



## Provider Access Policy

<b>Date reviewed:</b>	<b>September 2025</b>	
<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>LGB</b>	<b>March 2026</b>
<b>Next review due by:</b>	<b>September 2026</b>	

***For Office Use Only:***

Policy Version: 3.1

To make changes to this policy, please email [admin@lincolnshiregateway.co.uk](mailto: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 policy sets out the Academy's arrangements for provider access, in line with Section 42B of the Education Act 1997, the Baker Clause, and the updated Provider Access Legislation (PAL) effective September 2025.

## **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). As Somercotes Academy is an 11–16 school, the statutory duty for encounters in Years 12–13 does not apply.

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.

All pupils in Years 8–11 are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme covering the full range of options at each transition point.
- Hear from a range of local providers about opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships, through events, assemblies, and workshops.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

## Provider Access Legislation (PAL) – September 2025 Update

From September 2025, PAL requires schools to provide at least six encounters with approved providers:

- Two encounters during the first key phase (Years 8–9), mandatory for all pupils, with at least one before 28 February in Year 9.
- Two encounters during the second key phase (Years 10–11), mandatory for all pupils, with at least one before 28 February in Year 11.
- Two encounters during the third key phase (Years 12–13). As Somercotes Academy is 11–16, this requirement does not apply.

Encounters must take place during normal school hours. Events held outside the school day (such as evening parent events) will not count towards the six statutory encounters, though they remain valuable.

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:

Year Group	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 7	Introduction to Careers Assembly; Future Skills Questionnaire; Unifrog intro; Save a Life September (St John's Ambulance, 23/09/25); NHS Health & Careers event (19/11/25).	National Apprenticeship Week activities; National Careers Week employer encounters; Careers Fair (10/02/26).	Experience of the workplace; Annual Careers Fair (10/02/26).
Year 8	Unifrog access; Construction Careers Event (Abbey Access); Stay Safe Day (05/11/25);	National Apprenticeship Week activities; National Careers Week employer	STEM Enterprise Challenge; IntoTech Programme (Spring/Summer)

	Parliament Week – MP encounter (24–30/11/25).	encounters; Careers Fair (10/02/26).	2026); Careers Fair (10/02/26).
Year 9	Unifrog access; Construction Careers Event; Army Careers visit (Oct 25–June 26); NHS Careers Pathway Assembly (Nov 25); Parliament Week MP encounter (24–30/11/25).	Apprenticeship Week (ASK/HETA, Feb 26); National Careers Week employer encounters; Options Evening; Careers Fair (10/02/26).	STEM Enterprise Day; BGU Raising Aspirations Step 1 (24/04/26); Step 2 campus visit (07/05/26); RWE Wind for Change competition (ongoing).
Year 10	RISE Workshops 1 & 2 (06/10/25 & 13/10/25); BGU Teaching Pathways Assembly (07/10/25); BGU Raising Aspirations Step 1 (08/01/26); Stay Safe Day (26/11/25); Lincoln Health & Care Event (19/11/25).	Orsted Visit (03/02/26); Apprenticeship Week (Feb 26: ASK, HETA, Speakers for Schools); National Careers Week encounters; Mock Interviews (03/03/26); CATCH Trip (13/03/26); HETA Trip (24/03/26); Careers Fair (10/02/26).	STEM Enterprise Day; Work Experience (27/04–01/05/26); Careers Fair (10/02/26).
Year 11	Provider Assemblies – Franklin College (17/10/25), King Edward (03/10/25), Riseholme/Bishop Burton (10/10/25), Grimsby Institute (21/11/25), Lincoln College (14/11/25), HETA (28/11/25); BGU Raising Aspirations Step 1 (16/10/25), Step 2 campus visit (02/12/25).	Apprenticeship Week (Feb 26: ASK, HETA, CATCH application support); National Careers Week encounters; Careers Fair (10/02/26).	Resilience & Employability workshops; BGU Raising Aspirations follow-up; Careers Fair (10/02/26).

## Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader (Mrs L Brown) and Line Manager (Mr P Kaylow) 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](mailto: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 2025***

**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.