

Provider Access Policy Statement (PAL)

Access for colleges, training providers, university technical colleges, universities and all other post 16 providers offering technical, vocational and academic routes and apprenticeships

Updated June 2025

This policy statement sets out Nethergate Academy's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer.

Pupil 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.
- 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.

In line with the updated Provider Access Legislation, from January 2023, all schools must provide a minimum of six encounters for all students with post 16 providers, as above. This is broken down into key phases: -

Key Stage 3	Year 8 or 9	Two encounters for pupils that are mandatory for all to attend
Key Stage 4	Year 10 or 11	Two encounters for pupils that are mandatory for all to attend
6th Form	Year 12 or 13	Two encounters that are mandatory for the school to put on but 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 all pupils, including our most vulnerable and those with additional learning needs

Meaningful Provider Encounters

We define an encounter as single session (timings depend on pathway and need of pupils) during the academy day. The academy days runs from 8.50am until 3.00pm. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

Nethergate Academy offers a comprehensive careers programme for all pupils, including our primary phase. An overview of this programme can be on the school website.

Meaningful encounters are embedded into our curriculum, and we use the [Making It Meaningful checklist](#) to ensure encounters are accessible, reflect opportunities within the local labour market, and meet the needs of our pupils.

Management of provider access requests

All requests made by providers should be emailed at least 6 weeks in advance of the expected date of the session. In the first instance, requests by providers should be sent to:

Katie Howse	Assistant Principal/SLT Careers Lead	khowse@nethergateacadem.org
Mel Kirk	Vocational Lead	mkirk@nethergateacademy.org
Olivia Morrison	Primary Careers Lead	omorrison@nethergateacademy.org

Tel no: 0115 915 2959

Opportunities for Access

The academy offers the six provider encounters required by law, and several additional events as part of our whole school careers programme. Delivery is usually via our annual Careers Fair, assemblies, careers lessons and links with local colleges.

If you would like to discuss an opportunity to come and speak to our pupils, please contact the careers team below.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding policy outlines the academy's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

Premises and facilities

Nethergate Academy has a range of facilities available for providers to use in support of our careers programme.

The school will make a suitable space available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity. The school 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.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that can deliver virtual tours and presentations to our pupils.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature so that they can be made available to pupils and their families.

Previous providers

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

Nottingham College, Landmarks College, Portland College, Fast Forward, Confetti College, Project Search, Space Inclusive, The Plane Tree, Pulp Friction, Mencap and Access Training

Pupil destinations

2022-2023

In 2023, our year 11 pupils transitioned to a range of providers in the local area, including: Nethergate 6th Form, Nottingham College, Landmarks College, Portland College and Confetti.

In 2023 our year 13 and 14 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area, including: Nottingham College, Landmarks College, Access Training and The Adventure Service.

2023-2024

In 2024, our year 11 pupils transitioned to a range of providers in the local area, including: Nethergate 6th Form, Landmarks College and Nottingham College.

In 2024 our year 13 and 14 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area, including: Portland College, Nottingham College, Project Search and The Plane Tree.

Complaints

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the academy's complaints procedure.

Author: Katie Howse (Assistant Principal)

Approved by:

Last review: 3/6/25

Next review: 3/6/26