



26 February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 10 - Post 16 Choices: Exploring Options and Support

I am writing to introduce the Post 16 Choices process for Year 10 students at Soham Village College. Over the next twelve months, we will provide your child with the necessary support and resources to help them decide on their place of study or training after leaving the school.

This letter contains important information, so please keep it for future reference.

Your child must continue in some form of education until the age of 18 - academic study, vocational courses or apprenticeships. There is a wide variety of sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeship providers in Cambridgeshire and beyond that they can apply to.

We advise all students as a minimum to make applications to either 2 different colleges, or 2 different courses at the same college. Even if they are certain about their preferred pathway, having a back-up plan is always advised. Decisions should be based on what subjects they enjoy and excel in, as well as research into what is required for their future university course, apprenticeship, or intended career.

Your child was recently asked to complete a 'Your Future' questionnaire, reflecting on their career knowledge and skills whilst identifying potential interests. These responses will help shape our careers programme for the coming months.

Opportunities to research options and receive support

The following activities are planned for the next 12 months –

- 1:1 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 awareness and support workshops
- Support provided with college applications, and opportunity for students to work on their application personal statements



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

Tel: 01353 724100
Email: svc@sohamvc.org
www.sohamvc.org

Personal guidance meetings

We have begun offering 1:1 personal guidance meetings to Year 10 students, delivered by our Careers Adviser Mrs Nicki Howe, where they can discuss their choices and plans. In this letter is some detail as to why your child should have a meeting and how they can be booked. Some students have already had their meeting and received an action plan to guide them.

Completed meetings are recorded on students' G4S Detailed Progress table so you can check to see if your child has had one.

College applications

Your child will apply to Post 16 Centres in Cambridgeshire via the online platform [MyChoice16](#), which connects all secondary schools and Post 16 Centres in the county. Login details will be provided in July, with full instructions on the application process shared in the autumn term. Applications include a personal statement outlining your child's suitability for their chosen study areas, achievements, and future aspirations. This helps colleges understand why they are applying with them. Predicted grades and a tutor reference, which reflects attendance, punctuality and attitude, will also be included.

Apprenticeship applications can be made either through college websites, the government's apprenticeship website, or directly to companies

Local Post 16 centres

- 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
- The Cambridge Maths School
- The Oakes College
- West Suffolk College, Bury St Edmunds

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

Links to all colleges can be found on the school careers website: <https://www.sohamvc.org/post16centres>

How you can support your child

Whilst we will guide your child through the application process and provide time in school to research and prepare, much of the decision-making will need to happen at home. I recommend you/your child:

- researches colleges and apprenticeship options using the resources provided
- talks to you, other family members, and friends about their ideas and aspirations. Don't forget form tutors and subject teachers also like to know your child's plans
- explores the useful resources on the careers section of our school website
- follows the SVC Careers X (Twitter) account for updates and Post-16 information

Yours sincerely

Nick Oakhill

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

noakhill@sohamvc.org



@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 but we encourage you to take ownership and book your own at the appropriate time for you.

They can provide support if you:

- Are feeling unsure or worried about what you might want to 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 Howe in the Careers Office (just inside the library) at any time to book their meeting, or send her an email (nhowe@sohamvc.org)

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 Mrs Howe
June/July:	College Taster days – dates to follow once confirmed
July 3rd:	PSHE Day – personal statement support, apprenticeship and employer presentations
October (date tbc):	PSHE Day – MyChoice16 applications, personal statements, college research
November (date tbc):	Post 16 Information Evening, with college fair
October/November:	College Open Evenings
December 11th:	MyChoice16 College Application submission deadline
January – April 2027:	Colleges acknowledge applications, invite students for guidance meetings, and will make offers before Easter
January – March:	College Open Evenings
February onwards:	Apprenticeship workshop and support

**PLEASE NOTE: IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT HOLIDAYS ARE NOT BOOKED FOR
END OF AUGUST/EARLY SEPTEMBER 2027 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/>