



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		DWP CV writing Assembly January 2026 USP Assembly February 2026 Year 8 Mock Interview Day March 2026 IPECO Careers Carousel February 2026	
Year 9	National Crime Agency Assembly and Workshop November 2025 Opportunities for Volunteering (Duke of Edinburgh) Dec 2025	USP Assembly TBC	
Year 10	USP Assembly - November 2025 IPECO Careers Assembly October 2025	DWP CV writing Assembly January 2026 Year 10 Mock Interview Day February 2026	Post 16 week
Year 11	SEC Alternative Pathways and choices – October 2025 Sport Careers Day Selected PE UFCB October 2025 SIGN UP	L3 Apprenticeships Mel DWP TBC	
Year 12	Sport Careers Day Selected PE UFCB October 2025 SIGN UP	Volunteering Assembly – Feb 2026 UCL university visit and workshop DWP – Degree Apprenticeships – March 2026	Post 18 day to include - Morgan Stanley apprenticeships
Year 13	Youth Forum - Politics trip - meet the MP 19th September 2025 - opt in Sport Careers Day Selected PE UFCB October 2025 SIGN UP UCAS University Careers Fair – October 2025		

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

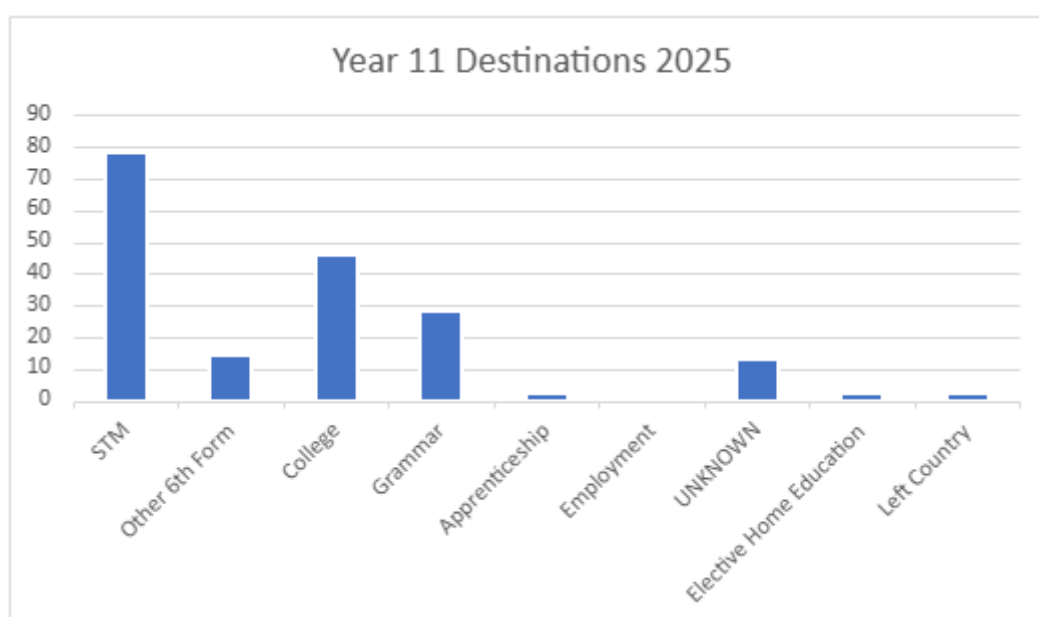
- Share information about the provider and the approved technical qualifications and apprenticeships they offer.
- Explain what career routes these qualifications and apprenticeships could lead to.
- Provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider.
- Answer pupils' questions.

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 (now know as Southend Careers Service)
- 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 **2nd November 2026**.

Signed: _____ Gemma Ackred (Headteacher)