



WESTON
COLLEGE

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFER A GUIDE FOR SCHOOL STAFF

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS
TO MEET THE GATSBY
BENCHMARKS AND
THE PROVIDER
ACCESS
LEGISLATION





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WHAT DOES THIS GUIDE PROVIDE?

Our School Liaison Offer details how Weston College can support you in providing information, advice and guidance to inspire school students considering their future options for careers as well as further and higher education. The School Liaison Team works with schools, students and parents to raise awareness of the further and higher education provision at Weston College and support with that transition. Our aim is to inspire young people to progress to FE and HE and advise them about the courses available.

The **FREE** activities and events within our programme have been developed to enable participants to:

- **Provide opportunities to explore information about available options**
- **Gain an insight into life as a further or higher education learner**
- **Raise their aspirations**
- **Make informed choices about their future**
- **Enhance their current studies and progression prospects**
- **Support their personal development**
- **Take part in a variety of taster sessions**

The School Liaison team, working collaboratively with wider college colleagues and UCW can support schools and community groups by providing information, advice and guidance activities for all year groups. For schools, this will support the requirements of the Gatsby benchmarks and the updated Provider Access Legislation (PAL).

GATSBY BENCHMARKS

We've created a menu of activities that will support school staff to meet the Gatsby benchmarks. Look out for the numbers next to each activity in the booklet to identify the relevant benchmark.

1. **A stable careers programme**
2. **Learning from career and labour market information**
3. **Addressing the needs of each pupil**
4. **Linking curriculum learning to careers**
5. **Encounters with employers and employees**
6. **Experience of workplaces**
7. **Encounters with further and higher education**
8. **Personal guidance**



PROVIDER ACCESS LEGISLATION

The updated Provider Access Legislation (PAL) came into force in January 2023, this specifies that all schools must provide at least six encounters of approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education. We have identified activities throughout the booklet that meet the PAL. This means:

- **Two encounters for students during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all students to attend**
- **Two encounters for students during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all students to attend**
- **Two encounters for students during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for students to attend**



ACTIVITIES WE CAN OFFER FOR STUDENTS

Below are all the offers that the Weston College and UCW teams can deliver for your School. If you have any other ideas on what you'd like us to do for your school, please get in touch with the School Liaison Team where we will be happy to discuss your requirements – schoolteam@weston.ac.uk

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFER (FE)

YOUR FUTURE PATHWAYS

Gatsby Benchmark: **1, 3 & 7**

Meets the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Audience: From Year 7

Group size: Suitable for small groups or adapted for large assemblies.

Duration: Up to a 1 hour dependant on the size of the group

This is particularly useful for younger secondary school pupils, to start exploring their potential career and FE pathways, focussing on researching and decision making. This can be delivered as an assembly to a large group with an interactive Q&A session or can be adapted for smaller groups and delivered as a workshop.

YOUR FUTURE IN FE

Gatsby Benchmark: **1 & 7**

Meets the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Audience: Years 8 to 11

Group size: Suitable for small groups or adapted for large assemblies.

Duration: Up to 30 minutes

This will provide an opportunity for students to consider and explore their post-16 options. The session will include an overview of various pathways into further education including A Levels, technical routes and apprenticeships. This can be delivered as an assembly to a large group with an interactive Q&A session or adapted for smaller groups and delivered as a workshop.

TEAM BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES - SKILLS BUILDER

Gatsby Benchmark: **1, 3, 4 & 7**

Meets the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Audience: From Year 7

Group size: Up to 30 students per session (can be multiple sessions)

Duration: 30 minutes/ 1 hour

Students will have a chance to take part in interactive team building activities in small groups aimed at developing the necessary skills that are needed for their future pathways.

The Da Vinci Bridge

In small groups, students will have to work together to figure out how to build a bridge with the limited materials provided. This activity is a great way for students to work on their soft skills such as communication, teamwork and problem solving together.

Planning a Trip!

Students will come together to pick their dream holiday destination and as a group, will discuss the factors involved in to get to that destination – much like thinking about their careers! This activity helps students with developing their problem-solving skills, weighting up options and planning future steps in a wider group discussion.

My Future Career

This activity provided an introduction to future careers in small groups focussing on likes and dislikes, areas of interest and using labour market information to inform decision making.

MAKING THE RIGHT IMPRESSION

Gatsby Benchmark: **1 & 7**

Meets the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Audience: Years 10 and 11

Group Size: Up to 30 students per session (can be multiple sessions)

Duration: 30minutes/ 1 hour

An interactive workshop aimed at Key Stage 4 students, exploring at key careers topics such as writing a CV and covering letter, the necessary skills for a job or college interview and making the right impression to employers and training providers. This session can be adapted to cover a wide variety of topics to suit your cohorts needs.

A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO APPRENTICESHIPS

Gatsby Benchmark: **1, 5 & 7**

Meets the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Audience: Years 10 to 11

Group Size: Suitable for small groups or adapted for large assemblies.

Duration: 30 minutes to 1 hour

This introductory session will provide your students with an understanding of apprenticeships, the skills required to gain an apprenticeship and how to apply. This workshop is particularly useful alongside 'Making the Right Impression' as it equips students with the skills and knowledge they need in terms of apprenticeships, job seeking and employability.

'HAVE A GO' SUBJECT TASTERS

Gatsby Benchmark: **1, 3, 4, 6 & 7**

Meets the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Audience: Years 7 to 13

Group Size: Suitable for small or larger groups

Duration: Variable

We are able to deliver bespoke tasters in all subject areas of FE and HE. These can be themed by a particular industry or focussed on a specific subject. Taster sessions will differ throughout the year but may include, half-term workshops, subject area academies, summer schools or we can create an offer delivered during the school day to suit your needs, just get in touch.

PROGRESSION AND EMPLOYABILITY EVENTS AT SCHOOLS

Gatsby Benchmark: **1, 3 & 7**

Meets the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Audience: From Year 7 to 13

Group size: Bespoke

Duration: Variable

We are happy to attend events such as school careers fairs, employability days and mock interview days.

All activities can be tailored to meet the specific needs of your students.

Get in touch with a member of our School Liaison Team and organise a bespoke activity or event for your students, contact us at ***schoolteam@weston.ac.uk*** to discuss further.



UCW OFFER (HE)

PLAN YOUR FUTURE

Gatsby Benchmark: **1 & 7**

Meets the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Audience: Years 8

Group Size: Aimed at large groups.

Duration: Variable

This day of interactive workshops and subject taster activities provides year 8 pupils with the chance to explore the educational pathways to achieving their dream jobs. We also look at the many different university courses on offer and play aspiration-raising games to prompt students to think about what they could study. Pupils also have the chance to meet current higher education students and look around our HE facilities.

HE DEGREE PROGRAMMES AND PATHWAYS

Gatsby Benchmark: **1 & 7**

Meets the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Audience: Years 12 – Year 13

Group Size: Suitable for small or large groups

Duration: 30 minutes – 1 hour

Find out more about the range of courses UCW offers along with the support on offer.

UCAS - HOW TO APPLY AND PERSONAL STATEMENTS WORKSHOPS

Gatsby Benchmark: **1, 7 & 8**

Meets the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Audience: Years 12 – Year 13

Group Size: Suitable for small groups

Duration: 30 minutes – 1 hour

Applying to University can be a challenging time; we aim to offer supportive workshops to ensure that students understand the process and access support with their written statement to create an application with impact.

STUDENT FINANCE AND BUDGETING

Gatsby Benchmark: **1, 7 & 8**

Meets the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Audience: Years 12 – Year 13

Group Size: Suitable for small or large groups

Duration: 30 minutes – 1 hour

Finance is often a barrier that can discourage students from accessing HE, providing student finance workshops enables myths to be debunked. This session helps young people understand student finance in higher education and how it impacts them. It addresses topics such as the costs of higher education, student loans and paying money back. All these questions and more will be answered in this fact-filled session.

OTHER AREAS THAT WESTON COLLEGE CAN SUPPORT YOUR STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

MOCK INTERVIEWS AND EMPLOYABILITY DAYS

An opportunity for students of all ages to gain vital experience of job interviews.

CAREERS FAIRS

Whether they are for the whole school or a single year group we are happy to attend any careers fairs and options events in school.

LUNCHTIME DROP-IN SESSIONS

Our School Liaison Officers can hold regular lunchtime drop-in sessions at your school to provide help and advice about College choices and careers, and answer any questions about College.

PARENTS AND OPTION EVENINGS

Whether it is part of a wider event or a regular parents evening, our School Liaison Team can attend and provide help and advice on college options.

ASSEMBLIES

An opportunity for members of our School Liaison Team to talk about specific subject areas and careers, provide information about options and how to apply.

COLLEGE TOURS

Come and have a look at the College facilities by booking your very own bespoke guided tour available throughout the year at a time to suit your school.

TRANSITION SUPPORT

We appreciate that not everyone's transition into further education can be straight forward. We can work with your school and your students on an individual basis to provide extra support to ensure that the right support teams are brought together to ensure a seamless transition to college.

Our School Liaison Team can also arrange activities and events based on your school's needs throughout the academic year, get in touch to discuss how we can support you.

WESTON COLLEGE EVENTS ON CAMPUS

OPEN EVENINGS

Parents and Students

A chance to come in and have a look around our facilities, meet teaching staff, find out about the support available and ask any questions you have about coming to college.

CAMPUS TOURS

Year 10-11

These bespoke 1-1 campus tours have been designed specifically for students and who are making a decision about their post-16 options. The School Liaison Team run weekly campus tours all year round to give students and parents a chance to look at facilities and discuss the application journey in more detail. The team can also sign post you to relevant upcoming events and information that will be useful to your application.

HALF-TERM WORKSHOPS

Year 10 and 11

A great opportunity to be a Weston College learner for the day! Participate in an engaging subject area workshop, use the facilities and get to know our experienced staff.

WELCOME EVENINGS

Year 11 applicants and their parents/carers

We offer Welcome Evenings throughout the year to students that have already applied and been offered a place on a study programme with us. This is an opportunity to find out more information about the expectations for September, gain reassurance about the support on offer and get acquainted with staff. There will also be opportunity to have a tour of the facilities and ask any questions.

TASTER DAYS

Year 10

Do you know what college is like? Got a particular subject area in mind? Would you like to try something different? Taster days are an ideal opportunity for Year 10 students to visit the College, sample a real lesson and get a 'taste' of College life.



SUMMER SCHOOLS

Year 7 to 11

Experience a subject area in more depth by participating in a project over the summer break. Weston College runs a bespoke Summer Schools offer each year which is subject to change. All information will be available via the website www.weston.ac.uk so please check nearer the time.

GCSE GUIDANCE SURGERY

The School Liaison Team are available on GCSE results day in August to support and reassure students with queries regarding their onward progression at College. All information will be available via the website, www.weston.ac.uk please check nearer the time.

STAFFING

When visiting Weston College, students must be accompanied by an appropriate number of staff from your school.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Although we carry out our own risk assessments for all our activities, we also require schools to supply risk assessments. We will request the relevant information when booking.

CANCELLATION OF BOOKINGS

If students are unable to attend a session that they have been booked on to please inform a member of the School Liaison Team as soon as possible. Call 01934 411 411 or email schoolteam@weston.ac.uk.

STUDENT AND SCHOOL FEEDBACK

Here is a selection of comments we've received from students, teachers and parents who have attended our events:

Worle School Careers Advisor

"It is a pleasure working with Weston College; I am always confident to recommend events and activities knowing they will be well organised and beneficial for our students."

Taster Day Year 11 Student

"Everyone was really nice and welcoming, I felt more confident about my post 16 choices."

Half Term Workshop Year 10 student

"Was amazing, loved the equipment and the session. Campus is really nice as well."

Campus Tour Feedback

"The School Liaison Officer that showed us round was very knowledgeable and very helpful, the college is a nice warm environment."

Year 11 Student after attending a Welcome Event

"It was very detailed and everyone was so lovely and welcoming, I immediately felt less nervous."



CONTACT THE TEAM

Our aim is to ensure that schools, students and parents are aware of the further and higher education provision at Weston College and support with that transition. If you'd like to find out more information about any of the activities featured in this offer, please contact us using **schoolteam@weston.ac.uk**