

Provider Access Policy 2026-2027

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader (**U. Qayyum**) and Work Related Learning Co-ordinator (**Miss J. Lam**) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education. (To include The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause" and the Provider Access Legislation, 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.
- This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils 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.

Aims

- The school 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. The school 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.
- The school 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).

Students in Years 7-11 are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the 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 evenings, assemblies and group discussions and taster events.
- To have access to career guidance that is presented in an impartial manner and supports the interest of the students.
- To understand how to make applications for the range of academic and technical courses.

Students in Years 7-9 are entitled:

- To a weeks' worth of meaningful work-experience related activities, led by employers. Activities may include employer talks with a work-related project, workplace visits, workshops and other opportunities to engage with the world of work, allowing early exposure to a variety of careers.

To achieve our aims we will attempt to ensure:

- Local providers are invited to deliver assemblies at key transition points. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature to be placed in the careers resources area of the school library, which is managed by the school librarian. The careers resources area of the library is available to all students during lunch and break times.
- Students take part in taster days and open evenings.
- Students are supported with researching their chosen career pathways.
- Students are aware of apprenticeships and technical opportunities and how to apply for these.
- Students experience two meaningful encounters with providers during their 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9), followed by two further encounters during their 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11).
- Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that the school is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with the school.
- The school provides an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser 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 Team who will facilitate.
- The school 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.
- Parental involvement is encouraged. Parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Success criteria

- School internal and external destination figures continue to be above national averages.
- All students to have access to information on all post-16 pathways, including technical and vocational routes, so that they can make informed decisions about their next steps.

Procedure & Contacts

- A provider wishing to request access should contact:
 - Name: **Miss J. Lam (Work Related Learning Co-ordinator)**
 - Telephone: **01582 576561**
 - Email: **jlam@icknield.beds.sch.uk**
- When planning an encounter, providers must ensure they can deliver the following information to students as a minimum:
 - 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 students.
- Access may be refused if:
 - The provider cannot deliver adequate information relevant to students and their key stage.
 - If there are safeguarding concerns.

- If the encounter is not policy compliant.
- If there is not a suitable time in the school's schedule for the provider to come in.
- Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the [school complaints procedure](#) or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

Opportunities for access

- Below are examples of opportunities provided for training and education providers to speak to students and/or their parents/carers (this list is not exhaustive).
- Please speak to **Miss J. Lam (Work Related Learning Co-ordinator)** to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Year 7	• Career networking events with providers • Visits to universities, work places and/or career fairs • Opportunities for work experience-related experiences
Year 8	• Assembly with an apprenticeship/technical education provider • Employability workshops led by providers • Visits to universities, work places and/or career fairs • Opportunities for work experience-related experiences
Year 9	• Assembly with an apprenticeship/technical education provider • Employability workshops led by providers • Subject/career talks led by providers • Visits to universities, work places and/or career fairs • Opportunities for work experience-related experiences
Year 10	• Assembly with an apprenticeship/technical education provider • Work experience week • Taster days at post-16 providers • Mock interviews event with providers • Employability workshops led by providers • Subject/career talks led by providers • Visits to universities, work places and/or career fairs
Year 11	• Post-16 assemblies with providers • Post-16 provider open evenings • Post-16 provider stalls at parents evening

Safeguarding

- Our [safeguarding and child protection policy](#) outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. All providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

Links to other policies

- [Icknield Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy](#)
- [Career, Education, Information, Advice & Guidance Policy](#)
- [Curriculum Policy](#)

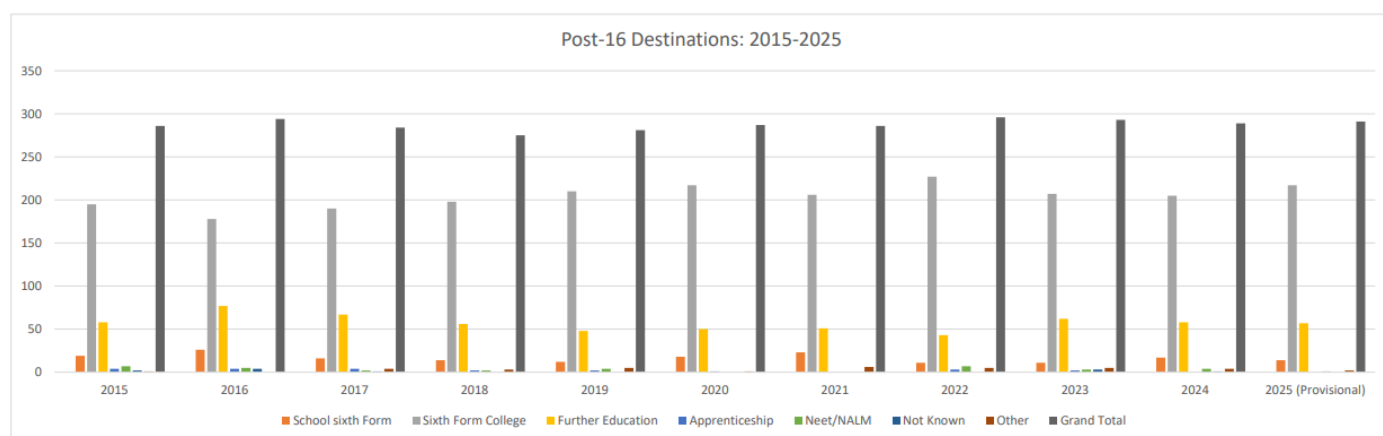
Appendix 1:

Providers who have been invited into Icknield High School to date include:

- Active Luton
- Artelia UK
- ASK Apprenticeship
- Barclays LifeSkills
- Barnfield College
- Bedford College Group
- Bedfordshire Police
- British Medical Association
- Cardinal Newman Sixth Form
- Cricket East
- Department of Education
- Department of Justice
- easyJet
- Engie
- Galecto Aps
- GKN Aerospace
- Hannah Solicitors
- HSBC
- Jardine Motor Group
- JLL
- Job Centre Plus
- Leonardo UK
- Luton Borough Council
- Luton Sixth Form
- Machin Solicitors
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Justice
- Morgan Sindall
- NHS
- Noble Solicitors
- Oaklands College
- OCI Global
- Organon
- Partners in Export
- Samsung SDS Europe
- ScienceLogic
- Smart Education Pro
- SSG Services
- St James-Berkeley Homes
- STREETS
- The Raise Up Foundation
- The Shared Learning Trust (Chalk Hills Sixth Form & Stockwood Park Sixth Form)
- Thrive Youth
- TUI
- Transport for London
- Unilever
- University of Bedfordshire
- Willmott Dixon

This list is not exhaustive.

Destination	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (Provisional)
School sixth Form	19	26	16	14	12	18	23	11	11	17	14
Sixth Form College	195	178	190	198	210	217	206	227	207	205	217
Further Education	58	77	67	56	48	50	51	43	62	58	57
Apprenticeship	4	4	4	2	2	1	0	3	2	0	0
Neet/NALM	7	5	2	2	4	0	0	7	3	4	1
Not Known	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0
Other	1	0	4	3	5	1	6	5	5	4	2
Grand Total	286	294	284	275	281	287	286	296	293	289	291



Appendix 2:

Post-16 Destinations: 2015-2025