

Policy Statement on Provider Access

Smith's Wood Academy: 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 7-11 are entitled:

- ✚ to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers program 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 pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 7 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)

 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 can 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:

- ASK Apprenticeships
- HSBC Bank
- KPMG
- Matt Franks Business School
- Ministry of Justice
- Balfourbeattyvinci
- Wilmott Dixon Construction
- Local Colleges and Sixth Forms
- Aston Villa Football Club
- Birmingham City Football Club
- NHS

Destinations of our pupils

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

Sixth Form Pathways = 50%

- John Henry Newman
- WMG Engineering Academy
- Solihull Sixth Form
- Park Hall School and Sixth Form

College Pathways = 46%

- Birmingham Metropolitan College
- University College Birmingham
- Solihull College Woodlands
- Solihull College Blossomfield

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Dee Long (Careers Lead) on d.long@smithswood.fmat.co.uk or Louise Ellis (Assistant Principle) l.ellis@smithswood.fmat.co.uk

Opportunities for access

The school offers the students 10 provider encounters across their school life, required by law and several additional events integrated into the school careers program. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

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

Year Grp	Autumn term	GB	Spring term	GB	Summer term	GB
7	Form/PHSE/PD Time	3,4	Form/PHSE/PD Time Assembly – Introduction to careers education Careers Drop-Down-Day - National Careers Week Thursday 7th March 2024. National Apprenticeship Week – 5th – 9th February 2024 (in-class subject specific)	3,4	Form/PHSE/PD Time The Big Bang Fair (NEC)	3,4 5
8	Form/PHSE/PD Time	3,4	Form/PHSE/PD Time Assembly – Introduction to decision making, body language, different occupations and what skills are needed. National Careers Week Thursday 7th March 2024. National Apprenticeship Week – 5th – 9th February 2024 (in-class subject specific) Careers Drop-Down-Day - National Careers Week Thursday 7th March 2024 with JCB	3,4 2,3,7 2,3,7 2,3,7	Form/PHSE/PD Time Channel 4 – in School Program The Big Bang fair	3,4 7 5
9	Assembly – Apprenticeships and Training Form/PHSE/PD Time	5 3,4	Form/PHSE/PD Time Assembly – GCSE Options National Careers Week Thursday 7th March 2024. National Apprenticeship Week – 5th – 9th February 2024 (in-class subject specific) Post 16 Subject Taster Days Careers Drop-Down-Day - National Careers Week Thursday 7th March 2024 - South and City, Solihull College, and Think Tank	3,4 2,3 2,3,5 2,3,5	Form/PHSE/PD Time Channel 4 – in School Program	3,4 7

10	Taster Days at various colleges Form/PHSE/PD Time	5 3,4	Form/PHSE/PD Time National Careers Week Thursday 7th March 2024. National Apprenticeship Week – 5th – 9th February 2024 (in-class subject specific) Post 16 Subject Taster Days in school Careers Drop-Down-Day - National Careers Week Thursday 7th March 2024 – SPRINGPOD Work Experience, Post 16 Aspirations and Enterprise team Building Day	3,4 2,3,5 2,3,5 3,6	Form/PHSE/PD Time Assembly – Ask Apprenticeships Assembly - T Levels Mock Interview Day Group Careers Guidance	3,4 5 5,8 3,8 3,8
11	Form/PHSE/PD Time Post 16 Success Evening – Intro to College/6th form including Post 16 booklet. Post 16 Parents Evening with D Long available Post 16 Assemblies: local feeder colleges and sixth forms Post 16 PHSE/PD/Form - Application Sessions with various colleges during throughout October-December 2023 Post-16 1-1 Interviews	3,4 5,7 8 3,7 7 8	Form/PHSE/PD Time Assembly – National Citizenship Service Intervention Lessons: Life skills beyond school	3,4 2,3 2,3,8	GCSE Results Day	3,8

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 can be discussed and agreed on in advance of the visit with the Assistant Head Teacher/Careers Lead

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

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the reception of the school where it will be sent to the Careers Lead Mrs. D Long

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 *[date]* by Governors at Curriculum and Standards Committee

Next review: 31/07/2024

Signed: *[name]* Chair of Governors

[name] Head teacher