

Southwark College Careers Guidance programme 2025 - 2026

Summary Statement

Southwark college aims to provide outstanding careers advice and guidance to ensure all students, their parents and guardians can access a wide range of current, informative, and varied information to support students with making their individualised progression choices. We do this through employing a professional Careers Adviser qualified at Level 6 and Work Experience Officers and via embedding employability into the curriculum. We support the quality marks such as the Gatsby bench marks and Compass to ensure we provide a comprehensive careers programme.

Our aim is to support students in making choices which will suit their interests and abilities, sustain their personal and employability development over time and maximise their opportunities for the future. We work with a wide range of employers, Universities, training, community, and professional organisations to support progression opportunities. Through developing collaborations, the aim is to encourage students to engage in their career planning and employability skills development.

The service offer will be promoted to students using several mediums including Student Services careers portal, Southwark college website, Teams, Careers notice board etc. Support is offered to students from enrolment and from the first weeks in September – October via introductory talks tutorials, as a part of the Introduction to Student Services. This will be further followed up and supported in tutorial sessions and in classes throughout the year, focusing on topics around Career choices, employability, Higher Education, apprenticeships, developing a positive mind set etc. This is supported by the Careers Adviser. The Careers Adviser will also work closely with curriculum, tailoring careers education to each discipline and the level of study. Mature learners will be also targeted via organising sessions for all Access courses on progression routes and support for HE (Higher Education), and student finance. Careers guidance will also be focused on progression advice for all students including those with additional needs.

Through developing collaborations, the aim is to encourage students to engage early in their career planning and employability skills development. This current year we plan to develop more links with employers offering the possibility for students to have access to the workplace by visits, speakers, and work experience.

The challenge, as in previous years, will be to ensure that all students are more proactive accessing the resources, at the right time, enabling them to access Higher Education, gain relevant work experience, placements, or jobs in their chosen fields.