



Provider Access Policy 2025- 2026

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Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to 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 of the Education Act 1997.

Pupil entitlement

All pupils 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, group discussions and taster events;
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11).

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); and

- Answer questions from pupils.
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Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils.

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 pupils:

- SMB College group, Loughborough College, Grantham College, Leicester College, Harington School, Melton Vale Sixth Form, MARS apprenticeships as well as other Careers enrichment talks and opportunities from local industry and LEBC.
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Destinations of our pupils

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

91% Continuing education

3% Apprenticeships

3.5% Employment with training

2.5% Unknown or left placement

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact, Samantha Stanley Futures Leader (sstanley@johnferneley.org) Telephone: 01664 565901

The school reserves the right to decline requests for a number of reasons, including (but not restricted to) the following:

- If such attendance would provide an imbalanced view of available provision (e.g., several apprenticeship providers at an event and no colleges);
- If the provider's input would not be relevant to a particular event if the request is not timely (e.g., students have already heard from similar providers during the year, or if they are involved in end of year exams);
- If the information is not seen to be in the best interest of pupils or there are concerns about the ethics or quality of the provision.

In such cases, Headteacher or the Careers Leader would inform the provider of this decision and the reason. If the provider wishes to appeal this decision, they can contact the Headteacher. If the provider wishes to appeal the decision received from the Headteacher, they should contact the Executive Lead for Governance and Compliance.

Opportunities for access

The school offers the four provider encounters required by law (marked below in bold text) 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 pupils or their parents or carers.

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

Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (years 8 and 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend.

1. **Year 8 – Assembly in February 2026** with a provider of approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships – (Exact date to be agreed with provider) – Assembly times: 8.45 – 9.05 am
2. **Year 9 – Assembly in February 2026** with a provider of approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships – (Exact date to be agreed with provider) – Assembly times: 8.45 – 9.05 am. Year 9 also attend a compulsory event to engage with providers at our annual careers fair in the summer term.

Two encounters for pupils during the ‘second key phase’ (years 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all Pupils to attend.

1. **Year 10 – Assembly in February 2026** with a provider of approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships – (Exact date to be agreed with provider) – Assembly times: 8.45 – 9.05 am. Year 10 also attend a compulsory event to engage with providers at our annual careers fair in the summer term.
2. **Year 11 – Assembly in February 2026** with a provider of approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships – (Exact date to be agreed with provider) – Assembly times: 8.45 – 9.05 am. Year 11 also attend compulsory Post-16 provider assemblies on a rolling programme through the Autumn term.

In addition to the mandatory encounters, we will offer providers further opportunities to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents/carers.

Opportunities include but are not limited to:

- Employer led assemblies 4 times per year in accordance with National Careers week, National Apprenticeship Week, Green Careers Week and Second-Hand September.
- Subject career activities – at appropriate calendared times. E.g., Un Box Your Future scheme with Year 9 Business Studies students.
- Employer links within subject areas.
- Enterprise day for Year 8 Students.
- Weekly tutor time session planned and supported alongside MyPath careers.
- Each curriculum area Career Champions.
- Student, teacher and parent feedback to review activities and events
- Careers Fair for all Y9 and Y10 students
- Speed Networking for Y10 students

- Mock Interviews for Y11 students
 - University visit opportunity for all Year 7 students.
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Safeguarding

The College's policy on safeguarding, which can be found on our website, clearly sets out our approach to allowing providers into school as a visitor to talk to our students and/or parents. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

Premises and facilities

John Ferneley College will make the auditorium, sports hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for presentations or discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity.

We will also make sure audio-visual equipment, and any other specialist equipment is available to support the provider's presentation. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Futures Leader and the Operations Manager.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Futures Leader who will display them within Library. The Zones are open to students at break times and lunchtime for students to have access to these materials.

1. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the Futures Leader annually or in response of a change in legislation. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Quality of Education Committee in consultation with the Link Trustee for Careers

