

Thomas Deacon Academy: Provider Access Policy 2023 - 2024

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at the school for the purpose of giving them information about the providers' education or training offer. This complies with the schools' legal obligations under section 42B of the Education Act 1997, the Technical and Further Education Act 2017 and the Skills and Post-16 Act 2022.

Student entitlement

All students in years 8-13 are entitled to a minimum of six provider encounters:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship 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 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/programmes.

As a minimum TDA will offer:

- Two mandatory encounters during Year 8 or up to 28th February in Year 9 for all students
- Two mandatory encounters during KS4 for all students
- Two encounters during Year 12 or up to 28th February in Year 13 which students will be invited to attend as relevant to their progression intentions.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Michala Jackson, Assistant Principal: tel: 01733 426060 email: careerseducation@tda.education

Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into our academy's careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers (subject to current local or national restrictions which may require access to be virtual only). This is integrated into our wider careers strategy. The events listed below are subject to change and are in some cases outside the planned programme.

Year	Terms 1 & 2	Term 3 & 4	Terms 5 & 6
8	Careers plans	Different types of employment	Build a business
9	Y9 pathways: progression routes	Eyes on the Prize Year 9 options evening	University visit Careers in the NHS
10	Meet the professionals Exploring work experience	Sports careers workshops Careers interviews	Post 16 taster sessions FE college visits Careers interviews
11	Careers/progression interviews Post 16 options Planning for open evenings Follow up careers interviews	Apprenticeship workshops Parents evening: raising achievement HE, apprenticeships etc.	Destinations/intentions support
12	Vision activities NCS programme: skills builder, why go to university Post 18 progression routes	Workshops and guest speakers HE Fayre and University visit	Futures Focus events Parents evening: progression routes, student finance etc. DWP: CV writing, personal presentation etc.
13	Preparation for university applications, academic interview preparation, student finance	Work-skills workshops Mock interviews Parents evening: progression information	Destination/intentions support

Granting and refusing access to providers

Access will be provided based on meeting the following criteria:

- Adequate rooms and equipment are available, based on existing timetable and letting commitments
- Staff are available to attend, taking account of participant numbers and teaching timetables and ensuring DBS regulations are met
- Students are available to attend, depending on the dates requested and curriculum considerations
- Providers offer impartial, unbiased, and high-quality content meeting equal opportunity requirements
- Providers are GDPR compliant

Safeguarding

Thomas Deacon Academy is committed to keeping children safe and our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy which is available on our website.

Premises and facilities

Classrooms and meeting rooms can be made available for discussions between providers and students depending on the activity. AV and other specialist equipment can be supplied to support provider presentations. This would be discussed and agreed in advance of a visit.

Approval and review:

Next review: September 2024