



# **Buckler's Mead Academy: Provider Access Policy Statement (PAL)**

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

**Updated January 2025**

This policy statement sets out the arrangements for managing the access of providers to students 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.

## **Pupil Entitlement:**

In line with the updated Provider Access Legislation, from January 2023, all schools must provide a minimum of four encounters for all students with post 16 providers.

- Year 8 or 9 Two encounters for students that are mandatory for all to attend
- Year 10 or 11 Two encounters for students that are mandatory for all to attend

All students in years 8 to 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.

A number of events, integrated into Buckler's Mead Academy careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents.

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 all students, including our most vulnerable and those with additional learning needs

As part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership, **Buckler's Mead Academy** defines an encounter as at least 20 min, during the school day. The school day runs from 8.30am until 3.00pm.

As part of our careers programme, we will consider requests from approved training, apprenticeship, technical and vocational education providers, including University Technical Colleges where appropriate, to speak to our students. Buckler's Mead Academy will also approach these providers directly when planning and organising key career related events throughout the school year such as school assemblies, webinars within the curriculum, including live events, careers engagement events and parents evenings. Meaningful encounters may be planned using the [Making it meaningful checklist](#).

The quality and impact of careers provision at Buckler's Mead Academy is monitored by the Careers Leader(s), who are responsible for all aspects of the Access policy in action and the planning / delivery of the Buckler's Mead Academy Careers programme. However, all members of Buckler's Mead Academy are committed to highlighting further education opportunities to all of our pupils. Heads of Departments, the Pastoral Team and Subject Leads are responsible for identifying opportunities that will influence the academic studies and personal development of all students. It is also monitored by the Heart of the South West Careers Hub through Compass+ auditing. Access and opportunity to engage with technical, vocational and training providers will form part of this process.

## **Premises and Facilities**

Buckler's Mead Academy has a range of facilities available for providers to use in support of our careers programme. This includes a school hall, classrooms, conference room, IT rooms, outdoor space and online conference platforms.

The school will also make available access to IT support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader.

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

## **Destinations of our students**

Last year our year 11 students moved to range of providers in the local area after school:

- Sixth Form-5%
- FE Colleges- 90%
- Apprenticeships-5%

These providers included:

- Bridgwater & Taunton College
- Gryphon Sixth Form
- Kingston Maurward College
- Strode College
- Yeovil College
- Leonardo
- Renault
- Specsavers
- Thales
- Watertite Heating

### **Providers who have previously provided talks for our students include:**

Yeovil College, Strode College, Bridgwater & Taunton College, Gryphon School Sixth Form, Huish Academy Sixth Form, The Civil Service, Numatic, The Army, Thales, Leonardo, and The BBC.

### **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: -

**Name of Careers Coordinator:** - Kate Kitchen

**Careers Coordinator email address:** - [careers@bucklersmeadacademy.com](mailto:careers@bucklersmeadacademy.com)

**Tel No:** - 01935 424454

### **Granting Requests and Refusal of Requests**

Once your request has been submitted, The Buckler's Mead Academy, Careers Coordinator will respond to you within 10 working days. All requests will be given due consideration by the Careers Coordinator and Senior Leadership Team.

Once the request has been granted, we will ask you for a range of information to share with our students and parents before the session. This may be a prospectus, letter, presentation to share with students and parents in advance of your session.

This should include: -

- Details of the opportunities you offer including technical education, courses and entry requirements
- What is learning like with your institution?
- How do you prepare students for their best next step on successful completion of your course/training?
- Provide examples of linking courses with careers relating to the labour market and recent positive destinations of students who have completed their learning with you

Requests will be considered against: -

- Clashes with other planned activities or visits.
- Interruption to preparation for public or internal examinations.
- Availability of school staff, space and resources to host the session.
- All requests will also be considered in line with the school's Safeguarding policy. For questions on this policy statement or the wider careers programme at Buckler's Mead Academy please do not hesitate to contact us.
- Buckler's Mead Academy will keep a log of all provider requests for access and the outcomes and record on Compass+ to support the delivery and evaluation of the careers programme.

### **Opportunities for access**

Buckler's Mead Academy offers the four 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.

## **Complaints**

If a provider has reason to make a complaint in relation to this statement please email Katherine Laws, Assistant Head, Senior Leadership Careers Lead, [office@bucklersmeadacademy.com](mailto:office@bucklersmeadacademy.com) at Buckler's Mead Academy, who will investigate further. Or subsequently you can contact [The Careers & Enterprise Company](#) on [provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk](mailto:provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk) or the [Somerset Careers Hub](#)

## **Approval and review**

Approved *Jan 2024* by Governors at Curriculum and Standards

Committee Next review: *TBC*

Signed: *Alun Williams* Chair of Governors

Signed: *Mark Lawrence* Head Teacher