

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 8 to 13 are entitled:

- to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point;
- to hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for year 8 to 9 pupils and two encounters for year 10 to 11 pupils. For pupils in year 12 to 13, particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers
- explain what career routes those options could lead to
- provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and pupils from the provider)
- answer questions from pupils.

Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider.

We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the Making it meaningful checklist.

Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- Oaklands College
- Morgan Sindall
- Department of Work and Pensions
- Amazing Apprenticeships
- ASK Apprenticeships

Destinations of our pupils

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after school:

- Oaklands College
- Herts Regional College
- London Fashion Academy
- Hair and Beauty Apprenticeship

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Martin Broadbridge – Careers Leader (St. Albans)

Telephone: 01727 836150

Email: mbroadbridge@linksacademy.herts.sch.uk

Gemma Pratt – Careers Leader (Hatfield)

Telephone: 01707 346170

Email: gpratt@linksacademy.herts.sch.uk

Opportunities for access

As our school educates students up to Year 11 only, we offer four opportunities required by law across Years 8 to 11 and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme.

We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 7	Life Skills – assembly and tutor group opportunities Oaklands College Speaker	In house work experience	Life Skills – assembly and tutor group opportunities
Year 8	Oaklands College Speaker	Life Skills – assembly and tutor group opportunities	Life Skills – assembly and tutor group opportunities
Year 9	Oaklands College Speaker	Next Steps assembly and tutor group opportunities	KS4 Options
Year 10	Oaklands College Speaker	ASK Apprenticeships, Careers and Next Steps assembly and tutor group opportunities	DWP 6-week course Taster Sessions Oaklands College
Year 11	Taster Sessions Oaklands College Oaklands College Speaker	DWP Mock Interviews ASK Apprenticeships, Careers and Next Steps assembly and tutor group opportunities Services for Young People Advice and Guidance Individual Meetings Taster Sessions Oaklands College	Services for Young People Advice and Guidance Individual Meetings

Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or a member of their team. Meaningful online engagement is also an option and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Careers Leader. This will then be available to all students in the school's Library in the Careers section.

Policy Review – Provider Access

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Academy Academic Improvement Committee (AAIC) annually, but may be reviewed and updated more frequently if necessary.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the AAIC and the Trustees in Feb 2023.

It is due for review in Feb 2024 up to 12 months from the above date.

Signature

Date

David Allen

Executive Headteacher

Signature

Date

Maire Lynch

Chair of Trustees