Sir Thomas Wharton Academy

Delivering exceptional learning experiences that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives.

THE HIGHEST STANDARDS	INVEST TO ACHIEVE	EVERYONE IS VALUED	NO EXCUSES	NEVER GIVE UP	CULTIVATE YOUR CHARACTER
Always set and deliver the highest standards: never settle for less.	Care about the now; create the very best for your future.	We are unique individuals working together to be the best.	Create solutions, not excuses.	Resilience is essential; self-belief drives improvement.	Qualifications open doors; your character gets you through them.

Sir Thomas Wharton Academy

Provider Access Policy 2026-2027

Last Review: September 2026
Next Review: September 2027

STWA CAREERS

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Careers Plan Overview

Introduction:

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at 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.

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:

Sir Thomas Wharton 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. Sir Thomas Wharton 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. Sir Thomas Wharton 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).

Aim:

Sir Thomas Wharton Academy's 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).

Student Entitlement:

Every student, in every year group has an entitlement to receive a structured, sequenced, and comprehensive Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme delivered by experienced and enthusiastic staff to help them develop careers readiness and the key skills needed for their chosen progression transition pathway at post 16 and post 18. At Sir Thomas Wharton Academy we fully support the statutory requirement, and the school will comply with all new legal requirement. As appropriate to their age groups students will:

- 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.
- 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.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

We are committed to meeting the requirements of Provider Access Legislation (PAL), introduced in January 2018, which specifies that schools must provide at least six encounters with providers of technical education or apprenticeships for all their students during school years 8-13. We will ensure that we provide:

- 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). For pupils in the 'third key phase' (year 12 to 13), particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

Provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours, as part of the assembly plan and careers drop-down sessions throughout the year, during National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school, such as the annual Careers Fair, Parents Evenings and Mock interviews.

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.

For information on the school timings and current overview please see appendix B and D.

Meaningful provider encounters:

As updated in the Gatsby review in Summer 2025 – The definition of a meaningful encounter is defined as a single encounter that 'gives the young person the opportunity to learn about what work is like, what skills are valued in the workplace, their recruitment processes and what it takes to be successful'. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the 'Making it meaningful' checklist. Throughout our careers programme, students will encounter employers of different sizes and specialisms, including the self-employed, that reflect trends in the labour market, regionally and nationally. These encounters could be in person or a combination of in person and virtual, where appropriate.

A meaningful encounter will:

- Have a clear purpose, which is shared with the employer and the young person.
- Be underpinned by learning outcomes that are appropriate to the needs of the young person.
- Have opportunities for two-way interactions between the young person and the employer.
- Be followed by time for the young person to reflect on the insights, knowledge or skills gained through the encounter.

This provision will be met through:

- Liaising with local providers and employers to discuss and agree appropriate interactions.
- Responding to requests from providers and employers and agreeing appropriate interactions.
- Integrating encounters into the whole-school careers programme, especially to support points of transition.

Opportunities for access:

Provider encounters will take place during the school day in the school building. Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled tutor sessions, life skills lessons, drop-in sessions and Careers events that Sir Thomas Wharton Academy is arranging. In addition to after hour sessions such as open evenings and parents' evenings. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Sir Thomas Wharton Academy.

Sir Thomas Wharton Academy will consider live/virtual online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school lecture theatre. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Providers and employers are encouraged to contact a member of the Careers Team, who would be happy to discuss individual requirements to ensure the interaction is the most meaningful and successful for all parties.

Links with other policies:

It supports and is underpinned by key school 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. Sir Thomas Wharton is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Premises and facilities:

Sir Thoms Wharton Academy will make the main hall, classrooms, or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature in the library, which is managed by the school librarian.

Safeguarding:

In addition to this appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate.

Maltby Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Please see our policies in relation to safeguarding available on the school website under the tab ‘about us’:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy - STWA – September 2026
- Keeping children safe in education – September 2026

Parents and Carers:

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers. Regular communication with parents will be provided through various means appropriate to the activity such as class charts, letters and social media avenues.

Management and Development:

This policy has been developed and is monitored and reviewed annually by the Careers Leader (Mrs E Pickering) and department SLT links (Mrs L Stuart) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

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

If a provider wishes to request access or make an enquiry they can make contact in several ways:

- By completing the provider access request form Provider Access
- By emailing E.Pickering@stwacademy.com
- By phone 01709 864100 ext 6997 and asking for Mrs E Pickering

The Careers Team will respond to all requests for access within three working days. All requests will be considered by the Careers Team and other relevant parties. Should a particular date not be available, alternatives will be suggested wherever possible. In the event of there being a limited number of opportunities available, requests will be considered on a first come, first served basis.

Complaints Procedure:

In the unlikely event that a mutually beneficial outcome cannot be agreed, providers/employers may wish to make a complaint. This should be done in the following way:

- Raise the complaint with the Careers Leader/ Careers Team who will be able to record the details and suggest solutions.
- Should the issue not be resolved, please refer to the Place Partnership Complaints Policy, which can be found on the Sir Thomas Wharton Academy website, in the ‘About Us’ section.
- Complaints with regards to provider access can also be raised directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

Appendix A:

Providers and Employers who have been invited into Sir Thomas Wharton Academy to date include:

- Polypipe
- SAS
- Swim Stars
- Sheffield Hallam University
- University of Sheffield
- The Army
- The Navy
- The RAF
- Alumni
- Caged Steel
- Helping Hands
- Active Fusion
- GTA Training
- QPD Forces College
- National Horseracing College
- AMRC
- White Rose Beauty
- Oracle Beauty
- HeppSY
- Hepp
- Caged Steel
- Royal Mail
- University of Huddersfield
- University of Leeds
- University of Hull
- UDON
- DN College
- Dearne Valley and Rotherham College
- HETA
- Vinci Construction
- University of Lincoln
- NHS
- GGP Consult
- Centre of Advanced Technology

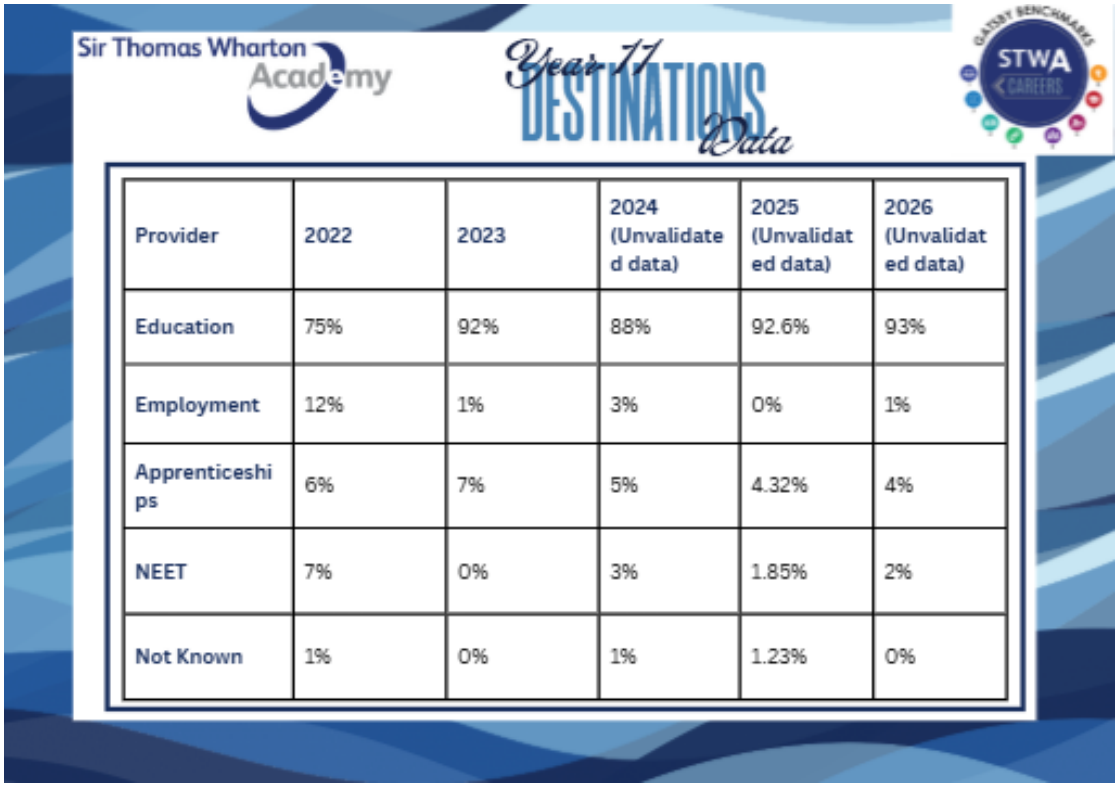
Appendix B:

Please find a table below of the student timings

Time	Monday- Friday	Length
8am - 8.20am	Entry Time	Late mark issued after 8.20am through single point of entry
8.20am - 8.30am	Standing Assembly	10 Minutes
8.30am- 9.00am	Tutor Time	30 minutes
9:00am - 10:40am	Period 1	100 minutes
10:40am - 11:00am	Break	20 minutes
11:00am - 12:40pm	Period 2	100 minutes
12:40pm - 13:10pm	Lunch	30 minutes
13:10pm - 14:50pm	Period 3	100 minutes
14:50pm - 15:40pm	Period 4 (Year 10 and 11 Only)	50 minutes

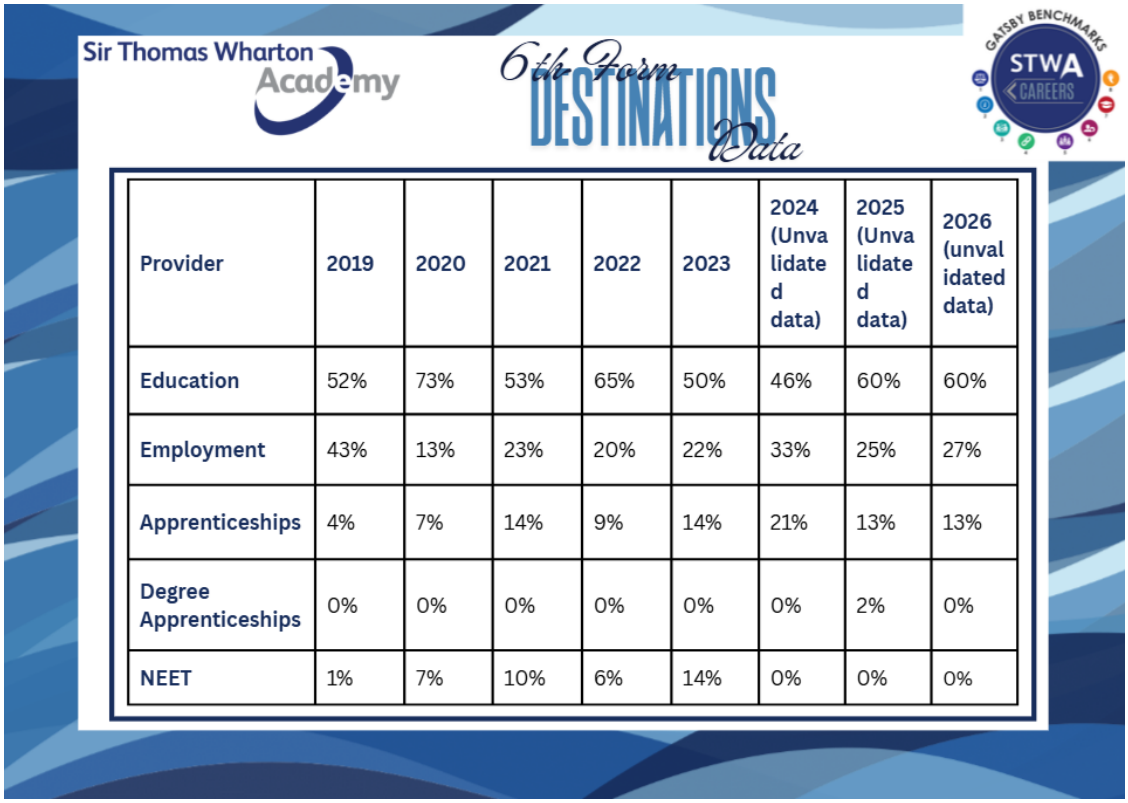
Appendix C:

Post KS4 Data



Provider	2022	2023	2024 (Unvalidated data)	2025 (Unvalidated data)	2026 (Unvalidated data)
Education	75%	92%	88%	92.6%	93%
Employment	12%	1%	3%	0%	1%
Apprenticeships	6%	7%	5%	4.32%	4%
NEET	7%	0%	3%	1.85%	2%
Not Known	1%	0%	1%	1.23%	0%

Post KS5 Data



Provider	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (Unvalidated data)	2025 (Unvalidated data)	2026 (unvalidated data)
Education	52%	73%	53%	65%	50%	46%	60%	60%
Employment	43%	13%	23%	20%	22%	33%	25%	27%
Apprenticeships	4%	7%	14%	9%	14%	21%	13%	13%
Degree Apprenticeships	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%
NEET	1%	7%	10%	6%	14%	0%	0%	0%

Appendix D:

Please find below an overview of the curriculum careers plan. Should you wish to see a more detailed version then please head over to the careers section of the school website.

Year Group	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Year 7	Enterprise Assembly National Green Week Pledge Launch Electives	Assembly National Careers Week National Apprenticeship Week Careers Fair Work Shadowing Electives NHS Next Gen	Enterprise Assembly Careers Day Electives
Year 8	Enterprise Assembly National Green Week Pledge Launch Work Shadowing Electives RISE	Assembly National Careers Week National Apprenticeship Week Careers Fair Electives	Assembly NHS Careers Fair Careers Day Electives
Year 9	BLBW Assembly Enterprise Assembly National Green Week Pledge Launch Electives	Assembly National Careers Week National Apprenticeship Week Careers Fair Electives	Assembly Careers Day Electives
Year 10	Enterprise Assembly National Green Week Pledge Launch	Assembly National Careers Week National Apprenticeship Week Careers Fair	Assembly Work Experience HE Trip Mock Interviews Work Pledge Placement
Year 11	Ask Assembly Enterprise Assembly National Green Week Tutor time careers programme Pledge Launch Next Steps Conference	Assembly National Careers Week National Apprenticeship Week Careers Fair Mock interviews Parents Evening Apprenticeship Talk Search and Apply Tutor time careers programme	
Year 12	Ask Assembly Enterprise Assembly Tutor time encounters Tutor time careers programme Pledge Launch Next Steps Conference	Assembly National Careers Week National Apprenticeship Week Careers Fair Tutor time encounters	Assembly Work Experience Search and Apply Tutor time encounters Work Pledge Placement
Year 13	Ask Assembly Enterprise Assembly Tutor time encounters Pledge Launch Next Steps Conference	Search and Apply Assembly National Careers Week National Apprenticeship Week Careers Fair Tutor time encounters	

In addition to this pre-planned structure, we also carry out encounters as part of the curriculum and alternative drop ins.