

The EDGE

College Magazine

August 2026



**STUDENTS
EXPERIENCE
THE TRIP OF
A LIFETIME!**

PAGE 4

CELEBRATING COLLEGE NEWS WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of our college magazine, The Edge.

In these pages, you'll find a snapshot of student success, recent news stories, and opportunities that reflect life at our wonderful college.

I'm continually impressed by the progress our students make as they move on to higher education, apprenticeships, and employment. They leave here with the skills and confidence to take their next steps. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved this year.

I hope you enjoy reading our magazine and that you share our pride in all that has been accomplished in 2026.

Nichola Newton
Principal & CEO



CONTENTS

Student success takes centre stage at inaugural Further Education Awards Ceremony	3	Art & Design students impress with extraordinary end-of-year exhibition	11	Future electricians power ahead at regional qualifier	17
Students experience the trip of a lifetime!	4	Supported Internships: opening doors, changing lives	12	Recognising excellence in Access to Higher Education	18
Students shine in technicolour theatre triumph	6	Warrington & Vale Royal College tutor named Teacher of the Year	13	Proud partnership with Plumbase	18
Unsung Heroes	7	Meet the adult student proving it's never too late to change career	14	Puzzler Page	19
Biggest Higher Education Graduation Ceremony in recent years	8	Hospitality & Catering students excel in Young Sommelier competition	15		
Health & Social Care student highly commended in NCFE Aspiration Awards	9	Gaming for a good cause	15		
Building successful futures: Young bricklayers take home the gold	9	Introducing 2026's Young Artist of the Year	16		
Amazing Alumni - Emily Robinson	10	United Utilities return for more bespoke training	17		



STUDENT SUCCESS TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT INAUGURAL FURTHER EDUCATION AWARDS CEREMONY

On Thursday 18th June, Warrington & Vale Royal College hosted its first-ever Further Education Awards Ceremony at the elegant Parr's Bank Hotel. The event marked a special milestone in celebrating student success.

While highlighting achievements is a hallmark of college life, this event was the first time that further education students were presented with awards on stage at a dedicated event.

The event was born from a college staff development initiative, Dragon's Den, where Sarah Green, CIPD Lecturer & Assessor, pitched the winning idea. She captured the importance of recognising not only academic achievement, but the personal milestones that shape each student's journey. Sarah quickly

gained the panel's full support and agreement that this was an idea too important not to bring to life.

By June, the vision had been realised in the beautiful surroundings of a Grade II listed building, full of students, staff, friends, and family. On arrival, guests were welcomed with mocktails and canapés, served by talented students representing the Hospitality & Catering department.

Live acoustic music set the tone for the evening as guests gathered. The ceremony welcomed a

range of VIPs and friends of the college, including governors, event sponsors, and senior staff from local high schools in which award winners were once pupils.

The evening began with a heartfelt welcome from Principal & CEO Nichola Newton, before tutors, visibly proud, took to the stage to present their respective awards. Proceedings were complemented by moving video nominations that showcased individual journeys, resonating across the room. One thing was clear throughout: the

transformative power of further education.

This event showcased the exceptional work and powerful stories that define Warrington & Vale Royal College, reinforcing the importance of further education and the impact it has on the communities it serves. The college looks forward to this becoming a highly-anticipated annual event.

To view the full gallery of photos from the evening, visit: wvr.ac.uk/fe-awards



STUDENTS EXPERIENCE THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

TURING

SCHEME

Funded by the UK's global programme to study and work abroad



Fifty lucky students recently returned from an unforgettable two-week placement programme in Sri Lanka, gaining valuable international work experience, developing new skills, and immersing themselves in a completely different culture through the UK Government's Turing Scheme.

The Turing Scheme provides students with opportunities to study, work, and live abroad, supporting personal growth, cultural understanding, and career development. Thanks to funding secured through the scheme, fifty of our students travelled to Sri Lanka to take part in a series of specialisms. These were Health & Social Care, Digital, Sport, Childcare, and Construction.

Throughout the trip, students worked alongside local organisations and educational partners, applying their learning in real-world settings while developing confidence, resilience, and employability skills.

Health students gained an insight into healthcare provision through visits to Galle National Hospital, where they assisted

doctors on call and even went into theatre to watch real medical professionals in action. Meanwhile, sport students delivered activities at local education providers, teaching the local children about teamwork and resilience through physical education. Childcare and digital students collaborated on local initiatives and projects with local schools, while construction students undertook the complete reconstruction of the local community's dance hall floor at Tissa Central College.

Away from their placements, students embraced every opportunity to experience Sri Lankan life and culture. They took part in traditional mask-making workshops, sampled local cuisine, and learned

more about the country's customs and heritage. The group also participated in a number of environmental and community projects, including a visit to the Galbokka Sea Turtle Conservation & Research Centre and a beach clean-up initiative aimed at supporting local conservation efforts.

For many students, the trip was their first experience of travelling so far from home and provided a unique opportunity to develop independence, adaptability, and a broader understanding of the world around them.

This trip forms part of the college's commitment to providing life-changing opportunities that enhance learning, broaden horizons, and prepare students for successful futures in an increasingly global workplace.

“Experiences like this are truly transformational for our students. The opportunity to live and work in another country helps young people develop confidence, cultural awareness, and independence in ways that simply cannot be replicated in a classroom. Through the Turing Scheme, our students have been able to gain valuable industry experience, contribute to local communities, and create memories that will stay with them for life.”

Nichola Newton, Principal & CEO



“Sri Lanka has been one of the best experiences of my life. I have learned so much about a different culture, gained practical skills linked to my course, and made friendships that I’ll never forget. The trip pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me become more confident and independent. It’s given me experiences that will help me in my future career and memories that will stay with me forever.”

Alicia Baxter, Level 3 Sport & Physical Activity Student

PARENTS LOVE WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

Discover real feedback from real families.

Choosing the right college is one of the most important decisions a young person and their family will make.

That's why we asked parents of our students to share their honest views of their child's experience at Warrington & Vale Royal College.

Find out what they had to say!
wvr.ac.uk/parents-love



“The college provides all the support that students need to succeed.”



Sophie
T Level Health:
Adult Nursing

Lisa
Sophie's Mum



STUDENTS SHINE IN TECHNICOLOUR THEATRE TRIUMPH



This year, for their final showcase, Performing Arts students took to the stage to deliver a vibrant production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*.

The show's run consisted of matinee productions for local primary schools and two sold-out evening performances to members of the general public. This included beaming friends and family members who were delighted to show their support.

This particular production marked another first for the college, as it was an opera-style performance in which the entire show was sung. Presenting a unique set of challenges for students, they rose to the occasion and demonstrated a strong commitment, vocal stamina, and performance skills. Efforts paid off exceptionally well, with standing ovations at every show.

"We are incredibly proud of what our students achieved with this production. We had goosebumps at every performance! It was incredibly rewarding to watch months of hard work come together in such a successful production. As tutors, experiences like this remind us exactly why we do this job."

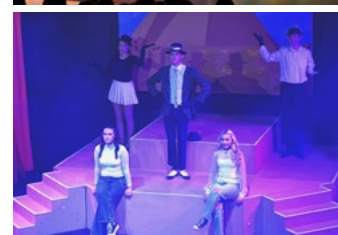
*Rachel Burchell,
Performing Arts Tutor*

The opportunity to perform the esteemed musical

was made possible through the college's ongoing partnership with the Liverpool Empire Theatre and LW Theatres (Andrew Lloyd Webber's theatre company). These partnerships have proven highly beneficial to students, opening the door to a range of valuable experiences to both take centre stage, and gain an exclusive insight into what happens backstage.

As the curtain closes on another memorable year, the talent, dedication, and professionalism of the college's performing arts students shines through. With opportunities like these, students not only develop their performance skills and

stage presence but gain valuable insight into the realities of working in the industry. With yet another outstanding production added to their growing list of achievements, the future looks bright for this talented cohort.



To learn more about the range of Performing Arts & Production courses available at the college, visit: wvr.ac.uk/performing-arts



Every organisation has individuals and teams whose dedication quietly shape the everyday experiences of others. Their contributions may not always take centre stage, but they make a big difference.

Unsung Heroes is our regular feature in which we celebrate these colleagues, shining a light on their standout actions that deserve to be recognised and applauded.

SARAH GREEN: CHAMPIONING STUDENT SUCCESS

When Sarah Green pitched the idea of creating a dedicated Further Education Awards ceremony through the college's Dragons' Den initiative in March 2025, the aim was simple: to celebrate students in a way that truly reflected their achievements and mirrored the recognition offered elsewhere in the sector.

The result was a memorable evening that put students firmly in the spotlight. With 31 awards presented across curriculum areas and the college's values, the event recognised far more than academic success. Students were nominated for overcoming personal challenges, demonstrating resilience, inspiring others, and making a positive contribution to college life.

In total, 66 students were nominated for the values awards, while more than 130 students received nominations across the curriculum categories. One of the evening's most powerful moments came as nominees and their families heard first-hand

from tutors why each award was a worthy winner. The atmosphere in the room was one of pride, celebration, and emotion - a fitting tribute to the remarkable achievements of our students.

While the awards celebrated the achievements of students, none of it would have been possible without Sarah's vision and determination. From a simple Dragons' Den pitch to a flagship college event, her commitment helped create an unforgettable evening for students and their families. This makes her a truly deserving Unsung Hero.

LEADING THE WAY IN TEACHER TRAINING

A group of college tutors have made history by becoming the first cohort in the UK to successfully complete the Level 5 Diploma in Teaching (DIT) programme, marking a significant milestone in their professional journeys.

Among them are Simon Lovell and Lee Pickett, two career changers whose routes into teaching highlight the value of industry experience in the classroom.

Simon, who built his career in film and content creation and continues to work within the industry, brings a wealth of current knowledge and professional contacts to support his students.

While the transition to becoming a dual professional was initially challenging, Simon embraced the journey and has gone on to excel, with colleagues praising the outstanding quality of his teaching practice.

Lee joined the college straight from the

plumbing industry, with a level 3 qualification and years of hands-on experience. Since making the move into education, he has developed into a passionate and inspiring teacher who is committed to helping students.

Alongside fellow phenomenal tutors Shannon Hamilton, Chris Wilkinson, and Sam Murrell, Simon and Lee have worked tirelessly to achieve this qualification.

All of these tutors' dedication and willingness to embrace new challenges reflect the very best of the college, and we are incredibly proud to have supported them on their journey. They are all absolutely Unsung Heroes!



Sarah Green (second from the left) and colleagues at the Further Education Awards.

BIGGEST HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATION CEREMONY IN RECENT YEARS



Earlier this year, the college was proud to host its yearly Higher Education Graduation Ceremony. The annual celebration brings together students, families, staff, and distinguished guests in the charming surroundings of St Elphin's Church.

From the first moment graduates began to arrive, the church was filled with pride and anticipation as they prepared to walk the stage and celebrate achievements that represent dedication, resilience, and, for many, proud personal milestones. This year's event saw record attendance, reflecting the growing strength of higher-level study at the college, and the crucial role adult learning plays in transforming lives.

The celebration also featured a series of Special Awards, honouring outstanding students whose commitment and

progress have been exemplary.

The college would also like to thank Glyn Barnard, Level 5 Education & Training graduate and now an electrical tutor at the college, for delivering a powerfully heartfelt student Vote of Thanks to close the ceremony.

This annual ceremony underscores the importance of lifelong learning and highlights that it is never too late to upskill, retrain, or pursue new opportunities. The achievements recognised throughout the evening demonstrated the real impact that adult education has.



Professional Student of the Year
Victoria Horricks



Hilary Tucker Art Excellence Award
Lana Targett



Craig Atherton Sporting Excellence Award
Calum Evans



Apprenticeship Excellence Award
Sarah-Louise Howard

To learn more about Higher Technical & Professional qualifications at the college, visit: wvr.ac.uk/higher-education



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE STUDENT HIGHLY COMMENDED IN NCFE ASPIRATION AWARDS

Level 3 Health & Social Care student Paige Osmond, a former Bridgewater High School pupil, was highly commended in the Against All Odds category at the NCFE Aspiration Awards 2026.



Despite facing significant challenges from a young age, Paige has shown remarkable resilience and has become a positive role model for others. Alongside her Level 3 Health & Social Care studies, she serves as a Student Representative for the Health & Social Care Academy and as a Student Ambassador. She is also a young leader with Cubs and Explorers, supports children and young people through the Mamatoto charity, and volunteers at her church serving food to local community members. These contributions, together with her character

and commitment, make her a deserving finalist for this award.

Paige's tutor, Alexandra Traynor-Joyce, said: "Paige is an outstanding student who truly embodies the spirit of this award. Her resilience, compassion, and determination make her a thoroughly deserving nominee, and she is an inspiration to others who may be facing challenges of their own."

Closer to home, Paige was also recognised at the college's own Further Education Awards, in which she was presented with Student of the Year: Health & Social Care back in June.

Everyone at Warrington & Vale Royal College is incredibly proud of Paige's achievements and the positive impact she continues to have both within the college and the wider community.

To view the range of Health & Social Care courses available at the college, visit: wvr.ac.uk/health-social-care



BUILDING SUCCESSFUL FUTURES: YOUNG BRICKLAYERS TAKE HOME THE GOLD

Brickwork apprentices Kobe and Jake recently showcased their talents at the prestigious Guild of Bricklayers Annual Competition, held at Preston College.

Competing against apprentices from across the region, both students demonstrated the high level of skill, precision, and workmanship they have developed through their training and workplace experience.

The highlight of the event came when Kobe, a Level 2 Brickwork Apprentice, secured first place in the senior category. His outstanding performance earned him the top spot and a place in the Guild of

Bricklayers National Final. The competition provided an excellent opportunity for both apprentices to test their skills in a challenging environment, gain valuable competition experience, and represent the college amongst some of the industry's most promising young bricklayers. Congratulations to Kobe and Jake on their fantastic achievements. The college wishes Kobe every success as he prepares to compete in the national final.

Learn more about our Brickwork courses at: wvr.ac.uk/brickwork



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Higher Technical & Professional qualifications delivered close to home.

With higher level qualifications in accounting, counselling, education, leadership and management, and more, our industry-focused courses will equip you with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to progress your career and achieve your goals.

Limited places available. Apply now!
wvr.ac.uk/higher-education



SKILLS FOR LIFE
HIGHER TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

Warrington & Vale Royal College
ADULT COLLEGE

Amazing Alumni - **EMILY ROBINSON**

Emily first joined our college seven years ago when she enrolled on the Foundation Diploma in Art & Design. At the time, Emily was raising three children and rebuilding her confidence following a particularly challenging period in her personal life. Although she admits she was nervous walking through the college doors for her interview, that decision became the first step in a remarkable educational and professional journey.



After successfully completing her Foundation Diploma, Emily progressed to the HNC and HND in Art & Design before moving on to the University of Chester, where she achieved a First Class degree in Fine Art. Determined to inspire the next generation, she then completed a PGCE in Design and Technology and is now nearing the end of her Early Career Teacher programme.

Today, Emily teaches Textiles, Graphics, and Product Design at St Nicholas Catholic High School. Just two years into her teaching career at the school, Emily has already helped increase participation numbers in Product Design, particularly among female students, and is passionate about encouraging young people to recognise their own potential.

Emily believes her time at the college prepared her well for both university

and employment. She describes her education as being much more than achieving qualifications; it was about developing confidence, resilience, and a belief in what was possible. Those lessons continue to influence her teaching, where she encourages students to see their qualifications as a stepping stone to future opportunities rather than an end goal. This directly speaks the college's Careers not Courses mantra.

One of the reasons Emily enthusiastically recommends Warrington & Vale Royal College to adult students is the level of support available. From financial assistance and childcare funding to pastoral support and enrichment opportunities, she feels the college helped remove barriers to learning that might otherwise have prevented her from pursuing higher education. A trip to Berlin during her

foundation course remains a particularly memorable experience and one she believes she would never have taken without such support.

Emily also speaks warmly about the encouragement she received from her tutors, Ben Brady, Huw Phillips, and Becky Rogers, whose guidance helped her continue progressing throughout her studies. Becky has since moved on to pastures new, but her impact remains. Combined with the wider support network at the college, their belief in Emily helped change the direction of her life.

Reflecting on her recent visit to the college, Emily describes it as a full-circle moment. The person who first walked through the doors seven years ago is very different from the confident teacher she is today. Her proudest achievements include; graduating with distinction grades, earning a First Class degree, and qualifying as a teacher. But, most importantly, sharing those milestones with her daughters, who have witnessed her hard work first-hand and proudly watched her graduate.

Now firmly established in a career she loves, Emily's future plans centre on continuing to grow as an educator and making a positive difference to the students she teaches each day.

"Growth is uncomfortable. Every step outside of my comfort zone felt difficult, but with each step I became closer to the person I was meant to be. The support I received at the college was instrumental in that journey. The funding opportunities, the guidance, and the encouragement to take the next step all helped to change the trajectory of my life."

"Every day, I have the privilege of supporting young people who may not yet recognise their own potential. If I can help just one person believe in themselves in the way others believed in me, then I know I am making a difference. As an alumna, the message I want to share is simple: it is never too late. You do not need to see the whole path ahead. You just need the courage to take the next step."

Emily's story is a powerful example of how the right support and determination can open doors to opportunities that once seemed impossible.

To learn more about our range of Art & Design courses for school leavers and adults, visit: wvr.ac.uk/art-design





ART & DESIGN STUDENTS IMPRESS WITH EXTRAORDINARY END-OF-YEAR EXHIBITION

To draw their academic year to a close, Art & Design students welcomed proud friends and family to Warrington campus to see their exam pieces exhibited.

Bringing together work from students across levels 1-4 and adult ceramics students from Winsford Adult College, the exhibition highlighted the breadth of disciplines, skills, and creative practices developed over the course of the year.

For their final major project, students were given the freedom to develop their own ideas, building on the techniques and skills they had explored throughout the year. As a result, the exhibition featured a wide variety of work to a consistently high

professional standard.

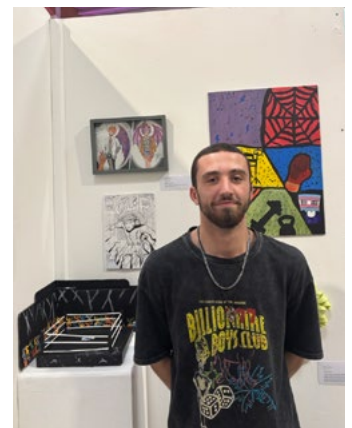
Many of these students will now progress on to higher level study or begin their creative careers, with the exhibition providing an important opportunity to build portfolios and gain experience presenting work to a public audience.

The exhibition was a celebration of the creativity, talent, and commitment to craft demonstrated by students this year, highlighting the exciting futures that lie ahead for them. As they move on to the next stage of their journeys, they do so with a strong portfolio

of work and the confidence to make their mark in the creative industries.

“We are incredibly proud of our students and staff for their hard work and commitment this year. The quality and variety of work on display is excellent, and it’s great to see students presenting their ideas with such confidence.”

Ben Brady,
Director of Curriculum & Quality



To learn more about the range of Art & Design courses on offer at the college, visit: wvr.ac.uk/art-design



SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS: OPENING DOORS, CHANGING LIVES

On Thursday 11th June, we proudly hosted our annual Supported Internship Celebration Evening. This is a special event dedicated to showcasing the success, growth, and achievements of the impressive young people at the heart of these internships.

This annual celebration is an opportunity to reflect on the significant progress made throughout the year. The interns, young people with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP), have spent the last year in the workplace, where they have enjoyed combining hands-on experience with personalised, on-the-job support.

Many of the interns began their placement with low confidence but have since developed into self-assured individuals, better equipped for the world of work. Several interns have successfully secured employment with

their host organisations, underlining the impact of the programme.

In front of proud family members, college staff spoke passionately about the interns' journeys.

Amanda MacKinnon, Vice Principal: Quality & Curriculum, said: ***"This programme means so much to all of us, as well as the interns. We see first-hand the benefits of these placements and how they truly help to realise potential."***

Addressing the interns directly, Amanda continued: ***"We are incredibly proud of you, and you should be so***



proud of yourselves. You have worked tremendously hard this year, and now, the world really is your oyster with the skills you have developed."

Sara Shaw, Programme Leader, also commended the interns. She also took the opportunity to thank employer partners for their ongoing support in providing meaningful

placement opportunities.

The celebration event served as a powerful reflection of the college's ethos: Realising Potential, Transforming Lives. The college remains committed to supporting individuals of all ages into meaningful employment, with Supported Internships exemplifying this mission in action.



To learn more about Supported Internships, visit: wvr.ac.uk/supported-internships



A warm welcome, great company, and delicious refreshments.

Run by students from our Foundation Learning and Skills for Independence, Life & Work courses, the café provides a welcoming space for the local community to enjoy a hot drink and sweet treat while supporting our students as they develop valuable confidence, communication, and employability skills.

Pop in and support our students today!



Tea & Coffee • Hot & Cold Food • Cakes & Treats



The Wellbeing Community Cafe

Warrington & Vale Royal College



Open Monday - Thursday, 9.00am - 2.00pm*

Orford Community Hub, Hughes Avenue, Warrington, WA2 9EW
(Same location as Warrington's Driving Test Centre)

*Term time only

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE TUTOR NAMED TEACHER OF THE YEAR



“We are incredibly proud of Dan. His commitment to excellence in teaching and genuine care for every student truly sets him apart. This award reflects the inspiration and positive difference he brings to our college every single day.”

*Michelle Seeley,
Deputy Principal*

The college is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Daniel Fahimi, Curriculum Manager for Motor Vehicle, who has been named Teacher of the Year (Further Education) in the prestigious Warrington Guardian Education Awards.

A representative from the Warrington Guardian visited the college on to officially present Dan with his award. Nominated by colleague David Lenton, Director of Construction Trades, Dan was praised for his unwavering dedication and commitment to excellence.

In his nomination, Dave described Dan as “an exceptional motor vehicle teacher whose impact reaches far beyond the classroom and workshop,” highlighting his ability to embody the very highest standards of further education.

Dan’s journey at the college is a testament to his personal and professional development. He joined the college as an assessor, bringing with him extensive

experience as an established technician within the motor vehicle industry. Keen to inspire the next generation of automotive professionals, he completed his teacher training at the college over a two-year period, excelling throughout the qualification.

Following this, Dan spent a year working as a mentor, supporting colleagues while further developing his leadership skills. He also completed the college’s Aspiring Leaders programme, engaging in a wide range of professional development opportunities that prepared him for the next stage of his career. His commitment and drive led to his promotion to Curriculum Manager for Motor Vehicle, where he now leads the department

and continues to make a significant impact on both students and staff.

At the heart of Dan’s work is a commitment to helping every student succeed. Through an inclusive and supportive approach, he adapts his teaching to meet individual needs while maintaining high expectations and inspiring students to achieve their full potential. Passionate about developing career-ready professionals, he instils pride in workmanship, technical excellence, and the strong work ethic valued by the motor vehicle industry.

Furthermore, Dan’s strong employer connections ensure the curriculum reflects real-world expectations and creates valuable opportunities for students, including

work placements, apprenticeships, and progression into employment.

Beyond the classroom, Dan is a respected colleague who shares his expertise, supports staff, and drives quality and innovation across the department. His dedication embodies the college’s “Careers Not Courses” mantra, ensuring students leave not only with technical skills, but also the confidence and professionalism needed for successful careers.

Everyone at the college is incredibly proud of Dan’s achievement. His commitment to transforming lives through education make him a truly deserving winner of this award and an inspiring role model for both students and staff.



To learn more about our Motor Vehicle courses, visit: wvr.ac.uk/motor-vehicle

MEET THE ADULT STUDENT PROVING IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO CHANGE CAREER

Jim Rowley, a Level 2 Plumbing student at Warrington campus, is on a remarkable journey that proves it is never too late to change career direction.

After completing his Level 1 Plumbing qualification locally in Macclesfield, Jim set out to find a new college that could support his progression to level 2. Warrington & Vale Royal College was one of four colleges on his list, and the only one he needed to visit. A quick, friendly response to his enquiry, followed by a tour of the facilities, convinced him instantly. He didn't visit anywhere else. Jim now travels a 60-mile round trip, two evenings a week, to study at our Warrington campus. Jim began his working life in finance, progressing to the role of Finance Manager. In 2006, alongside his full-time career, he also joined Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service as an on-call firefighter. After ten years successfully balancing both roles, he made the decision to become a full-time firefighter, serving the communities

of Macclesfield, Wilmslow, and Widnes. During this time, he also qualified as a blue-light driving instructor, adding another impressive skill to his repertoire.

Now retired from the fire service, Jim wants a career on his own terms. After helping neighbours with small jobs and completing the first fix on his brother's bathroom, he's decided to turn his plumbing skills into a business: Blue Light Plumbing, aptly named. He wants to stay purposeful and flexible in his work, keep developing his skills, and transition gently into retirement, all while showing his children firsthand that learning doesn't end with age.

Being an adult student at the college has given Jim the confidence to embrace this new chapter. He's enjoyed getting to grips with the essential theory behind plumbing,



especially the regulations and legislation that are so important in the trade, as well as developing practical skills such as bending pipe and fitting cylinders.

What Jim values most, however, is the people. He speaks highly of the diverse group of students in his class and says he's made great friends along the way. He also praises the support he's received from staff, particularly Simon, Steve, Joe, and

Britt, for their consistency, clear communication, and commitment.

Jim credits the Admissions and Learner Services Team too, who made him feel welcome from his very first enquiry.

Jim's advice to anyone considering a change is simple: **"If you're doing a job you don't enjoy, or have committed to a career, don't be afraid of change. Keep learning."**

To view the range of Plumbing courses available at the college, visit: wvr.ac.uk/plumbing



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN

Enrol on an adult course today!

Take the next step towards your future with our flexible adult courses. Gain valuable qualifications, develop specialist skills, and unlock new opportunities with courses designed around adult learners.



Start your journey at:

wvr.ac.uk/adults



Sandi

Level 4 Therapeutic Counselling

HOSPITALITY & CATERING STUDENTS EXCEL IN YOUNG SOMMELIER COMPETITION

In May, three talented Hospitality & Catering students were given the chance to compete in the International Wine & Food Society's Young Chef & Young Sommelier competition.

The International Wine & Food Society competition is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious platforms for emerging hospitality talent in the UK, attracting top students from across the country. Competitors are challenged with a series of rigorous tasks designed to test their culinary expertise, service precision, and industry knowledge under pressure. The competition began with internal heats, where more than 150 hospitality and culinary students nationwide created and refined a standout dish for judging. Sommelier competitors were tasked with analysing these dishes, selecting the perfect wine pairing, and demonstrating in-depth knowledge of their chosen wine and its compatibility with the food.

The final took place at Leeds City College, where just 30 students progressed overall from the 10 participating colleges. Finalists were put through a demanding series of challenges, showcasing skill, flavour, presentation, and the harmony between dish and wine pairing.

Winners were revealed at the Competition Awards Lunch, held at Cheshire College South & West in May. The event brought together finalists from across the country to celebrate their achievements and enjoy a formal awards presentation.

Deniz, who previously attended Padgate Academy, achieved an outstanding first-place finish in a highly competitive field. Equally impressive, Ethan, a former pupil of Hartford C of



E High School, secured second place in the same category, marking a double success for the college. Ashe, who attended Weaverham High School, was also recognised with joint second place in the front-of-house category, further highlighting the exceptional talent among our students.

Second-place winners were awarded £250, while the first-place prize was £500. In addition, Deniz earned an exciting opportunity

to undertake a week of work experience aboard a Saga cruise ship, where he will further demonstrate his skills in a professional kitchen.

The success of Deniz, Ethan, and Ashe reflects not only their individual dedication and passion for the hospitality industry, but also the high-quality, industry-standard training and support provided by Warrington & Vale Royal College's Hospitality & Catering tutors.

To discover the range of Hospitality & Catering courses on offer at the college, visit: wvr.ac.uk/hospitality-catering



GAMING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Games Design students recently organised and hosted their own 'Game Jam' charity event, which saw them raise an impressive £1,050 for charity.

Working in teams, students combined their creativity, technical expertise, and problem-solving skills to develop original game projects, all while supporting a fantastic cause. The funds raised were donated to SpecialEffect - a UK charity that helps people

with physical disabilities access video games, improving quality of life through the power of play.

The Game Jam event concluded with an awards ceremony celebrating achievements across a range of categories, including Best Level Design, Best Gameplay



Design, Best Technical Execution, Best Team Player, Best Effort & Professionalism, and the coveted Overall Best Game Submission award.

Congratulations to everyone involved for their hard work, creativity, and commitment to supporting such a worthwhile charity.

Learn more about our Games Design courses at: wvr.ac.uk/games-design





INTRODUCING 2026'S YOUNG ARTIST OF THE YEAR

The college is celebrating another successful Young Artist of the Year competition, which showcases the creativity and talent of young people across Cheshire.

More than 30 entries were submitted by Year 10 and Year 11 pupils from partner high schools, showcasing an inspiring range of artistic talent. The artwork was displayed at a special exhibition at the college's Warrington campus, marking the culmination of the competition. Kelly

Broughton, Curriculum Manager for Art & Design, praised the high standard of entries and the thought behind them.

The Young Artist of the Year competition continues to provide a platform for young creatives to showcase their talents and gain recognition for their

work. Congratulations to Laura, Katrina, and all the students who took part in this year's competition. The college looks forward to supporting and celebrating the artistic achievements of future generations through this much-anticipated annual event.

"The exceptional standard of this year's entries has left me speechless. The talent on display has been extraordinary, and it is truly inspiring to see the next generation of artists showcasing their creativity. Based on what we have seen, there is no doubt that these students will go on to achieve remarkable success."

Ben Brady,
Director of Curriculum & Quality



Katrina Lam, Sir Thomas Boteler C of E High School pupil and this year's Student Favourite, impressed the college's students who voted for their favourite piece. Katrina used a diptych format to create a dramatic composition that captured onlookers' attention.



Laura Perez Higuera, Sandymoor Ormiston Academy pupil and this year's Young Creative Artist, impressed judges with a striking large-scale piece described as brave and visually impactful. Using acrylic paint, she created an image of a child surrounded by expressive and vibrant drawings.

To find out more about the range of Art & Design courses on offer at the college, visit: wvr.ac.uk/art-design



UNITED UTILITIES RETURN FOR MORE BESPOKE TRAINING

Warrington & Vale Royal College is pleased to continue its partnership with United Utilities, recently welcoming members of the organisation to Warrington campus for another round of bespoke training.

Throughout the programme, participants developed their skills and knowledge in a practical learning environment, with the training designed to support both professional growth and workplace performance.

Reflecting on the partnership, Simon Walsh, Plumbing Subject Leader, said: *"It's been a real pleasure working with the team at United Utilities. Their commitment to getting the most out of the training has been clear from the start, and that engagement has translated into meaningful results."*

"Throughout the course, we saw measurable improvements in both confidence and capability, with everyone applying what they've learned directly to their roles. It's rewarding to see development that doesn't just stay in the classroom but has a visible impact on performance and day-to-day life."

The college looks forward to continuing its work with United Utilities and supporting further opportunities for skills development across the sector.

For more information about how we can support your organisation's training needs, visit: wvr.ac.uk/employers



FUTURE ELECTRICIANS POWER AHEAD AT REGIONAL QUALIFIER

Electrical Installation students Danylo, Rory, and Harrison recently represented Warrington & Vale Royal College at the SkillELECTRIC Regional Qualifier, hosted by Coleg Cambria.

The competition gave the students the chance to put their electrical installation skills to the test in a challenging, industry-focused environment, competing alongside some of the region's most talented aspiring electricians.

Alongside the competition itself, the event enabled the students to network with fellow competitors, industry professionals, and educators, gaining valuable insight into the electrical industry and potential

future career pathways.

Danylo, Rory, and Harrison's hard work and commitment have been recognised with the exciting news that all three will continue their competition journey in the next national cycle as part of the WorldSkills UK competition framework.

The college wishes them the very best as they prepare for the next stage of the competition and looks forward to following their progress.

Learn more about our Electrical Installation courses at: wvr.ac.uk/electrical



FINAL CALL FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS!

Limited places available for September 2026

Are you a school leaver and still not decided your next step?

Don't miss your chance to join Warrington & Vale Royal College this September.

LIMITED SPACES REMAIN - APPLY NOW!



WVR.AC.UK/16-18
01925 494 400



RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE IN ACCESS TO HE

Adele Jones has been an inspiring member of the Access to HE: Nursing & Midwifery course. Balancing college life alongside working and raising two children, she has approached every challenge with resilience and dedication, earning the respect and admiration of both tutors and fellow classmates alike.

Throughout her studies, Adele embraced every opportunity to develop her skills and confidence, making the most of the support available at the college. In recognition of her outstanding achievements and unwavering commitment, Adele was named Student of the Year: Access to HE at our Further Education Awards in June, alongside also being nominated for

Outstanding Academic Achievement in the Ascentis Excellence Awards. Ascentis is the awarding body for the college's Access to HE courses, making this an incredibly worthwhile recognition.

As she prepares to take her next step and begin university, Adele reflects positively on her journey and the impact the course has had on her future.



"I would 100% recommend this course to other people. No matter what career you want to go into, it's really important to gain skills like confidence and academic writing."

The college looks forward to Adele's continued success as she steps closer to her new career.

Adele's success is an inspiration to others considering a return to education, proving that with commitment and support, goals are well within reach.

To learn more about our Access to HE courses, visit: wvr.ac.uk/access



**LAST CHANCE TO APPLY FOR
SEPTEMBER 2026!**

Do you want to go to university but don't have the right qualifications?

Discover how our **Access to Higher Education** courses could be the perfect option for you and take advantage of our partnership with the University of Chester, which secures your place on a degree from your very first day in the classroom.* *Terms & conditions apply.

Learn more and apply online today!

wvr.ac.uk/access



PROUD PARTNERSHIP WITH PLUMBASE



The college is proud to continue our partnership with local supplier Plumbase, who has generously provided branded workwear for our plumbing tutors.

This ongoing collaboration strengthens the links between our Plumbing department and industry, helping to create a more professional learning environment for students.

Working closely with employers and suppliers

such as Plumbase ensures our students benefit from up-to-date industry knowledge, valuable connections, and the skills needed to succeed in their future careers within the trade sector. Thank you, Plumbase!

Learn more about our plumbing courses at:
wvr.ac.uk/plumbing



PUZZLER PAGE

Think you know Warrington & Vale Royal College? Now is your chance to prove it. Whether you are a puzzle pro or just fancy a quick brainteaser, dive in and see how many WVR-themed clues you can crack.

WVR WORDSEARCH

Look through the grid to find all the listed words. They may appear forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally. Circle each word as you spot it and tick it off the list. Some may be a little harder to find than others, so take your time and scan carefully!

Supportive
Sri Lanka
Costa Coffee
T Levels
Expert Tutors

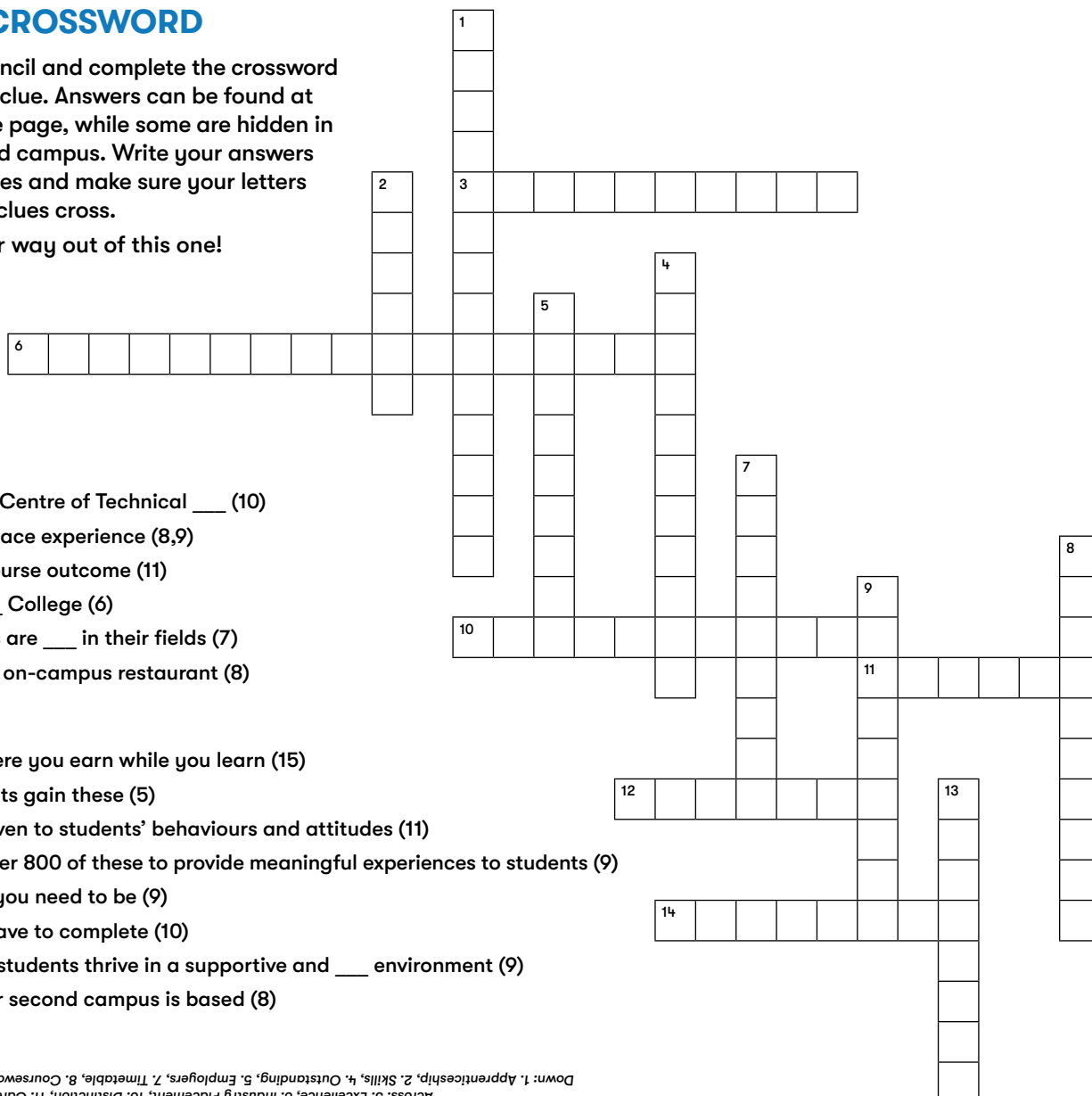
Award Winning
Adult Courses
Inclusive
Graduation
Welcoming

L	C	W	O	E	E	F	E	A	K	T	G	E	O
O	O	E	E	N	N	L	O	I	S	I	E	R	S
G	S	L	S	V	P	L	A	P	L	E	E	E	E
R	T	C	T	N	U	E	L	U	V	X	S	E	V
A	A	O	O	O	V	U	T	I	P	R	F	S	I
D	C	M	P	R	L	I	S	E	U	U	O	S	T
U	O	I	I	S	R	U	R	O	O	L	I	L	R
A	F	N	O	R	L	T	C	N	R	G	F	E	O
T	F	G	T	C	T	T	N	N	N	L	T	V	P
I	E	G	N	U	L	N	L	C	N	N	V	E	P
O	E	I	T	U	R	O	E	N	R	D	K	L	U
N	F	O	D	E	I	T	N	U	N	D	R	T	S
W	R	A	W	A	R	D	W	I	N	N	I	N	G
S	A	L	N	L	S	R	I	L	A	N	K	A	L

COLLEGE CROSSWORD

Grab a pen or pencil and complete the crossword by filling in each clue. Answers can be found at the bottom of the page, while some are hidden in plain sight around campus. Write your answers clearly in the boxes and make sure your letters match up where clues cross.

No guessing your way out of this one!



Across

3. Our college is a Centre of Technical ____ (10)
6. Practical workplace experience (8,9)
10. A successful course outcome (11)
11. We are Your ____ College (6)
12. All of our tutors are ____ in their fields (7)
14. Award-winning on-campus restaurant (8)

Down

1. Course type where you earn while you learn (15)
2. All of our students gain these (5)
4. Ofsted grade given to students' behaviours and attitudes (11)
5. We work with over 800 of these to provide meaningful experiences to students (9)
7. Tells you where you need to be (9)
8. Students may have to complete (10)
9. Ofsted said our students thrive in a supportive and ____ environment (9)
13. Town where our second campus is based (8)

Across: 3. Excellence, 6. Industry Placement, 10. Distinction, 11. Career, 12. Experts, 14. Buckleys
Down: 1. Apprenticeship, 2. Skills, 4. Outstanding, 5. Employers, 7. Timetable, 8. Timetable, 9. Inclusive, 13. Winstanley

