



Provider Access Policy

Date reviewed:	September 2024	
Approved by:	LGB	October 2024
Next review due by:	September 2025	

For Office Use Only:

Policy Version: 3.0

To make changes to this policy, please email admin@lincolnshiregateway.co.uk.



Aims

The Somercotes Academy policy for Access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- To develop the knowledge and awareness of our students of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
- To support young people to be able to learn more about opportunities for education and training outside of school before making crucial choices about their future options.
- To reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

Introduction

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college is critical to young people's futures. It helps to prepare them for the workplace by providing a clear understanding of the world of work including the routes to jobs and careers that they might find engaging and rewarding. It supports them to acquire the self-development and career management skills they need to achieve positive employment destinations. This helps students to choose their pathways, improve their life opportunities and contribute to a productive and successful economy.

As the number of apprenticeships rises every year, it becomes increasingly important that all young people have a full understanding of all the options available to them post-16 and post-18 including wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications. This policy statement sets out the Academy's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at the Academy for the purpose of giving them 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.

Commitment

Somercotes Academy is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students, for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. Somercotes is fully aware of the responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcome which will enable them to progress in education and work and give employers the highly skilled people they need. That means acting impartially, in line with the statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

Somercotes Academy endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and are able to access information on technical options and apprenticeships (The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause": supporting students to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

All pupils in years 8-11 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.

Pupil Entitlement

Somercotes Academy fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The school will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved

technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done through assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school.

Provider Access Legislation Updated–January 2023

In January 2023, the updated provider access legislation (PAL) comes into effect. It specifies schools must provide at least six encounters with approved providers of [apprenticeships](#) and technical education for all their students:

- Two encounters for pupils during the ‘first key phase’ (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the ‘second key phase’ (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the ‘third key phase’ (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend

The new legislation aims to help learners understand and apply for both apprenticeships and a broad range of technical education options including [T-Levels](#) and Higher Technical Qualifications.

Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers, and to give students and parents/carers access to careers guidance and information:

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 7	Introduction to Careers Assembly - Future Skills Questionnaire and Introduction to Unifrog Careers online	Apprenticeship week - Feb CATCH, HETA Tutorial take over Careers Unit delivered with Access to Unifrog National Careers Week CAREERS WEEK EMPLOYERS IN ONE PER CURRICULUM AREA March	National firefighters’ day National Nurses Day form time careers information Experience of the workplace Academy Annual Careers Fair (May)
Year 8	Access to Unifrog Construction careers event - Abbey Access Stay safe Lincolnshire Council Parliament Week. Encounter with local MP Nov 2024	Apprenticeship week - Feb CATCH, HETA Tutorial take over Careers Unit delivered with Access to Unifrog National Careers Week CAREERS WEEK EMPLOYERS IN ONE PER CURRICULUM AREA March	STEM Enterprise Challenge Activity. Access to Unifrog profile careers site. National firefighters’ day National Midwifery Day, National Nurses Day form time careers information Careers Fair at Somercotes Academy for year 7, 8, 9,10 and 11 May 2025

Year 9	<p>Access to Unifrog profile careers site.</p> <p>Construction careers event - Abbey Access</p> <p>Parliament Week. Encounter with local MP Nov 2024</p> <p>Army visit to school October – June</p>	<p>STEM careers - Science</p> <p>National Careers Week CAREERS WEEK EMPLOYERS IN ONE PER CURRICULUM AREA March</p> <p>Access to Unifrog Careers</p> <p>Careers Unit delivered: Future Planning, thinking of careers to suit you, aiming high, LMI - Income and wages, NHS competition</p> <p>NHS careers pathway assembly November</p> <p>Apprenticeship week - Feb ASK, HETA, Tutorial take over</p>	<p>Year 9 Options Evening and choices, support given through careers and drop-in sessions. Advice and guidance sessions</p> <p>National firefighters' day National Midwifery Day, National Nurses Day form time careers information STEM Enterprise Day.</p> <p>Careers Fair at Somercotes Academy for year 8, 9,10 and 11 May 2025</p> <p>Springpod – Careers Ambassador Programme</p>
Year 10	<p>Access to Unifrog profile careers site.</p> <p>Construction careers event - Abbey Access</p> <p>National Teachers Day Assembly with BGU and teacher career journeys BGU in for assembly</p> <p>Stay Safe Lincolnshire County Council October</p> <p>Lincolnshire Health & Care Careers Event Year 10 & 11 selection of pupils</p> <p>Parliament Week. Encounter with local MP Nov 2024</p> <p>One to one career advice. Delivered virtually by Changing Education. Alternate Wednesdays</p>	<p>Access to Unifrog profile careers site.</p> <p>Apprenticeship week Feb 2024 ASK, HETA, Speakers for Schools. Tutorial take over.</p> <p>National Careers Week CAREERS WEEK EMPLOYERS IN ONE PER CURRICULUM March 2024</p> <p>Careers Unit delivered: Aspiration, Job hunting, Job search, Application forms, CV/cover letter, Interview Techniques, communication with access to Unifrog Careers</p> <p>One to one career advice. Delivered virtually by Changing Education. Alternate Wednesdays</p>	<p>Appointments available with independent careers consultant.</p> <p>Access to Unifrog profile careers site</p> <p>Franklin College Taster Day</p> <p>Grimsby Institute taster day.</p> <p>North East Lincolnshire Skills Fair</p> <p>Lincoln University visit – information and activities from provider relating to careers.</p> <p>National firefighters' day National Midwifery Day, National Nurses Day form time careers information</p> <p>STEM Enterprise Day</p> <p>Work Experience / Experiences of work places. In person or virtual May 2025</p> <p>Careers Fair at Somercotes Academy for year 7, 8, 9,10 and 11 May 2025</p>

			Springpod – Careers Ambassador Programme
Year 11	<p>'Here for you'- Careers advise weekly drop in.</p> <p>Parent open evening, information for year 11 and support, colleges will be in attendance.</p> <p>Careers Unit delivered: Careers application LINC2 and 1:1 career guidance. Access to Unifrog profile careers site.</p> <p>Construction careers event - Abbey Access September</p> <p>National Teachers Day Assembly with BGU and teacher career journeys Bishop Grosseteste University in for assembly</p> <p>Visits from Waltham Tollbar, Franklin, Riseholme and Grimsby Institute for assembly (all year 11) Provider talks to give information and raise aspirations.</p> <p>Visit CATCH training facility Visit HETA training facility</p>	<p>'Here for you'- Careers advise weekly drop in.</p> <p>National Careers Week CAREERS WEEK EMPLOYERS IN ONE PER CURRICULUM AREA March</p> <p>Careers Unit delivered: MIND MAPS AND REVISION SKILLS Access to Unifrog.</p> <p>Apprenticeship week Feb 2024 ASK, HETA, Speakers for Schools. Tutorial take over</p>	<p>'Here for you'- Careers advise weekly drop in.</p> <p>Access to Unifrog profile careers site.</p> <p>Careers Unit delivered: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, RESILIENCE, COMMUNICATION. Access to Unifrog careers site.</p> <p>National firefighters' day, National Midwifery Day, National Nurses Day form time careers information</p> <p>Careers Fair at Somercotes Academy for year 7, 8, 9,10 and 11. May 2025</p>

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader (Mrs L Brown) and Line Manager (Mrs H Smith) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

Equality and Diversity

Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. Somercotes Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact

Mrs Brown - Careers Leader

Telephone 01507 353459

Premises and facilities

The Academy will make the halls or classrooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The Academy 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 with the Curriculum Leader.

Safeguarding

Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy outlines the Academy's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors.

Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

Live/Virtual encounters

Somercotes Academy will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Mrs L Brown, email:

brownl@somercotesacademy.co.uk

Mrs L Brown will raise the complaint to Mr J Bailey, Principal at Somercotes Academy.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually by the Senior Leadership Team and Trust.

Policy Reviewed: September 2024

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Somercotes Academy to date include:

BGU
Lincoln University
Franklin Sixth Form College
Grimsby Institute
Riseholme
HETA
National Horse Racing College
Humber Maritime College

Destinations of previous pupils from Somercotes Academy include:

Franklin Sixth Form College, Grimsby Institute, Riseholme, Apprenticeships, Employment.