SESC
Stevenage Education Support Centre

Provider Access Legislation 2025/2026:

Introduction

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

Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 8 to 13 are entitled:

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

For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11).

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers
- explain what career routes those options could lead to
- provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and pupils from the provider)
- answer questions from pupils.

Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the Making it meaningful checklist.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that can provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Previous providers

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

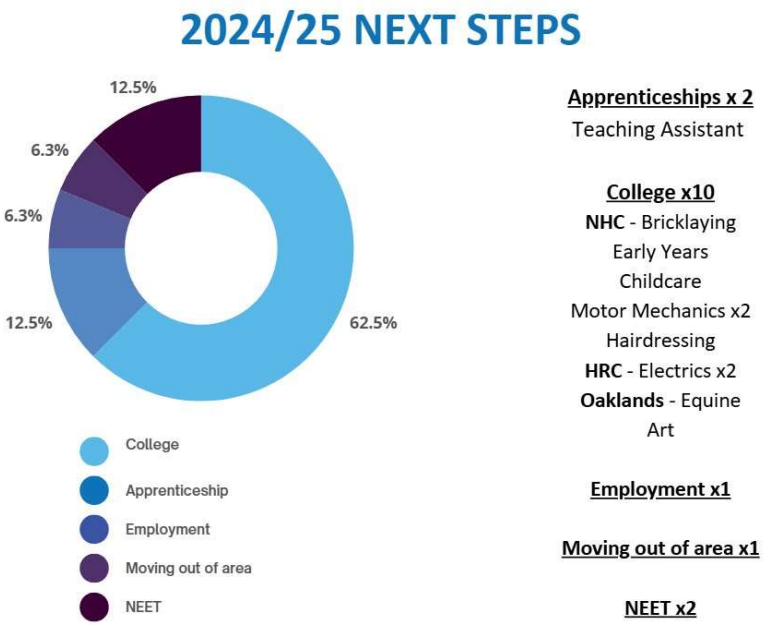
- 6 Employability sessions from the Job Centre for KS4 in Centre, plus 1 at Stevenage FC
- 2 sessions from The Money Charity: Planning and Budgeting and Credit & Saving
- A Get Work Ready Day for KS3 and KS4 – with volunteers including Tesco, Settle, ComputaCentre, GSK, Cadent, the Army and more.
- Enterprise Advisor Conference (Tesco) - with 3 speakers, ready steady cook challenge
- North Herts College Bridge transition programme: Intro to College Life session, and a visit to NHC
- SESC Progression Events: Stevenage FCF, Serco, Morgan Sindall, Lovell, 8 Build, ASHE, Amazon, Simple Education and more.
- Services for Young People – 1 to 1 Careers Meetings
- Careers meetings for Y11s

Previous Years Plan:

- **1-1 Careers Interviews with Services for Young People** – With additional/extended sessions for students with an EHCP. Offering sessions for our 'Y12's' and Wednesday programme students
- **Work Experience (WEX) and Experience of the workplace** - Stevenage FC Foundation, several local schools, Sky, Morgan Sindall, Lovell etc.
- **HRC & NHC college programmes** – Construction, Catering and Hospitality, Hair and Beauty
- **PSHCE** – Apprenticeships, College Life
- **Bridge Programme: North Herts College (NHC) Transition** –Tours of all NHC sites and presentations for pupils at our Progression Event.
- **Job Centre Plus** - 1. Getting to know you, 2. Soft skills and work experience, 3. social media and digital footprint / Cost of living, 4. CVs, 5. Preparation for interview, 6. Mock Interviews
- **ASK programme** - The ASK programme is funded by the Department for Education and offers free support to educational establishments in England to increase awareness of apprenticeships and T Levels. The ASK programme is a PAL Compliant Provider. We are a pilot site for them.
- **Employability –** lessons held for Y11 students covering next steps options, applications, WEX, CV writing, interviews and becoming work ready.
- **ELSA** – 3 x Get Work Ready Days for KS3 and 1 x Y10 GWRD
- **The Cornerstone Group: Construction Event** – Hosting and organising a construction event for schools across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.
- **Stevenage Education Support Centre Progression Events -** KS4 Next Steps Day at the Centre and KS4 Interview Day at Stevenage FC
- **KS3 Bushcraft** – KS3's have had the opportunity to work on a farm for 2 half terms and Herts Zoo for 1 half term.

Destinations of our pupils

Last year (2024-25) our year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school:



Management of Provider Access requests Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Jake Holbrook, Careers Lead
j.holbrook@nhf.school
01438 369119

Careers and Work Experience Team:
Careers Lead: Jake Holbrook - j.holbrook@nhf.school
Work Experience Co-Ordinator: James French – j.french@nhf.school
Careers and Work Experience SLT Link: Steve Fuller - s.fuller @nhf.school
Careers Admin: Lucy Swain - l.swain@nhf.school
Careers Governor: Jane Shipley

Opportunities for access
The school offers the six provider encounters required by law, and several additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers. Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

OUR 2025/26 PROGRAMME

KS3

- **ELSA -** Discover Believe Become Days which includes volunteers from a range of companies to run workshops aimed at inspiring KS3 students and making them realise the strengths and skills the possess.
- **Bushcraft: Farm/Stables -** Whilst attending, KS3 students will get the opportunity to spend one half term gaining a meaningful experience of a workplace by seeing the different jobs that need doing, what work must be done and completing task set out by the workplace.
- **SfYP 1-1 careers meetings –** Y9 may be offered the opportunity for 1-1 careers meetings by a trained SfYP careers advisor in preparation for them selecting their GCSE options.
- **Y9 raising aspirations programme** - For children known to a social worker on CiN/CP plans
- **PSHCE** – Apprenticeships, College Life

KS4

- **SfYP 1-1 careers meetings –** all KS4 will be offered the opportunity for 1-1 careers meetings by a trained SfYP careers advisor in preparation for their next steps.
- **Meaningful experiences of Workplaces –** all KS4 will experience different encounters with companies through Work Experience (WEX), site visits, conferences, company led activities both in Centre and at their places of work, as well as any other opportunities which arise throughout the year.
- **Employability Lessons –** Y11 attend weekly employability lessons focussing on Next steps, interviews, college/apprenticeships information and applications, CV writing and more.
- **PSHCE** – Apprenticeships, College Life
- **Hartford Regional College Programme –** all our KS4's attend our college programme at HRC, where they gain the skills and knowledge in an area that interests them. The areas include Construction, Catering and Hair and Beauty.
- **The Cornerstone Group: Construction Event** – Hosting and organising a construction event for schools across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, showcasing over 15 different construction companies.

Stevenage Education Support Centre Progression Events:

- **KS4 Next Steps Day** – All Y11 receive workshops from NHC, HRC and Oaklands college, as well as the Mental Health Support Team, Job Centre Plus and SfYP; with Year 10 taking part in an employability day with Morgan Sindall.
- **KS4 Interview Day** – This year's interview day, Students came into the Centre and received 3 mock interviews from either Willmott Dixon, SfYP, Stevenage FCF or Tesco; before going onto complete an assessment centre style group interview task with SfYP and the post 16 transition worker from DSPL2.

SESC
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SESC KS4 Progression Event

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE
OAKLANDS COLLEGE
hrc
Services for Young People
MHST
jobcentreplus
Department for Work and Pensions
MORGAN SINDALL

Information
7th November 2025
Year 11:

Lesson 1 & 2 will be 4, 25 minute workshops on:

- SESC - Mocks, Exams and Revision
- Job Centre Plus - world of work
- Services for Young People - support on offer
- Stevenage Mental Health Support Team - dealing with stress and anxiety

Lessons 3 & 4 will be 3, 30 minute workshops from our local colleges:

- North Herts College
- Herts Regional College
- Oaklands college

Year 10:

Lessons 5 & 6 :

- Morgan Sindall - the world of construction and building activity

SESC Interview Day

WILLMOTT DIXON CONSTRUCTION
Services for Young People
STEVENAGE FC FOUNDATION
DSPL2 Delivering Special Provision Locally
TESCO

Information:
Friday 6th February 2026
Student's given 2 hour timeslots - either L1&2 or L3&4
Venue: SESC

Travel:
Students that normally make their own way to the Centre will need to make their own way in.
Students that normally receive taxi transport to and from the Centre, will have their taxi's arranged to fit their time slot.

Plan of the Day:
Session 1: Group interview task
Session 2: 3 individual interviews with some of our volunteers
Feedback and then Home