



18th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers

RE: Year 12 Post 18 Pathways Week 2024 - Advance Notice

We are pleased to inform you that our annual **Post 18 Pathways Week** for year 12 students will take place from Tuesday, 11th June until Friday, 14th June, inclusive. Students will have the opportunity to follow a range of activities designed to support and inform their post 18 choices. These will include information and guidance regarding higher education, apprenticeships, business skills, preparing for interviews and the world of work. Although students will not follow their usual timetable for these four days, attendance at college is compulsory. The week will include a huge amount of information that will be of benefit to them regardless of their future pathway and forms an essential component of their sixth form education.

Tuesday, 11th June

Students will attend workshops encouraging them to research possible careers, undergraduate degrees and apprenticeships. These sessions will be delivered by external speakers from local universities and apprenticeship facilitators. Students will also take part in workshops designed to develop their digital and verbal communication skills and enhance their interview skills, with a view to helping them prepare for the world of work. The wide ranging sessions are designed to provide advice and guidance on a wide range of options, encouraging them to consider all possibilities and prepare them for the following day, when we will be visiting the UCAS Discovery Exhibition at Essex University.

Wednesday, 12th June

In the morning, we will be visiting the UCAS Discovery Exhibition at Essex University. Students will have the opportunity to talk in person to representatives from a large variety of universities and training providers from around the country, and gain first hand insight into the possibilities available to them once they have completed their sixth form education. We strongly recommend that students attend this trip, even if they currently feel that university or an apprenticeship is not their plan.

After lunch, a short assembly will take place and then we have invited a number of our ex-students to attend Sigma Sixth and meet with year 12 to discuss the routes they took into their careers. Some have only left recently whilst others now have long standing careers and a range of experience, so we will value their contributions. This is an invaluable and alternative way for students to explore potential career routes and learn how challenges have been overcome in the real world.

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Registered Office: Walton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 6DZ



Thursday, 13th June or Friday, 14th June

NB: Students will be advised of which day they are required to attend, based on their normal timetable. Further information will be given at a later date.

Each student will be given a mock interview appointment with an external interviewer from business or university. The interview will follow a formal structure, and students will receive feedback and advice at the end of the interview.

In addition to attending their interview, students will spend the day following a range of sessions designed to help them research their post-18 pathway, begin the application process for UCAS/apprenticeships and develop 'work ready' skills. This will include drafting personal statements and CVs, both of which are beneficial in any application situation and examining some of the behaviours appropriate to the workplace. There will also be an added challenge of an 'Escape Room' activity, designed to build confidence and team-working abilities.

PLEASE NOTE: Students should dress appropriately for their interview. Suggested work wear includes:

Smart shoes - no trainers, pumps or flimsy sandals

Smart dress - e.g. skirt or trousers and blouse with a jacket or blazer (if available). A shirt and tie always makes a good impression.

Ongoing Open Events

Through our student bulletin board and Careers Hub, we inform students of events that they should consider attending. These include: Summer Schools and Work Experience opportunities, Taster Events and Open Days run by universities, colleges and employers, both locally and nationally. Work experience is especially important as part of any student's development, but even more so for some careers or course choices.

These events give students the opportunity to explore their career ideas and ambitions. We strongly encourage our students to take advantage of these free events, to enable them to make an informed decision about their future career progression.

If you wish to discuss any of these events, or the information provided here, please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Team.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Amanda Read

Career Support@Sigma Sixth

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