



The Marlborough Science Academy

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PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY STATEMENT

Responsible Governing Body Committee:	Curriculum Committee
Policy type:	Statutory
Date of Origin:	March 2023
Adopted by:	
Author:	Nikki Golds
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March 2024	November 2023	Y	
November 2024	November 2024	Y	
November 2025	November 2025	Y	
November 2026			

Relationship to other policies

- Acceptable Use of AI Policy
- Careers Education Policy GP31
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy GP11
- Curriculum Policy GP02

This policy statement sets out our 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 policy reflects the requirements set out in the statutory guidance: '**Provider Access**

Legislation (PAL) – January 2023', updated by the DfE Careers Guidance (2024) and fulfils the school's statutory duty under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 (the 'Baker Clause') to ensure that a range of further education, technical education and apprenticeship providers has access to pupils in Years 8–13 to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships."

Student entitlement

All students in Years 7 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.
- 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.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

A minimum of *six* provider encounters is guaranteed for every learner between Year 8 and Year 13, as set out in the Provider Access Legislation (January 2023). These are mandatory for Years 8–11 and optional but available for Years 12–13.

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.
- Encounters must be "career-focused" and take place in normal school hours (or meet equivalent standards if virtual).
- All learners in the relevant year group must have the opportunity to take part in the encounter

The Marlborough Science Academy will ensure compliance with this requirement through a variety of career focussed events embedded into the whole school curriculum and calendar. These will take place during the school day.

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 students using the Making it Meaningful checklist from the Careers and Enterprise Company.

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

We welcome local and national providers to work with our community. In previous terms/years, we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our students:

- West Herts College
- Oaklands College
- ASK (Apprenticeship, Support and Knowledge)
- University of Herts
- Debut Hair and Beauty
- MBDA (Multinational European Defence Company)

This list is refreshed annually and does not limit access for new or additional providers. A provider wishing to request access or attend any of our events should contact either Nikki Golds or Ashley Skirving (Careers Administrator) via Careers@marlborough.herts.sch.uk.

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 students or their parents/carers. The school acknowledges that Ofsted will assess compliance with the Provider Access Legislation as part of the Personal Development judgement, and will provide inspectors with evidence of encounters and access provided. Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Year Group	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
7	• PSHCEE: New beginnings and opportunities for the future • Career Pathway Pop In sessions		• Blue Light Day
8	• Year 8 What's out there? Event – 12 business visitors • Career Pathway Pop In sessions	• PSHCEE Careers Lessons – lessons on Unifrog	• Key Stage 4 Options events • Work Shadowing
9	• Career Insights • Extended assemblies from visiting businesses such as The Army • Career Pathway Pop In sessions	• Who do you think you are? Career day involving SFYP focusing on employability skills - extended assembly delivered before to set the scene	National Careers week – Business visits

10	• What's Next? Careers Information evening • West Herts College assembly • Approved presentations from ASK on apprenticeships delivered in PSHE • Career Pathway Pop In sessions	• WEX • Welcome to the real world event– visitors from Oaklands, University of Herts and ASK apprenticeships	• National Careers week – Business visits
11	• Post 16 Information Evening • Provider Assemblies - every fortnight throughout the term • Next Steps: PSHE Lessons • Oaklands College assembly • West Herts College Assembly • Careers Parent Information Evening • Career Pathway Pop In sessions	• Year 11 SLT Interviews • Mentoring	
12	• Bedford University Fair • Provider Assemblies – every fortnight throughout the term • Enrichment sessions • Careers Parent Information evening • Career Pathway Pop in sessions	• ASK apprenticeships slide presentation	• Work Experience
13	• University Visiting Speakers • Careers Parent Information evening • Enrichment sessions • Career Pathway Pop in sessions • Provider Assemblies – every fortnight throughout the term	• ASK apprenticeships slide presentation	

Granting and Refusing Access

We aim to be as flexible as possible when working with external visitors, within the confines of the school day. Access is offered via, but not limited to:

- Assemblies
- PSHCEE Lessons
- Drop-down events as part of a calendared event

Access for external providers may only be declined or deferred where the provider fails to meet safeguarding requirements, where the proposed session does not meet the definition of a meaningful encounter, where there is an unavoidable timetable clash with examinations or whole-school events, or where insufficient notice has been given (normally a minimum of 10 working days).

Through this policy, the school does not promote academic routes over technical or apprenticeship pathways and ensures that all students receive balanced, impartial and unbiased information about the full range of options available to them

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding policy outlines the school's procedures for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

All visitors must comply with the school's safeguarding procedures, including signing in, wearing visitor ID at all times, and remaining supervised unless agreed in advance. All provider content must adhere to KCSIE and Prevent Duty expectations

The school complies with UK GDPR. Providers may only collect student information with the explicit consent of students and/or parents, in line with our Data Protection Policy

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 Learning Resource Centre. The Resource Centre 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.

Monitoring Arrangement

The school will evaluate the impact of provider encounters and the wider careers programme each year, drawing on student voice, destination data and feedback from visiting providers.

Responsibility for overseeing and quality-assuring arrangements for provider access rests with Nikki Golds, Assistant Headteacher. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and, at each review, will be submitted to the Governing Body for formal approval.