

Careers Newsletter

October 2023

Our aim at Southend YMCA Community School is to provide all of our young people with the knowledge and advice to help them achieve their full potential and we will ensure that every student is provided with the resources to help them make the right choices for post 16 progression. With this in mind we have put together our careers programme for this year to provide the necessary skills and experience to help them succeed in the future. Some of the events we have planned for the current year are listed below:

8 November 2023	Southend Adult Community College – presentation in school for Years 11 & 12/13
15 November 2023	South Essex College – presentation in school for Years 10 & 11
4– 8 December 2023	WORK EXPERIENCE – Year 11
14 December 2023	AIM presentation on Apprenticeships/Traineeships in school for Years 11 & 12/13
11 January 2024	USP College – presentation in school Year 11
18 January 2024	Mock Interviews Year 11 with Department for Work and Pensions and AIM Apprenticeships
1 February 2024	Campus Trip to Writtle College Years 10, 11 & 12/13 (limited places)
15 February 2024	Goals and Aspirations Workshop for Year 10 with Department for Work and Pensions and AIM Apprenticeships
21 March 2024	CV Workshop Year 11 with Department for Work and Pensions and AIM Apprenticeships
10 – 14 June 2024	WORK EXPERIENCE – Year 10
4 July 2024	Interview Skills Workshop Year 10 with Department for Work and Pensions and AIM Apprenticeships

College Open Events coming soon—some dates for your diary

2 November	South Essex College, Centre for Digital Technologies, Basildon
8 November	South Essex College, Centre for Construction & Engineering, Stephenson Road
9 November	USP College Palmers Campus
16 November	South Essex College, Southend Campus
23 November	USP SEEVIC Campus
25 November	Writtle College

There will be further open events later in the year—please see our website for full listing

Although it might seem a long way off, many of our Year 11 students will be leaving school at the end of this academic year and will need to have something in place for their progression. We would encourage all students to get their college applications in as early as possible as places do fill up very quickly. There is no commitment to accept the place and it is possible to change his/her mind later in the year; the important thing is to get the application in. We will have representatives from local colleges visiting the school over the next few months to speak to students to introduce their offer and to answer any queries.

1:1 Careers Interview with Independent Careers Adviser

During their time with us, all of our students will have the opportunity for at least one careers interview with our Careers Adviser, Steve Cooper. Steve has already met with several of our Year 11 students and a summary of this interview has been sent home to parents. Steve is able to offer some really valuable advice and guidance on the various routes open to our young people once they leave school; he can even help with the application process if preferred. We hope that Steve will be able to attend our next Parent/Carer Community meeting next term to meet with parents and help with any queries.

Year 11 Work Experience 4—8 December 2023

Following on from the success of our work experience in June we are offering a further work experience opportunity for our Year 11 students in December this year. This is getting really close now and employers will need time to prepare for work experience so it is essential to start the process now if you have not already done so. We usually find that self-placements work best so, if you have any family, friends or other contacts who are able to offer work experience we will be happy to make the necessary checks and set up the placement.

Alternatively, your son/daughter may like to approach local shops or businesses to see if there are any opportunities for work experience. Please note that it is essential that any potential employer has Employers and Public Liability Insurance. If you are not able to source a self-placement and your child is willing to commit to work experience, then we will be happy to work with your child to help to secure a suitable work placement.

Work experience is an excellent way to introduce young people to the world of work. This should enable them to gain an insight into the workplace and gain practical skills working alongside adults as part of a team. It should also help them to develop employability skills and develop independence, confidence and self-esteem.

If you would like to approach an employer direct please download the self-placement form from our website or request a form from the school office.

Year 10 Work Experience 10-14 June 2024

Our Year 10 students will also have the opportunity for work experience towards the end of the school year. Although this is a long way off, it is never too early to start the process. It might be a good idea to start thinking about the type of work your child is interested in and do a little research to see what is available. You may already have contacts that would be willing to offer work experience so you could perhaps ask them to reserve the date.

Further Information

Further information and some useful links are available on our school website at <https://www.southendymcacomunityschool.org.uk/curriculum/careers-education-advice-and-guidance/>.

If you have any comments about our careers programme or some ideas of how we could improve our careers provision we would be delighted to hear from you at jeanholmes@ymca.southend.sch.uk

