



West Bromwich Collegiate Academy

Provider Access Policy Statement

(To include The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause” and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023)

Ownership: West Bromwich Collegiate Academy

Date updated: January 2023

Rationale

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.

Commitment

West Bromwich Collegiate 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. West Bromwich Collegiate 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.

West Bromwich Collegiate 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).

Aims

The West Bromwich Collegiate 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).

Student Entitlement

West Bromwich Collegiate 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 four encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships (two within each key stage). This will be done in assemblies or Focus Days in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school or at each Trust school.

Opportunities for Access

Opportunity	Approximate dates	Description	Gatsby Benchmark
National Careers Week	March	This week celebrates opportunities for young people who aspire to a variety of careers. This is an opportunity for external partners to engage with the academy.	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
National Apprenticeship Week (for Key Stage 4 Students)	February		
Within Curriculum Time	Throughout the year	Each L4L theme or unit of work will have a link to at least one specific career where students can see a real-life application of knowledge and skills. External	4, 5

		partners may be able to support with these connections.	
Student Assemblies	Throughout the year	Students will have the opportunity to listen to guest speakers from a range of career backgrounds; this will broaden their contact with a range of employers.	3, 6
Focus Days	Thorough the year	Specific career-focussed days where students can explore a variety of careers and employment providers.	1, 3, 5, 6
Parents Evenings (Year 9 onwards)	Throughout the year	Increased parental awareness of careers support in making decisions about options, future destinations and opportunities within the academy.	3, 7, 8
Student Mentoring, Support and Guidance Interviews	Throughout the year	Every student will have had a minimum of one careers and guidance interview by the age of 16. Pupil Premium and EHCP students will be prioritised and will receive an interview prior to choosing options in Year 9.	3, 8

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager (*Vice Principal*) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

- It supports and is underpinned by key academy policies including those for Careers, Safeguarding and 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. West Bromwich Collegiate Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to Miss Jennifer Adams, Careers Leader.

Jenny Adams may be contacted by telephone or email, jadams@wbca.shirelandcat.net,

Tel 0121 393 4850

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Personal Development lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that West Bromwich Collegiate Academy is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with West Bromwich Collegiate Academy.

Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

West Bromwich Collegiate Academy will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. All students have devices so IT can be provided for students. The Careers Leader will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers or Admin Team who will facilitate.

All requests will be given due consideration from the designated Careers Leader and Senior Leadership Team. Requests from Careers Providers may be refused if:

- The timing would impact on students' preparation for public or internal exams
- They clash with other planned Academy events
- The Academy is unable to provide staff to support the event
- Rooming is unable to be found due to timetabling clashes
- There is a lack of notice given (please try to send requests at least 6 weeks before planned activities)

Live/Virtual encounters

West Bromwich Collegiate 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.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to *Mary Gardner* email:
mgardner@wbca.shirelandcat.net

Mary Gardner will raise the complaint to George Faux, Principal of WBCA.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Standards and Performance Committee.

Policy Coordinator: Mary Gardner

Policy Reviewed: March 2023

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into West Bromwich Collegiate Academy to date include:

Sandwell College

Aston University

Juniper Training

Destinations of previous pupils from West Bromwich Collegiate Academy:

N/A at present