



**Penketh
High School**



PENKETH HIGH SCHOOL

Provider Access Policy 2025/2026

Policy owned by	I Musgrove
Date Approved by Local Governing Body	September 2025
Signature of Chair to Local Governing Body	M Bryan
Signature of Academy Principal	J Carlin
Date of Next Review	August 2026

1. Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college is critical to young people's futures. It helps to prepare them for the workplace by providing a clear understanding of the world of work including the routes to jobs and careers that they might find engaging and rewarding. It supports them to acquire the self-development and career management skills they need to achieve positive employment destinations. This helps students to choose their pathways, improve their life opportunities and contribute to a productive and successful economy.

As the number of apprenticeships rises every year, it becomes increasingly important that all young people have a full understanding of all the options available to them post-16 and post-18 including wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

2. Commitment

Penketh High School is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students, for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. Penketh High School is fully aware of the responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcome which will enable them to progress in education and work and give employers the highly skilled people they need. That means acting impartially, in line with the statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

Penketh High School endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and are able to access information on technical options and apprenticeships (The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause": supporting students to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

3. Aims

The Penketh High School policy for Access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- To develop the knowledge and awareness of our students of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
- To support young people to be able to learn more about opportunities for education and training outside of school before making crucial choices about their future options.
- To reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

4. Student Entitlement

Penketh High School fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The school will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least 4 meaningful encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be via 2 assemblies in Year 9 – one during half term 1 and one during half term 2 and two assemblies in Year 10/Year 11, again on in half term 1 and one in half term 2. In advance of this, students will be provided with information

about the provider to make the encounter meaningful and allow students the opportunity to consider questions in advance. In Year 11 we will also invite all local providers to speak to students in half term one ahead of them making applications for post-16. This will be followed by a careers fair, to which all local providers are invited, for all students to attend on the same day as options evening to refresh students on the local providers. In addition to this the career cluster programme offers a wealth of information for students linked to their chosen area of focus for that academic year. This will include apprenticeships and technical qualifications where appropriate. All encounters as part of the career cluster programme will be asked to make reference to technical or apprenticeship routes as well as more traditional routes into the career pathway.

5. Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader (Ian Musgrove) and the Senior Leadership Team Link (Stephanie Clarke, Assistant Principal for Personal Development), based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

6. Links with Other Policies

This policy supports, and is underpinned by, key school/trust policies including:

- Careers
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Equality and Diversity
- Special Education Needs and Disabilities

7. Equality and Diversity

Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. Penketh High School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

8. Requests for Access

Requests for access should be directed to Ian Musgrove, Careers Leader. Ian Musgrove may be contacted by email IMusgrove@penkethhigh.org

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Career Cluster events or Personal Development lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Penketh High School is arranging. Students will also travel to visit local providers in Year 10 and other years via the career cluster programme.

Penketh High School will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities

are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate.

Penketh High School will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

9. Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers. For instance, all Year 9 parents are invited to meet local providers as part of the options process and local providers are invited to parents evenings.

10. Complaints

Any complaints relating to this policy will be dealt with under the TCAT Complaints Policy.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to the SLT Link (Stephanie Clarke, Assistant Principal for Personal Development).

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Careers Lead and will be ratified by the Local Governing Body.

Appendix A

Providers who have been Invited to Penketh High School to Date:

- Riverside College
- Warrington Vale & Royal College
- St Helens College
- Reaseheath
- Myerscough
- UTC Warrington
- Winstanley College
- Priestley College
- Carmel College

Destinations of Previous Pupils Include:

- Priestley College
- Cronton College
- Riverside College
- Warrington & Vale Royal College
- Carmel College
- Winstanley college
- St Helens College
- Reaseheath
- Myerscough
- Morthyng

Appendix B: Schedule 2025/2026

Term	Year Group	Independent Training Provider	Confirmed Date
Half Term 1	10	Riverside College	
Half Term 1	11	UTC Warrington Carmel College Priestley College Cronton / Riverside College Winstanley College	
Half Term 1	9	Warrington Vale Royal Priestley College	
Half Term 2	9	St Helen's College	
Half Term 5 Options Evening	Y7 - 10	Careers fair with over 10 providers	

Plus 4 career cluster events for each student every year.