

# SECONDARY & FURTHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

2025/2026

Fantastic NEW content, including support with transition,  
our Mentorship Programme, Growth Mindset, and Future Focus!



Warrington  
& Vale Royal  
College



## Contents

What we do	4
Entry requirements	5
Secondary & Further Education Partnership Programme	6
School Engagement Menu	8
Key dates	14
Transition & Support Menu	16
Winsford Campus	18
Our student journey	20
Good to know	22





# YOUR CAREER COLLEGE

At Warrington & Vale Royal College, we are proud to work in partnership with schools across Cheshire, Greater Manchester, and Merseyside to support the future success of your pupils.

Our goal is simple: to help young people make confident, informed decisions about their next steps. Through engaging sessions and tailored support from key stage 3 onwards, we provide high-quality information, advice, and guidance that aligns with Gatsby Benchmarks and the Provider Access Legislation.

We believe every young person deserves the chance to thrive. That's why we place personal development at the heart of everything we do.

In our most recent Ofsted inspection (November 2024), we were rated Good overall, with Outstanding judgements in Personal Development and Behaviours & Attitudes, which we are incredibly proud of.

By working together, we can help your pupils explore all post-16 options, feel confident about their future, and connect with the right opportunities in our region.



**Nichola Newton**  
Principal & Chief Executive



# WHAT WE DO

At Warrington & Vale Royal College, students choose ONE subject that they are passionate about and embark on career-focused and specialised training related to that specific industry.

## Technical Courses

- Accounting - *T-LEVELS*
- Acting & Musical Theatre
- Art & Design
- Business - *T-LEVELS*
- Bricklaying
- Carpentry & Joinery
- Construction Design, Surveying & Planning - *T-LEVELS*
- Creative & Digital Media
- Contemporary & Commercial Dance
- Early Years - *T-LEVELS*
- Electrical Installation
- Engineering - *T-LEVELS*
- Fashion Promotion & Styling
- Foundation Learning
- Games Design
- Graphic Design
- Hairdressing
- Health - *T-LEVELS*
- Hospitality & Catering
- Military & Emergency Services
- Motor Vehicle - *T-LEVELS*
- Plumbing
- Science - *T-LEVELS*
- Sport
- Travel & Tourism

*T Levels and Level 3 Extended Diplomas are equivalent to 3 A Levels.*

## English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

A one-year course for pupils who may be new to the UK or speak English as a second language.

## Apprenticeships

- Accounting
- Bricklaying
- Business
- Carpentry & Joinery
- Customer Services
- Early Years Practitioner
- Electrical Installation
- Engineering
- Groundworker
- Human Resources
- Motor Vehicle
- Plumbing & Heating
- Science

# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Warrington & Vale Royal College is passionate about offering a wide range of courses to suit **ALL** levels of ability. Upon leaving school, your pupils can choose from a variety of technical courses, T Levels, and apprenticeships, ranging from entry level to level 3.

## Entry Level

No minimum grades required. Every day skills in reading and writing, basic literacy and numeracy skills, and a willingness to learn.

---

## Level 1

Minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade 2 or above.

---

## Level 2

Minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or above, including English or maths.

### Construction Trades

Minimum of 4 GCSEs. This must include English & maths at grade 4 or above, and 2 other GCSEs at grade 3 or above.

### Hairdressing / Hospitality & Catering

Minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or above, including English or maths at grade 4 or above.

---

## Level 3

Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and/or maths.

### Engineering

Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English, maths, & science.

---

## T Level

Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English & maths.

### Adult Nursing / Engineering

Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English, maths, & science.

### T Level Foundation Year

Minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or above, including English or maths at grade 4 or above.

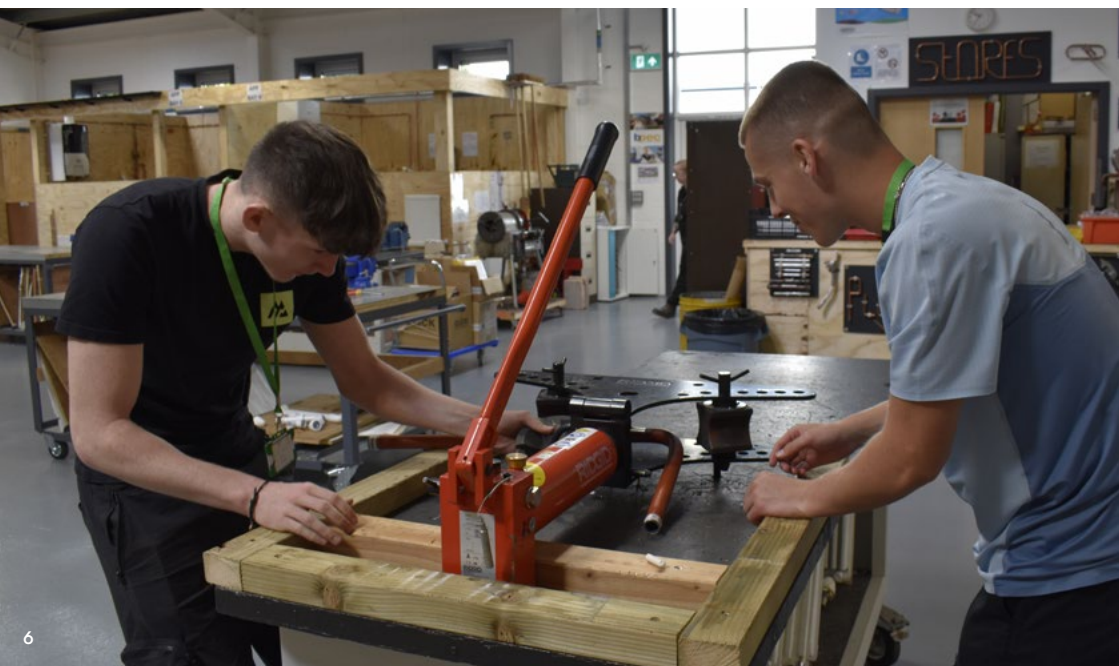
# SECONDARY & FURTHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

As a member of our Secondary & Further Education Partnership Programme, you have access to a diverse package of activities, flexible to suit the priorities of your curriculum and interests of your pupils.

There are many different ways your school can engage with the college. The activities detailed within this booklet are flexible and can be tailored to suit your careers delivery and desired learning outcomes. If your school is planning an event, please do not hesitate to contact our School Engagement Team and we will do our best to support you.

**In addition, our school partners can access:**

- Our Educator Excellence Network, where our expert tutors work with your expert teachers to shape curriculum
- Regular application reports, helping to track your pupils' journey to college
- Use of our commercial and teaching facilities
- Conference and networking opportunities.



## What are the Gatsby Benchmarks?



The Gatsby Benchmarks are a framework of eight key guidelines that ensure education institutions deliver high-quality careers education.

They are designed support young people in making informed choices about their future and help schools to meet their statutory duties for careers guidance.

### **Every young person should:**

- Learn about the options available to them
  - Have access to employers, workplaces, and real-world experiences
  - Receive individual guidance that supports their unique interests and needs.
- 

## Helping you to meet Gatsby Benchmarks

At Warrington & Vale Royal College, our school engagement activities are carefully designed to help you meet these benchmarks and to give pupils meaningful insights into their future:

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

# OUR SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

## Year Group Assembly

Years 9, 10 & 11

### Gatsby Benchmark 1

A member of our team will deliver an informative presentation on technical pathways, our courses, and college life.

We offer three different types of assemblies: general school leaver information, T Levels, and apprenticeships.

---

## Application Workshop

Year 11

### Gatsby Benchmark 7

Taking place during form time or over lunch at your specific request, this workshop provides pupils with an overview of our college offer and the application process.

We can support pupils in completing their college application and provide them with key information about their transition to college.

---

## Mock Interviews

Years 10 & 11

### Gatsby Benchmark 5

A member of our team can support your mock interview days, giving pupils the opportunity to participate in an interview and receive constructive feedback.

## School Careers Fairs & Events

All year groups

### Gatsby Benchmark 7

When attending school careers fairs, the School Engagement Team will set up an engaging and interactive stall, offering information, advice, and guidance on our wide range of courses and college life.

---

## Parents' Evening Support

Years 9, 10 & 11

### Gatsby Benchmark 7

The School Engagement Team can attend these events to provide college information, advice, and guidance.

---

## Campus Tours

All year groups

### Gatsby Benchmark 3

A member of the team can provide a guided tour of the college facilities, provide course information, and support with applying. Tours are offered on either a one-to-one or group basis.



# MENU

## In-School Interviews

Year 11

### Gatsby Benchmark 7 & 8

We can offer interviews in schools for pupils who may be unable to attend their appointment at Warrington campus. Please contact the School Engagement Team to arrange.

**Please note:** In certain circumstances, applicants may not be eligible for an in-school interview.

---

## Bespoke Curriculum Masterclasses

Years 10 & 11

### Gatsby Benchmark 7

If you have a group of pupils who are interested in a particular curriculum area, our tutors can deliver an interactive experience to help prepare them for college.

This can take place either in school or at college.

## Future Focus - An Introduction to Post-16

NEW!

Recommended for year 7 & 8  
**Gatsby Benchmark 2, 4 & 7**

An assembly or form talk explaining the curriculum areas and courses on offer at Warrington & Vale Royal College, linking these to career aspirations, informed by Labour Market Information (LMI.)

The session will highlight the differences between school and college life, introducing pupils to the post-16 options that are available to them.

---

## Prepare for Post-16: Your GCSEs

NEW!

Recommended for years 8 & 9  
**Gatsby Benchmark 2, 4 & 7**

Ahead of choosing their GCSE options, the School Engagement Team can run an interactive workshop, where students engage with planning their post-16 options and their route to achieving these goals.

This session focuses on why GCSEs matter and offers information and advice on how the different GCSE choices link to pupils' future prospects at Warrington & Vale Royal College.

# TASTER DAYS

Year 10

**Gatsby Benchmark 7**



Held at our Warrington campus, these fun and informative events welcome your Year 10 cohort to explore all the college has to offer.

Designed to expand your pupils' careers awareness and encourage them to feel excited about their next steps, pupils have the opportunity to try out taster sessions in courses of interest to them, participate in engaging enrichment activities, and experience a real taste of college life!

Transport\* and lunch for pupils and school staff is provided.

**A member of the School Engagement Team will be required to visit your school ahead of the event to deliver a Taster Day assembly. Please provide a date for this on booking.**

\*If the school cancels their attendance, they will be liable to cover the cost of the deposit.

*"On behalf of King's Leadership Academy Warrington, I would like to extend our sincere thanks for the time, effort, and enthusiasm you have shown in supporting our Year 10 pupils. The feedback from our pupils was really positive.*

*We are especially grateful for the way you promoted a wide range of subjects, opening our students' eyes to possibilities they may not have previously considered. Opportunities like these play a vital role in broadening horizons and encouraging confident, informed decisions about their next steps.*

*Your teams were welcoming, knowledgeable, and inspiring, and the experiences you created have made a real impact on our pupils' aspirations and future choices."*

*"I think it is a really informative day, good length for sessions (not too long or too short) and a great variety."*

**Head of Year 10**  
Cardinal Newman High School

*"A really well done event. The tutors were highly engaging and knew how to pitch the context at the student levels."*

**Careers Lead**  
Kings Leadership Academy, Warrington

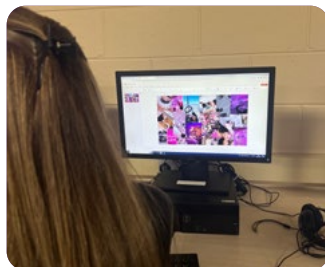
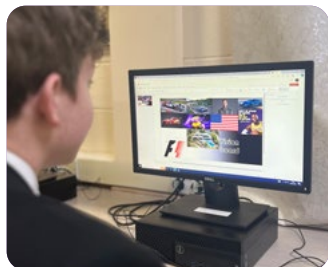
**CEIAG & Alumni Officer**  
Bridgewater High School

# DREAM IT DO IT WORKSHOP



All years

**Gatsby Benchmark 4 & 7**



Our award winning “Dream It Do It” workshop is designed to empower students by utilising vision boards as a powerful tool for shaping their career paths. Our workshop even won a ‘highly commended’ award at the FE First Awards 2025.

During the workshops, our team works closely with pupils to craft personalised, editable career vision boards, guiding them through each step of the process. These boards serve as a visual reminder of their goals and aspirations.

The School Engagement Team can deliver this workshop either in school or at college with pupils of all ages.

*“We can’t thank you enough for giving our Year 10 pupils the focus that they needed. So many of the students have commented on how this time gave them the opportunity to think about their future and what motivates and inspires them!”*

**Careers Lead**  
Cardinal Newman Catholic  
High School

*“Thank you for delivering Dream It Do It at our World of Work Day! Teachers have been stopping me to talk about how successful the session was.”*

**Careers Lead**  
Golborne High School

*“My favourite part of the day was Dream It Do It. Doing the career vision board was fun and helped me to think about my future.”*

**Year 8 Student**  
The Winsford Academy

# CSI: WINSFORD! A WVR WHODUNNIT

NEW!

Years 9, 10 & 11

**Gatsby Benchmark 7**



Pupils step into the role of a crime scene investigators at an immersive experience day at Winsford campus, which is now a partner Institute of Technology for Healthcare and Life Sciences. Pupils have the opportunity explore two course areas while solving the mystery of the missing blueprints.

This event is open to partner schools in Winsford, Northwich, and Cheshire West on set dates throughout the academic year.

*"Great organisation, students valued the experience and really enjoyed it. Thank you!"*

**Careers Lead**  
Rudheath Senior Academy

*"A great day! Perfectly timed, well explained, easy to find everything."*

**Year 10 Pastoral Leader**  
The County High School Leftwich

## Growth Mindset Interactive Workshop

Years 8, 9, 10 & 11

### Gatsby Benchmark 7

NEW!

Designed by our award-winning Careers Team, the Growth Mindset Interactive Workshop helps students reshape the way they approach their goals and view setbacks. Focused on building resilience and self-belief, the session explores how to embrace the principles of a growth mindset and how to understand and manage feelings of failure.

After proving highly successful in college, we are now bringing this workshop to our school partners. In an hour-long session delivered in school by our Careers Team, pupils will learn what a growth mindset is, discover practical strategies to apply it in everyday thinking, and explore how challenges and setbacks can become opportunities for growth.



---

## Mentorship Programme

Applications open to year 8 pupils

### Gatsby Benchmark 7 & 8

NEW!

We are excited to launch a brand-new mentoring and coaching programme for year 8 pupils from our partner schools. With just 10 places available, this selective programme will give pupils a unique opportunity to be mentored by one of the college's key leaders. We are also looking to complement our programme with a few employer mentors too.

Throughout their final years at high school, each pupil will build a meaningful connection with their mentor, who will share their expertise, guidance, and encouragement. The programme is designed to help pupils develop the essential skills that employers value most, such as communication, planning, and leadership, while boosting their confidence and giving them a strong sense of direction for the future.

### Mentorship activities may include:

- 1:1 meetings to discuss aspirations and personal growth
- Access to our award-winning Careers Team for 1:1 advice and guidance
- Work shadowing opportunities
- Curriculum taster sessions.



# KEY DATES

## Open Evenings 2025

### **Warrington campus, 5.00pm - 8.00pm**

Open to School Leavers and those aged 16-18

- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### **Winsford campus, 4.00pm - 7.00pm**

Open to all

- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- 

## College Experience Evenings

- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026
  - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026
- 

## Year 10 Taster Days

- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026
  - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026
  - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026
  - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026
  - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026
- 

## New Student Welcome Day

- July 2026



# TRANSITION & SUPPORT ME

Student support is central to everything that we do at Warrington & Vale Royal College. The college's Transition and Learning Support Teams want to provide all of the support available to ensure every student planning to attend the college feels equipped, informed, and confident to do so.

## Transition Sessions

We recognise that by supporting students to prepare for college before enrolment, they have a greater chance of engaging, attending, achieving, and progressing, reducing the risk of becoming NEET. At the start of term 3, our teams will contact your pastoral teams to ask whether you feel any of your students would benefit from attending our transition sessions once their GCSE exams are over.

## Welcome Workshop

**June, July & August 2026**

A series of three sessions for applicants who are suffering with anxiety, or have been on significantly reduced timetables at school. Here, a member of our team will discuss college expectations, pastoral support available, and raise awareness of coping strategies.

## Meet the Pastoral Team

**June, July & August 2026**

A session for applicants who need to meet the college Pastoral Team. Children in care or applicants with professionals involved may benefit from this session.

## Expectations of College Life

**June, July & August 2026**

A session to meet the college's Student Support Team. Ideal for applicants who may have struggled with expectations at school. The session will cover attendance, behaviour, and the commitment required for college, as well as exploring the mechanisms available to support future students in achieving this.

## Safeguarding

It is essential that schools share any safeguarding information or concerns ahead of an applicant enrolling with us. This is to ensure that the college is ready to support them as soon as they arrive. The Safeguarding Team will attend any social care meetings, usually from term 3 onwards.

## Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP)

The Transition & Learning Support Teams recognise that applicants with EHCPs are likely to need a bespoke transition programme to aid them in their move from school to college.

There are several options available including:

- College staff attending Year 11 annual reviews
- Tours of the college, both 1:1 and small groups
- Multiple visits to college, including the opportunity to attend classes and stay for different parts of the college day
- Tailored transition plans to suit the needs of the applicant and include parents, if appropriate.

## Pastoral Support

All students have a Progress Coach who meets with them regularly, monitors their attendance and performance, and offers advice and guidance.

Our highly-trained Safeguarding Team work closely with Progress Coaches to help students overcome any issues affecting their wellbeing, including physical and mental health, welfare, financial worries, and personal issues.

## Additional Learning Support

Our dedicated Additional Learning Support (ALS) Team work with students to develop the skills, behaviours, and attitudes to enable them to realise their full potential and prepare them for their next steps.

When applying for a course, pupils are strongly encouraged to disclose any disability or learning difficulty so that we can ensure the appropriate support is in place when they start college.

Support may include:

- Exam access arrangements
- In-class support (prompts, readers, and scribes)
- Lunchtime and break support
- Meet and greet
- Mobility support
- Modification of learning materials
- Orientation
- Specialist resources and equipment (laptops with assistive software, Dictaphone, and reader pens).



Located in the heart of Winsford, our modern campus offers a welcoming and supportive atmosphere, similar to that of a sixth-form college. With recently upgraded facilities and a relaxed yet professional environment, it provides everything students need to make the most of their college experience.

Now proudly recognised as a partner Institute of Technology, the Winsford campus offers a growing portfolio of courses in Health & Social Care, Life Sciences, Engineering, Construction, and Foundation Learning.



## Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Academy

Gain hands-on experience in our industry-standard workshops, featuring professional engineering machinery, such as CNC machines, lathes, milling machines, and engines.



## Health & Social Care Academy

Train in professional, highly immersive learning environments, including a simulation hospital ward and assisted living space, preparing students to pursue a career in the rewarding field of health & social care.



## Life Sciences Academy

Learn and experiment in our modern science laboratory, fully equipped with specialised lab equipment, technical instruments, and standard glassware.



## Electrical Installation Workshops

Our spacious workshops house everything an aspiring electrician needs to kickstart their career journey. Students have access to practical workstations and dedicated construction classrooms, designed to help them master key skills for the industry.



## Foundation Learning

Learn and grow in dedicated classrooms, with support from expert tutors to help students reach the entry requirements or smoothly adjust to college life before moving into a full-time technical course.



## Courses at Winsford campus 2026-2027\*:

- T Level Health: Adult Nursing
- T Level Health: Supporting the Mental Health Team
- T Level Construction Design Surveying and Planning
- A range of Foundation Learning & Personal and Social Development courses.
- T Level Science: Laboratory Science
- Level 1 Electrical Installation
- Level 2 Electrical Installation
- Level 2 Mechanical Engineering

\*Subject to demand. Correct at time of printing.

## Supporting our Northwich & Winsford Schools

To ensure prospective applicants from Northwich, Winsford, and the surrounding areas are fully informed about the opportunities available at Warrington & Vale Royal College, our School Engagement Team works closely with local partner schools. The team provides tailored support to help pupils explore their options, make informed choices, and confidently navigate the admissions process.

---

## Campus Tours

Individual pupils or school groups are warmly welcomed to visit the Winsford campus. A member of the School Engagement Team will guide them on a tour, offering the chance to experience the campus atmosphere and explore our industry-standard facilities firsthand.

---

## Experience Days

We are proud to offer a range of Experience Days at our Winsford campus. These events are held on specific dates in the academic calendar, and have been designed to give pupils a real insight into college life and the subjects available. Please look out for your email invitation to book throughout the academic year.

---

## In-School Interviews

We can offer interviews in schools for pupils who may be unable to attend their appointment at Warrington campus. Please contact the School Engagement Team to arrange.

**Please note:** In certain circumstances, applicants may not be eligible for an in-school interview.

# OUR STUDENT JOURNEY

We encourage all prospective students to apply as early as possible to secure their conditional offer to study at the college. Applications opened in September and we recommend that all applicants apply by no later than **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

## 1. Apply Online

Year 11s should visit **wvr.ac.uk/16-18** or our digital prospectus, find their chosen course and click “apply now”. They can also download the MyWVR app to track their application.

**School contacts will receive regular updates on all applications and their statuses.**

## 2. Attend an Interview

This is a mandatory part of the journey to college. The applicant will meet their tutor, speak with our Support & Wellbeing Teams, and may receive a conditional offer to study.

**The School Engagement Team will send you Interview Evening reminders.**

## 3. Year 11s must accept their offer on the MyWVR app

## 4. Attend an Applicant Exclusive Event

Applicants will try their course and meet their future classmates.



## 5. Enrol in person

If an applicant has received a conditional offer of a place, they will be invited to enrol on GCSE Results Day or the day after. This is where their place at college is confirmed, so they must attend.

## School References

The conditions of an applicant's offer are based on:

**A) GCSE Results**

**B) A satisfactory school reference**

Schools are required to submit a digital reference for each applicant. Offers may be withheld without a reference, so we ask that you submit these as soon as possible after they have been requested by our Admissions Team.



# GOOD TO KNOW

## Getting to College

Both our Warrington and Winsford campuses are centrally located and easily accessible by public transport. We also offer free parking and bike sheds on campus for students.

We have six direct bus routes to our Warrington campus, reserved for full-time 16-18-year-old students only. Places on these services are subject to demand.

2026-2027 services are currently under review.

To find out more about getting to college, visit [wvr.ac.uk/transport](http://wvr.ac.uk/transport)

---

## College Bursary

Warrington & Vale Royal College can support students with costs associated with attending college. Any of our 16-18-year-old students, excluding those enrolled on an apprenticeship programme, may be eligible for the College Discretionary Bursary if their total household income is below £40,000 per year\*.

We will consider several areas of support including travel costs (students must live over one mile from the campus you study at to receive this type of support), costs for essential uniform, kit/equipment, and compulsory educational visits.

---

## FREE Breakfast

All 16-18-year-old students are welcome to enjoy a free breakfast at the Crescent Café (Warrington) and Atrium Café (Winsford). Enjoy toast, cereal, or fruit and a drink before heading to class!

\*Terms & conditions apply. Correct at time of printing.

## Contact details:

For more information or to book a session with our School Engagement Team, please email [schools@wvr.ac.uk](mailto:schools@wvr.ac.uk) or call 01925 494 664.







**[schools@wvr.ac.uk](mailto:schools@wvr.ac.uk)**  
**01925 494 664**

**[wvr.ac.uk](http://wvr.ac.uk)**  
**   @wvrcollege**