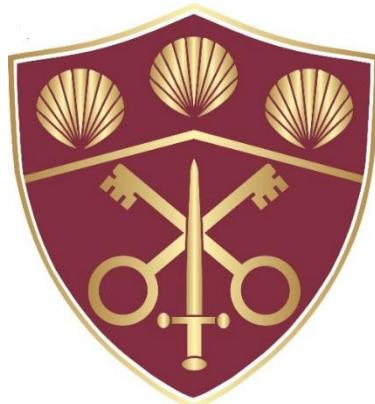


Ad Gloriam Dei et Servitium Omnium

Provider Access Policy

The Palmer Catholic Academy

MISSION STATEMENT



Ad Gloriam Dei et Servitium Omnium

The Academy's Mission promotes the academic and personal development of each member of its community, both students and staff alike.

We serve Christ in each other to the Glory of God and Service of all.



Adoption by Governing Body of The Palmer Catholic Academy:

Date of Implementation: January 2026

Signature of Chair of Governors:

Signature of Headteacher:

Review Date: January 2027

Provider Access Policy Statement

Name of School: The Palmer Catholic Academy

Ownership: The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

Date updated: January 2026

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.

Commitment

The Palmer Catholic Academy 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. The Palmer Catholic Academy 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.

The Palmer Catholic Academy 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 Palmer Catholic Academy Provider Access Policy to other education and training providers aims are:

- 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).

Student Entitlement

The Palmer Catholic Academy fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The academy will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This can be done in assemblies throughout the academic year or through special events including our Year 11 Futures Day and National Careers Week. As a minimum, we expect providers to give:

- Information about themselves 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
- Allow time for answers to any questions from students

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and the Headteacher, based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key academy policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND. Our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy outlines the academy's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors.

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

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. The Palmer Catholic Academy 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 the Careers Leader, who may be contacted by telephone or email, office@tpc.academy; tel no. 020 8590 3808.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during academy assemblies, timetabled lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that The Palmer Catholic Academy is arranging such as our annual Futures Day in Year 11. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with The Palmer Catholic Academy.

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

The Palmer Catholic Academy will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into the academy to speak to students and/or their parents/carers.

- Assemblies on each day for each year group. Assemblies are 20 minutes, but can be extended
- Option Evenings: Year 11 (Autumn Term), Year 9 (Spring Term)
- Option Taster Days: Year 11 (Autumn Term), Year 9 (Spring Term)
- Year 11 Futures Day (Autumn Term)

We are flexible and are able to develop specific year group timetable changes to suit your needs as long as a suitable time frame has been agreed between your request and proposed delivery. Please contact the Careers Leader for specific days for each year group's assembly day.

Access will be granted unless:

- The event will cause disruption to either external or internal examinations
- Use of facilities will cause significant disruption to the students' learning (e.g. displacement of classes)
- The proposed event date clashes with another planned school event, impacting on safeguarding
- Attendees do not meet our safeguarding policy procedures
- An unsuitable time/date request, e.g. outside of normal school hours or term time. See website for dates
- Insufficient time given between providers request date and proposed delivery date (one month minimum)

Live/Virtual encounters

The Palmer Catholic Academy will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the academy assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers

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

Management

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

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to the Careers Leader by email: office@tpc.academy

The Careers Leader will raise the complaint to the Headteacher of The Palmer Catholic Academy.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually by the Careers Leader.

Policy Coordinator: Careers Leader

Link Governor: Mr R Melder

Policy Reviewed: January 2026

Next Review: January 2027

Appendix - 2025 - 2026 Planned Dates

KS3

Brook 6th Form & Academy - Presentation to Year 9 Post-14 Pathways in October

Apprenticeship employee encounter - Presentation to Year 8 & 9 March (National Apprenticeship Week)

Online 'Live' event on Apprenticeships - Year 7

KS4

New City College - Workshop for Year 11 Futures Day - September

Brook 6th Form & Academy - Presentation to Year 11 Post-16 Pathways - November

Apprenticeship employee encounter - Presentation to Year 10 & 11 - March (National Apprenticeship Week)

Big Creative (ITP) - Presentation to Year 11 - February

KS5

Apprenticeship and Higher Education Fair, Year 12 - October

Apprenticeship employee encounter - Presentation to Year 12 & 13 - March (National Apprenticeship Week)

Visits to Universities - Year 13 students to choose two university visits

Invites to all KS3 and KS5 events