

Orchard Mead Academy: Provider Access Policy

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 provider's education or training offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1977.

Pupil Entitlement

All pupils in Years 8 to 11 are entitled:

- to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training opportunities 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 pupils during the 'first key stage' (KS3 - Years 8 & 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key stage' (KS4 – Years 10 & 11). For pupils in the 'third key stage' (KS5 – Year 12 & 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 from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- Gateway College
 - Leicester College (Btecs, T-levels & apprenticeships)
 - North Warwickshire & South Leicester College (Btecs, T-Levels & apprenticeships)
 - Leicester Apprenticeship Hub – (apprenticeships)
 - Leicester Education Business Company (LEBC) – (apprenticeships)
 - De Montfort University
 - University of Leicester
 - Nylacast
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Destinations of our pupils

Destinations 2020-2021

Apprenticeships – 3.6%

Further Education – 41.3% - Leicester College, NWSLC (Hinckley)

Education school 6th Form – 3.2% - Beauchamp College & English Martyrs

Education – 6th Form College – 42.1% - WQE, Beauchamp City, Gateway College, Loughborough College

Employment (without training) – 0.8%

NEET – 6.5%

Other – 1.6%

Training (foundation learning) – 0.8%

Destinations 2019-2020

Apprenticeships – 2.5%

Further Education – 49.6% - Leicester College, NWSLC (Hinckley)

Education school 6th Form – 2.9% - Beauchamp College, City of Leicester & English Martyrs

Education – 6th Form College – 33.8% - WQE, Beauchamp City, Gateway College, Loughborough College

Employment (without training) – 2.1%

NEET – 4.6

Other – 1.3%

Training (foundation learning) – 2.5%

Training (traineeships) – 0.4%

Destinations 2018-19

Apprenticeships – 1.7%

Further Education – 41.3% - Leicester College, NWSLC (Hinckley), Leicester College of Performing Arts & Brooksby College

Education school 6th Form – 5.4% - Beauchamp College & Bosworth Academy

Education – 6th Form College – 40.8% - WQE, Beauchamp City, Gateway College, Loughborough College

Employment (with study) – 2.9%

NEET – 5.0

Other – 2.1%

Training (foundation learning) – 0.8%

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Claire Harley – Careers Lead charley@orchard-tmet.uk

Opportunities for access

The school offers the four provider encounters **required by law** 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.

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

These are the events taking place this year

Year group	Event name/Type	When?	Details
7	Army Visit for STEM and team building activities	June 2026	Students will meet the Army Outreach team and take part in a morning of activities that involve learning about Engineering and “command and control” skills
7	Guess my job	December 2025	This event will give students an insight into different sectors and potential careers by engaging in a challenge to use transferable skills to be able to identify local employers’ roles. This event aims to challenge stereotypes and preconceptions about careers and encourage students to use critical thinking skills and teamwork.
8	STEM activity in conjunction with Nylacast “Floating”	March 2026	Students will take part in a boat building activity. They will meet staff from Nylacast including an apprentice and be given a talk about the company and what it is like to work there
8	University Trip – Life Skills	November 2025	Students will visit De Montford University and experience university life in an effort to raise their aspiration to attend university
9	Speed Networking	November 2025	This event will give students an insight into different sectors and potential careers, some outside of their normal circle of influence. Students will hear about different paths and routeways into different sectors and job roles.
9	Options evening	January 2026	This is a chance for year 9 students to find out more about the GCSE options they have

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			available to them. The careers team also attend to help answer any questions and provide information about post-16 options.
9	Visit to Army Barracks	tbc	Students with an interest in uniformed services careers will visit the Desert Rat Barracks to take part in team building and Stem activities. They will learn about life in the army.
10	Multiple Talks	tbc	Involves a guest speaker coming into school to talk to groups of students interested in a specific industry. There is time set aside at the end for questions.
10	University Trip – Campus life &	April/May 2026	Students will visit the campus of De Montford University and experience a subject taster day. The aim of this is to raise their aspiration to attend university
10	World of Work Taster Days	March 2026	We organise for students to take part in a sector specific project day joined by a local employer where they are given chance to gain insight into different careers and pathways within the industry, along with taking part in a project set by the employer relating to current labour market issues.
10	We Discover Program	From January 2025	Selected students will be given additional and long term support to ensure they are able to access a positive post 16 placement on leaving OMA. They will be given various opportunities to meet post 16 providers and employers. Delivered by LEBC
11	Future Plus Program	From January 2025	Selected students in Y10 will given additional and long term support to raise their aspiration, achievement and likelihood of achieving their academic potential. Delivered by University of Leicester
11	Mock Interviews	February 2024	This will provide year 11 students with some interview experience and help prepare them for college, apprenticeship, and job interviews in the future. All students will receive written and verbal feedback.
11	Provider assemblies	Throughout the year	We organise for all of the main providers to deliver and assembly to all of our year 11 students. There is time as the end for a live Q and A. Students are encouraged to ask questions to their tutors and careers adviser. These assemblies support students as they complete their applications for post-16 study.
11	Careers Fairs	Multiple dates	This event asks providers set up market stalls in our hall and students can spend time going round the market and asking question as they go. To ensure that all students engage with all the different providers tutors, careers team

			and other teachers are on hand to support and encourage engagement.
11	Apprenticeship Assembly	March 2023	This assembly is longer than a standard assembly and involves a guest speaker coming into school to talk to year 11 about apprenticeships. There is time set aside at the end for questions.
11	1:1 Careers appointment	September – December 2022	All year 11 students will be given a 1:1 appointment. This is their chance to talk openly about their future and ambitions, gain information and ask questions.

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 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 if and when appropriate.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at main reception.

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

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis, to ensure that current legislation and best practice is recorded.

Approved by:

- **Next review:** October 2026
- **Signed:** Subrina Johal Head teacher

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- **Signed:** Claire Harley
Assistant Principal: Wider Curriculum