

Wilberforce Sixth Form College

Provider Access Policy

Responsibility of: Careers Leader and Assistant Principal

Date of Approval: 01/06/2026

Review Cycle: Every 3 Years

Introduction

This policy statement outlines the college's arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at Wilberforce Sixth Form College, giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with our legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

Our provider access legislation builds on Gatsby Benchmark 7. It is a key mechanism to further help learners understand and take-up, not just apprenticeships, but wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

The Baker Clause

Introduced as an amendment to the Technical and Further Education Act 2017, the Baker Clause stipulates that schools must allow colleges and training providers access to every student in years 8- 13 to discuss non-academic routes that are available to them. It is expected that by doing so this will help address the UK's productivity challenges and address skills shortages experienced across several sectors of the economy. This regulation has been enforced since January 2nd 2018. New Provider Access Legislation guidelines have been implemented by the Careers & Enterprise Company, to be implemented in all schools and college from January 2023.

Student Entitlement

All students are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship 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 careers fairs, parents' evenings, provider drop-ins, progression events and 1-1 impartial careers advice appointments.
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.
- To a minimum of two encounters during years 12 and 13 that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 12 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 13.

College Promise

In line with the standards set by the Careers & Enterprise Company, the college will ensure that providers of technical education or apprenticeships provide information to pupils that, as a minimum, includes:

- Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers.
- Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead.
- A description of what learning or training with the provider is like.
- Responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Management of Provider Access Requests Procedure

We welcome all providers of apprenticeships, T-Levels and other technical and vocational education pathways into the college to share information about their learning offer with learners. Providers may contribute to careers fairs, talks, virtual workshops and drop-in advice surgeries for learners. College opening times are 08:30 – 16:30 although some events may run during the evenings, such as Higher Education and Employment & Apprenticeship careers fairs.

Providers will be given access to classrooms, areas to deliver-large scale talks, screens and projectors, WiFi and any other relevant equipment. Providers are requested to discuss all facility and technical requirements with the Careers Leader at least five working days in advance of the scheduled visit.

We reserve the right to deny a request for external providers to visit the college should the date and/ or time clash with exam periods or other pre-organised college trips or events, or where the visiting provider cannot supply appropriate safeguarding credentials upon request. The full college Safeguarding Policy can be viewed here: <https://wilberforce.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Safeguarding-Policy-V12-Jul-24.pdf>

Safeguarding

All visitors to the college will be required to sign-in on a digital platform at reception, including providing a photo I.D. and a copy of an up-to-date DBS check where available. Visitors will be supervised by a member of college staff at all times.

Previous Provider Encounters

During the 2025/26 academic year, we have welcomed a large number of external providers on-site to support our students, including:

Year Group	Provider Name	Activity
12 & 13	Hull Business Training Centre	Apprenticeship advice 1-1 bookable appointments.
12	CATCH	Vocational Pathways into Engineering presentation.
12 & 13	Bishop Burton College & East Riding College	Attended both college careers fairs (HE, and Employment & Apprenticeships).

Wilberforce Sixth Form College Key Contact:

A provider wishing to request access should contact Sarah Didsbury– Careers Leader

Telephone: 01482 711688

Email: sld@wilberforce.ac.uk