

St Mary's Catholic College

Provider Access Policy – 2025-2026 (updated 09-12-25 lw-ah-v1)

Introduction

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

Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 8 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;
- 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.

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.

Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers to speak to our pupils:

- Aldi/IDG
- ASK – apprenticeship support
- Nestle’ – apprenticeships
- Home Office/Civil Service - apprenticeships
- Airbus – apprenticeships
- Air-Products
- Atkins Realis
- Armed Forces - apprenticeships
- Wirral Metropolitan FE College
- LLS Sports Academy
- Steven Gerrard Academy
- Reeseheath Agricultural College
- LIPA
- BBC – Apprenticeships

In 2025-2026, we have so far added:

- Scottish Power
- Chester Zoo
- Jaguar Land-Rover (JLR)
- His Majesty’s Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS)

Going forward, we will continue to build meaningful partnerships with a variety of further education and higher education establishments, as well as consolidating and developing our relationships with local and national business organisations (see below).

Working in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC – Liverpool City Region), we have been working on the ‘**Equalex Pilot Project**’ to help to deliver the objective (as per the revised Gatsby Benchmark GB6 from September 2025) of providing two weeks’ worth (50 hours) of meaningful experience of the workplace to our students (from Year 7 through to Year 11). This places us in an excellent position to develop new partnerships with a wide variety of business organisations.

Destination Data for our pupils – Year 11 (2024-25)

For Year 11 (leaving **Sept. 2025**) our pupils moved to a range of providers as detailed below:

Destination	Number of students
Wirral Metropolitan College	63
St Mary's Catholic College	59
Birkenhead Sixth Form	31
Apprenticeships	10
City of Liverpool College	7
Neet	7
CareerConnect Engage	5
LIPA	4
Morthyng Vocational College	3
Steven Gerrard Academy	2
LLS	2
TTE	1
Reaseheath Agricultural College	1

Weatherhead	1
Caldy Grammar	1
Archbishop Beck	1
Liverpool Dance College	1
St John Plessington	1
Cheshire College	1
TOTAL	201

Destination Data for our pupils – year 13 (2023-2024)

For Year 13 (Leaving **Sept. 2025**) our pupils moved to a range of providers after leaving sixth form:

DESTINATION	Number of pupils
Liverpool John Moores University	11
Employment	11
SMCC	8
Edge Hill University	7
Apprenticeships	5
Liverpool Hope University	2
LMA	2
University of Lancaster	2
Unknown/neet	2
Worcester University	1
University of Chester	1
Leeds (Art) University	1
Leeds Beckett University	1
Wirral Metropolitan College	1
Engineering College	1
Keele University	1
Manchester Metropolitan University	1
Bangor University	1

University of Liverpool	1
Gap Year (then possibly Uni.)	1
TOTAL	61

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Les Wellens

Careers Lead – HFCMAT

Via email – leswellens@hfcmat.com

Or contact by phone – 0151 639 7531 – Extension 208

Opportunities for access

The school facilitates at least six ‘training provider’ encounters, during the three ‘key phases’, on a rolling basis, as required by law, as well as a number of additional ‘whole year’ events, integrated into the school careers programme. Examples of these are detailed in the chart below.

Dates for planned events for 2025-2026, where known, are entered in the school calendar and will be added to as the year progresses, dependent on events/activities being sourced and requests agreed.

PLEASE NOTE – PAL policy information and destination data for previous years is also available on our website.

CAREERS 2025-26					
YEAR GROUP	EVENT	EVENT	EVENT	EVENT	EVENT
YEAR 7	National Apprenticeship Week – a range of w-c 9/2/26 – a range of activities/virtual webinars etc. made	Enterprise Day – National Careers Challenge – TILG in school to conduct all day workshops on 2 nd of March, coinciding	National Careers Week – w-c 2-3-26 – a range of activities/quizzes/webinars to provide advice/guidance on future pathways	Whole Year Group Residential to Savio House – dates TBC	

	available via GC	with National Careers Week – 2/3/26			
YEAR 8	Careers Fair – over 30+ organisations in sports hall – FE/HE and companies providing direct access for students to discuss future pathways/qualifications/future courses 4/2/26	National Apprenticeship Week – a range of w-c 9/2/26 – a range of activities/virtual webinars etc. made available via GC	National Careers Week – w-c 2-3-26 – a range of activities/quizzes/webinars to provide advice/guidance on future pathways		
YEAR 9	Careers Fair – over 30+ organisations in sports hall – FE/HE and companies providing direct access for students to discuss future pathways/qualifications/future courses 4/2/26	National Apprenticeship Week – a range of w-c 9/2/26 – a range of activities/virtual webinars etc. made available via GC	National Careers Week – w-c 2-3-26 – a range of activities/quizzes/webinars to provide advice/guidance on future pathways	Options Evening – all students/parent invited in to discuss option choices –CareerConnect in attendance to give talks/provide advice/guidance – 12/3/26	
YEAR 10	HMCTS – Equalex Event 2 hour talk/presentation to whole year group by lawyers/court personnel explaining roles within the court/justice system 13/11/26	Careers Fair – over 30+ organisations in sports hall – FE/HE and companies providing direct access for students to discuss future pathways/qualifications/future courses 4/2/26	Enterprise Day – National Careers Challenge – TILG in school to conduct all day workshops on 3rd of March, coinciding with National Careers Week – 2/3/26	National Careers Week – w-c 2-3-26 – a range of activities/quizzes/webinars to provide advice/guidance on future pathways	Whole Year Group – Work Exp. Week – w/c 13/7/26
YEAR 11	Apprenticeship Assembly – ASK focused presentation to highlight different apprenticeship levels and pathways – 3/9/26	Sixth Form Open Evening – all students and parents invited – universities present, along with CareerConnect, to provide	Careers Fair – over 30+ organisations in sports hall – FE/HE and companies providing direct access for students to discuss future pathways/qualifications/future courses 4/2/26	National Apprenticeship Week – a range of w-c 9/2/26 – a range of activities/virtual webinars etc.	National Careers Week – w-c 2-3-26 – a range of activities/quizzes/webinars to provide advice/guid

		information/advice on future choices/courses/pathways – 11/12/25		made available via GC	ance on future pathways
YEAR 12	Careers Fair – over 30+ organisations in sports hall – FE/HE and companies providing direct access for students to discuss future pathways/qualifications/future courses 4/2/26	National Apprenticeship Week – a range of w-c 9/2/26 – a range of activities/virtual webinars etc. made available via GC	Enterprise Day – National Careers Challenge – TILG in school to conduct all day workshops on 4th of March, coinciding with National Careers Week – 2/3/26	National Careers Week – w-c 2-3-26 – a range of activities/quizzes/webinars to provide advice/guidance on future pathways	University and App. Fair – Liverpool Exhibition. Centre – all students – range of unis and apprenticeship providers, plus workshops on university life/finance/accommodation. Dates TBC
YEAR 12 (cont'd)	Mock Interview Day – mock interviews conducted for all students – external interviews interviews/assessment and feedback – Dates TBC	Edge Hill University - Campus Trip – whole year group – all day campus tour/talk – taster session university life/accommodation. Date TBC.	Whole Year Group – Work Exp. Weeks planning underway for 2 weeks this year – w/c 29/6/26 - TBC		
Year 13	Careers Fair – over 30+ organisations in sports hall – FE/HE and companies providing direct access for students to discuss future pathways/qualifications/future courses 4/2/26	University and App. Fair – Liverpool Exhibition. Centre – all students – range of unis and apprenticeship providers, plus workshops on university life/finance/accommodation. Dates TBC			

PLEASE NOTE – the full careers programme (detailing all events) for each year group is available on the school website under the ‘careers section’. As well as ‘fixed’ dates, the programme is fluid and events will be added retrospectively also, as new opportunities for collaboration arise.

We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

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

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 who can 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, or the sixth form ‘careers information’ area. 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, or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via;

provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

Approval and review

Approved [date] by Governors at Curriculum and Standards Committee

Next review: [date]

Signed: [Rachael Clarke] Chair of Governors

[Kevin Maddocks] Head teacher