Provider Access Policy

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SIGNATURES:

Principal	Mrs J. Owens
Chair of Governors	Mrs H. Mottram

In line with the DfE statutory guidance (May 2025) and the Provider Access Legislation (PAL), the Academy is required to ensure that all students from years 8 to 11 receive at least four meaningful encounters with a range of education and training providers, including technical education and apprenticeship routes.

This policy sets out the Academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students at the Academy for the purposes of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer.

This policy should be read alongside the Academy's Careers Policy which is available on the Academy website.

Our Academy Values

At Castle View Enterprise Academy, our Provider Access programme supports the development of our core values of Ambition, Determination, Respect and Responsibility. Through meaningful encounters with further education, higher education, apprenticeship and training providers, students are encouraged to be ambitious in exploring a wide range of progression pathways, demonstrate determination when considering future aspirations, show respect for different education and career routes, and take responsibility for making informed decisions about their next steps. These values underpin every provider encounter and help prepare students for successful transitions into post-16 education, training and employment.

Student Entitlement

Students in years 8 to 11 at Castle View Enterprise Academy are entitled to:

- find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of our careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point.
- participate in a programme of meaningful encounters with a wide range of further education, higher education, apprenticeship and training providers, enabling them to understand the full range of academic and technical pathways available.
- understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.
- students will receive at least four provider encounters—two in years 8–9 and two in years 10–11. These encounters will cover a range of providers offering technical education and apprenticeships. Encounters in Key Stage 3 will take place during year 8, or between 1 September – 28 February of year 9. Encounters in Key Stage 4 will take place during year 10, or between 1 September – 28 February of year 11.
- develop the confidence, knowledge and skills to make ambitious and informed decisions about future education, training and employment in line with the Academy's values of Ambition, Determination, Respect and Responsibility.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main Academy 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 students from the provider).
• answer questions from students.

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between students and one provider. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Previous Providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our students:

- Cambridge University
- Chameleon Vocational Training Ltd
- Durham School Sixth Form
- East Durham College
- Gateshead College
- Learning Concepts
- Learning Curve Group
- Newcastle College
- Newcastle University
- Northumbria University
- Optimum Skills Ltd
- Oxford University
- SETA
- South Shields Marine School
- South Tyneside College
- Southmoor Sixth Form
- Springboard
- St Roberts Sixth Form
- Sunderland College
- TDR Training
- Tyne North Training
- University of Cambridge
- University of Oxford
- University of Sunderland
- Whitburn Sixth Form
- Zenith Training

Destinations of our pupils

Destination (Whole Cohort)	**2025**	**2024**	**2023**
College	79%	78%	65%
Sixth Form	7%	6%	6%
EFA/ SFA training	3%	6%	7%

Employment with training / Apprenticeship	4.5%	8%	13%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%
Temporary break (illness, teenage parent)	1%	1%	3%
Not settled (active in labour market) - Seeking Employment, Education or Training	4%	1%	6%
Working Towards Participation - Re-engagement Provision	1%		
Other	0.5%		1%

The Academy uses destination data to review the effectiveness of its careers programme and to ensure students are informed about the full range of post-16 pathways.

Management of provider access requests

The Academy will consider all provider requests fairly and will not unfairly favour any particular institution, education provider or route.

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Contact Name: Mrs Emma McDermott, Assistant Vice Principal / Careers Leader
Telephone: 0191 7169223
Email: mcdermott.e@cvea.co.uk or enquries@cvea.co.uk

Opportunities for Access

All provider encounters are planned to support students' personal development alongside their career learning, promoting the Academy's values of Ambition, Determination, Respect and Responsibility through meaningful engagement with education, training and employment providers.

These include:

Year Group	Opportunity
7	Careers lessons, assemblies, careers fair, workplace visits, careers talks, workshops
8	Careers lessons, assemblies, careers fair, workplace visits, careers talks, workshops
9	Careers lessons, assemblies, careers fair, workplace visits, careers talks, workshops, options evening
10	Careers lessons, assemblies, careers fair, workplace visits, careers talks, workshops, work experience, Next Steps Evening, mock interviews
11	Careers lessons, assemblies, careers fair, workplace visits, careers talks, workshops, Next Steps Evening, Apprenticeship Advice Evening

Please contact the Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity.

All providers visiting the Academy will be expected to comply with the Academy's safeguarding, visitor management and health and safety procedures. The Academy policy on safeguarding outlines out the Academy's approach to checking the identity and suitability of visitors. A copy of this policy is available on request by contacting enquiries@cvea.co.uk and is published on the Academy website.

Premises and Facilities

The Academy will make the main hall, classrooms or meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The Academy will also make available presentation equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader and the Facilities team.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature for the careers library which is situated within our careers room.

Monitoring

The Academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by the Principal and Careers Leader through regular review of provider encounters, student feedback, destination outcomes, compliance with statutory guidance and the extent to which encounters support students to make ambitious, informed and responsible decisions about their future pathways.

The Governing Body has a strategic role in overseeing the Academy's careers programme and ensuring compliance with statutory careers guidance and Provider Access Legislation. The designated Careers Link Governor is Aaron Young.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Careers Leader to ensure compliance with DfE statutory guidance, PAL and the Gatsby Benchmarks. At each review the policy will be approved by the Governing Body.

Complaints

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the Academy complaints procedure which is available on the Academy website.