



SPRING COMMON ACADEMY

Moving On OPTIONS

*Preparing for Adulthood;
A Handbook for Parents
& Carers*

2023- 2024



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England





Spring Common Academy *Introduction*

The purpose of this booklet is to provide basic answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about Post 16 in Spring Common Academy.

Every student's needs can be different, and should be discussed in every Annual EHCP review they have from Year 9. Please ensure that you speak directly to our Additional Needs Pathway Adviser **Sian Johnson**, the school and **Social Services** if you have further questions over and above the information enclosed.

There is an opportunity to speak directly to various agencies who make local provision for school leavers or provide advice in an Autumn term 'Moving on' evening in November 2023. Parents/Carers and their children are strongly advised to attend.

Our allocated Additional Needs Pathway Adviser (ANPA), Sian Johnson, can assist Year 11/ Post 16 leavers and their parents in the transition process. She can attend annual review meetings and provide up to date careers information, CEIAG and advice on the local offer for individual students. Her contact is:

Sian.Johnson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Students celebrating their achievements at the Post 16 Leavers Prom in July 2023



Spring Common Academy

Q&A

When can my son/daughter leave school?

Students currently in year 11 will be required to stay in education or training. Young people are required to stay on until the end of the academic year in which **they turn 18**. They can move onto

- Full-time education, for example: school or college.
- Apprenticeships – these usually start at level 2. SEND learners working at Entry Level 3 in Maths and English can now apply for an apprenticeship. See here for more details; <https://www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships>
- Traineeships – these start at Level 1
- Part-time education/ training combined with part time employment/ volunteering for at least 20 hours a week.
- Supported Internships.

When my child leaves school, will the EHCP be continued?

Yes, as long as they are in an education placement, which can last until the student is 25. They will continue to have an Annual Review meeting each year at any further education placement they may attend. If they move to a social care funded provision or to employment before they are 25 the EHCP will cease.

What are the choices open to my son/daughter at 16+?

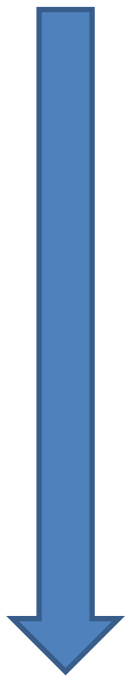
Please see the 'Cambridgeshire County Council' document. Many opportunities are dependent on the level of the qualification or accreditation they have been working toward in their education placement. If you have further queries please speak to our Additional needs pathway adviser Sian Johnson sian.johnson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk , who will have a clear understanding of the most up to date opportunities available in the local area.



Can my child stay on at SCA Post 16 Provision?

Students in our post 16 provision must be working **below** Entry level 3 in Maths and English. If your child is working below this level they are able to stay on at Spring Common Academy, if they are working above this level they would benefit from the facilities and level of challenge available at a further education setting. The curriculum at Spring Common Academy works toward Pre entry and Entry level accreditations only.

National qualification levels set by the Department for Education



Pre-entry level courses which provide accreditation of skills not qualifications

Entry level 1-3: pre GCSE level

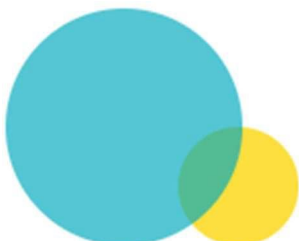
Level 1 equates to a low end GCSE/BTEC certificate (job examples: Delivery, production line, supervised voluntary etc)

Level 2 equates to a High level GCSE/BTEC first diploma/intermediate apprenticeship (Job examples: Receptionist, Car mechanic, Care assistant etc)

Level 3 equates to A levels/BTEC national diploma/advanced apprenticeship (Job examples: chef, plumber, hairdresser)

Level 4 equates to certificate of higher education/Higher apprenticeships (Job examples: Retail management, accountant etc)

Level 5 and above equates to degree level





Our Post 16 provision offer

Post 16 provision at SCA is all about Preparation for Adulthood (PFA): it is focused on enabling students to leave with a set of valuable experiences and transferable skills for life in the following areas;

- **Functional Numeracy, Literacy (including Communication) Digital Literacy & ICT.**
- **Managing Good Health, physical, social and emotional wellbeing**
- **Independent living, leisure skills and Personal Care**
- **Community link opportunities, relationships and leisure skills**
- **Employability- work related learning skills**



Our Post 16 provision offers each student a tailored personalised curriculum. Our aim is to enable all of our students to reach their potential and to prepare them for adulthood and life after school. Preparation for leaving school will be dependent on individual needs.

Our Post 16 provision area is separate from the rest of the school and comprises of 3 teaching areas, a physio room, a sensory room, a common room and outdoor space to allow greater opportunities for personal development, leisure activities and independence. Post 16 also have extensive use of the adjoining life skills and hospitality/catering suite and the Spring Common Academy retail suite and Horticulture environment.

Cambridge Regional College (Huntingdon Campus) School Satellite provision

Our Post 16 students have access to a designated classroom based at the local regional college.

As well as the P16 curriculum, students are provided with opportunities to access the different learning environments on offer at the college such as the animal care, horticulture and music spaces. This allows our students to experience aspects of the college

environment early and prepares students for moving on to further education after Post 16.



Students continue to have access to any therapies they accessed whilst in KS4 as recommended by appropriate professionals as part of their EHCP.

The 16-19 curriculum provision works towards accreditations up to Entry level 3 taught using a range of class based lessons, college links and vocational opportunities on site and in the community through travel training, enterprise projects, community visits and work experience.



Can my child move to college when they are ready?

Students can stay with us for 1, 2 or 3 years, and can move on whenever they feel ready and confident enough to make the move. A Student's progress is continually monitored and discussed in their annual EHCP review and evidence of their skills development is recorded in their Progression Profiles.

College Link subject examples

Cultural Studies



Health and Fitness



ICT and Digital Literacy



Wood Skills



Horticulture





The Student Voice

What do you enjoy as a student of Post 16 at Spring Common Academy?

“You don’t have to be the best, but you should always try your best”

“I learn new things every day in Post 16”

“Uniforms are cool but our own clothes are better, as we have more freedom”

“Post 16 helps you to prepare to be an adult”

“Being more independent and doing more mature things like the impressions gym for Senior Games”

How do you prepare students for adulthood and leaving school?

When pupils enter Key Stage 4 (year 10 and 11) they move into the 14-19 phase of learning. The teaching of basic skills in Literacy and Numeracy is central to the curriculum and some pupils will work towards completing Entry Level Certificates whilst others may gain accreditations at Pre-Entry Level. Lessons begin to take on a more practical focus and concentrate on aspects of learning such as life skills, social skills, and independence and employability skills. More emphasis is placed on thinking for themselves and coping in real situations, including the wider world. All students participate in work related learning and enterprise activities including experience of work and have the opportunity to meet the Additional needs pathway adviser. The students' progress and their next steps is discussed in detail at the Annual reviews.

All SCA students will leave having gained accreditations. In their last year at school all students will receive nationally recognized certificates at Entry or Pre-Entry Level. All students will receive progression files which detail their personal qualities, aspirations, skills and experiences and listing their educational achievements.

All students will have the opportunity to transition to a further college placement on minimum 3 days a week.

Belgium visitors March 2023



Students may experience different work environments on targeted work placements and participate in the International Enrichment Programme in Belgium

Some students who are assessed as not benefitting from education/employability offers from local further education facilities may be

able to access a bespoke provision funded and arranged by **social services**.

How do you prepare students for college?

Post 16 students will visit local Colleges and experience taster sessions within different College environments. Some may also visit social firms within the area. Past examples have been accredited courses in Creative Enterprise, Music Technology, Digital Media, Construction, Personal presentation, Drama and Theatre Workshop. This experience provides opportunities for students to gain valuable qualifications, gain first-hand experience of new environments and make informed choices about further options available.

Students may also develop independent travel skills by regularly using a train or public bus as part of their independent travel training to different locations within the community.



What other help do they get with developing their future?

As part of the Preparation for Adulthood (PFA) curriculum, our pupils are encouraged to examine their likes, interests and strengths. Workplaces, Further Education Colleges and Social Firms are visited and students become familiar with some of the local facilities they may wish to access, once they have left school. In doing this they are also able to start finding out about the opportunities available to them.



Community Farm Project



Wood skills college link course

How do you prepare students for the world of work?

Spring Common Academy follows a careers strategy programme, which links into the 8 Gatsby benchmarks. More information can be found on our school website – www.springcommon.cambs.sch.uk

- Work Experience Placements

Students in years 12-14 may have a bespoke work experience placement each year, which can be targeted to one day a week, or as a block of 1 or 2 weeks. We have strong links with local businesses but also seek to develop these further to offer a range of different experiences within a workplace environment. These can include visits, taster sessions and partnership projects with a work-related focus.



- Vocational Pathways

The Post 16 curriculum has a range of dedicated sessions of vocational training opportunities of Horticulture, Catering and Hospitality and Retail on and off site. This enables our students to gain a greater understanding of the working world and develops employability skills.



- Work Related Learning and Enterprise (WRLE)

Curriculum time is dedicated to WRLE in KS4 and 5 in order to develop communication, functional and independent skills in our students as they work in teams to evolve an entrepreneurial culture and focus



- Vocational / Progression Profiles

All pupils have a Progression profile developed over time from year 9 within the annual review process. It is a document driven by the student's aspirations and interests, and should be continued with their next provider. At SCA it is a working document changing as the student matures and grows, they have ownership over the document and use it to lead their own annual review meetings. Those students with employability outcomes will complete these as part of our CEAIG program with our dedicated ANPA. The documents are vitally important for anyone who will provide assistance to the student, in order to obtain and maintain integrated employment in the community if appropriate.

The school uses the prompt questions taken from the Cambridgeshire County Council version, but use power point and communicate in print formats to support our cohort's receptive communication.

Our Students in work placements...

The Grey House cafe



Raptor Foundation



Mick George



The Attic



Who pays for my child's Further Education?

Please see the County Council 'Moving On' booklet for more information.

How will my child get to college if attending full time or part time?

Please see the County Council 'Moving On' booklet for more information.

How long do college courses last?

This can vary depending on the college course attended. Open evenings are held each year and information on learning support may be obtained. Parents and students are encouraged to attend these. **Many courses are only 3 days a week.**

If my child has received respite care whilst attending school. Will this continue after he/she has left?

Children's Disability Service will work with children with learning disabilities up to 18 years of age. The Young Adults Team (YAT) will then take over and complete an adult assessment. They will continue to support the young person up to 25 years if needed.

We might like to apply for a long-term care placement for our child. How do we go about this?

If your child wants to leave home or go into supported living, you will need to talk to your social worker or adult support coordinator. You can also contact Adult Services Contact Centre on 0345 045 5202. If the young person is under 18, please call 0345 045 5203.

If you wish for your child to go straight into long term care when school or college finishes, it is essential you make your wishes known to them well in advance. The planning preparation for this requires a great deal of time. More information can be found in the enclosed 'Moving On' booklet.

MOVING ON EVENING – Wednesday 8th November 2023

Every year in the Autumn term, upper school students and their parents/carers are invited to attend 'Moving On Options'; an information evening held at school (combined with parents evening). Here they will meet the Additional Needs Pathway Adviser, Sian Johnson, and representatives from colleges of Further Education, Training/Social Enterprise Providers, Social Care Provision, Learning Disabilities Partnership. Please do attend as it is never too early to begin thinking about future options.



We hope you have found this booklet useful. Leaving school is a major step for both students and their families and every single circumstance is different. If you have any further queries concerning your child's future, please do not hesitate to let us know at school and we will be able to help by putting you in contact with the right people.

Tom Dougherty- Post 16 Manager
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Abby Dixon- P16 Vocational Support
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