



THORNS
COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

**PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY
STATEMENT**

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Thorns Collegiate Academy

Provider Access Statement

“Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” Confucius

Aims

This policy statement aims to set out our school’s arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about their offer. It sets out:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access
- The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access
- Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

Statutory requirements

We are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 11 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

The School will provide a minimum of 4 encounters with technical education or training providers to all pupils in years 8 to 11. Education and training providers will be given access to these students as outlined in section 42B of the [Education Act 1997](#), the [Skills and Post-16 Act 2022](#) and on page 43 of guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on [careers guidance and access for education and training providers](#).

The 4 encounters schools must offer to all pupils in years 8 to 11

Thorns will offer:

- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9)
 - All pupils must attend
 - Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9
- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11)
 - All pupils must attend
 - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11.

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day.

Thorns will ask each provider to provide the following information as a minimum during the planning before delivery:

- Information about the provider and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships they offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with the provider is like
- Answers to any questions from pupils

Due to the changes in policy coming into force January 2023 any year groups who have not seen a provider will be given the opportunity to do this during this academic year.

Meaningful provider encounters

Our school is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils.

1 encounter is defined as 1 meeting/session between pupils and 1 provider. Meaningful live online engagement is also an option our school is willing to explore.

Student entitlement

All students in years 8 to 11 at Thorns are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of our 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, e.g., through focus days, assemblies etc.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

Management of provider access requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact Raj Mackay, Careers Lead

Telephone: 01384 987973

Email: rmackya@tca.shirelandcat.net

Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers:

Opportunity	Date	Description	Gatsby Benchmark
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National Careers Week National Apprenticeship Week	March February	This week celebrates the opportunities for young people aspiring to different careers. It provides an opportunity for external partners to engage with school.	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
Student Assemblies	Throughout the year	Students will have the opportunity to listen to guest speakers from different career backgrounds. This broadens students contact with a range of employers.	3, 6
Careers sessions during session 1	Through-out the year	Year groups will have careers program delivered through out the academic year via session 1 teachers.	1,3,
Open Evenings Parents evenings	Through-out the year	Increased parental awareness of careers support in making decisions about options, future destinations, and opportunities in the academy.	3, 8
Focus Days	Throughout the year	Specific career focused days where students learn a	1, 3, 5, 6
Work experience	Summer Term	Students will experience work within different sectors working with employer partnerships.	3, 5, 6,

Please speak to the Careers lead to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Granting and refusing access

Access to students will be granted for timetabled careers lessons, assemblies and career events that providers may attend.

All requests from external providers need to be made at least 4-6 weeks in advance of the expected date for a planned session. All requests will be given due consideration by the designated Careers Leader and Senior Leadership. Requests will be refused if:

- They impinge on student's preparation for public or internal exams
- They clash with other planned school events
- The school is unable to provide staff to support the event
- Rooming is unable to be found due to timetabling clashes

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding/child protection policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. If you are granted access you will be expected to produce a Photo ID and DBS clearance upon arrival to reception. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

Premises and facilities

If you are approved to meet students during the planning stages please inform of us what facilities would be needed e.g. lecture theatre, whole year assembly in the Hardwicke or if specialist equipment such as audio, projectors, laptops access to the internet etc. Providers can leave prospectuses or other material for

students to read, however students will not be able to use their mobile phones during the session. Visitors are expected to comply with public health and COVID-19 restrictions.

Previous providers

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

Dudley College

Halesowen College

Skills Training UK

DWP

ASK

Juniper

Pupil destinations

Last year, our year 11 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after

Access Creative College (Birmingham)

Birmingham Ormiston Academy

Dudley College

Halesowen College

Kidderminster College

King Edward VI College Stourbridge

NIASI

Nova Training

Old Swinford Hospital

Windsor High School and Sixth Form

Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure [Complaints Policy \(shirelandcat.org.uk\)](https://www.shirelandcat.org.uk) or info@tca.shirelandcat.net.

[Links to other policies](#)

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy: <https://thornsca.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/TCA-Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy-22-23-Updated.pdf>

CEIAG Policy: <https://thornsca.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/CEIAG-Policy-Secondary.pdf>

Complaints: [Complaints Policy \(shirelandcat.org.uk\)](https://www.shirelandcat.org.uk/complaints-policy)

[Monitoring arrangements](#)

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by Charlotte Taylor Vice Principal Teaching and learning and personal development.

This policy will be reviewed by R Mackay annually.