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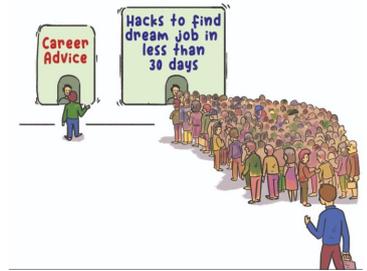
Summer 2024

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.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Gatsby Benchmarks	1
Parents and Carers - Talking Futures	2
Careers website	2
Careers policy and strategy	2
What are the jobs teen really want?	3
Industry Spotlight: Animal Care	4
Post 16 process & taster days	5
Post 16 process & taster days - CRC	6
SVC Careers activities	7
Qualifications	8

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 achieved 7 of the 8 Benchmarks.

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	100% (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 year

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.

What are the jobs teens really want?

A recent BBC Bitesize survey has revealed the top 10 jobs that 13-16yr olds want. No real surprises in the majority, as these are the jobs that children tend to role play during their primary school years. But there are few new entries this year, such as Artist and Builder.

Rank	Careers
1	Doctor
2	Engineer
3	Teacher
4	Lawyer
5	Nurse
6	Vet
7	Footballer
8	Artist (new)
9	Police officer
10	Building trade (new)

The top companies to work for shows a good mix of industries, although high-profile tech related companies feature strongly.

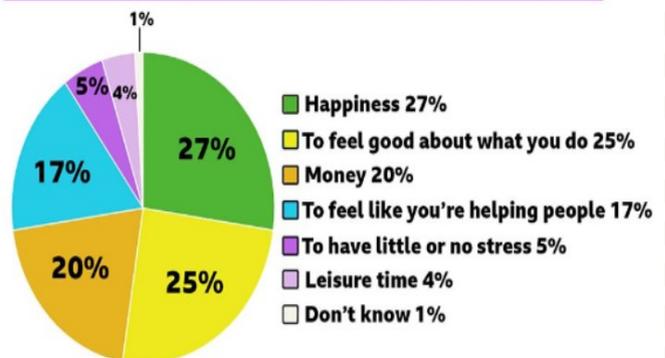
Rank	Business or Organisation
1	NHS
2	Apple
3	Google
4	NASA
5	Microsoft
6	Police
7	Disney
8	Tesla
9	FIFA

Finally, and possibly the most striking set of responses, the survey looked at what's important in a job for young people. Personal happiness, feeling good about your job, and the sense of helping people, all feature highly.

84% of those surveyed said they were confident they would achieve their career goals, although many thought their background played a large part in their degree of success.

32% said they hoped to start A level courses after leaving school (approx. 50% of SVC student go on to A levels), with 19% indicating an interest in doing an apprenticeship (SVC = 5%)

Which of the following things is most important to you in your job?



Source: BBC Bitesize Careers Survey 2024

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

GETTING INTO: ANIMAL CARE



Animal care is a very popular industry SVC students talk about when asked about future careers. Becoming a vet, a vet nurse or equine physiotherapist are the most commonly mentioned jobs, however the list of animal care related jobs extend far beyond these three. Countryside ranger, zookeeper, wildlife ecologist, RSPCA Inspector, animal nutritionist... the list goes on and there are plenty of resources available to research these roles.

A recommended starting point is here <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/animal-care>

There are many animal related jobs that are not always obvious...

Uniformed services - the army and police require trained dog handlers, as well as people to look after horses used in their work

Animal charities – some roles are directly related to animal care, others are more support/admin roles

Apprenticeships - these are offered by many organisations and do require some searching to find them ie RSPCA, Pets At Home, Army Medical Service

Key Skills required:

A love of animals—obviously

Patience and ability to stay calm

Sensitivity and understanding

Ability to work in teams and alone

Communication

Attention to Detail

Technical knowledge

Decision making

There are a number of ways to get into a career involving animal care or working with animals.

An obvious route is to look at the courses offered at College of West Anglia College in Milton, North Cambridge. They have a good range of Level 1 to Level 3 diplomas. West Suffolk College also offer animal care courses. Some of the regional agricultural colleges, such as Otley in Suffolk and Shuttleworth College in Bedfordshire, also offer various animal and land based courses.

As already mentioned, apprenticeships are available for some roles although these can be tricky to find. Direct contact to places like animal charities and dog grooming parlours can be helpful.

Taking part in any type of work experience related to animals is always helpful and can often itself lead to paid employment.

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

<https://cwa.ac.uk/school-leavers>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/environment-and-agriculture/jobs-working-with-animals>

<https://www.petsathomejobs.com/groom-room>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znmvwtly>

Yr10 - Post 16 Process & Taster Days

Yr10s are just starting their Post 16 decision-making journey. They will have a careers assembly this term to start the process. This will introduce them to the idea moving on after SVC and to give them an overview of the timeline between now and the end of December when their college applications need to be in by.

College taster days are now being advertised, and details have already been sent home. The schedule below is also on the school's careers website

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

Post 16 Centres - 2025 entry

COLLEGE	TASTER DAYS	OPEN DAY/EVENING
Abbeygate Sixth Form	27 th June 9.50am-12noon	17 th Oct 5-7.30pm 16 th Nov 9am-1pm https://www.abbeygatesfc.ac.uk/news-dates/open-events
Bishop Laney Sixth Form	11 th July	24 th Oct 6-8.30pm https://www.elycollege.com/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=10
Cambridge Regional College (Cambridge Campus)	18 th June	25 th Apr 4.30-7pm 2 nd July 4.30-7pm 23 rd Oct 4.30-7.30pm 14 th Nov (Apprenticeship Event) 16 th Nov 9.30am-1pm https://www.camre.ac.uk/about/events/open-days-2/
CAST	No Taster Day held	3 rd July 5-8pm 30 th Oct 5-7.30pm https://www.cambridgeast.org.uk/sixth-form
Chesterton College Sixth form	24 th June 9am-3pm	22 nd Oct 5.30-7.30pm https://csf.tela.org.uk/
College of West Anglia (Milton campus)	2 nd July 10am-2pm	23 rd April 4.30-7.30pm https://cwa.ac.uk/news/events (other campus dates available)
Hills Road Sixth Form College	No Taster Day held	6 th July 10am-4pm 8 th July 5pm-8pm (registration from May 2024) https://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/sixthform/how-to-apply/open-events
Impington	10 th July	Autumn term, dates tbc https://www.impingtoninternational.org.uk/
Long Road Sixth Form College	No Taster Day held	2 nd July 5pm-9pm 3 rd July 5pm-9pm (registration in Spring 2024) https://www.longroad.ac.uk/page/?title=Open+Evenings&pid=165
Parkside Sixth	No Taster Day held	12 th Oct 6-8pm https://www.parksidecc.org.uk/sixth
The Cambridge Maths School	No Taster Day held	17 th Oct 4-8pm https://cms.tela.org.uk/
The Oakes	27 th June	26 th June 6-8pm https://oakescc.org/
West Suffolk College	27 th June 9.50am-12noon	19 th October 28 th November https://www.wsc.ac.uk/about-the-college/open-events

PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHECK EACH COLLEGE'S WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND TO REGISTER FOR EVENTS

TASTER DAY DETAILS TO BE SENT OUT WHEN DETAILS RECEIVED FROM COLLEGES (updated 22/4/24)

Yr10 - Post 16 Process & Taster Days

Cambridge Regional College Taster Day
Tuesday 18 June 9.30am—2pm

- Details have recently been emailed to parents
- Students need to choose a Main Choice subject, plus 3 Back Up Choices
- Taster Session subject will be allocated on a random basis if over-subscribed, although the earlier the submission is made, the greater the chances of being allocated Main Choice
- Registration link - <https://forms.office.com/e/RvL22UyikF>

Deadline for registration is Friday 3rd May

Looking back at Spring 2024.....

Yr10 STEM Day at The Technology Partnership, Royston

A small group of Yr10s spent the day at The Technology Partnership campus near Cambridge. They worked hard on their project day challenge and learnt more about the product creation and design process, and met some brilliant STEM industry professionals



Yr11 Mock Interviews

Students got a taste of what a job interview might be like when they took part in our mock interview day. 30 ex-students, parent helpers and local business contacts gave up their day to play the role of interviewers. For many students, this was their first experience of a formal interview and whilst some were naturally nervous, the feedback from interviewers was extremely positive and many students were praised for their stories of success so far and for their future plans.



Yr9 World of Work day

Yr9s had their World of Work day, where they spent the day taking part in activities relating to a subject of interest to demonstrate the link between subjects and the world of work. Some of the sessions were supported by an architect, a fitness coach, and a design & technology professional



Yr11 FLT work experience

Our Yr11 Foundation Learning Tier students spent a week in a work placement to help support their preparation for future employment. Placements included a garden centre coffee shop, an engineering workshop, a museum, a garage, a school and a preschool nursery.

Yr11s are accepting colleges offers and will make final decisions once they receive

.....and looking towards Summer 2024

Yr11s are accepting colleges offers and will make final decisions once they receive their GCSE results in August.

Yr10s are introduced to possible pathways after Yr11, and can sign up for taster days and open events

Yr10 Resolian visit (scientific company)

Yr9 Ely Court visit

Yr9 DS Smith visit for SEND students (packaging company)

Whole school PSHE Day - various careers and enterprise activities (including a session for Yr10s from the amazing Kamal Ellis-Hyman!)



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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