

Welcome

Hello Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for reading the January edition of "In the Know", Warrington & Vale Royal College's newsletter for parents and guardians of school leavers. By this stage, your child may have reached several important milestones, such as attending college open events, submitting their application, or even receiving an offer of a place at college.

If your child has not yet applied we strongly advise they do, as soon as possible, to avoid disappointment. Due to exceptionally high demand for our technical courses, T Levels, and apprenticeships, waiting lists similar to those seen this summer are expected for August 2026. A place for September 2026 is only secured once an application has been submitted and a conditional offer has been made following an interview.

To help us manage the high volume of interview requests, applicants are asked to attend their interview as soon as they are invited. If the proposed date is unsuitable, please contact the Admissions Team so the appointment can be reallocated.

Over the coming months, your child will also have the opportunity to take part in a range of applicant-exclusive events. On Wednesday 25th February and Wednesday 1st April, applicants are invited to attend a College Experience Evening. During these events, your child will participate in a two-hour session related to their chosen course, meet their tutors, and get to know potential future classmates, helping them feel prepared for college life ahead of September. A principal's presentation for parents will also take place at **6.30pm**.

We wish your child every success with their revision in the months ahead and would like to reassure you that the college is always available to support their transition into further education. We look forward to welcoming both you and your child very soon.

It's not too late to apply for September 2026!

We understand that choosing what to do after school is a big decision, and it can take time for young people to feel confident about their next steps. Please be assured that we are here to support and guide them throughout the process.

If your child is thinking about joining us in September but hasn't yet applied, we encourage them to submit an application as soon as possible at: wvr.ac.uk/16-18.

Retrain & Upskill with an adult course

Warrington & Vale Royal College offers hundreds of adult courses - from part-time and professional qualifications to online learning and leisure options.



Whether you're looking to learn a new skill, boost your CV with a recognised qualification, or simply try something new, there's a course to suit every goal and lifestyle.

[Read our latest adult guide here.](#)

What's on? Campus Tours

Warrington campus, 4.00pm - 4.45pm.

Wednesday 4th March

Wednesday 29th April

Wednesday 20th May

For more information, and to register your attendance for any of the above dates, please visit: wvr.ac.uk/campustours

Can't make it? Get in touch with the School Engagement Team at schools@wvr.ac.uk and we will do our best to find time for you to come and look round our Warrington campus.

College Experience Evenings

Wednesday 25th February 2026 & Wednesday 1st April 2026

Once your child is an applicant, they will have the opportunity to take part in a two-hour session of their chosen course. The session will be jam-packed with engaging activities, the chance to meet new friends, and insights from their future tutor. Invites to this event will be sent later on this month.

Apprenticeship Q&A's

Tuesday 10th February, 4.00pm - 5.00pm

These virtual Apprenticeship Q&A sessions offer the opportunity to ask questions, learn how apprenticeships work, and explore the benefits and opportunities available, with guidance from our expert team.

If you can't make the session above, not to worry! We have one more Apprenticeship Q&A taking place on **Tuesday 10th March**. [Click here](#) to register your place!

Supporting Your Child's Next Steps

As well as offering technical courses, T Levels and apprenticeships, Warrington & Vale Royal College is proud to provide Supported Internships - structured, work-based study programmes that include a substantial work placement.

These programmes are designed for 16-24-year-olds with learning difficulties and/or autism who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Supported Internships help young people take their first steps into college life. These accessible pathways provide a nurturing, inclusive environment where students can build confidence, develop independence, and gain essential skills for their future.

Students are supported to settle into college at a pace that suits them, while developing social and communication skills. Where appropriate, students will also work towards English and maths qualifications, and will receive dedicated support to prepare them for their transition to adulthood and employment.

In our 2024 Ofsted inspection, inspectors highlighted that students with high needs thrive in a "supportive and inclusive environment", with the college receiving a GOOD rating for its provision for students with high needs.



A Levels, T Levels, BTECs and Apprenticeships - which route is right for your child?

Click [here](#) to read a helpful article we have pieced together to explain the difference between these course types.

National T Levels Week

We recently celebrated National T Levels week. Equivalent to 3 A Levels, T Levels are a technical qualification where students gain valuable work experience alongside highly in-demand skills and knowledge. T Level students spend 80% of their time in college and 20% of their time on a meaningful industry placement.

As Warrington's leading provider of technical education and skills training, we are proud to offer the widest range of T Levels locally. To find out more about T Levels and the pathways we offer, please visit: wvr.ac.uk/16-18/tlevels



Name: Shiloh Hamblett
Former School: Beamont Collegiate Academy
Course: T Level Early Years

"This T Level course is giving me both the theoretical knowledge and practical experience I need to prepare for my future careers as a SEN Support Worker!"



Name: Noah Pritchard-Yates
Former School: St Nicholas Catholic High School
Course: T Level Construction: Design, Surveying & Planning

"I have always wanted to become a civil engineer, so this T Level was the perfect choice for me. Right now, I am involved in the Winwick Road upgrade project. I love seeing the work I do being used on site!"



Name: Pheobie Thomas
Former School: Hartford C of E High School
Course: T Level Health: Adult Nursing

"The T Level is a great combination of theory and practical, and it has definitely set me up for a career in healthcare!"

Join our Alumni Network

Were you a former student at our college? We want to hear from you! Join our Alumni network and share how your qualification has helped to shape your career.

Join now to reconnect, reminisce, and inspire current students.

[Click here to find out more.](#)



Motor Vehicle Apprentice Secures Top Spot at Local Garage

Rio started out as a Level 1 Motor Vehicle Maintenance student, but not long after, he secured a trial period with John Oates Garage, in Warrington. His trial went well and the garage offered to take him on as an apprentice. After 3 years of replacing head gaskets, changing timing belts, and studying hard, Rio passed his End Point Assessment (EPA), bringing his apprenticeship to a close.



Eager to keep him on, John Oates and his team have since offered Rio a full-time role so that they can continue to work alongside him. John says: "We're very proud of Rio. He's very good for his age; and is only going to get better."

If you are an employer thinking about taking on an Apprentice, email apprenticeships@wvr.ac.uk for information and guidance today!

Could your child be our Young Artist of the Year?

Our annual Young Artist of the Year competition is back and we want to invite Year 10 and 11 pupils to show us their creative flair, all in the hopes of becoming the Young Artist of the Year 2026.

Pupils can choose to enter either the 'Creative Art' or 'Digital Art' category and have their creations displayed at an exclusive exhibition at our Warrington campus on **Thursday 19th March**. Drop off their artwork and short artist statement at our Warrington campus reception. Please make sure they include their name, school, contact details, year group and award category with their entry. Digital artwork can be submitted by emailing a high resolution (300dpi), JEG, TIFF or PDF to be in the chance to win a prize here.

[Click here to learn more about the competition.](#)



Employer of the Year: Platinum by Investors in People

Warrington & Vale Royal College is proud to announce that it has been awarded Employer of the Year: Platinum at the prestigious Investors in People awards, an accolade that reflects the college's unwavering commitment to its staff and its recent achievement of Platinum status.

Warrington & Vale Royal College is one of only four Further Education colleges in the country to hold Platinum status, and the only college in the country to receive the Employer of the Year Award. [Click here to read more.](#)



Contact us by phone on 01925 494 393 or email learner.services@wvr.ac.uk.