

Policy Statement - Provider Access Arrangements 2026 - 2028

Introduction

The Wellington Academy (TWA) is mandated to ensure opportunities for a range of education and training providers to access registered pupils. The purpose is to inform them about approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships.¹ This policy statement establishes how TWA is compliant with the legal obligations and seeks to provide the best possible outcomes for TWA students by establishing meaningful encounters.

As part of our commitment to informing our students of the full range of learning and training pathways on offer to them, we welcome requests from providers to speak to students. The Wellington Academy also proactively seeks to build relationships with these partners as we plan our Careers Education throughout the school year to ensure that providers have multiple opportunities to speak to students and their parents across years 7 to 13, to offer information on a diverse range of pathways.

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 Key Stage 4 Option events, assemblies and group discussions and ‘taster’ activities.
- understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

PAL requirements

Provider Access Legislation (PAL) was enacted in January 2023. PAL is a key mechanism to further help learners understand and take advantage of several opportunities. This is not just apprenticeships, but wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

All maintained schools and academies must provide six encounters with a provider of technical education or apprenticeships for year 8 to 13 pupils. These six meetings are strategically timed to inform consideration of post-14, post-16 and post-18 options and progression to the next stage of education or training.

As a minimum, schools must offer three key phases. These are:

- Two encounters for pupils during the ‘first key phase’ (year 8 or 9). These are mandatory for all pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 8 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 9.
- Two encounters for pupils during the ‘second key phase’ (year 10 or 11). These are mandatory for all pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 10 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 11.
- Two encounters for pupils during the ‘third key phase’ (year 12 or 13). These are mandatory for the school to plan and deliver but optional for pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 12 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 13.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/44/section/42B>

For pupils of compulsory school age, these encounters are mandatory. For pupils in Key Stage 5, particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more encounters available during this period, which are optional to attend.

Providers

Provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours. The provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to prepare in advance, deliver and continue to engage with pupils. It is expected that a session will include:

- 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, linking the curriculum to skills and roles
- 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, if an educational context)
- answer questions from pupils.

Providers, subject to their context and situation, could also include:

- **General Further Education (FE) Colleges** who offer a range of qualifications and training including apprenticeships, traineeships, T levels, HTQs, technical qualifications and higher education.
- **Independent Training Providers (ITPs)** who provide vocational and technical education with learning and training in classrooms on the provider's premises, in workplaces or a mix of both.
- **Institutes of Technology (IoTs)** which are collaborations between existing FE colleges, universities and leading employers. IoTs offer a wide range of technical courses specialising in Level 4 & 5 across sectors such as digital, advanced manufacturing, engineering and construction including higher apprenticeships, HTQs, degrees and T Levels.
- **University Technical Colleges (UTCs)** which are established by universities and employers. They work with a network of local industry partners to design a learning programme which covers the core curriculum of English, Maths and Sciences, and technical qualifications taught by specialist staff with industry standard equipment. The majority of UTCs are for 14- to- 19-year-olds and specialise in one or two STEM curriculum areas to address a defined skills shortage in the local area.
- **Studio Schools** which are small schools designed for 14- to- 19-year-olds of all abilities and offer a range of academic and vocational qualifications, often taught through project-based learning, alongside work experience. The core purpose of Studio Schools is to improve students' employability and life skills.
- **Other schools** that are offering technical education, such as T Levels or other vocational qualifications.
- **Apprenticeship training providers** which can include private training providers, further education colleges, higher education institutions, sixth form colleges, and employers.

By hearing directly from a range of providers, every pupil can build up a full picture of the options available and consider how the opportunity to study or train in different ways, and in different environments, might suit their skills, interests and aptitudes. This will lead to better-informed choices and help to reduce the risk of young people dropping out of courses.

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 welcomed the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

Post-16 providers	Universities	Apprenticeship Training Providers
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andover College 2. TWA Sixth Form 3. Wiltshire College & University Centre 4. Peter Symonds College 5. Sparsholt College 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. University of Bath 2. Bath Spa University 3. Coventry University 4. Oxford Brookes University 5. Solent University 6. Sparsholt College and University Centre 7. University of Winchester 8. University of Law 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Horseracing College 2. British Army 3. Royal Navy 4. Royal Air Force 5. Sheldrake Training

Destinations of our pupils

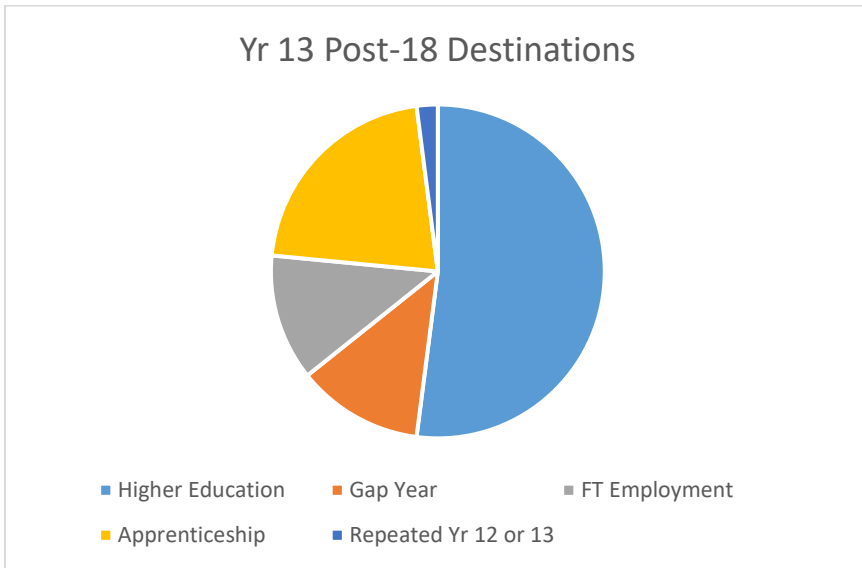
In 2025 our year 11 and 13 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area, after completing school or Sixth Form in July.

Year 11 Post-16 destinations included:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. TWA Sixth Form | 5. Sparsholt College | 9. Bishops Wordsworth's Sixth Form |
| 2. Andover College | 6. AFC Harrogate | 10. Apprenticeships |
| 3. Wiltshire College & University Centre | 7. Peter Symonds College | |
| 4. South Wilts Grammar School | 8. Salisbury Sixth Form | |

Year 13 Post-18 destinations included:

- 51% going on to higher education, of which 21% were Russell Group Universities
- 12% taking a gap year for travel or to earn money in preparation for a deferred university place
- 13% full time employment
- 21% starting an apprenticeship in areas including accounting, catering and hospitality, conservation, construction, sport and early years
- 2% repeated Year 12 so continuing into Year 13



Pupils went to 13 different universities, with the most popular university choices being Bristol UWE, Oxford Brookes, Winchester and Southampton.

Most popular course choices were Accounting, Business, Law and Sport based courses, with other choices in Biochemistry, Criminology, Economics, Education, Geology, Physics, Physiotherapy, Psychology and Social and Behavioural Sciences.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact the Careers Coordinator, Katie Thomas on 01264 405060 or katiethomas@twa.ascendlearningtrust.org.uk with a minimum of 6-weeks' lead time. All requests will be considered on the basis of: staffing availability to support the activity, clashes with other planned activity, trips or visits to the school, interruption to preparation for examinations or rooming and space availability to host the activity.

Opportunities for access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. Please speak to our Careers Coordinator to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
All years: Careers Fair All years: Careers Assemblies All years: Career Insight talks	All years: Careers Assemblies All years: Career Insight talks Year 9: Key Stage 4 Options Evening	All years: Careers Assemblies All years: Career Insight talks Year 10 & 12: Mock Interview Day

Dates and further information about these events can be found on the school website (<https://www.thewellingtonacademy.org.uk/careers-education/>) or by contacting the Careers Coordinator.

The school policy on safeguarding sets out the school's approach to allowing providers into school to talk to our 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. Where possible, the school will also aim to make available any specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Coordinator or another member of the Careers 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 with the Careers Team where it will be displayed in key areas that pupils can access during 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: March 2026

Signed: 

Name: Dave Bissington

Role: Careers Leader

Signed: 

Name: Rev Dr Matthew Coles

Role: Governor - Careers

Signed: 

Name: Jennifer Moore

Role: Headteacher

Date of next review – March 2028