



## Provider Access Policy for Wandle Valley Academy

### 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 and Section 45 of the Education Act 1997.

### Pupil Entitlement

All pupils in years 7-11 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.

### Provider Access Requirements

In accordance with the updated statutory guidance (effective September 2025), the academy will ensure that meaningful encounters with further and higher education providers meet the following definitions:

**Meaningful encounters with employers and employees** should allow students to learn about what work is like or what it takes to be successful in the workplace through direct interaction with employers of different sizes and specialisms, including self-employment.

**Meaningful experiences of workplaces** should provide first-hand experiences that help students explore career opportunities and expand their networks.

**Meaningful encounters with further and higher education providers** should help students understand the full range of learning opportunities available, including academic, technical and vocational routes. DfE updates statutory careers guidance (The Key Leaders)

### Minimum Requirements for Provider Encounters

The academy will ensure that the minimum requirement of six, high-quality encounters with a range of further education/training providers will be offered during years 8-11.

As part of this and in accordance with the January 2023 updated guidance, the academy will also provide at least four encounters with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education for all their students (2 further encounters to be provided by year 12 and 13 provider):

- Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend



### **Work Experience Requirements (Updated September 2025)**

**Years 7 to 9:** The school will provide 1 week's worth of work experience activities for pupils in years 7 to 9. These activities may include:

- Multi-day work visits involving employer-set tasks or projects
- Work shadowing
- In-person or virtual employer talks in the workplace, including technical demonstrations or tours of working premises

Activities can be individual or group/class-based, and in person or virtual (although virtual activities will not entirely replace in-person activities). Activities will be multiple, varied, and employer-led to help pupils explore different industries and careers, and engage with a diverse range of employers.

**Years 10 to 11:** The school will provide 1 week's worth of work experience placement(s) for pupils in years 10 and 11. DfE updates statutory careers guidance (The Key Leaders)

### **Management of Provider Access Requests**

#### **Procedure**

A provider wishing to request access should contact **Katherine Peck, Careers Lead**

Telephone: **0208 648 1365**

Email: [kpeck@wandlevalleyacademy.org.uk](mailto:kpeck@wandlevalleyacademy.org.uk)

#### **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:



Year Group	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 7	<p>Introductory Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Pupil Survey on Compass+ Tracker)</b> <b>Visiting workshops and speakers</b> from industries/employers inc: Public Services (Fire brigade, London Ambulance and Police) Local trades-people (Plumbing, Electrician, Landscaping).</p>	<p>Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker)</b> <b>National Apprenticeship Week 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> – A chance to highlight the apprenticeship opportunities available to pupil. <b>National Careers Week 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March</b> – A week of careers focussed activities across the curriculum. <b>SWITCH</b> Life Choices workshops (Including Drugs and SRE) Continuation of Spring industry <b>workshops</b>.</p>	<p>Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker)</b> <b>Feltham YOI Workshop</b> (Crime diversion talk) <b>Speakers Trust Workshops</b> - Building self-confidence and public speaking skills.</p>
Year 8	<p>Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker)</b> <b>Visiting workshops and speakers</b> from industries/employers inc:Public Services (Fire brigade, London Ambulance and Police)Local trades-people (Plumbing, Electrician, Landscaping). <b>Visits to local business venues</b> inc: <b>Tesco's, Sutton Community Farm, Dobbie's Garden Centre, Open Doors.</b></p>	<p>Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker)</b> <b>National Apprenticeship Week 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> – A chance to highlight the apprenticeship opportunities available to pupil. <b>National Careers Week 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March</b> – A week of careers focussed activities across the curriculum. <b>SWITCH</b> Life Choices workshops (Including Drugs and SRE) Continuation of Spring industry <b>workshops/ visits.</b></p>	<p>Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker)</b> <b>Feltham YOI Workshop</b> (Crime diversion talk) <b>Speakers Trust Workshops</b> - Building self-confidence and public speaking skills.</p>
Year 9	<p>Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker)</b> <b>Visiting workshops and speakers</b> from industries/employers inc:</p>	<p>Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker)</b> <b>National Apprenticeship Week 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> – A chance to highlight the</p>	<p>Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker)</b> <b>Options Evening</b> (Parents to attend with students to discuss</p>



	<p>Public Services (Fire brigade, London Ambulance + Police) Local trades-people (Plumbing, Electrician, Landscaping etc). <b>Training Provider</b> <b>Careers Morning</b> (20+ local college/training provider reps to attend, offering short informal interviews). <b>Team London Young Ambassadors</b> – Volunteering Matters workshop. <b>Visits to local business venues</b> inc: Tesco's, Sutton Community Farm, Dobbie's Garden Centre, Open Doors. PfA Event - <b>Sutton Life Centre</b> Hospitality Event – <b>Royal Leonardo Hotel, Tower Bridge.</b></p>	<p>apprenticeship opportunities available to pupil. <b>National Careers Week 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March</b> – A week of careers focussed activities across the curriculum. <b>Careers Morning</b> (20+ local business/college/course provider reps to attend, offering short informal interviews). Continuation of Spring <b>industry workshops/visits.</b> <b>SWITCH Life Choices</b> workshops (Including Drugs and SRE) <b>Volunteering Opportunities</b> via Volunteer Centre Sutton (Sutton Community Farm/Eco Local)</p>	<p>GCSE/Vocational Option subjects for KS4) Local College Representatives to attend, with sample course displays. <b>Speakers Trust Workshops</b> - Building self-confidence and public speaking skills. <b>Feltham YOI Workshop</b> (Crime diversion talk) <b>Volunteering Opportunities</b> via Volunteer Centre Sutton (Sutton Community Farm/Eco Local)</p>
Year 10	<p><b>Weekly Careers Lesson</b> (45mins p/w) King's Trust Units in Preparation for Work covered at Level 2, leading to an Award, Certificate or Diploma. Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker)</b> <b>Training Provider</b> <b>Careers Morning</b> (20+ local college/training provider reps to attend, offering short informal interviews). <b>Team London Young Ambassadors</b> – Volunteering Matters workshop. <b>Volunteering Opportunities</b> via Volunteer Centre Sutton</p>	<p><b>Weekly Careers Lesson</b> (45mins p/w) King's Trust Units in Preparation for Work covered at Level 2, leading to an Award, Certificate or Diploma. Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker and Work Experience ideas)</b> <b>National Apprenticeship Week 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> – A chance to highlight the apprenticeship opportunities available to pupil. <b>National Careers Week 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March</b> – A week of careers focussed activities across the curriculum.</p>	<p><b>Weekly Careers Lesson</b> (45mins p/w) King's Trust Units in Preparation for Work covered at Level 2, leading to an Award, Certificate or Diploma. Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker and Work Experience preparation)</b> <b>Speakers Trust Workshops</b> - Building self-confidence and public speaking skills. <b>Feltham YOI Workshop</b> (Crime diversion talk) Pre <b>Work Experience placement interviews</b> with Careers Advisor</p>



	<p>(Sutton Community Farm/Eco Local) Sutton Council – Workforce Development – 1 week placements PfA Event - <b>Sutton Life Centre</b> Hospitality Event – <b>Royal Leonardo Hotel, Tower Bridge.</b> <b>Workplace Visit</b> – Reed Smith Law Firm workshops and tour National Apprenticeship Event – Kia Oval</p>	<p><b>KS4 Parents Evening</b> (Opportunity to discuss students' progress/meet Local College Reps. Discuss possible Work Experience placements/contacts) <b>Careers Morning</b> (20+ local business/college/course provider reps to attend, offering short informal interviews). <b>SWITCH</b> Life Choices workshops (Including Drugs and SRE) <b>Mears Toolkit Talks</b> (CV building workshops and Apprenticeship support) <b>Visits to local business venues</b> of specific interest to students. CP to carry out specific Risk Assessments of potential venues for Work Experience. <b>Open Doors</b> – Construction site visit to New Covent Garden Market redevelopment site/Gas Holder sites.</p>	<p><b>Work Experience Placement</b> (5 days in May) Post <b>Work Experience placement interviews</b> with Careers Advisor + outside professionals eg Mears, Sutton and District. <b>Enterprise Project Visit</b> to Sutton Boot sale to sell donated items, to raise money for the school. Forms part of King's Trust Coursework.</p>
<p>Year 11</p>	<p><b>Weekly Careers Lesson</b> (45mins p/w) King's Trust Units in Preparation for Work covered at Level 2, leading to an Award, Certificate or Diploma. Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker) Training Provider</b> <b>Careers Morning</b> (20+ local college/training provider reps to attend, offering short informal interviews). <b>Ian Birthwright</b> – Department for Work and</p>	<p><b>Weekly Careers Lesson</b> (45mins p/w) King's Trust Units in Preparation for Work covered at Level 2, leading to an Award, Certificate or Diploma. Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Compass + Tracker)</b> <b>National Apprenticeship Week 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> – A chance to highlight the apprenticeship opportunities available to pupil. <b>National Careers Week 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March</b> – A week of</p>	<p><b>Weekly Careers Lesson</b> (45mins p/w) King's Trust Units in Preparation for Work covered at Level 2, leading to an Award, Certificate or Diploma. Student meetings with <b>Careers Advisor (Confirmation of Post 16 education destinations for all pupils)</b> <b>Speakers Trust Workshops</b> - Building self-confidence and public speaking skills.</p>



	<p>Pensions Interviews workshops.</p> <p><b>Post 16 applications</b> (Providers to come into school for class talks and online application support).</p> <p><b>Princess Diana Mentoring Scheme</b> Programme (Employability and mentoring course)</p> <p><b>Visits to local colleges/course providers</b> (Tour facilities/see lessons in progress/talk briefly to tutors)</p> <p><b>Hospitality Event – Royal Leonardo Hotel, Tower Bridge.</b></p> <p><b>Workplace Visit – Reed Smith Law Firm</b> workshops and tour</p> <p><b>National Apprenticeship Event – Kia Oval</b></p>	<p>careers focussed activities across the curriculum.</p> <p><b>KS4 Parents Evening</b> (Opportunity to discuss students progress/meet Local College Reps)</p> <p><b>Careers Morning</b> (20+ local business/college/course provider reps to attend, offering short informal interviews).</p> <p><b>SWITCH</b> Life Choices workshops (Including Drugs and SRE)</p> <p><b>Princess Diana Mentoring Scheme</b> Programme (Employability and mentoring course)</p> <p><b>Ian Birthwright –</b> Department for Work and Pensions – Mock Interviews.</p> <p><b>Post-16 interviews</b> and Learning Support interviews at colleges.</p> <p><b>Open Doors –</b> Construction site visit to New Covent Garden Market redevelopment site and Gas Holder development site (Berkeley Group).</p>	<p><b>Feltham YOI Workshop</b> (Crime diversion talk)</p> <p><b>Princess Diana Mentoring Scheme</b> Programme (Employability and mentoring course)</p> <p><b>Visit to The Quad, to view NEET services offered.</b></p>
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**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 Lead.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Careers Office. The Careers Office is available to all students during specified break/lunch/tutorial times.



### **Governance and Leadership**

The careers programme has the explicit backing of governors and senior leaders. Governors are actively engaged in setting the direction for a whole-institution approach to careers guidance. The Careers Link Governor works closely with the Careers Leader to understand and support the implementation of this policy.

### **Programme Evaluation**

The school keeps systematic records of pupils' participation in the programme, and uses data as part of the evaluation process. The careers programme is sequenced and tailored to the needs of learners, with regular reviews to ensure it remains effective and compliant with statutory requirements.

**Policy Review Date:** September 2026