

Provider Access Policy Statement

Introduction

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

Scholar entitlement

All scholars in years 8 to 11 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 scholars during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for scholars 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 students from the provider)
- answer questions from scholars.

Meaningful provider encounters

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

Previous providers and destinations of our scholars

As a new academy, information will be added to this section of the policy as appropriate.

Management of provider access requests

A provider wishing to request access, should contact Diana Walker, Careers Leader, via dwalker@castle-tmet.uk or 0116 2143150.

Opportunities for access

The academy offers the four provider encounters required by law and a number of additional events, integrated into the careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into the academy to speak to scholars or their parents or carers. Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Examples of opportunities for access include assemblies, parents' evenings, lunchtime talks, national apprenticeship week activities, national careers week activities, year 9 options presentations, year 10 and 11 post 16 presentations and post 16 and careers fairs.

Premises and facilities

The academy will make a suitable space, for example the theatre, the library, classrooms etc, available for discussions between the provider and scholars, as appropriate to the activity. The academy will also make available ICT 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 scholars. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Careers Leader so that they can be displayed in the careers section of the academy library. The library is available to all scholars at lunch and break times.

The academy policy on safeguarding and visitor code of conduct sets out the school's approach to allowing providers into school as visitors to talk to our scholars. A copy of the policies can be found on our website: [Policies - Castle Mead Academy | Leicester | TMET \(castle-tmet.uk\)](#)

Complaints

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

Approval and review

Approved: January 2023 by the Principal

Next review: October 2023