely in a classroom environment. Therefore, I recommend students carry out research at home, including using the websites listed below and talking to you, family members and friends, to start considering their next steps and future plans. **There are plenty of useful resources available for parents and students on the careers section of the school website so please familiarise yourself with them.** Please also consider following the **SVC Careers Twitter account** for regular updates and useful Post 16 information.

If you have any questions at this stage about any of the above, please email me.

Kind Regards,

Mr Nick Oakhill
Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance Manager

noakhill@soham-college.org.uk



@SVC_Careers

Follow us on Twitter to get all the latest SVC careers updates, plus news from Post 16 colleges

Personal Guidance Careers Meetings

Guidance meetings are a great way to start the process of deciding your direction or pathway when you leave SVC. They are not compulsory and so we encourage students to take ownership and book their own at the appropriate time.

They can provide support for a student if they:

- Are feeling unsure or worried about what they might do after Year 11 or further in the future
- Are confused about all the information available and need help to understand it
- Have a particular idea but not sure how to get there or would like some reassurance
- Need discussions relating to apprenticeships, colleges, choice of courses and future careers

Booking process – students can visit Mrs Anderson in the Careers Office (just inside the library) at any time to book their meeting

What does a Careers Adviser do?

- Meets with students one-to-one or in small groups to discuss their career or education options
 - Identifies skills gaps and how to recognize opportunities to fill them
- Helps students identify and consider the range of choices available to them
 - Helps students develop their own careers management skills
 - Draws up action plans
- Discusses with students how to overcome any barriers to reaching their goals



MyChoice16 Applications/Post 16 Timeline

January through to December:	1:1 Guidance meetings with Julie Anderson
June/July:	College Taster days – details to follow once dates are confirmed
July:	PSHE Day – personal statement support, apprenticeship and employer presentations
October (date tbc):	Post 16 Information Evening, with college fair
October:	PSHE Day – MyChoice16 applications, personal statements, college research
October/November:	College Open Evenings
December 6th:	MyChoice16 College Application submission deadline
January – April 2025:	Colleges acknowledge applications, invite students for guidance meetings, and will make offers before Easter
January – March:	College Open Evenings
March onwards:	Apprenticeship workshop and support

**PLEASE NOTE: IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT HOLIDAYS ARE NOT BOOKED FOR
END OF AUGUST/EARLY SEPTEMBER 2025 AS COLLEGES TYPICALLY HOLD NEW STUDENT
INDUCTION DAYS AROUND THIS TIME**

Useful Websites for Students & Parents/Carers

- **Careers sections on Soham Village College website** – this should be your first port of call as there is a great deal of useful information available:
<https://www.sohamvc.org/page/?title=Post+16+Careers&pid=1020>
- **Labour Market Information** – we encourage you to understand more about local and national labour markets to help make informed decisions:
<https://icould.com/> and <https://www.adzuna.co.uk/> are recommended sites
- **Jobs** - If you aren't sure what job you would like to do take the Buzz quiz and find out some suggestions that might suit you: <https://careerswales.gov.wales/buzzquiz> Or search by subject or skill here:
<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs>
- **Jobs** – What qualifications do you need to do the job you'd like:
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/home>
- **Post 16 or 18** - To look at the types of apprenticeship available:
<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>
- **Post 18** – Research university courses and find out what the entry requirements are, so you can pick the right subjects now www.ucas.com
- **Post 16 & 18** - This document helps you decide which subjects to choose if you want to get into a top university: <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>