

Biddenham International School & Sports College

PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY

(including Careers Guidance)

Rationale

Careers education and guidance programmes play a major part in helping young people choose programmes that suit their interests, abilities and individual needs. A robust careers programme helps avoid disengagement, puts school learning into a wider and more relevant context, and helps raise aspirations.

The Biddenham International School programme will help our students to plan and manage their careers effectively, ensuring progression which is ambitious and aspirational. It will promote equality of opportunity, embrace diversity and challenge stereotypes. The policy will be guided by the Gatsby benchmarks and conform to statutory requirements.

Context

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

Student entitlement

All students in years 7-13 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.
- 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.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

Management of provider access requests procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Cathy Eckett, Deputy Headteacher, on 01234 342521 or at cathy.eckett@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11). For pupils in the 'third key phase' (year 12 to 13), particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers
- explain what career routes those options could lead to
- provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and pupils from the provider)
- answer questions from pupils.

Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the [Making it meaningful checklist](#).

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to speak to students and/or their parents/carers. In addition to our programme, we are happy to support providers who can either offer pre-recorded materials for particular year groups, or who are willing to participate in 'live' remote talks.

In order to fulfil the new legislation, we book local providers in advance each academic year, to see each year group.

Please see our [Careers and Information Events](#).

Please speak to Careers Leader, Cathy Eckett, to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting room available for remote discussions between the provider and students as appropriate to the activity. The school 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 send a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature to the Careers Library, which is managed by our independent careers advisor. The Careers Library is available to all students at break and lunch times.

Date of Next Review: **December 2024**