



## Provider Access Policy

<b>Date reviewed:</b>	<b>September 2023</b>	
<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>LGB</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Next review due by:</b>	<b>September 2024</b>	

***For Office Use Only:***

Policy Version: 2.0

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 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 Academy 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 Academy 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 Morrisby Careers online	Apprenticeship week 5-11 Feb ASK, HETA, Speakers for Schools. Tutorial take over  Careers Unit delivered with Access to Morrisby Careers  National Careers Week CAREERS WEEK EMPLOYERS IN ONE PER CURRICULUM AREA 09 March	National firefighters’ day 04.05.24 National Nurses Day 06.05.24 form time careers information  Pathway partners with Speakers for Schools. Opportunities for inspirational talks, experience of the workplace and National Teen book club in association with Penguin books.
Year 8	Construction careers event - Abbey Access  Stay safe Lincolnshire Council  Parliament Week. Encounter with local MP 06-12 Nov 2023	Apprenticeship week 5-11 Feb ASK, HETA, Speakers for Schools. Tutorial take over  Access to Morrisby Careers  Careers unit delivered: About you now, Entrepreneurship, Gender Stereotypes in careers, Higher Education, LMI, Making an action plan.	<b>STEM Enterprise Challenge Activity.</b>  Access to Morrisby profile careers site.  National firefighters’ day National Midwifery Day, National Nurses Day form time careers information

		<p>Apprenticeship week ASK, HETA, Speakers for Schools. Tutorial take over.</p> <p>National Careers Week CAREERS WEEK EMPLOYERS IN ONE PER CURRICULUM AREA March</p>	<p>Careers Fair at Somercotes Academy for year 8, 9,10 and 11 3rd May 2024</p> <p>Pathway partners with Speakers for Schools. Opportunities for inspirational talks, experience of the workplace and National Teen book club in association with Penguin books.</p>
Year 9	<p>Access to Morrisby profile careers site.</p> <p>Construction careers event - Abbey Access</p> <p>Parliament Week. Encounter with local MP 06-12 Nov 2023</p>	<p><b>“Big Bang” Science visit – STEM careers and employer visit and activities.</b></p> <p>National Careers Week CAREERS WEEK EMPLOYERS IN ONE PER CURRICULUM AREA March</p> <p>Access to Morrisby 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 before competition in curriculum</p> <p>Apprenticeship week 5-11 Feb ASK, HETA, Speakers for Schools. 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 2024</p> <p>Pathway partners with Speakers for Schools. Opportunities for inspirational talks, experience of the workplace and National Teen book club in association with Penguin books.</p>
Year 10	<p>Access to Morrisby 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>Army visit to school October</p> <p>Stay Safe Lincolnshire County Council October</p>	<p>BGU provider-led aspiration talks – Revision skills (Step 1).</p> <p>Access to Morrisby profile careers site.</p> <p>Apprenticeship week Feb 2024 ASK, HETA, Speakers for Schools. Tutorial take over.</p> <p><b>Careers information session for parents at Parents’ evening.</b></p> <p>National Careers Week CAREERS WEEK EMPLOYERS IN ONE PER CURRICULUM March 2024</p>	<p>Appointments available with independent careers consultant.</p> <p>Access to Morrisby 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 Chemistry visit – information and</p>

	<p>Lincolnshire Health &amp; Care Careers Event Year 10 &amp; 11 selection of pupils</p> <p>Parliament Week. Encounter with local MP 06-12 Nov 2023</p>	<p>Careers Unit delivered: Aspiration, Job hunting, Job search, Application forms, CV/cover letter, Interview Techniques, communication with access to Morrisby Careers</p>	<p>activities from provider relating to careers in science.</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 2024</p> <p>Careers Fair at Somercotes Academy for year 8, 9,10 and 11 May 2024</p> <p>Pathway partners with Speakers for Schools. Opportunities for inspirational talks, experience of the workplace and National Teen book club in association with Penguin books.</p>
Year 11	<p>'Here for you'- Careers advise weekly drop in.</p> <p><b>Parents/ carers evening- independent careers advice available.</b></p> <p>Careers Unit delivered: Careers application LINC2 and 1:1 career guidance. Access to Morrisby profile careers site.</p> <p>Construction careers event - Abbey Access September</p> <p>Army visit to school October</p> <p>National Teachers Day Assembly with BGU and teacher career journeys Bishop Grosseteste University in for assembly</p>	<p>'Here for you'- Careers advise weekly drop in.</p> <p><b>Parent/ carers evening- independent careers advice available.</b></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 Morrisby careers site.</p> <p>Apprenticeship week Feb 2024 ASK, HETA, Speakers for Schools. Tutorial take over</p>	<p>Parent open evening, information for year 11 and support, colleges will be in attendance.</p> <p>'Here for you'- Careers advise weekly drop in.</p> <p>Access to Morrisby profile careers site.</p> <p>Careers Unit delivered: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, RESILIENCE, COMMUNICATION. Access to Morrisby 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 8, 9,10 and 11. 3rd May 2024</p>

	Visits from Waltham Tollbar, Franklin, Riseholme and Grimsby Institute for assembly (all year 11) Provider talks to give information and raise aspirations.		Pathway partners with Speakers for Schools. Opportunities for inspirational talks, experience of the workplace and National Teen book club in association with Penguin books.
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## **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](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 2023***

## **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.