





# Thirsk School

& Sixth Form College

## Provider Access Policy (Careers)

| Document Status |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Date Adopted    | October 2025  |
| Policy Owner    | Head of Careers   |
| Implemented By  | Governing Board   |
| Signed          | <br>Emma Lambden<br>Headteacher     |
| Signed          | <br>Nick Horn<br>Chair of Governors |

### visions

TOLERANT

HAPPY

INSPIRATIONAL

RESILIENT

SUCCESSFUL

KNOWLEDGEABLE



## **Rationale**

High-quality, impartial careers education and guidance in schools is essential to young people's futures. It equips them with a clear understanding of the evolving world of work, including the diverse routes to employment and careers that may be engaging and rewarding. It supports the development of self-awareness, employability, and career management skills, enabling students to make informed decisions, achieve positive destinations, and contribute to a thriving economy.

As the number and variety of technical education pathways continue to grow—including T Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs), and Apprenticeships at Intermediate, Advanced, Higher, and Degree levels—it is increasingly important that all students understand the full range of options available to them at post-16 and post-18 transition points.

## **Commitment**

Thirsk School and Sixth Form College is committed to ensuring that students have meaningful opportunities to engage with a wide range of education and training providers. This is to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships, in line with the Provider Access Legislation (PAL) introduced in January 2023 and the strengthened Baker Clause.

We recognise our statutory duty to act impartially and to promote all pathways—academic, vocational, and technical—equally. Our careers programme is designed to support students in making choices that best suit their skills, interests, and aspirations, while meeting the needs of employers and the wider economy.

## **Aims**

Thirsk School and Sixth Form College's policy for access to other education and training providers aims to:

- Develop students' knowledge and awareness of all career pathways, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
- Enable students to explore education and training opportunities beyond school before making key decisions about their future.
- Reduce drop-out rates and minimise the risk of students becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

## **Student Entitlement**

In accordance with the Provider Access Legislation (PAL), Thirsk School and Sixth Form College will ensure that all students in Years 8 to 13 have access to at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships:

- Two encounters in Years 8 or 9 (mandatory for all pupils)
- Two encounters in Years 10 or 11 (mandatory for all pupils)
- Two encounters in Years 12 or 13 (mandatory for the school to provide; optional for students to attend)

These encounters will take place during the school day and may be delivered through assemblies, drop-down days, careers fairs, information evenings, trips, and other structured activities. Encounters outside of school hours (e.g. parents' evenings) will complement but not replace the statutory requirement.

## **Development**

This policy is developed and reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Managers, Mr Hollis and Miss Lambden, in line with current statutory guidance from the Department for Education, including:

- Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers (DfE, updated 2025)
- Education (Careers Guidance in Schools) Act 2022
- Provider Access Legislation (PAL), January 2023
- Gatsby Benchmarks for Good Career Guidance
- Quality in Careers Standard

The school is committed to continuous improvement and compliance with statutory duties, ensuring that all students receive high-quality careers education and guidance.

## **Links with Other Policies**

This policy aligns with and is supported by key school policies, including those for Careers Education, Child Protection and Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

## **Equality and Diversity**

Thirsk School and Sixth Form College is committed to ensuring that all students have equitable access to high-quality, impartial careers information. Opportunities to engage with external providers of further education, apprenticeships, and training are actively promoted to support informed decision-making for every student, regardless of background or ability.

## **Requests for Access**

Requests from providers wishing to engage with students should be directed to:  
Ms Kirsty Fulford, Careers Leader ([kirsty.fulford@thirskschool.org](mailto:kirsty.fulford@thirskschool.org) tel: 01845 522024)

## **Grounds for Granting Access**

Access will be granted for providers to participate in:

- School assemblies
- Timetabled Careers or PSHCE lessons
- Careers fairs and aspiration-raising events
- Off-site visits to provider institutions, organised in collaboration with the school

These opportunities are designed to meet the requirements of the Provider Access Legislation, ensuring students receive meaningful encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

## **Facilities and Premises**

Thirsk School and Sixth Form College will provide suitable facilities for visiting providers, including classrooms, computer suites, or the assembly hall. All rooms are equipped with projectors, screens, and internet access. The Careers Leader will coordinate logistics and ensure facilities meet the needs of the audience. All safeguarding protocols will be followed, including DBS checks where appropriate. Providers will be welcomed and supported by a member of the Careers Team.

## **Live/Virtual Encounters**

Where in-person visits are not feasible, virtual encounters may be arranged. These can be streamed into classrooms or the assembly hall. Technology compatibility checks will be conducted in advance to ensure smooth delivery.

### **Parental Engagement**

Parents and carers are encouraged to participate in careers-related events and may be invited to meet with providers during scheduled activities.

### **Management and Oversight**

The Careers Leader oversees all provider access requests and reports to their designated member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). The Careers programme is strategically planned and evaluated in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks and the Quality in Careers Standard.

### **Complaints Procedure**

Complaints regarding this policy should be addressed to: Ms Kirsty Fulford – [kirsty.fulford@thirkschool.org](mailto:kirsty.fulford@thirkschool.org) / Mr George Hollis – [george.hollis@thirkschool.org](mailto:george.hollis@thirkschool.org)  
Complaints will be escalated to Miss Lambden, Headteacher.

### **Monitoring, Review and Evaluation**

This policy is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader, SLT, and the Governing Board to ensure compliance with statutory guidance and continuous improvement.

**Policy Coordinator:** Ms Kirsty Fulford

**Policy Reviewed:** October 2025

### **Appendix**

#### **Providers who have engaged with Thirsk School and Sixth Form College include:**

- Askham Bryan College
- Darlington College
- Middlesbrough College
- Northern Skills Group
- Teesside University
- TTE Technical (UK)

#### **Student Destinations include:**

- Askham Bryan College
- Darlington College
- Middlesbrough College
- York College
- Oxford University
- Leeds University
- Cambridge University