



St Thomas More High School Provider Access Legislation (PAL) policy statement

Under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 and the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 we have a duty to provide pupils in Years 8-13 with access to providers of post-14, post-16 and post-18 education and training. This policy statement sets out how we manage access requests from these providers.

What are pupils entitled to?

Pupils in Years 8 to 13 are entitled to:

- Learn more about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of a careers programme which informs pupils of the full range of education and training options available to them at each transition point.
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities on offer, for example, technical education and apprenticeships – this can be achieved through options evenings, assemblies, group discussions, and taster events.
- Understand how to apply to the full range of academic and technical courses available to them.

All pupils in Years 8 to 13 will receive at least six encounters with accredited providers of technical education and apprenticeships. These encounters will be divided accordingly:

- During the first key phase (Year 8 to Year 9) all pupils must attend two mandatory sessions by accredited providers
- During the second key phase (Year 10 and 11) all pupils must attend two mandatory sessions by accredited providers
- During the third key phase (Year 12 and Year 13) there will two sessions by accredited providers – these will be optional for pupils to attend

What opportunities are provided to allow access to pupils?

Via our school careers programme, we offer providers numerous opportunities throughout the school year to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers.

These careers one to one interview sessions will be scheduled during the school's main opening hours.

The school offers the six provider encounters that are legally required – these are marked with bold text below – and a number of additional events.

Our annual schedule of events is as follows:

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 8		IPECO apprenticeships (3rd March 2025) Year 8 Mock Interview Day 7 th March 2025 Calford Seadon - Building and Construction/quantity surveying - Nicola Butler	
Year 9	National Crime Agency Assembly and Workshop -15th Nov 2024		Army - Year 9 enrichment day - to talk about careers 14th July 2025
Year 10	Ford into Schools Yr10-12 L1 and L2 (2nd October 2024) USP Assembly - 7th November 2024 L2 Apprenticeship Mel Swayze from DWP (14th November 2024)	Year 10 Mock Interview Day 6 th February 2025 Calford Seadon - Building and Construction/quantity surveying - Nicola Butler	Post 16 week
Year 11	Ford into Schools Yr10-12 L1 and L2 (2nd October 2024) Sport Careers Day Selected PE UFCB 3rd October 2024 SIGN UP L3 Degree Apprenticeship Mel Swayze from DWP (15th November 2024)	L3 Apprenticeships Mel DWP 13th February 2025 Daisy Harris Level 3 Canary Wharf L3 Bus Admin Apprenticeship 13th February 2025	
Year 12	Ford into Schools Yr10-12 L1 and L2 (2nd October 2024) Sport Careers Day Selected PE UFCB 3rd October 2024 SIGN UP	UCL university visit and workshop	Danielle Zamora - Morgan Stanley apprenticeships 11/07/2025 2 x 2hr sessions
Year 13	Danielle Zamora - Morgan Stanley apprenticeships L4 19/11/2024		

During these sessions, at a minimum, providers will be given enough time to:

- Share information about the provider and the approved technical qualifications and apprenticeships they offer.
- Explain what career routes these qualifications and apprenticeships could lead to.
- Provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider.
- Answer pupils' questions.

Which providers have previously been invited to the school?

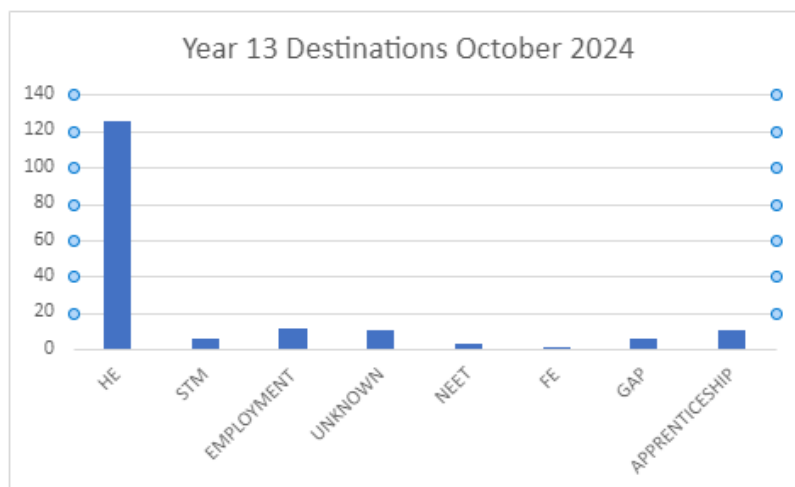
In previous terms and academic years, the school has invited the following providers to speak to pupils:

- Standard Chartered
- Investment 2020
- Morgan Stanley
- Connexions
- University College London
- USP
- South Essex College

Last year, our Year 11 pupils moved on to a range of providers in the local area after finishing school.



Last year, our Year 13 pupils moved on to a range of providers in the local area after finishing school.



Who should providers contact to discuss events and options?

Providers can speak to our careers leader, Alison Lindsay or our careers co-ordinator Katie Bradley, to discuss possible attendance at relevant events.

Our [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#) sets out the school's approach to allowing providers into school to speak to our pupils.

What can providers expect once a request has been accepted?

Once we have approved a provider, we will work with them to identify the best method for providing access to our pupils.

We will make the school hall, classrooms and private meeting rooms available to host discussions between providers and pupils. We will also make presentation equipment, such as projectors and televisions, available to providers.

Arrangements will be discussed in advance between our careers leader and a nominated member of the provider's team.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus and other relevant course literature with the school librarian at the school library, school reception or with the Careers Leader.

How are complaints regarding provider access managed?

If you have a complaint relating to the school's provider access arrangements, you can raise it in line with the school's [Complaints Procedures Policy](#) or you can contact The Careers and Enterprise Company directly on provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk.

Approval and review

The next review will take place on **5th November 2025**.

Signed: _____ Gemma Ackred (Headteacher)