



Southport
Education
Group

Provider Access Policy

2025 - 2027

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1. Introduction

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

2. Learner Entitlement

2.1 All students in post 16 education 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

2.2 Students on 16-19 study programmes, particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, should have access to one provider encounter per year during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

2.3 Provider encounters will be scheduled during the main college 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.

2.4 In addition, the college is committed to enriching the programmes of its adult and apprentice learners through providing access to local and national providers to inform their career planning.

3. Meaningful Provider Encounters

3.1 One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between learners and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all learners using the [Making it meaningful checklist](#).

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

3.3 Previous Providers

3.3.1 In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- Manchester Metropolitan
- UCLAN
- RAF
- NHS Southport & Ormskirk Hospital
- Police
- Navy
- Sefton Council
- Fletchers
- AMPEV
- Tower Heating
- McDonalds Southport
- Career Connect
- The Prison Service
- Chapelhouse Motors

3.4 Student Destinations

3.4.1 The College is committed to identifying and reporting on student destinations and celebrates the success of our students, Last year our 16-19 study programme students progressed to a range of providers in the local area after college including:

- NHS
- Mencap
- Emmersive Interactive
- Tattoo Piercing Academy
- Tower Heating
- Busy Bees Nursery
- RAF
- Jaguar Land Rover
- Ford
- Southport Master Lock and Safe
- Merseyside Police
- Kids Planet
- Camel Lairds

4. Management of Provider Access Requests

4.1 Procedure

- 4.1.1 A provider wishing to request access should contact Rachael Brownhill, Director of Studies and Careers, rbrownhill@southport.ac.uk.
- 4.1.2 The College offers the necessary provider encounters required by law and several additional events, integrated into the college careers programme as detailed here in the Careers Hub website; [Careers Hub](#)
- 4.1.3 We will offer providers an opportunity to come into college to speak to students or their parents or carers.
- 4.1.4 Access to our learners will be granted where it can be agreed that the provider matches the needs of learners and we are able to accommodate the request (in terms of scheduling and space). Providers are welcome to consider communicating with our learners about (but not limited to) the following areas:
- Types of qualification including, but not limited to, Further Education, Vocational Awards, Technical Awards, Apprenticeships & Higher Education.
 - Transferable / employability skills / skills gaps
 - Support in applications including - but not limited to - course, apprenticeship, university and employment applications
 - All things relating to local, regional and national 'skills gaps'
 - Employer Expectations - including but not limited to - behaviour, knowledge & 'attitude'.
 - Labour market information including - but not limited to - the local jobs market or sectors.
 - Routes into employment
 - Continuing in education and training
 - Additional support for transitions into Higher Education, Further education, Apprenticeships, other training opportunities and employment. This can include financial, emotional and practical support for more vulnerable pupils.

4.2 Premises and Facilities

- 4.2.1 The College will make the main sport halls, lecture theatres, classrooms, or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity. The College 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.
- 4.2.2 Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our students.
- 4.2.3 Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Student Hub or one of the Study Hubs. These areas are available to all students during College opening hours.

5. Safeguarding

5.1 In order to safeguard all members of the college community, visitors will be accompanied by a member of staff, and we expect all visiting speakers to ensure that any messages communicated to learners support the mission and ethos of the college, fundamental British values and do not marginalise any groups or individuals.

6. Complaints

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

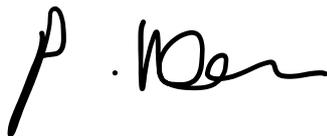
7. Other Relevant Documents

7.1 The following College documents provide links to this policy:

- Careers Education Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Fitness to Study and Practice Policy and Procedures
- Criminal Convictions Policy
- Counselling Policy
- Work Placement Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Disability Statement
- Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
- Positive Behaviour Policy

8. Approval

7.1 In accordance with Provider Access Legislation, this policy is signed by;



Signed: Paul Walker (Chair of Governors)



Michelle Brabner (Principal)