

# Provider Access Policy

Bloxwich Academy



**February 2021**

Review date: March 2022

Review led by: S. Martin



## Provider Access Policy

### Introduction

This policy statement sets out the academy's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at the academy for the purposes of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the academy's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

### Student Entitlement

Students in years 7 - 13 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 options evenings, assemblies, group discussions and taster events.
- To understand how to complete applications to the full range of academic and technical courses.

### Premises and facilities

The academy will make the sports hall, lecture theatre and classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The academy will also make available projectors and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with a member of the leadership team.

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

### Management of provider access requests

#### Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Shaun Martin, Assistant Headteacher, telephone: 01922 710 257 or email: [smartin@bloxwichacademy.co.uk](mailto:smartin@bloxwichacademy.co.uk) or Michelle Lockley, Careers Lead & Director of Post 16, telephone: 01922 710 257 or email: [mlockley@bloxwichacademy.co.uk](mailto:mlockley@bloxwichacademy.co.uk)

### Opportunities for access

The following list of events, integrated into the academy careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into the academy to speak to pupils and/or their parents.

- Y11 'next steps' information event
- Year 9 options information event

At Bloxwich Academy we work in partnership with a range of employers and education providers to offer a wide-ranging, inspiring and exciting careers programme for everyone.

We go beyond simply helping our own pupils and have built strong partnerships with local schools to share best practice and improve careers education for every child in the Black Country.



We offer impartial, well-informed, up-to-date advice and guidance on the full range of opportunities available.

As well as providing a large selection of careers events and activities throughout the year, which are tailored to the needs of each pupil, we also take a whole school approach to careers education.

All staff, local employers and higher education representatives help to drive forward a programme which raises aspirations, challenges stereotypical thinking, and promotes equality and diversity.

The careers programme at Bloxwich Academy goes beyond helping pupils to figure out what their next steps should be; it helps pupils to continually develop the essential employability and life skills to make successful applications to their chosen pathway.

We recognise the changing face of the working world. More people change careers throughout their working life. Factors beyond our control influence the jobs available such as globalisation, technological advancements, and the environmental crisis. Our pupils need to be prepared for the evolving working world and so, at the heart of our Careers Programme, is a focus on building up essential lifelong employability skills.

Below is the plan for our Careers Programme, mapped to the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Careers Guidance (<https://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focusareas/good-career-guidance>). Due to the global coronavirus pandemic, some events may be cancelled or postponed for the safety of pupils, staff and visitors. We will however commit to actively finding solutions, often in a virtual space, to allow this vital careers learning to continue.

## **Benchmark 1: A stable careers programme**

- Bloxwich Academy will measure and assess the impact of its own careers programme using the Gatsby Benchmarks and the Compass+ tool, as well as using our own internal tracking systems. We regularly evaluate our programme using opinions of providers, pupils, staff and parents.
- The Senior Leadership Team and Board of Governors support the programme and we have a dedicated Governor and Deputy Headteacher backing the Careers Programme and supporting the designated Careers Leader.
- Resources have been allocated to enhance the careers activities we can provide.
- A dedicated area of the school's website details useful and up-to-date information for use by pupils, parents and teachers.

## **Benchmark 2: Learning from careers and labour market information**

- Pupils will be informed of updated LMI information through their PSHE lessons, assemblies and careers interviews.
- A dedicated LMI section on the school website is updated annually.
- Staff will be kept up-to-date in annual CPD careers sessions.
- Employers visiting the school and trips to providers help to contribute to the delivery of LMI information.
- LMI information will be disseminated to parents at key pathway evenings and through the school's website.



## **Benchmark 3: Addressing the needs of each pupil**

- Our Careers Programme is designed to support our pupils into the career pathway of their choice. Each student will have tailored advice and support at key transition points.
- We aim to raise the aspirations of all of our pupils, encouraging them to consider Higher Education, Higher Apprenticeships and Degree Apprenticeships as pathways that will keep their career options wide open for the future.
- We challenge career stereotypes through our PSHE programmes and setting examples through our visiting employers.
- The school keeps an accurate record of all of our pupils' careers experiences and uses this to tailor and target future support.
- A detailed database with all pupil's career aspirations allows us to carefully target our invites for careers activities but most are open to all who choose to sign up.
- Our SEND pupils receive regular support from our Careers Adviser and we are working to create supportive workplace experience opportunities for them along with targeted careers information and guidance.

## **Benchmark 4: Linking curriculum learning to careers**

- We have a whole school approach to careers where careers staff, teachers and pastoral staff help to support our pupils as they navigate their career pathways.
- Career learning is embedded into all subjects for all year groups, not just PSHE, English, Maths and Science. Each department feeds careers learning into their scheme of work and occasional lesson objectives are careers centred.
- Each department has a dedicated careers display.
- Subject departments are encouraged to develop links with local employers and universities and use these to create new opportunities for pupils within lessons or for educational visits to workplaces or higher education providers.
- An annual CPD session for all teaching staff is dedicated to careers.
- Each year group has a series of PSHE lessons dedicated to Careers which are tailored to the different stages of their career learning.

## **Benchmark 5: Encounters with employers and employees**

- We have built up a strong network of local employers, many of whom regularly return to support the school each year.
- All pupils in years 11 – 13 attend the Matrix annual Careers Fair where they meet a range of employers.
- All pupils have opportunities to take part in sessions led by various visiting speakers, there is also the option of taking part in these events remotely.
- Trips to employers are arranged throughout the year, wherever possible.
- Year 12 will complete a work experience placement at the end of the summer term.



## **Benchmark 6: Experience of workplaces**

- Year 12 pupils take part in at least one full week of work experience.
- Any pupil who wishes to gain voluntary work is also encouraged and supported to do this in their spare time. Opportunities are regularly advertised.
- Older pupils who wish to complete work experience in the school holidays are supported to do so.
- Our structured placements include preparatory and follow up sessions with pupils to ensure they get the most out of the experience
- We value the opportunity for our pupils to not only experience the workplace through work experience but also to develop essential confidence, communication, perseverance and resilience skills when trying to source these placements.
- Pupils have many opportunities to take on leading roles within school that give them a taste of a working dynamic e.g. Prefects, School Council.
- Visits to employers are arranged throughout the year for small groups.

## **Benchmark 7: Encounters with further and higher education**

- The school has built up contacts with an extensive range of local and national providers and use these contacts to help inform our pupils of all of the options available to them. This is completed through a range of activities both on and off site, including campus visits, master classes and widening participation activities/events.
- All Y11-Y13 pupils attend our annual Matrix Trust Careers Fair with a full range of options presented to our students: universities, colleges, apprenticeships, employment, training providers, technical education providers, gap year providers and voluntary work organisations.
- Various visiting speakers, taster lectures, trips and projects are arranged throughout the year.
- We have partnerships with many universities and take part in their projects, i.e. summer schools, taster days, campus visits.
- PSHE sessions help pupils to explore all of their options.
- Parents are kept regularly informed at progress evening's events and through letters, texts and the school website.
- Our pupils get opportunities to visit a university both in key stage 4 and 5 to help raise their aspirations, however we also recognise the increasing number of highly regarded apprenticeships and Degree apprenticeships and work closely with businesses and the CEC, to keep our pupils informed.
- Year 12 pupils are also encouraged to attend a variety of open days in the summer term and are granted 3 authorised absences to allow for this.
- Year 11 pupils take part in a Next Steps Day to give them a taste of Sixth Form or College and help them make those final crucial decisions.
- Year 12 pupils attend the UCAS HE event in Birmingham to experience an even wider range of universities. We also work very closely with a number of universities and organisations who have tailored Access Schemes and projects to help pupils along their way to university.
- Summer Schools are also widely advertised and encouraged amongst our Year 12 pupils.
- Year 9 pupils and parents are given up-to-date information as part of the transition when selecting GCSE options.