

Thomas Telford School



Provider Access Policy

Updated by: Joanna Flynn

Approved by: Ian Rawlings

Date: July 2026

Review Date: July 2027

1. Aims

Thomas Telford School is committed to ensuring that all students receive high-quality, meaningful encounters with a wide range of education and training providers. These encounters support our strategic careers vision by:

- Ensuring students understand the full range of academic, technical, vocational and apprenticeship pathways
- Supporting students to make informed, ambitious and realistic decisions about their next steps
- Strengthening our destinations-focused careers programme, which prioritises progression into sustained education, employment or training
- Providing personalised guidance so every student can identify routes that match their strengths, interests and aspirations
- Championing all pathways equally, ensuring technical education and apprenticeships are understood, valued and promoted alongside traditional academic routes.

This policy statement aims to set out our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to our students for the purpose of giving them information about their offer. It sets out:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access
- The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access
- Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a provider who is given access

2. Statutory Requirements

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools must provide a minimum of 6 encounters with technical education or training providers to all pupils in years 8 to 13 (see more detail in section 3.1 below).

Schools must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these pupils.

This is outlined in:

- Section 42B of the [Education Act 1997](#)
- [Education and Skills Act 2008](#)
- [The School Information \(England\) Regulations 2008](#)
- The [Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022](#)
- Guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on [careers guidance and access for education and training providers](#)

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements.

3. Student Entitlement

All students in years 8 to 6.2 at Thomas Telford School are entitled to:

- Find out about further education training, technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of our careers programme, which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships, e.g. through activities and events such as assemblies, PT time talks and National Apprenticeship Week presentations.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses
- Have a minimum of 6 encounters with providers

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day of 8:30am to 3:20pm.

However, Thomas Telford School will continue to provide complementary experiences during session 3 (3:30-5:00pm) or during the evening (for example, at our annual Careers Fair) but encounters outside of school hours won't count towards these requirements.

In addition, as students at Thomas Telford School choose their GCSE options during the Spring term of Year 8, an encounter with an apprenticeships provider/employer Persimmon Homes is also organised during Careers Week at the end of Year 7, as part of the 'first key phase'.

The School also organises a 'World of Work' research project for year 9 students and an annual Careers & Activities Week programme for students in years 7,8,9 and 6.1. These weeks are planned to give students several opportunities to learn about different education and training providers and to meet several employers and employees.

The School will ask each provider to provide the following information as a minimum:

- Information about the provider and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships they offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with the provider is like
- Answers to any questions from students

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

3.1 Students in year 8 and 9

All students in these year groups are offered:

2 encounters with education and training providers

- All students must attend
- Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9

3.2 Students in year 10 and 11

All students in these year groups are offered, as a minimum:

2 encounters with education and training providers

- All students must attend
- Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11

3.3 Students in year 6.1 and 6.2

All students in these year groups are offered, as a minimum:

2 encounters with education and training providers

- Students can choose to attend
- Encounters can take place any time during year 12, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 13

3.4 Meaningful encounters with providers

Our school is committed to providing meaningful encounters for all students.

A meaningful encounter:

- Is where the student can explore what it is like to learn, develop and succeed in that environment
- Involves meeting both staff and learners/trainees
- Has a clear purpose
- Is underpinned by learning outcomes that are appropriate to the needs of the student
- Involves a 2-way interaction between the student and the provider
- Includes information about the provider, such as their recruitment and selection processes, the qualifications that provider offers and the careers these could lead to
- Describes what learning or training with the provider is like
- Is followed by opportunities for the student to reflect on the insights, knowledge or skills gained through the encounter

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mrs J Flynn, Deputy Head – Careers & Industry Links, Telephone 01952 200000. Email: jflynn@ttsonline.net

Providers should include:

- The nature of the information or activity they wish to deliver
- The year groups involved
- Preferred dates and times
- Any equipment or facilities required
- Safeguarding requirements (e.g., visitor ID, DBS status)

4.2 Information we ask from providers

As a school we ask each provider to provide the following information for our students:

- Information about your provision and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships you offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with you is like
- Answers to any questions from our students

4.3 Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers. However, we are always open to making links with new employers. Please speak to Mrs Flynn, our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you or to discuss new opportunities.

Our annual Careers Fair usually takes place at the end of February each year and Careers & Activities Week is normally the first week in July.

4.4 Granting and refusing provider access requests

Each access request will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

We will grant access requests where there is opportunity for a positive contribution to our careers programme.

4.5 Safeguarding

Our safeguarding/child protection policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. You can find the policy at:

<https://www.ttsonline.net/well-being-pastoral-care-send/child-protection-safeguarding/>

Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

4.6 Premises and facilities

The School will make the School's Theatre, Sports Hall, Careers Resource Centre or the Conference room available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The School will also make available ICT and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or a member of the Careers Team.

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

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature in the Careers Resource Centre, which is managed by the School Careers Team. This resource centre is located in the Reynolds Building at the front of the site and available to all students throughout the working day from 8:00am to 5:00pm (Mon-Thurs) and from 8:00am to 3:30pm (Friday).

5. Working with parents and carers

Thomas Telford School recognises the importance of parental engagement in careers decision-making. We will:

- Inform parents/carers about upcoming provider encounters
- Encourage attendance at relevant events
- Share information about pathways, apprenticeships and technical routes
- Provide guidance to help families support students' decision-making

We aim to involve parents and carers in our careers programme and welcome their attendance at encounters with providers in school. We will communicate with parents via email, the MCAS app and through our termly Careers newsletter.

If parents/carers would like to speak to the school about encounters with providers, please contact Mrs Flynn.

We also welcome feedback from parents and carers to help improve our offer of encounters with providers. Parents can provide feedback during PT meetings, via email through their child's PT, using the feedback form which accompanies the module report cycle and by email directly to the Careers Team on careersdept@ttsonline.net

6.0 Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our students:

- InComm training (apprenticeships)
- Thomas Telford UTC, Wolverhampton (Post 16 provider, also offers a T level)
- Telford College (Post 16 provider, offers A levels, vocational courses and T Levels)
- Shrewsbury Town in the Community
- Madeley Academy Sixth Form
- Local employers offering apprenticeships including (during Summer term '26):

Persimmon Homes	Schneider Electric	Housing Plus Group
Epson	Capgemini	Alstom
RBSL	Safran Aerospace	BBC Radio Shropshire
Mishcon	Turner & Townsend	Croud
Reform Physiotherapy	Jonathan Lee Recruitment	

7.0 Destinations of our students

We publish destination data annually and use it to:

- Evaluate the impact of provider encounters
- Shape future careers provision
- Ensure students progress into sustained education, employment or training

Last year, (2025 leavers) our Year 11 students moved to range of providers after school:

- 65% progressed to Thomas Telford School Sixth Form
- 27% progressed to other schools or colleges
- 5% secured sport scholarships at professional football clubs
- 3% (n.6) secured apprenticeships

Last year, (2025 leavers) our Year 13 students moved to range of providers after school:

- 73% progressed to university or Stage School in the UK or abroad
- 18% secured employment/apprenticeships
- 7% are taking a planned gap year/seeking full time employment
- 2% have returned for 6.3/progressed to a further education foundation course

NB Percentages have been rounded.

8.0 Complaints:

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure.

9.0 Links to other policies:

- [Safeguarding and Child Protection](#)
- [Careers Advice and Guidance Policy](#)
- [Concerns & Complaints Policy](#)
- [Equal Opportunities Policy](#)
- [Inclusion Strategy](#)
- [Teaching & Learning Policy](#)

The School's arrangements for monitoring the access of education and training providers are monitored by Mr I Rawlings, Headmaster.

10.0 Policy review

This policy will be reviewed by Mrs J Flynn, Deputy Head – Careers & Industry Links, in July 2027. At every review, the policy will be reviewed by the Headmaster.