



Weald of Kent Grammar School

Careers Policy Statement on Provider Access – October 2023

Introduction

This statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at the school for the purposes 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

Students in Years 7-13 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.
- To hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options evenings, assemblies and group discussions and taster events.
- To 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 pupils 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 pupils.

Previous providers

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

- Willmott Dixon
- North Kent College
- Hadlow College
- The Education People
- Mazars
- Goldberg Engineering
- Kent Police
- SpecSavers
- Army
- PwC

Destinations of our students

Last year our year 11 students moved to range of providers in the local area after school (% of total year group also included):

- Apprenticeships: 0%
- Colleges: 3% (*including Hadlow, Mid Kent, North Kent and West Kent Colleges*)
- Other Sixth Form: 29%
- Weald of Kent Grammar Sixth Form: 55%
- Other destinations: 13%

Last year our year 13 students moved to range of providers in the local area after school (% of total year group also included):

- Apprenticeships: 0%
- Colleges: 2% (*including North Kent Colleges and Hastings*)
- Universities (local): 91% (*including University of Kent, University of Greenwich, Canterbury Christchurch University, City University, Kings College, Kent and Medway Medical School*)
- Gap Year: 7%

Management of provider access requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact Amanda Wehrle who is the Careers Leader at Weald of Kent Grammar School via the following email address awehrle@wealdgs.org. Alternatively, they can contact Sara Swanton, who is the Careers Manager, via the following email address sswanton@wealdgs.org.

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 students and/or their parents/carers, including:

- Specific vocational events are signposted by the Careers Manager to students throughout the year, for example hospital events are shared with students interested in a career in medicine.
- Virtual opportunities are made available to students.

| | Autumn Term | Spring Term | Summer Term |
|----------------|---|--|--|
| Year 7 | Skills and Enterprise team building enrichment day (National Careers Challenge) Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks | National Apprenticeship Week career talks (TBC) Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks | National Careers Challenge Finals Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks |
| Year 8 | Career and Enterprise enrichment day (National Careers Challenge) Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks | National Apprenticeship Week career talks (TBC) Experience of the work place - work shadowing for one day Step in the NHS Project with research into jobs and potential routes. Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks | National Careers Challenge Finals Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks |
| Year 9 | Career Enrichment day with a focus on GCSE option choices. Guest speaker on Apprenticeships Options evening, assemblies on GCSE option choices Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks | National Apprenticeship Week career talks (TBC) Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks Careers Fair (evening) | Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks |
| Year 10 | Experience of the work place - work shadowing for one day Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks | National Apprenticeship Week career talks (TBC) Careers Fair (evening) Employability talk by InvestIN (TBC) Careers unit on effective communication and professional conversation Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks Meetings with careers advisor | Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks |

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|----------------|--|---|---|
| Year 11 | Experience of the work place - work shadowing for one day Meetings with careers advisor Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks | National Apprenticeship Week career talks (TBC) Careers Fair (evening) Meetings with careers advisor Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks | |
| Year 12 | Careers Enrichment day with a focus on employer encounters and mini careers fair (various providers) Meetings with careers advisor Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks | National Apprenticeship Week career talks (TBC) Careers Fair (evening) Meetings with careers advisor UCAS Exhibition Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks | Talk by Jane Marshall from Optimising Futures on personal statement writing Meetings with careers advisor Work experience week Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks |
| Year 13 | Careers Enrichment day with a focus on careers related to subject choices Early applicant meetings with Jane Marshall from Optimising Futures Meetings with careers advisor Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks | National Apprenticeship Week career talks (TBC) Careers Fair (evening) Meetings with careers advisor Career and employability assemblies and guest speaker talks | |

Premises and facilities

The school will make large spaces available, such as the main hall, for talks and discussions between the provider and students. The school will also provide 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 and with the appropriate Head of Year or Head of Department.

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

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

Approved: *27th March 2023* by Governors at Curriculum and Standards Committee

Next review: *November 2024*

Signed: [Chris Eedes] Chair of Governors

[Richard Booth] Head teacher