Provider Access Policy

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Person Responsible For Policy:	Headteacher
Governing Committee:	LAC
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1. Aims

This policy statement aims to set out our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about their offer. It sets out:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access.
- The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access.
- Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access.

2. Statutory requirements

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools must provide a minimum of 6 encounters with technical education or training providers to all pupils in years 8 to 13 (see more detail in section 2.1 below).

Schools must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these students.

This is outlined in section 42B of the Education Act 1997, the Skills and Post-16 Act 2022 and on page 43 of guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on careers guidance and access for education and training providers.

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements.

2.1 The 6 encounters schools must offer to all pupils in years 8 to 13.

Schools must offer:

- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9)
    - All pupils must attend.
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9.
- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11)
    - All pupils must attend.

    - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11.
- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13)
    - Pupils can choose to attend.
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 12, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 13.

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day. Schools can continue to provide complementary experiences but encounters outside of school hours won't count towards these requirements.

Schools must ask each provider to provide the following information as a minimum:

- Information about the provider and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships they offer.
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with the provider is like
- Answers to any questions from pupils

At the Academy of St Nicholas students between years 8-13 will receive opportunities for these encounters at various times. A schedule of events can be seen in the table in section 4.2. Opportunities range from assemblies delivered to the whole year group to one-to-one interviews with external employers. All provided opportunities outlined within this policy will provide access to all students from all backgrounds and ensure students are provided with a wide range of prospects for their future.

2.2 Meaningful provider encounters

Our school is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils.

1 encounter is defined as 1 meeting/session between pupils and 1 provider.

A meaningful encounter is one that broadens the horizons of students within the academy and scaffolds the development of the knowledge and understanding required for students to identify their best next steps. All encounters offered must include all students within the identified year group to count as a meaningful encounter.

Meaningful live online engagement is also an option at our school however these will have to fit appropriately with the school day and available IT access.

3. Student entitlement

All students in years 8 to 13 at The Academy of St Nicholas are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of our 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, e.g., through activities and events such as options events, assemblies and taster events.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Lyndsey Bainbridge, Assistant Headteacher using the contact information below, outlining the meaningful encounter being offered to the Academy and the students the encounter is aimed towards.

Lyndsey Bainbridge, Assistant Headteacher.

Telephone: 01512302570

Email: bainbridgel@astn.allsaintsmat.org

4.2 Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers:

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
YEAR 8	Assembly and tutor group opportunities - employability skills & further education opportunities.	Employer event for pupils, – market stall event giving overview of local, regional, and national opportunities and skills requirement	Careers workshops – employability skills and future training opportunities
YEAR 9	Assembly and tutor group opportunities - employability skills & further education opportunities	Meet the professional's event for pupils to discuss potential careers including the apprenticeships and training required to pursue these careers.	**No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February**
YEAR 10	Post-16 technical education options assembly with General Further Education College Life Skills – work experience preparation sessions Assembly and tutor group opportunities - employability skills & further education opportunities	Employer event for pupils, – market stall event giving overview of local, regional and national opportunities and skills requirement. 1-1 careers interviews with external employers.	Industry work experience visits.

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
YEAR 11	Post-16 provider open evenings Post-16 apprenticeships assembly Meetings with impartial L6 qualified Careers Advisor. Post-16 applications and support with applications.	Post-16 interviews Apprenticeships – support with applications. Meet the professional's event for pupils to discuss potential careers including the apprenticeships and training required to pursue these careers.	**No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February.** Confirmation of post-16 education and training destinations for all pupils
YEAR 12	Post-18 assemblies – apprenticeships and further education.	Post-18 assemblies – apprenticeships and further education. Small group sessions: future education, training, and employment options Meetings with impartial L6 qualified Careers Advisor. UCAS and Apprenticeships fair.	Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers. UCAS discovery event. University visit focusing on post-18 opportunities. Work experience opportunities.
YEAR 13	Post-18 assemblies – with higher and degree apprenticeship providers. Post 18 Assemblies on further education opportunities. Workshops – HE and higher apprenticeship applications	Meetings with impartial L6 qualified Careers Advisor. Assembly and small group opportunities - employability skills & further education.	**No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February.** Confirmation of post-18 education and training destinations for all pupils

Please speak to our Assistant Headteacher to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

These events will run in line with any measures related to public health incidents, or other school closures.

4.3 Granting and refusing access

Providers will be granted access at suitable opportunities provided by The Academy. This can include:

- Whole-year group assemblies
- Workshop opportunities for students – these must provide access to whole-year groups.
- Industry exposure days
- Meet the employer events.
- Industry exposure visits (outside of the academy)
- Student mock interviews.

4.4 Safeguarding

Our safeguarding/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.

4.5 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.
- Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Careers room and Sixth Form study area.

5. Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to

speak to our pupils:

- Liverpool University
- Liverpool John Moore's University
- Edge Hill University
- University of Central Lancashire
- University of Chester
- LIPA
- Learning Foundry
- Myerscough College
- NHS
- Royal Navy, RAF and British Army
- Civil Service
- COLAS
- Maxwell Hodge Solicitors
- JJ Smith Engineering
- Unilever
- SAE Institute
- Learning Foundry
- Barclays Life Skills
- Elevate Education
- Shaping Futures

There are many other providers from the local area that have had encounters with our students.

6. Pupil destinations

Last year, our year 11 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after

school:

- School sixth form
- Other sixth form colleges

- Further education
- Apprenticeships
- Employment

Last year, our year 13 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after school:

- University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moore's University, Edge Hill University, and other universities across the north-west and United Kingdom.
- Apprenticeships in local area including NHS Apprenticeship schemes.
- Employment in local area.

7. Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure which can be accessed via https://allsaintsmat.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/14c.-Trust-Complaints-Procedure-Mar-2021.pdf or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

8. Links to other policies

All relevant school policies can be found on our school website and can be accessed using the link: https://theacademyofstnicholas.org.uk/policies

9. Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by Lyndsey Bainbridge, Assistant Headteacher.

This policy will be reviewed annually by Lyndsey Bainbridge, Assistant Headteacher.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.