

# Leigh Academy Wilmington

## Provider Access Policy

Last Review Date	Next Review Date
September 2025	September 2026

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## **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 the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

## **Student entitlement**

All students 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 options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

For students of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for students during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for students during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11). For students in the 'third key phase' (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 students 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 students from the provider)
- answer questions from students.

## **Meaningful provider encounters**

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between students and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all students 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 students.

## **Previous providers**

In previous terms we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our students:

- Canterbury Christ Church University
- Greenwich University
- University of Kent
- Bank of England
- Kent Police
- HSBC
- NHS

## **Destinations of our students<sup>1</sup>**

In the last academic year our year 11 students moved to a range of providers in the local area after school including:

North Kent College, Mid Kent College, Holly Hill College, Dartford Grammar School, Wilmington Boys Grammar School, Wilmington Girls Grammar School and Hadlow College

In the last two years our year 13 students moved to a range of providers in the local area after school including:

University of Greenwich, Royal Holloway, University of Sussex, University of Kent, University of Westminster, Dartford & Gravesham NHS Trust.

More detailed information on student destinations can be found on our website:

<https://leighacademywilmington.org.uk/about-us/performance-destinations-data/>

## **Management of provider access requests**

### **Procedure**

A provider wishing to request access should contact Karen Man

[karen.man@wilmington.latrust.org.uk](mailto:karen.man@wilmington.latrust.org.uk)

### **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. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students or their parents or carers.

- Two encounters during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to Module 3 in year 9)
- Two encounters during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to Module 3 in year 11) Two encounters during the 'third key phase' (year 12 to Module 3 in year 13). Mandatory provision, but optional for students to attend.

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<sup>1</sup> From responses submitted



## Programme of business engagement opportunities

Phase	Year group	Encounter
Phase 1	Years 8-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation by Allied Health Professionals for Year 8. Students learned about the service generally and heard short presentations from a practising physiotherapist, occupational therapist and a dietician.</li><li>• HSBC Encounter - focusing on finance and opportunities in banking sector</li><li>• World of Work assemblies including Kent Radio</li></ul>
Phase 2	Years 10-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• North Kent College present for Parents' Evening and follow-up assemblies- Vocational Education (Year 10 and 11 separately)</li><li>• Lloyds banking group employer engagement talk - Cyber security and business functions in Lloyds</li><li>• Immigration / Home office employer engagement.</li><li>• Opportunities and career guidance.</li><li>• The Education People insight and engagement</li><li>• Business Breakfast meetings - meeting a range of employers learning about the opportunities they offer</li></ul>
Phase 3	Years 12-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bank of England - focusing on finance and opportunities in the banking sector</li><li>• London Christies - Apprenticeship opportunities.</li><li>• UK Parliament - T level Legal Services plus another group - 33 including staff - tour and workshop</li><li>• Bromley Magistrates Court - Off-site to sit in a hearing in the public library T level Legal Services students with 2 staff</li><li>• Business Breakfast meetings - meeting a range of employers learning about the opportunities they offer</li></ul>

All students had an assembly about Apprenticeship during Apprenticeship week w/c 10th Feb.

Opportunities and employer engagements to be revised throughout the school year

## Premises and facilities

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.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our students.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Careers Resource Centre, which is managed by the school librarian. The Resource Centre is available to all students at lunch and break times.

## **Complaints**

Any complaints regarding provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via [provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk](mailto:provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk)