1b. Careers Access Policy Statement

**Introduction**

This policy statement sets out Bloxham School’s arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider’s education or training offer.

**Rationale**

High quality careers education and guidance in school 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**

Bloxham School complies with section 4 of ISI’s Framework 23 (for Independent Schools), Section 4: Pupils’ social and economic wellbeing and contribution to society, to include careers education (Framework 23, September 2023) with ‘wellbeing’ defined under section 10(2) of the Children Act 2004. Bloxham School also follows the Department for Education’s (DfEs) ‘*Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers Statutory Guidance for Governing Bodies, School Leaders and School Staff,*’ (January 2023). Issued under the under Section 45A, of the Education Act (1997).

Bloxham School 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. Bloxham School 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.

Bloxham School 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).

**Pupil Entitlement**

Following the commencement of the Education (Careers Guidance in Schools) Act 2022, Bloxham School will ensure independent careers guidance for all pupils in school 1st Form through to U6th Form), including:

* hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer (including technical education and apprenticeships) through GCSE/6th Form Options events, assemblies, lunch club workshops/discussions, PSHE guest speakers and taster events;
* 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;
* understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

Through the Skills and Post-16 Act 2022, the government has strengthened this legislation by introducing a minimum number of six provider encounters that every school must provide during Second Form to Upper Sixth Form. Bloxham School will provide opportunities for a range of education and training providers to access all 2nd to U6th Form pupils to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Bloxham School will ask each provider to provide information to pupils that, as a minimum, includes:

* information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers,
* information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead,
* a description of what learning or training with the provider is like,
* responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

**Parents and Carers**

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

**Management of Provider Access Procedure**

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mrs Nichole Guzenda, Head of Careers on careers@bloxhamschool.com.

**Opportunities for Access**

A range of events, which are integrated into Bloxham’s careers programme, offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents. The school calendar varies from year to year, so providers need to contact the appropriate staff member named above to identify the most suitable opportunity.

A sample of opportunities for access include:

* *Careers Fair*
* *Apprenticeship Conference*
* *Careers Lunch Club*
* *Sixth Form Seminar Series*
* *PSHE spiral programme*
* *Assemblies*
* *Future Focus Event (consisting of a series of careers-focused workshops, lectures, employer talks and online application support)*
* *University Conferences*
* *CV & Mock interview support*
* *Subject-specific workshops and experience days*
* *One-to-One independent and impartial careers guidance*

These events are usually calendared well in advance, so it is essential that providers contact us early in the academic year to be involved in our planning. Please speak to our named Careers Leader, Mrs Nichole Guzenda, to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

**Premises and Facilities**

Bloxham School will make the Great Hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. Bloxham will also make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate.

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

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Careers Hub, which is managed by the Head of Careers. The Careers Hub is available to all students, and to parents wishing to support their son/daughter (by appointment).

**Management**

The Head of Careers coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to Deputy Head - Curriculum

**Complaints Procedure**

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to *Nichole Guzenda*, email: n.guzenda@bloxhamschool.com. *Nichole Guzenda* will raise the complaint to *Matthew Buckland, Deputy Head of Bloxham School*

**Monitoring review and evaluation**

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually.

***Policy Reviewed: November 2023***