Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College

May God's love be our guide

Provider Access Policy Statement/Bakers Clause

School Name	Blessed Thomas Holford School
Approved date:	Sept 2026
Approved by:	Teaching and Learning Committee
Signed:	Chair or Governors and Head teacher

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to Blessed Thomas Holford students 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.

Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 7 to 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.
- to 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.
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

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 7 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.

Previous providers

In previous years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils during our careers and pathways events:

- The Manchester College
- Trafford College Group
- Loreto Sixth form College
- The Growth Company
- Manchester University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Edgehill University
- University of UA92

Any other providers of post 16/18 education and training are welcome to contact our Careers Leader / team on careers@bthcc.org.uk for information on forthcoming events.

Management of provider access requests and Opportunities for access

Procedure: Any external provider wishing to request access should contact the relevant Careers contact. The current contact is Miss N Johnson, Careers Advisor Careers@bthcc.org.uk.

Our school offers the six provider encounters required by law and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school (during the school day) to speak to pupils and also hold some evening events where providers can also speak to parents or carers.

Below is our standard year of pathways related events. Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you:

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 7	Opportunity to deliver assembly or offer a lunchtime talk	Opportunity to deliver assembly or offer a lunchtime talk Employer encounter event for pupils, supported by local providers Careers Fair	Opportunity to deliver assembly or offer a lunchtime talk

Year 8	Labour Market Information is introduced, providers are welcome to support	Employer encounter event for pupils, supported by local providers Year 8 Success Evening Careers Fair	Opportunity to deliver assembly or offer a lunchtime talk Assemblies on post 14 options / tasters at local providers
Year 9	Careers Advisor introduction assemblies. Education Providers information assemblies. Opportunity to deliver assembly or offer a lunchtime talk	KS4 options event supported by local post 16 providers Careers Fair Employer encounter event for pupils, supported by local providers	No encounters, legislation requires encounters to take place by 28th Feb if in yr9.
Year 10	Post 16 technical education options assembly with Further Education Colleges Meetings with Careers Advisor on post 16 applications.	Technical / vocational tasters at local colleges and training providers Employer encounter event for pupils, supported by local providers Careers Fair	Work Experience Technical / vocational tasters at local college/s and training providers Employer encounter event for pupils, supported by local providers Opportunity to deliver assembly or offer a lunchtime talk
Year 11	Post 16 provider open evenings and apprenticeships assemblies take place. Meetings with Careers Advisor on post 16 applications. Sixth Form Open Evening	Post 16 interviews Employer encounter event for pupils, supported by local providers Careers Fair Opportunity to deliver assembly or offer a lunchtime talk	No encounters, legislation requires encounters to take place by 28th Feb if in yr11. Confirmation of post-16 education and training destinations for all pupils.

Year 12	Higher Education fair for a variety of providers including local Further Education colleges Post 18 pathways assemblies Success in Year 12 Evening	Small group sessions: future education, training and employment options meetings with Careers Advisor. Employer encounter event for pupils, supported by local providers Careers Fair	Work Experience Technical / vocational tasters at local college/s and training providers Year 12 Mock interviews Opportunity to deliver assembly or offer a lunchtime talk
Year 13	Post 18 assembly – with higher and degree apprenticeship providers. Year 13 Mock interviews Workshops – HE and higher apprenticeship applications Success in Year 13 Evening	Meetings with Careers Advisor Careers Fair Opportunity to deliver assembly or offer a lunchtime talk	No encounters, legislation requires encounters to take place by 28th Feb if in yr13. Confirmation of post-18 education and training destinations for all pupils.

Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, 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.

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

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Careers Resource Centre, which is managed by the school librarian. The Resource Centre is available to all pupils at lunch and break times.

Complaints:
Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure:

complaints@bthcc.org