Provider Access Policy 2026/27

This policy sets out how education and training providers can request access to students at Tavistock College, so that they can give students information about their education or training offer, including technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

It meets the College's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 and the Department for Education statutory guidance, Careers guidance and access for education and training providers (updated 8 May 2025). The College uses the Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance to develop and improve its careers provision.

Student entitlement

All students in Years 8 to 13 are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of a careers programme that gives information on the full range of education and training options 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, group discussions and taster events.
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

Provider encounters

We want every student to hear first-hand about the technical education and apprenticeship routes open to them, so that they can choose their next step with confidence.

- Years 8 and 9: two encounters for every student, any time in Year 8 or between 1 September and 28 February in Year 9.
- Years 10 and 11: two encounters for every student, any time in Year 10 or between 1 September and 28 February in Year 11.
- Years 12 and 13: two encounters that the College must provide, any time in Year 12 or between 1 September and 28 February in Year 13. Attendance is optional for students, because some have already made a firm decision about their pathway.

Encounters are part of the careers programme, for example through assemblies, workshops, careers fairs and visits to colleges and universities. They are recorded for each student in Unifrog.

How to request access

A provider wishing to request access should contact the Careers Leader in writing:

Mr Barry Palmer, Vice Principal and Careers Lead
Email: b.palmer@dmatschools.org.uk
Telephone: 01822 614231
Tavistock College, Crowndale Road, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 8DD

Requests are considered case by case. The Careers Leader will reply within 10 school days and agree the activity, the year groups involved and the date with the provider.

Granting and refusing access

The College welcomes the support of providers and will not refuse a request without good reason. Access will be granted where the activity gives students useful, accurate information about technical education qualifications, apprenticeships or other post-16 and post-18 routes, and can be arranged safely and in line with student timetables.

Access may be refused or deferred where:

- The request is not for the purpose of giving students information about the provider's education or training offer.
- The provider cannot meet the requirements of the College's Safeguarding Policy.
- The activity cannot be fitted around the timetable, or the College does not have the space or staffing to host it safely.
- The content is not suitable for the age or needs of the students.

If a request is refused, the College will explain why in writing and, where possible, offer an alternative date or format.

Opportunities for access

Events in the careers programme give providers the chance to speak to students and parents/carers, including careers assemblies, the Brighter Futures careers fair, the Post-16 Open Evening and parents' evenings. The programme is described in the College's Careers Policy on this website.

Premises, facilities and times

- The College provides a suitable space for discussions between providers and students, appropriate to the activity.
- Access can be given during the College day in line with student timetables. Providers can also attend evening events such as the Post-16 Open Evening and parents' evenings, by arrangement. These events do not count towards the six encounters.
- The College welcomes live and virtual engagements and will make these accessible to students.
- ICT and other specialist equipment is available to support presentations, as agreed in advance with the Careers Leader and in line with the College's IT Policy.

- Providers are welcome to leave prospectuses or course literature with the Careers Leader. These are displayed in the Careers Area and at events such as parents' evenings.
- All encounters follow the College's Safeguarding Policy, which is on this website.

Encounters should include

- Basic information about the provider and the approved technical qualifications or apprenticeships it offers.
- Information about the career paths related to those qualifications.
- A summary of the learning and/or training provided.
- Opportunities for students to ask questions and receive answers.

Our providers

Tavistock College works with further and higher education providers including Plymouth City College, Duchy College, Callywith College, University of Plymouth and the University of Exeter.

Planned events for 2026/27

The College publishes a termly careers calendar, updated as dates are confirmed. Events that give students and parents/carers access to providers include:

- Post-16 Open Evening for Years 10 and 11 (November).
- Brighter Futures careers fair at the University of Exeter, for Years 10 and 12 (November).
- Exeter Discovery UCAS Fair visit for Year 12.
- Visits from Duchy College (dates to be confirmed).

Destinations of Tavistock College leavers

The College publishes the destinations of its leavers on this website.

Review

This policy is reviewed every year by the Careers Leader. The next review is September 2027.