



Provider Access 2026-2027

1 Introduction

This policy statement sets out the college's arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at the college for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

2 Student Entitlement

All students are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship 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, talks, group discussions and taster events.
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

3 Management of Provider Access Requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

David Handy

Director of Admissions, Marketing and Progression / Careers Leader

david.handy@kedst.ac.uk

01384 398100

4 Opportunities for Access

A wide range of accessible events are integrated into the college's careers programme and will offer providers an opportunity to come into college to speak to students and/or their parents/carers.

We hold events inside and outside of college hours to increase accessibility for providers and for students; talks from HE providers, talks from apprenticeship providers / employers and our enterprise advisors. These resources are available to all, and students and their parents are encouraged to contact the careers team should they need further advice and guidance.

The careers team can be contacted via email careers@kedst.ac.uk and we would welcome the opportunity to build partnerships and develop opportunities for our students to be part of a wider community.

6 Premises and Facilities

The college will make the lecture theatre, classrooms, or interview rooms available for discussions between provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The college will also make available specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Director of Admissions, Marketing and Progression or a member of their team. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Careers Hub, which is managed by the College's Careers Team

Date of Next review – August 2027

King Edward VI College: Provider Access Policy Statement

(To include The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause” and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023)

Ownership: Heart of Mercia Multi Academy Trust – King Edward VI College

Date updated: August 2026

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in college 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.

Commitment

King Edward VI College 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. King Edward VI College 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.

King Edward VI College 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).

Aims

The King Edward VI College 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 college 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).

Student Entitlement

King Edward VI College fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The college will comply with the new legal requirement to provide at least two encounters for pupils during the ‘third key phase’ (Year 12 or 13). This will be done in events taking place during National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at college.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager (Assistant Principal – Stuart Eaves) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key college policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

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. King Edward VI College is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to David Handy, Careers Leader. David Handy may be contacted by telephone or email, david.handy@kedst.ac.uk, Tel 01384 398100.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during college assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that King Edward VI College is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with King Edward VI College.

Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

King Edward VI College will provide an appropriate room as 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.

Live/Virtual encounters

King Edward VI College will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the college assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to David Handy by email: david.handy@kedst.ac.uk

David Handy will raise the complaint to Holly Bembridge, Principal of King Edward VI College.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Senior Leadership Team.

Policy Coordinator: David Handy

Policy Reviewed: August 2026

Date of Next Review : August 2027

Appendix

Providers who have engaged with King Edward VI College include:

1. Halesowen College
2. HSBC
3. NHS Finance
4. Haybridge SCIIT
5. Dudley College
6. Army
7. Royal Navy
8. RAF
9. KPMG
10. Barnett Waddingham
11. Higgs LLP
12. Talbots
13. Barclays
14. HWGTA
15. Severn Trent
16. Gowling WLG
17. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
18. IBM
19. Safran Aerospace

Destinations of previous students from King Edward VI College include:

1. Pilot Training
2. Digital Engineer Degree Apprenticeship
3. WM Policing Apprenticeship
4. WM Ambulance Service Apprenticeship
5. Medical Research employment
6. Degree Apprenticeship at Mondelez International
7. Degree Apprenticeship in Computer Science at DHBW Stuttgart
8. Teacher Training
9. Further and Higher Education Provider
10. BAE Systems
11. Crowe
12. Trowers & Hamlins Level 7 Solicitor Apprenticeship
13. PWC