

Balcarras School: Provider Access Policy

Introduction: 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.

Pupil entitlement:

All pupils in years 7-13 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 year 8 to 9 pupils and two encounters for year 10 to 11 pupils. For pupils in 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

<https://resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/resources/making-it-meaningful-benchmark-7> .

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 from the local area to speak to our pupils: All of these have been into school at least twice in the academic year.

Glos Coll, University of Gloucestershire, Cirencester College, Local Employers, Ask Apprenticeships

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school including:

Balcarras Sixth Form (76%), other local sixth form providers (6%), Cirencester College (10.5%), Hartpury, (2%), Glos Coll (5%) and Apprenticeship providers (0.5%).

Last year our year 13 pupils moved to range of providers after school including Universities (80%), South Gloucestershire and Stroud College for Art Foundation Courses (5%), Apprenticeship providers (0.5%) as well as those taking Gap Years and seeking employment (14.5%)

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mrs V Bull, Careers Leader, Balcarras School 01242 515882 (146) email vb@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk.

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (marked in bold text) and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers: These include speaker sessions, PSHE programme delivery and the careers week and Careers Fair held in the first week of October every year. (full programme is on the school website)

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

Premises and facilities

If a visit is agreed the school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, 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.

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Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature in the Careers Office which is managed by the careers department. The Careers Office is available to all students at lunch and break times as well as during the school day.

Complaints:

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company.

Approval and review Approved by Governors at Curriculum and Standards Committee

Next review: September 2024

Signed:



Chair of Governors



Head teacher