

2 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Introduction to the Careers Programme**

I hope your child has started to settle well into school and is getting to know the routine and where their classrooms are.

At Soham Village College, we are committed to preparing all students for life beyond their secondary education, firstly with their Post 16 options and then into their Further Education or employment pathways. All students are required to stay in education or formal training until they are 18 years old, with secondary schools required to provide effective careers guidance and education from Year 7 through to Year 11. Our expansive careers programme has a progressive nature to it which supports students as they move up the school and as their requirements change.

Whilst deciding what to do after Year 11 may seem a lifetime away, our programme introduces students to the concept of Post 16 options and the world of work from Year 7, to get them thinking about what they might like to do in the future and make them aware of opportunities around them. This continues through to Year 11, achieved through a mix of careers-related tutor time activities, PSHE days, employer engagement opportunities, college visits, and use of recommended on-line and physical resources.

Students who engage with this programme during Year 7 tend to find themselves better prepared and ready for life beyond the school. Parents and close family play an important role in this preparation – a recent survey carried out in school showed that 47% of Year 7s and Year 8s get the majority of careers information from their family. So the earlier conversations at home relating to ideas of how students see their lives developing can be had, the better prepared they are as they move through the school.

The careers section of the school website is an excellent starting point to understand more about the programme and to familiarise yourself with where to source information and guidance. The following link will take you straight there: <https://www.sohamvc.org/post16careers>

The careers team produce and send out a termly newsletter packed full of interesting articles, information and links to support you and your child. The latest edition can be found on the school website <https://www.sohamvc.org/careersnewsletter>



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

Tel: 01353 724100  
Email: [svc@soham-college.org.uk](mailto:svc@soham-college.org.uk)  
[www.sohamvc.org](http://www.sohamvc.org)

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

Students can always pop into my office for a chat about anything to do with jobs, colleges, qualifications, future plans etc at any time whilst at Soham Village College, so please do make them aware of the support available. I also speak to students in one of their year assemblies in the Spring term to talk about how they can be supported.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to contact me if you would be willing to come into school to support the careers programme in any way. Employer engagement is a key part of the programme – students gain so much from hearing from outside guests talking about their job, their industry, and their own career pathway, and there are many opportunities through the year for this to happen. Please feel free to email me directly if you feel you have something to offer students. Any support is always gratefully appreciated.

If you follow our X account **@SVC\_Careers** then you will be able to keep up to date with any events and news, both relating directly to the school and also further afield.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or need further information.

Yours sincerely

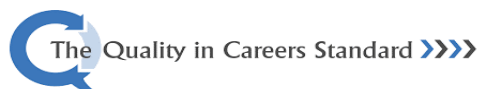
*Nick Oakhill*

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

**noakhill@soham-college.org.uk**



[Follow us on Twitter to get all the latest SVC careers updates, plus news from Post 16 colleges](#)



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