



**Worcestershire Careers Hub
Member School**



WORCESTER SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

CAREERS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2026 to AUGUST 2027

College Mission:

“Worcester Sixth Form College’s mission is to provide a safe and supportive learning environment in which 16-19 year old students from Worcestershire and adjacent areas achieve outstanding academic outcomes and personal development to equip them to progress to university, employment or an apprenticeship of their choice”.

Worcester Sixth Form is an active member of the Worcestershire Careers Hub and supports the development of Worcestershire's Future Workforce through the Worcestershire Enterprise Adviser Network



Worcester Sixth Form College – Careers Strategy

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INTRODUCTION

Careers guidance is more important than ever before. At Worcester Sixth Form College, we are committed to preparing our students for the next stage of their education or training and for their future careers. Our students will be entering a world of work that is more challenging and complex than ever before, with global opportunities and technological advances creating new careers that we cannot even imagine today.

With so many choices available, it is important that our students have the information and skills they need to make informed decisions about their futures. Our whole college approach to careers education ensures that all students have access to the support they need to explore their options and make informed choices about their next steps.

Our careers programme is integrated into the college curriculum and is designed to help students develop the skills they need to manage their careers effectively. We want our students to be prepared for the changes and transitions that lie ahead and to have the confidence to succeed in their chosen careers.

WORCESTER SIXTH FORM COLLEGE CAREERS STRATEGY

Purpose and aims

Worcester Sixth Form College (WSFC) is fully committed to ensuring that all of our students acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes to manage their learning and career progression.

WSFC has already established a range of effective careers guidance activities which guide and support our students to achieve positive destinations such as Higher Education, Apprenticeships, Technical routes or Employment.

This careers strategy sets out WSFC's key approaches internally and externally to enhance the current careers guidance activities and participation opportunities already available to our students. The aim is to ensure that students are fully prepared for and informed effectively about their next steps and can therefore aspire to achieve their full potential. We want to ensure that our students have both the aptitude and interpersonal skills to effectively communicate and add value within the workplace.

The College will collaborate throughout this strategy with a range of external agencies to help us ensure we will meet all the mandatory requirements contained within the Department for Education's statutory guidance, *Careers guidance and access for education and training providers* (last updated June 2026). These partnerships will include working alongside The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC), The Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP), Worcestershire County Council (WCC), Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) providers, Worcestershire Apprenticeships (WA), Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce and a wide range of local employers.

High quality careers guidance is a crucial part of improving social mobility. Young people make choices based on what they know and what they think is available to them. If our young people are made fully aware of the career pathways and opportunities available to them, they will be more able to make informed choices about which qualifications and career pathways which will enable them to achieve their goals.

This strategy outlines the College's whole-college approach to careers guidance and explains how careers is embedded within our wider strategic priorities, curriculum, personal development provision and support for progression. Careers activity will therefore take place across Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2, supporting the College in meeting its legal and contractual careers requirements and making progress against the updated Gatsby Benchmarks.

Strategic Careers Leader

In line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance, Worcester Sixth Form College has appointed a Careers Leader with responsibility for developing and overseeing the College's careers programme.

The Strategic Careers Lead will have the responsibility to make sure that the College meets its mandatory requirements and continues to make meaningful progress against all eight of the updated Gatsby Benchmarks.

Andrew Fitzpatrick has agreed to undertake this role.

As Senior Leader for Progression, Andrew Fitzpatrick provides strategic leadership for careers and ensures that the programme is connected to the College's wider priorities.

Andrew Fitzpatrick will provide both the Principal and the board of governors with regular updates on our progress and will work closely with the Worcestershire LEP delivery team, our assigned Enterprise Adviser and local employers to ensure we deliver this strategy.

Our Careers Team

Andrew Fitzpatrick will lead our team which will include the following staff members:

Jan Whitehorne – Careers Advisor (IAG Level 6 qualified)
Kath Fox - Careers Advisor (IAG Level 6 qualified)
Jody Cox – L6 Apprentice Careers Advisor
Rachel Blount - Employer Liaison and Work Experience Co-ordinator
June Devonport - Employer Liaison Officer
Rachel Gillgan - Work Experience Officer
Sophie Haywood – Student Services Co-ordinator

Our Enterprise Adviser

Through the Worcestershire LEP's Enterprise Adviser Network, Worcester Sixth Form College is delighted to have been assigned our own designated enterprise adviser.

Neil Herman will be supporting our careers team to assist us to facilitate careers related activity which will help us achieve Gatsby Benchmarks 5 and 6.

May we introduce our assigned Enterprise Adviser:

Name: Neil Herman

Company: Neil Herman Associates Ltd

Role: Advice on business strategy, financial controls and procedures.

Current position at Worcester Sixth Form College

Students are currently receiving the following careers related support or participating within the activities listed below during their journey through college: (See Additional pages for monthly schedule).

Foundation

- Options talks: foundation groups
- Interview skills and apprenticeships talks for all foundation students
- Raising Aspirations visits for foundation students: November 2026 trip to the University of Worcester and March 2027 UCAS exhibition at Worcester University.
- January – March 2027 targeted foundation students receive one to one interview with careers staff

Year 1

- One to one Careers Advice & Guidance available daily
- All SEND students offered careers appointments
- All YC and CLA students offered careers appointments
- Ever 6 students offered careers appointments
- Students attend weekly Impact session. They are given significant time to research their next steps and are offered opportunities to gain virtual work experience or enrol on Microsoft accredited courses. They also use the Unifrog platform – psychometric tests, research university and apprenticeship opportunities (Autumn Term 2026, Spring and Summer 2027)
- Specific course guidance for L4+ study
- Employer and HE events for students and parents including Oxbridge information evening (Summer 2027)
- Professional programmes: Medicine, Law, Teaching, Healthcare and Police
- 'Where Next?' workshops: University and Non-University options
- Apprenticeship Evening for Parents March 2027
- Work Experience Evening for Parents December 2026
- Work experience – students are expected to find own WEX during Impact Week in June 2027. They use the Unifrog platform to do this. There is also one to one support available from three staff
- Students will be supported to prepare for employer encounters and workplace experiences and will be given structured opportunities to reflect on what they have learned.
- UCAS and Personal Statement talks and workshops led by universities
- UCAS Exhibition: Worcester University (March) and Birmingham NEC (June)
- HE+ (University of Cambridge) Programme of events
- Ambition Programme: Enrichment opportunity to increase the aspirations of high achieving students.
- GRIT enrichment set up for students looking at Degree, Higher and competitive Apprenticeships. Workshops aim to improve soft skills as well CV, application workshops and talks from visiting speakers.
- SEND trip to 'Life Beyond School' careers fair October 2026
- SEND university trip April 2027
- Department visits and trips, e.g., Law – Students visiting Worcester Crown Court, Art to DRP Group
- National Careers Week: careers related lessons and events (March 2027)

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- National Apprenticeship week (February 2027) Apprenticeship Providers invited into college for student drop-in
- May 2027 Higher Education and Employer Fair – compulsory for all Year 1.
- Spring 2027 – Subject taster days at universities.
- Summer 2027 – Trips to Russell Group and Sutton 30 university open days.

Year 2

- One to one Advice and Guidance available daily, including personal statement checks and employment assistance.
- Targeted SEND students offered careers appointments
- Targeted YC and CLA students offered careers appointments
- Ever 6 students offered careers appointments
- Students attend weekly Impact session. They are given significant time to research their next steps and are offered opportunities to gain virtual work experience or enrol on Microsoft accredited courses. They also use the Unifrog platform.
- October-November 2026 Universities invited in to check students' personal statements
- Early applicant day support for Oxbridge and medicine, dentistry and veterinary students. These are supported throughout the period of their application by the Senior Leader for Progression and designated Careers Advisors
- Support sessions for those taking external admissions tests eg. UCAT, LNAT, TARA, ESAT, TMUA etc
- Work experience one to one support
- Higher Education Evening for Parents June 2026
- One to one targeted support for GRIT students
- Apprenticeship Evening for Parents December 2026 including local apprenticeship providers
- LinkedIn sessions led by Student Services in tutor group (Spring Term)
- Alternatives to university sessions, degree apprenticeship talks delivered by universities (Autumn)
- University finance talks – universities invited in Spring Term
- How to prepare for university/transitions (Spring Term)
- National Careers Week Activities (March 2027) and Apprenticeship Provider drop-in (February 2027)
- SEND trip to 'Life Beyond School' careers fair October 2026
- Mock interviews for university (November/December 2026)
- March 2027 mock interviews for employment/apprenticeships (delivered by employers and careers team)
- Apprenticeships talk from Worcestershire Apprenticeships
- Student drop in access to employers/training providers at the Employer/HE event
- Department visits and trips
- May 2027 Higher Education and Employer Fair – optional for Year 2.
- June 2027 Opportunity Hub links employers and apprenticeship providers with students who do not have a secure destination
- Results support

Teaching staff contribute to the delivery of careers guidance through:

participation in Careers Week and Apprenticeship Week activities, and throughout the year by incorporating careers into the curriculum, engaging with employers and universities as visiting speakers. For vocational courses there are strong insight and work experience links and visits.

Local Employers contribute to the delivery of careers guidance through:

offering work experience, taking part in professional programmes, the GRIT programme, mentoring through PowerUp, vocational visits, and assistance with mock interviews for those students planning on entering the workplace.

Parents contribute to the delivery of careers guidance through:

offering (where appropriate) work experience to college students, exploring the possibility of sharing their profession with students, and attending events such as the Year 1 Higher Education and Employer event to enable them to assist their young person with activities such as UCAS application completion.

Partnership Arrangements and Employer Contacts

Worcester Sixth Form College has strong links with:

- Worcestershire Careers Hub.
- Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Worcester Apprenticeships Team and associated training providers
- Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce
- Worcestershire Growth Hub
- Further Education providers
- The local business community
- Alumni and Parents

Objectives for 2026 to 2027

1. Meet the needs of those students who are disadvantaged for example those with EHCPs, SEN with high needs, CLA, YC and those who are identified as Ever 6
2. To increase the number of students on work experience
3. To further develop the GRIT programme to support those students applying for degree and higher apprenticeships.
4. To improve links with local employers and business through involvement with the Chamber of Commerce and further support those students seeking work experience and/or an apprenticeship.
5. To ensure our careers work supports the college's personal development and wellbeing programme, so that students receive all round support.
6. To further raise the profile of careers across the whole college.
7. To use the updated Gatsby Benchmarks to guide the continued development and evaluation of the College's careers programme, in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance updated in June 2026.
8. To raise aspirations by ensuring all students have knowledge of routes into higher education, apprenticeships (of all levels) or meaningful employment.
9. To ensure all staff at the college have an awareness of linking curriculum learning to careers and are able to demonstrate the relevance of subjects to students when considering a future career. Particularly relevant is that STEM subject staff should highlight the increasing need for STEM subjects to access a wide range of future career paths, making sure the information does not stereotype in any way.
10. To continuously strive to improve NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) figures by providing an effective careers programme.
11. To actively track the progress of students from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure that they access all of the careers information, advice and guidance to enable them to make the relevant decisions to their career goals.
12. To make available Labour Market Information and Intelligence to ensure students (and parents) are aware of local and national opportunities as well as trends, to ensure they are informed to make the best decisions.
13. To engage with local employers and training providers to provide multiple learning opportunities about the world of work and skills (LSIP to meet the skills gap).
14. To demonstrate the impact of a structured and tailored careers programme on students' knowledge, skills, aspirations, participation and progression.
15. To ensure that careers guidance is embedded within the College's wider strategic priorities and understood as a whole college responsibility.
16. To ensure that students understand the full range of academic, vocational, technical, apprenticeship, employment, further education and higher education routes.

Gatsby Benchmarks

In line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance, Worcester Sixth Form College uses the updated Gatsby Benchmarks as the central framework for planning, delivering and evaluating its careers programme. The Benchmarks are non-statutory but support the College in meeting its legal and contractual careers requirements.

The following eight benchmarks are at the core of good careers and enterprise provision:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each student
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

1. A Stable Careers Programme

- To ensure the careers programme is delivered by individuals with the right skills and experience. The college will, wherever possible, use qualified careers professionals to offer advice and guidance to all or the overwhelming majority of students.
- To enable students to understand the full range of opportunities available to them, the skills that are valued within the workplace and to have first hand experience of a work environment.
- To develop and publish a careers programme that will raise the aspirations of all students regardless of academic ability and is tailored to meet their individual needs wherever possible.
- To ensure our Careers Strategy is fully supported by the Senior Leadership team within college and is approved by the board of governors
- To ensure there is a clear focus on the activities which support enterprise, employability skills, workplace experiences and qualifications which employers' value.
- To regularly evaluate our careers strategy to determine the impact of our careers related activity based on the feedback provided to us by students, teachers, employers, and where appropriate parents.
- To maintain high quality careers provision endorsed by the Careers and Enterprise Company and to review the improvement of our programme by using the Compass evaluation and Compass Careers Dashboard tools.

2. Learning from Career and Labour Market Information

- To encourage and increase the use of online careers tools and packages across all year groups. Working with our own careers team, key partners, stakeholders, local and national professional bodies.
- To utilise and then support the development of labour market information to ensure staff and students are informed in their decisions and the advice being given. Work with the Worcestershire LEP and the Careers and Enterprise Company to help establish key priority areas which need to be developed.
- To promote the values of labour market information to parents /carers (where appropriate) to access and understand this information. To investigate careers and opportunities in learning, work and apprenticeships and how these meet the local and national priorities.

3. Addressing the Needs of each Student

- To develop mechanisms to report, track and monitor compliance in relation to the Careers Strategy objectives.
- To develop accurate tracking systems to ensure students are able to keep track of their own journey, record and access the advice they have received and monitor the agreed actions and next steps
- To ensure that a programme of activity takes place which raises the aspirations of all students and challenges stereotypical thinking in terms of equality and gender.
- To ensure that students with particular vulnerabilities and those who are at risk are appropriately supported and identified through close working relationships with the full range of educational and support agencies.
- Learner level records will capture participation across the careers programme, aspirations, intended destinations, personal guidance received and agreed actions.
- Participation and outcomes will be reviewed for different groups of learners to identify gaps, inform targeted support and evaluate the inclusivity of the programme.
- To ensure that careers guidance for learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is differentiated, where appropriate, and based on high aspirations and a personalised approach. Careers guidance for learners with SEND should be based on the students' own aspirations, abilities and needs.

4. Linking Curriculum Learning to Careers

- Subject teachers, governors, and senior leaders are expected to actively support careers education by linking curriculum content to career pathways.
- To integrate national initiatives and project opportunities within the curriculum to enhance that range of careers related activity taking place within college. e.g. Young Enterprise.
- To ensure that careers related activities are built in throughout the College year and not just towards the end of any given topic / subject being delivered.
- All curriculum areas will support students to understand how the knowledge, skills and behaviours developed through their subjects relate to future pathways and employment. The College will monitor the consistency and quality of curriculum links to careers across departments.

5. Encounters with Employers and Employees

- To ensure that students receive at least one meaningful encounter with an employer during every year they are at college.
- Employer encounters will have a clear purpose, involve meaningful two-way interaction and include appropriate preparation and reflection.
- To increase the number of activities which are conducted within college with the support of local employers.
- To ensure that students have the opportunity to improve employability skills and their understanding of and awareness of entrepreneurship.
- To enable learners to gain the confidence to compete in the labour market by providing opportunities to gain the practical know how and attributes that are relevant to gaining employment.
- To develop marketing materials for employers which will help them easily understand the impact of their involvement, the breadth of options available to them and the ways in which they can show they meet their corporate social responsibility.
- To create mechanisms where parents and alumni can express their interest to actively support employer related activity taking place within the college.
- The college will also encourage students and parents to attend careers events such as the Worcestershire Skills Show held annually in March and the Worcestershire Apprenticeship show held annually in October.

6. Experiences of the Workplace

- The College will ensure that students have access to multiple, meaningful and varied experiences of workplaces during their time at WSFC, including at least one experience during Years 12–13 for the majority of students.
- Experiences may include placements, workplace visits, employer-led projects and other activities that meet the definition of a meaningful workplace experience. Students will be prepared beforehand and supported to reflect afterwards.
- To increase the number of employer workplace visits which will take place to enable students to gain more of an understanding of the wide range of employment opportunities available within specific industry sectors based in Worcestershire.
- To strengthen our links with local employers and support our Enterprise Adviser to facilitate careers related activity within college

7. Encounters with Further and Higher Education

- Students will receive meaningful encounters with the full range of post-18 providers and progression routes, including universities, further education providers, apprenticeship and training providers, employers and providers of technical and higher technical education.
- To ensure that all, or the overwhelming majority of, students have been provided with information about the full range of apprenticeships including higher and degree apprenticeships through the Worcestershire Apprenticeships activity offer.
- To ensure that all, or the overwhelming majority of, students experience meaningful encounters with universities and other relevant post-18 providers.

8. Personal Guidance

- Ensure that every student has access to a personal guidance meeting with an appropriately qualified and impartial careers adviser during their time at the College, with further meetings provided according to individual need

Promotion of Careers related activities

Worcester Sixth Form College will encourage the promotion of ALL careers related activity which takes place within the College through the creation of case studies and will share this activity through our college social media channels.

This careers strategy document along with any case studies documents that are created will be placed on the college's website. These will also be shared with the Worcestershire LEP to be used to promote best practice across ALL career's hub member schools.

The promotion and evaluation of careers related activity will support continuous improvement and demonstrate the impact of the programme on students. Evidence will show how provision is structured, tailored to learners' needs and embedded within the College's wider strategy. It will include the impact of careers provision on students' knowledge, skills, aspirations, participation and progression.

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Action Plan 2026/27 Autumn Term

Year Group	Activity Description	Date	Covering Benchmark	RAG Status
All	One to one careers Appointments	All	8	
Foundation and Year 1	Course Guidance	Sept, Oct	3, 8, 4	
2	UCAS Personal statement checking by Student Services and Universities	Sept-Dec	3, 4, 7, 8	
2	Early applicants days, personal statement checking, external tests practice, interview practice	Sept-Dec	3, 4, 7, 8	
All	CV checks	All	2, 4, 5, 8	
1	Professional Programmes – Medicine, Law, Teaching, Healthcare and Police	Oct-July	3, 4, 5	
All	Work Experience placements	All	3,5, 6	
2	UCAS Personal Statement talks, delivered by universities	Sept-Oct	3, 7, 8	
2	Degree apprenticeship talks, delivered by universities	Sept-Oct	3, 7, 8	
Found	Worcester University Trip	Nov	7, 3	
Found and Year 1	Launch Unifrog with students and parents	Oct	3, 7, 4	
Found	Options talks	Dec	3, 8	
Year 1	Unifrog – psychometric tests	Nov-Dec	3	
Year 1	Unifrog – shortlisting tool	Nov-Dec	3	
Year 2	Higher Education Evening for Parents	Sept	3, 4, 7	
Year 1 and 2	Work Experience Evening for Parents	Dec	2,5,6	
Year 2	GRIT enrichment programme	Sept-Feb	8,5,3,2	
Year 1 and 2	Life Beyond School careers fair	Oct	5, 3, 7	

Spring Term 2027

Year Group	Activity Description	Date	Covering Benchmark	RAG Status
All	One to one careers Appointments	All	3	
All	CV checks	All	3, 2	
1	'Where Next' – HE and Apprenticeships. Launched in assembly and supported in tutor period	Jan-Feb	8, 3	
1	Professional Programmes – Medicine, Law, Teaching, Healthcare and Police	Jan-Apr	3, 4, 5	
Found	Apprenticeship and interview skills talks	Jan	5, 3	
All	Work Experience placements	All	3,5, 6	
2	Mock interviews for apprenticeships and employment	Apr	5, 3	
Year 1	Unifrog – Interactions tool	Jan-Mar	4	
1 and Found	Higher Education Fair – Worcester University	Mar	7, 5, 3	
1	HE+ - run by Cambridge University and includes residential to Christs' college	Jan-Mar	3, 7, 4	
2	Student Finance talks	Jan	7, 8, 3	
2	Preparing for university	Mar	7, 8, 3	
All	National Apprenticeship week - activities	Feb	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	
All	National Careers Week - activities	Mar	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	
Year 1	GRIT enrichment programme launched	Feb	8,5,3,2	

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Summer Term 2027

Year Group	Activity Description	Date	Covering Benchmark	RAG Status
All	One to one careers Appointments	All	3	
All	CV checks	All	3, 2	
1	Post 18 Evening for Parents	June	7	
All	Employer and HE day	May	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	
All	Work Experience placements	All	3,5, 6	
2	Mock interviews for apprenticeships and employment	May-June	2, 5	
1	SEND university trip	Apr	3, 7	
2	UCAS Firm choice support	Apr	8	
1	UCAS registration	June	3, 4, 7	
1	UCAS Personal statement talks delivered by universities	June	3, 7	
1	Higher Education Fair NEC	June	7, 5, 3	
1	HE+ - run by Cambridge University	Apr-Jul	3, 7, 4	
1	Open day events at Sutton Group/Russell Group universities	Jun-Jul	3, 7	
1	Taster day events at universities	May-Jul	3, 7	
2	Opportunity Hub for students without a secure destination	June	3,5,7,8	

Careers Programme and Provider Access Policy

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at the college for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the college's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 and reflects the Department for Education's statutory guidance, *Careers guidance and access for education and training providers*, updated in June 2026.

Worcester Sixth Form College is committed to providing a personalised education package for all our students, and this is reflected by our careers programme. Students will access different elements of the programme at different stages of their education whilst the focus will always be on preparing them for their future pathways, considering their own preferences. Our Careers Action Plan outlines our generic careers offer from **Foundation/Year 1 to Year 2**. For some students, a more personalised offer will be in place.

Our focus links directly to the requirements of the 'Gatsby Good Career Guidance' report (2014), which became the basis for the Department for Education's statutory guidance, *Careers guidance and access for education and training providers* (June 2026).

Student entitlement

The statutory guidance is relevant to all students in years 12-13 and we will also consider young people's developmental ages when preparing appropriate careers activities at **Worcester Sixth Form College** ensuring that our students receive a careers programme which offers them opportunities 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.
- hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships.
- understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

College's Careers Leader

Parents, teachers, and employers may gain further information about our careers programme by contacting:

CAREERS LEAD NAME: Andrew Fitzpatrick

CAREERS LEAD POSITION: Senior Leader for Progression

CAREERS LEAD TEL NO: 01905 362600

CAREERS LEAD EMAIL ADDRESS – andrew.fitzpatrick@wsfc.ac.uk

Measuring and assessing the impact of the careers programme

Evaluation of our careers programme is designed to enable us to examine what we do; consider how we can improve it and provide stakeholders with a summary of this. We maintain learner level records of careers programme participation and destinations data to support evaluation and improvement. This will include gathering information from the students about how they feel about their experiences in relation to the careers programme.

Evaluation will consider the extent to which students develop their knowledge of progression routes, increase their career readiness, make informed and ambitious decisions, and progress to sustained destinations. Participation and outcomes will be analysed for different groups of students, including those with SEND or EHCPs, care-experienced students, young carers, Ever 6 students and others who may face additional barriers.

Student progress in Careers/Impact lessons will be evaluated as part of our ongoing Student Evaluation process.

It is our aim to provide students with both experiences of the workplace and / or encounters with employers. These encounters and experiences will take place as part of curriculum lessons / workplace visits / assemblies / virtual work experience/ attending Careers Fairs and Events.

Application for Provider Access

Introduction

This document sets out the college's arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at the College for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the college's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

Student entitlement

All students in years 12-13 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 events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events.
- | to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Andrew Fitzpatrick

Telephone: 01905 362600

Email: andrew.fitzpatrick@wsfc.ac.uk

Opportunities for access

The college offers a comprehensive Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme and an overview of this programme can be seen in the College's Careers Charter which can be seen on the College website.

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

The College will make a suitable space available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The college will also make available ICT 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.

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All requests will be given due consideration by **Worcester Sixth Form College** and Senior Leadership link and requests will be refused if:

- They impinge on students' preparation for public or internal exams
- They clash with other college events such as visits, other speakers, well-being days, college photographs, sports days, public or internal exams, parents' communication events etc.
- The college is unable to provide staff to support the presentation or talk due to previous commitments
- Rooming for the talk or event is unable to be found due to timetabling clashes

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Careers Advisor so that they can be displayed in the Careers Section of the College library.

Feedback

Worcester Sixth Form College welcomes participation from parents and carers, employers, alumni and other partners. Should you wish to support our activity or provide feedback on our Careers Strategy then please contact our Strategic Careers Lead directly.

Provider Access Legislation

The updated provider access legislation came into force in January 2023. It is intended to ensure that learners understand the full range of technical education and apprenticeship opportunities available to them.

The updated provider access legislation (PAL) specifies schools must provide at least six encounters for all their students:

- Two encounters for students during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all students to attend
- Two encounters for students during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all students to attend
- Two encounters for students during the 'third key phase' (Years 12–13). For this phase, encounters must be offered by the college but are optional for students to attend.

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In the context of the provider access legislation, a provider is an organisation that offers approved technical education qualifications or their representative, for example an FE college or training provider.

A provider, to whom access is given, must deliver an encounter that includes the following:

- Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers
- Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead
- A description of what learning or training with the provider is like
- Responses to questions from the students about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

The full statutory guidance from DfE can be found here [Careers guidance and access for education and training providers – GOV.UK \(\[www.gov.uk\]\(https://www.gov.uk\)\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672222/Careers_guidance_and_access_for_education_and_training_providers_-_GOV.UK.pdf).

Review Cycle

This strategy and associated Provider Access Policy will be reviewed annually. The next review is scheduled for July 2027.

Useful links / Resources

The Careers Enterprise Company	https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/
The Careers and Enterprise Company Resource Directory	https://resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/
Gatsby Foundation	http://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance
Post 16 Skills Plan	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-skills-plan-and-independent-report-on-technical-education
Skills For Worcestershire	http://www.skills4worcestershire.co.uk/
Government Careers Strategy December 2017	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664319/Careers_strategy.pdf
Department for Education – Careers guidance and access for education and training providers, updated June 2026	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1127489/Careers_guidance_and_access_for_education_and_training_providers_.pdf
National Careers Service	https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/
UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)	https://www.ucas.com/
Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership	http://www.wlep.co.uk/
Worcestershire Apprenticeships	http://worcsapprenticeships.org.uk/
HOW College	http://www.howcollege.ac.uk/
Kidderminster College	http://kidderminster.ac.uk/
Warwickshire College Group	https://wcg.ac.uk/page/1/home
Worcester University	https://www.worcester.ac.uk/

