

SECONDARY & FURTHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

2026/2027



Warrington
& Vale Royal
College

Ofsted
Good
Provider

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YOUR CAREER COLLEGE

At Warrington & Vale Royal College, we are proud to collaborate with schools across Warrington, Cheshire, Wigan, St Helens, Halton, and Greater Manchester to support the aspirations and future success of young people.

Our aim is to empower pupils to make confident, informed decisions about their next steps. Through engaging activities, informative sessions, and tailored support from Key Stage 3 onwards, we deliver high-quality careers education, information, advice, and guidance that aligns with the Gatsby Benchmarks and Provider Access Legislation.

We are committed to ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Personal development is central to our approach, helping students build the skills, confidence, and resilience needed for future success. We are particularly proud that our most recent Ofsted inspection (November 2024) rated the College as Good overall, with Outstanding judgements in both Personal Development and Behaviour and Attitudes.

By working in partnership, we can help your pupils explore the full range of post-16 pathways, make informed choices about their future, and access the opportunities available across our region.



Nichola Newton
Principal & Chief Executive



WHAT WE DO

As Warrington's leading provider of technical education and skills training, we deliver industry-focused, career-driven programmes that equip students with the knowledge, skills, and experience needed for employment or further study.

From September 2027, our curriculum will include A Levels, technical qualifications, T Levels, apprenticeships, and V Levels, which are a new generation of vocational qualifications, ensuring students benefit from innovative and employer-relevant learning opportunities.

Technical Courses

- Art & Design
- Brickwork
- Carpentry & Joinery
- Creative & Digital Media
- Early Years
- Electrical Installation
- Engineering
- Fashion
- Games Design
- Graphic Design
- Hairdressing
- Health & Social Care
- Hospitality & Catering
- Military & Emergency Services
- Motor Vehicle
- Performing Arts
- Plumbing
- Sport
- Travel & Tourism

T Levels

- Accounting
- Business
- Construction Design, Surveying & Planning
- Early Years
- Engineering
- Health

NEW: Combination Pathways

By bringing together A Level and V Level qualifications with complementary technical programmes, these pathways are designed to give students the best of both worlds: strong academic foundations and practical, industry-focused skills.

- Accounting & Finance
- Digital
- Education
- Health

Apprenticeships

- Accounting
- Bricklaying
- Business
- Carpentry & Joinery
- Customer Services
- Electrical Installation
- Engineering
- Groundworker
- Human Resources
- Motor Vehicle
- Plumbing & Heating
- Recruitment

Foundation Learning

Foundation Learning courses are suitable for any student who needs a little extra time to prepare for college, or has not quite met the entry requirements for a full-time college course.

Skills for Independence, Life & Work

Our Skills for Independence, Life & Work courses give students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities the chance to build confidence and practical skills.

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.

Supported Internships

Supported Internships are a great next step for young people aged 17-24 who want to move into paid employment. They are especially suited to those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), but there are also some opportunities available for young people without one.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

We are proud to offer a wide range of courses designed to suit different starting points, ensuring as many young people as possible can take the next step in their education with us.

Entry Level

No minimum grades required.

Everyday 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 and 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.

AS Level Pathways

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

Engineering

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

A Level, T Level, & V Level

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

Adult Nursing / Engineering

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

T Level Foundation Year

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

The above is a general guide. Individual entry requirements for specific courses can be found on our website. A satisfactory school reference is also a mandatory condition of all offers made. Entry requirements for 2027/28 entry can be viewed on the college website.



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
- Our new School Hub, with application, interview and enrolment reports available on demand
- 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 about our courses and college life. We offer various types of assemblies, including a school leaver assembly, which we aim to deliver to all partnership schools in either September or October.

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.

Our Apprenticeships Team may also be available to attend these events. Please speak with the School Engagement Team to arrange this.

Parents' Evening Support

Years 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

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

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 transport deposit.

"The day was fantastically organised; everything from the buses, food, coffee vouchers, flexibility with students' options and overall communication. Thank you!"

Careers Lead
Rudheath Senior Academy

"WVRFest gave our students the perfect window to envision themselves in just over a year! Thank you for a special day."

Careers Advisor
Beamont Collegiate Academy

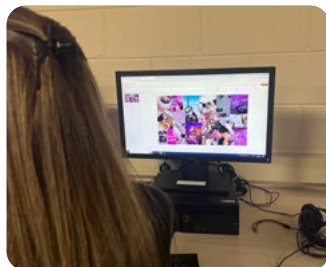
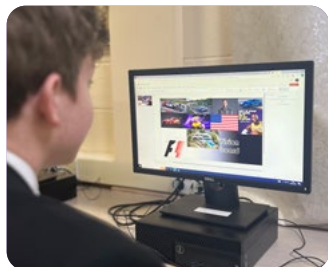
"Year 10 would like to extend appreciation for the time, resources and effort gone into making the day so memorable and enjoyable!"

Head of Department
Sir Thomas Boteler C of E 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

Growth Mindset Interactive Workshop

Years 8, 9, 10 & 11

Gatsby Benchmark 7

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.



KEY DATES

Open Evenings 2026

Warrington campus

Open to School Leavers and those aged 16-18

- Wednesday 7th October, 5.00pm - 8.00pm
- Wednesday 21st October, 5.00pm - 8.00pm
- Monday 9th November, 5.00pm - 8.00pm
- SEND Open Evening, Wednesday 18th November, 4.00 - 7.00pm

Winsford campus

For 16-18 year-olds who are considering a foundation learning pathway, may have an EHCP or support needs, or those who may not currently be accessing mainstream education. Prospective adult students are also welcome at this event.

- Thursday 1st December 2026, 4.00pm - 7.00pm
-

College Experience Evenings

- Wednesday 9th December 2026
 - Wednesday 10th February 2027
-

Year 10 Taster Days

- 29th June 2027
 - 30th June 2027
 - 1st July 2027
 - 2nd July 2027
 - 5th July 2027
-

New Student Welcome Day

- Monday 28th June 2027

TRANSITION & SUPPORT

We are committed to working in partnership with schools, families and professionals to ensure students with additional needs and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) experience a positive, well-supported transition into college.

Our dedicated Transition, Wellbeing and Learning Support teams provide personalised guidance and tailored support at every stage, helping prospective students build confidence, develop independence, and feel fully prepared for college life. Through early planning, clear communication, and a student-centred approach, we strive to ensure every student can access the support they need to thrive and achieve their potential.

Additional Learning Support

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

When applying for a course, prospective students are strongly encouraged to disclose any disability or learning difficulty so that we can ensure the appropriate support is in place for 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
- Specialist resources and equipment (laptops with assistive software, Dictaphone and reader pens.)

Find out more at: wvr.ac.uk/college-life/learning-support

Bespoke Transition Events

We recognise that, by supporting students to prepare for college before enrolment, they have a greater chance of engaging, attending, achieving, and progressing, which will reduce the risk of becoming NEET.

Prospective students can expect to participate in a range of carefully planned events throughout the year, with each session being designed to meet different needs and levels of support.

Applicants with EHCPs are likely to need a bespoke transition programme to aid them in their move from school to college. Additional touchpoints with our Transition Team may include college staff attending Year 11 annual reviews, multiple visits to college, including the opportunity to attend classes and stay for different parts of the college day, and a tailored transition plan to suit the needs of the applicant and include parents, if appropriate.

SEND Open Evening

Wednesday 18th November 2027

A quieter, calmer Open Evening experience, for young people aged up to 24 to explore our Warrington campus at their own pace and meet with our Curriculum staff and Support Teams.

SEND Campus Tours

Spring & Summer Term 2027

Small, supportive tours for students with SEN or anxiety about moving to college.

Designed to build confidence and familiarity, with specialist staff available to support students and parents.

College Experience Evenings

**Wednesday 9th December 2026
& Wednesday 10th February 2027**

A two-hour course taster event for all applicants.

Learning Facilitators and the Learning Support Team ensure the experience is accessible and inclusive.

New Student Welcome Day

Wednesday 28th June 2027

A final pre-enrolment visit designed to replicate a real college day, helping students feel settled and ready for September.

Get Set for College Sessions

Summer Term 2027

For applicants with EHCPs, additional support needs, experiencing anxiety, on reduced timetables, or home educated.

Sessions can include an initial 1:1 meeting, practical advice, tips for making friends, anxiety support, and signposting to services. They will also have the opportunity to meet our pastoral teams and get familiar with the expectations for college life.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When does transition support begin?

Support begins as soon as we receive a completed application. Early planning allows us to put the right adjustments in place well before enrolment.

How do you support students with an EHCP?

We work closely with the local authority, parents, and the student's current school to review outcomes and ensure appropriate support, staffing, and resources are in place.

What wellbeing support is available?

Our Safeguarding and Wellbeing Teams provide pastoral support, mentoring and guidance throughout a student's time at college. All students have a Progress Coach who meets with them regularly, monitors their attendance and performance, and offers advice and guidance.

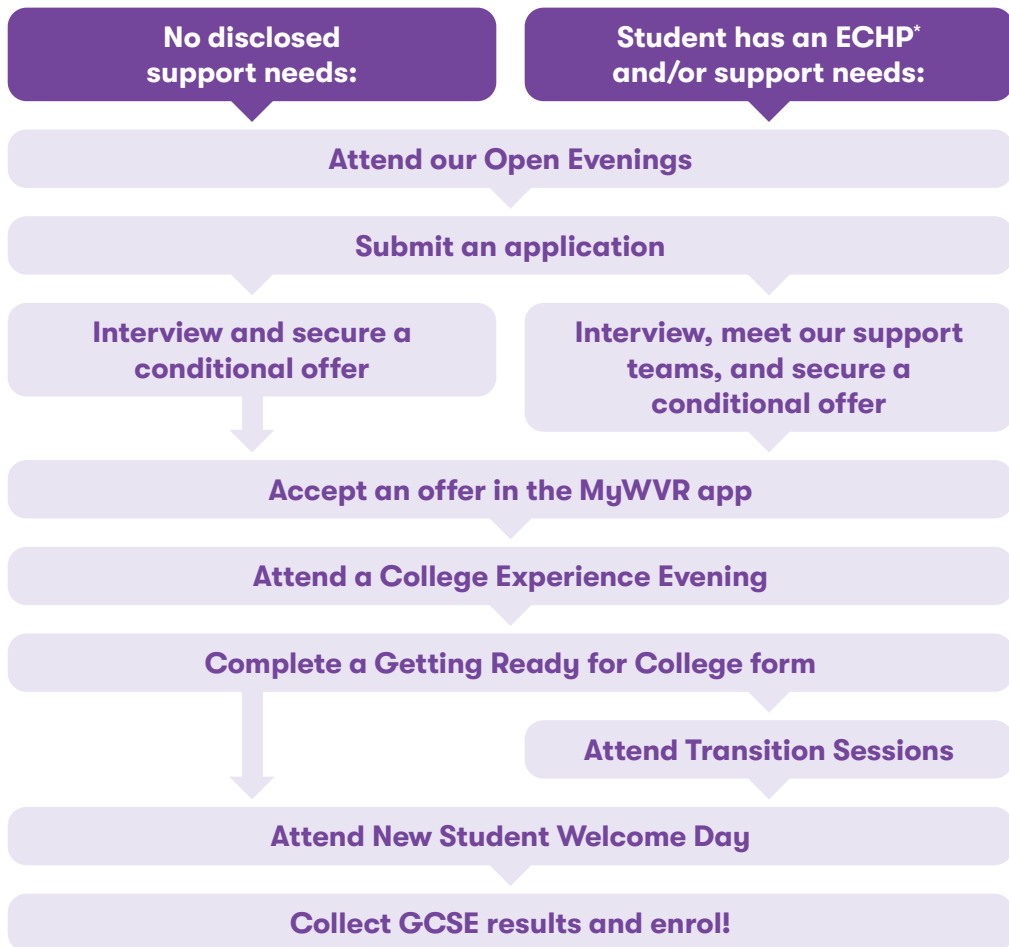
Our highly-trained Safeguarding Team work closely with Progress Coaches to help students overcome any issues affecting their wellbeing, including physical and mental health, welfare, financial worries and personal issues.

If you would like to speak with a member of our School Engagement Team about transition and opportunities to work with us, please reach out to schools@wvr.ac.uk and a member of the team will contact you.



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 open each September and we strongly encourage school leavers to submit their application before the Christmas break, wherever possible.



Each young person's journey to college can be different. Students with EHCPs, support needs or wellbeing considerations may have additional touchpoints with our teams during their transition to ensure they are fully prepared for college.

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 through the School Hub. References can be submitted immediately once the application appears in the Hub. Offers may be withheld without a reference, so we ask that you submit these as soon as possible.



USEFUL INFORMATION

Getting to College

Our Warrington campus is centrally located and easily accessible by public transport. We also offer free parking and bike sheds on campus for students. We currently 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.

Those studying at our Winsford campus who live more than one mile away can receive a FREE D&G bus pass.*

To find out more about getting to college, visit 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 £45,000 per year. Where a household income is above £45,000, but below £60,000, a bursary will be considered for travel costs only.*

Bursary can cover several areas of support associated with the cost of studying; including transport, essential uniform, kit and equipment, and compulsory educational visits.

FREE Breakfast

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

Contact details:

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

NEW: School Hub

The School Hub is the School Engagement Team's platform for sharing live student application and enrolment information.

It provides access to:

- Application reports
- Upcoming interview appointments
- Student references
- Enrolment data.

Access the hub at: **schoolhub.wvr.ac.uk**

It is your responsibility to keep the college informed of any staffing changes or requests for new School Hub access.

Important: All student references must be submitted through the School Hub. References sent outside the system cannot be accepted.



schools@wvr.ac.uk
01925 494 664

wvr.ac.uk
   @wvrcollege