



20 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Post 16 College application update**

As we move into an important period for Year 11 students as they prepare to make their Post 16 destination decisions, I wanted to provide a reminder about the support your child will get this term.

### College and apprenticeship presentations

All students will watch virtual presentations from the main colleges and sixth forms to gain more understanding about their offers. These will take place during tutor time, running over the first few weeks of the term.

### College application support day – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Towards the end of the summer term, students were encouraged to start looking at colleges and courses, supported by a number of college taster days and open events. In October, students will receive further support with how to construct their Personal Statements with a bespoke session run by the English department. I will also deliver a presentation on how to navigate the MyChoice application portal and make them aware of some of the key parts and potentially problematic areas. Students will have the opportunity to start or continue with their applications.

<https://www.mychoice16.co.uk/> - this is the online portal students will use to apply for Cambridgeshire colleges. Your child has been emailed their log in details already and will now have access to their account. For colleges outside of Cambridgeshire (ie Abbeygate 6<sup>th</sup> Form, West Suffolk College), students will need to apply direct via their websites.

### College open evenings

Students will continue to have the opportunity to visit colleges and speak to tutors and students. An up-to-date schedule is available here <https://www.sohamvc.org/collegetasterdaysandopenevenings>

### Careers guidance meetings

Students can continue to book these right up to the end of the autumn term by emailing our Careers Adviser Mrs Anderson [janderson@soham-college.org.uk](mailto:janderson@soham-college.org.uk). Students who have met with Mrs Anderson have a much clearer idea of their options and are more confident about making decisions about their Post 16 destination. I would strongly encourage all students to arrange one sooner rather than later.

You can see if your child has had a guidance meeting by looking at their Go4Schools page, under the Progress section (either 2025 or 2024 depending on whether they had it last year or this year)



## Post 16 Parents Information Evening – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 6-8pm

An invite letter will be sent out nearer the time, for now please save the date.

### Apprenticeships

We promote apprenticeships at the same level as we do full time college courses, as for some students this might be a more suitable option for them. For those students who are seriously considering going down the apprenticeship route as their main choice, we will be supporting them with workshops and bespoke resources in the Spring term, as most businesses don't advertise vacancies until Easter. However, we encourage students to still consider a full-time college course as a back up and so they will be encouraged to complete a MyChoice application.

### Useful Information

As always, there is a wealth of useful information on the careers section of the school website <https://www.sohamvc.org/post16careers>. A particularly useful Post 16 options guide is available here <https://www.sohamvc.org/post16applicationprocess>

If you follow our X account **@SVC\_Careers** then you will be able to keep up to date with any events and news.

Yours sincerely

*Nick Oakhill*

**Mr Nick Oakhill**

**Trust Manager for Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance**



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