

Walton High: 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.

Student Entitlement

All students 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 students 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 students during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11). For students in the 'third key phase' (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 students 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 students from the provider)
- answer questions from students

Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between students and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all our young people 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 students.

Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our students: *please note this is not an exhausted list.*

Acorn Childcare, Ernest and Young, Premier Education, MK College, AMEY, Mears, The Institute of Technology, University of Coventry, University of Hertfordshire, Varsity Nine, FCDO Services, The Parks Trust, RAF, Royal Navy, Bedford College Group, Moulton College, Army, Dance Box Studios, Niftylift, MBDA, Grant Thornton and many more.

Destinations of our pupils

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

A large proportion of our students stayed at Walton High for Post 16 courses, some of our students decided to study at other Sixth Form providers these included Royal Latin, Shenley Brook End and Oakgrove. Other students moved onto local colleges including MK College, Moulton College and Buckinghamshire College to study a variety of courses. Alternative providers our students moved onto include Stageworks, Fashion Retail Academy London and Varsity Nine. We had a small number of students secure apprenticeships which included Electrical Installation.

Last year our year 13 students moved to a range of providers in the local area after school:

A large proportion of our students went onto University to study a variety of subjects including Law, Medicine, Engineering, Computer Science and Business. Please note this is not an exhausted list. Our students were also successful in securing apprenticeships at L3 and degree level with several local employers including Celestra, KMPG, Grant Thornton and The Royal Navy accelerated Engineering program. A small number of our students have decided to take a gap year to travel and gain valuable work experience.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mrs Donna Montague, Head of Careers – 5 Dimensions Trust or by calling 01908 677954

Opportunities for access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (marked in bold text) 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.

If you would like to engage with our Post 16 students in Years 12 and 13, as an alternative we offer an Employer Pop Up session, this allows Employers to showcase their offer within our Post 16 centre. These are at fixed times 13.25 – 14.00 but can be any day Monday to Friday subject to availability. Please note we have two campuses and would like employers to attend both where possible.

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

****** If you are an employer or provider who would like to take part in one of our Careers events please email our Head of Careers, Mrs Montague – careers@wh5d.org.uk

Our Career Fairs offer the opportunity for providers to showcase their offer to students. In 2025/26 the following providers have requested attendance:

MK College
Bedford College
Moulton College
Northampton College
Varsity Nine
The Christian Foundation
ITT Partnership
MK Dons SET

University of Hertfordshire
University of Northampton
University of East Anglia
University of Coventry
University of Hull
University of Leicester
Buckinghamshire New University
University of Falmouth

Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, 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 students.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Careers Library, which is managed by the Careers Team. The Careers Library is available to all students at lunch and break times.

Complaints:

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

Approval and review

Approved: *February 2026*

Signed:
Signed:
Signed:

Mrs Montague - Head of Careers 5 Dimensions Trust
Mr Rowland - Head Teacher - WalnutTree
Mr Bennett - Head Teacher - Brooklands

Next review: February 2027

