



THOMAS ESTLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Provider Access Statement

Approved/reviewed by	
TECC LGC 28/03/2023 V1	
Date of next review	March 2024

This plan is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Version	Date	Updated by	Summary of changes
V1	March 2023	Mandi Collins	New Policy

Thomas Estley Community College

Provider Access Policy

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, 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 pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11).

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); and
- 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](#).

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Previous providers

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

- Hive 6th Form
 - King Edward VI
 - Wigston College
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Destinations of our pupils

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school. These included Leicester College, Lutterworth College, Rugby College, Hive 6th Form, Wigston College, WQE, Beauchamp City 6th Form and local businesses for apprenticeships

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Carlyn Bryan, Careers Lead, cbryan@thomasestley.org.uk

The school reserves the right to decline requests for a number of reasons, including (but not restricted to) the following:

- if such attendance would provide an imbalanced view of available provision (e.g. several apprenticeship providers at an event and no colleges);
 - if the provider’s input would not be relevant to a particular event if the request is not timely (e.g. students have already heard from similar providers during the year, or if they are involved in end of year exams);
 - if the information is not seen to be in the best interest of pupils or there are concerns about the ethics or quality of the provision. In such cases, Head of School or the Careers Leader would inform the provider of this decision and the reason why. If the provider wishes to appeal this decision, they can contact the Head of School. If the provider wishes to appeal the decision received from the Head of School, they should directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk.
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Opportunities for access

The school offers the four provider encounters required by law 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.

Two encounters for pupils during the ‘first key phase’ (years 8 and 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend.

1. Year 8 – Assembly with a provider of approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships – (Exact date to be agreed with provider)
2. Year 9 – Assembly with a provider of approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships – (Exact date to be agreed with provider)

Two encounters for pupils during the ‘second key phase’ (years 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend.

3. Year 10 – Assembly with a provider of approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships – (Exact date to be agreed with provider)
4. Year 11 – [Assembly in November/Autumn Term] with a provider of approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships – (Exact date to be agreed with provider)

In addition to the mandatory encounters, we will offer providers further opportunities to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents/carers.

Opportunities include

1. Careers/provider fair
2. Assemblies from local businesses

The school’s policy on safeguarding (available on our website) sets out the college’s approach to allowing providers into college as visitors to talk to our students.

Premises and facilities

The college will make the drama studio, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity. The college 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 at reception or with our careers lead.

Complaints

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the college complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk.

Approval and review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis, to ensure that current legislation and best practice is recorded.