

# Parent Newsletter

Supporting your child's transition to college

Find out more

[www.westlancs.ac.uk](http://www.westlancs.ac.uk)  
[enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk)  
01695 52300





## Dear Parent/Carer

**Welcome to the West Lancashire College Parent Newsletter 2024 edition, aimed to help parent/carers of young people leaving school this summer support their child with a seamless progression into post 16 education.**

Inside you will find information on the different types of qualifications available post 16, and the type of learning styles they are suited to, information on future events aimed at helping you navigate through the transition period, plus news on what West Lancashire College has been up to over recent months.

This year we have been delighted to be awarded £1m worth of funding from the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) and government T Level funding which we have used to enhance our fabulous campus and facilities for the benefit of local students. The funding has allowed us to improve various teaching areas, including a real-life hospital ward for Health students, primary classroom setting for Early Years students and state-of-the-art computer equipment for Digital students, as well as the refurbishment of social and dining spaces.

We have also been lucky enough to be awarded Turing funding that has meant many of our students have attended all expenses paid for trips to Austria, Cyprus, and Vienna where students were able to carry out industry placement in international settings, as well as having a great holiday! For 24/25 we have bid for more trips through Turing to destinations including The Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Malta, and Cyprus, and are hopeful that students joining us from September will benefit from these fantastic opportunities.

I am very proud of our college and the fabulous experience we offer students at West Lancs. The quality of teaching and learning is second to none and our excellent wrap around support ensures our students have the very best opportunity to succeed, and I am positive that we can offer your child one of the very best post-16 options in the area.

I invite you to attend our forthcoming Parent/Carer Information event on Tuesday 25th June 4.30pm-7pm, but if you have any queries or questions, our team of advisers will be more than happy to help! You can contact them on **01695 52300** or email **enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk**

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Best wishes

**Gareth Sutton**  
Vice Principal



**"Learners are highly motivated to learn and to develop their skills and knowledge. They work diligently inside and outside the classroom."**

Ofsted January 2022



# Courses to suit all learning styles

Choosing the right course for your child can seem daunting, but the main things to consider are their learning style and their career aim, if they know this.

## BTEC's

A BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma is equivalent to three A Levels A\*-C. BTECs are nationally recognised, work-related qualifications that give students the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to progress to University, an Apprenticeship or employment.

BTECs are ideal if the student knows what career they'd like to embark on. They combine practical learning with subject theory content, so they really prepare students for their next step. At West Lancashire College, we offer BTECs in Art and Design, Computer Science, Early Years Education, Engineering, Health and Social Care, Sports and Uniformed Public Services.

## Advanced Level Courses

Advanced Level 3 courses are studied over 2 years and are broadly equivalent to A Levels. They are designed to give students the skills and education that prepare them for their vocational careers or progression to University.

Similar to BTECs, Advanced Level courses are ideal if the student knows what career they'd like to embark on. At West Lancashire College, we offer Advanced Level courses in Criminology, Psychology and Human Biology.

## Technical Courses

Technical courses are industry specific and offer training at a variety of levels. They provide knowledge and practical skills required to progress into further study, skilled employment or Apprenticeships.

We offer technical courses in Beauty Therapy, Bricklaying, Carpentry and Joinery, Electrical Installation, Hairdressing, Motor Vehicle and Plumbing.

## T Levels

T Levels are a brand-new vocational qualification, designed to provide students with all the skills needed for their future. They are a 2-year qualification, designed in collaboration with employers to bring classroom lessons and industry placement together.

At West Lancashire College, we offer 5 exciting T Levels in Business, Digital, Education and Childcare, Engineering and Health where students will spend 80% of their time in the classroom and 20% on an industry placement to ensure they develop all of the skills and experience that employers are looking for.

## Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships offer young people the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification whilst gaining skills with an employer and receiving a salary. They are ideal for students who are ready to enter the world of work.

We offer Apprenticeships in Carpentry and Joinery, Electrical Installation and Engineering. Our Apprenticeship team work with employers across the region to recruit Apprentices and if we don't have a current vacancy in their chosen sector, we will support your child to find a suitable employer.

If you are unsure which is the best option, one of our Careers Advisors will be more than happy to help.

Please contact **01695 52383**  
or email **admissions@westlancs.ac.uk**





# FREE College Coach Service

We are delighted to be able to offer students joining us this September access to a free college coach service delivered by Maghull Coaches.

Services run twice per day to bring students in for morning lessons and pick up for the return journey home at 4.30pm each day.

Our designated coach services pick up from the following locations:

**Liverpool** – Kirkby, Aintree, Maghull, Aughton, Ormskirk, Westhead, Old Skelmersdale

**Southport** – Formby, Birkdale, Southport, Scarisbrick, Burscough, Parbold, Newburgh, Ashurst

**Wigan** – Hawkley, Winstanley, Goose Green, Marus Bridge, Pemberton, Orrell, Upholland, Digmaor, Tanhouse

Please contact Learner Services for further details:  
**01695 52393 / ask-the-adviser@westlancs.ac.uk**

\*subject to eligibility and availability

**95%**  
**Student Satisfaction**

\*Induction Survey 2023

## £1m funding for campus investment

We are delighted to announce that we have recently been awarded £1m worth of funding from the Local Skills Improvement Funding (LSIF) and government T Level funding to further enhance our beautiful campus in the town centre of Skelmersdale.

We have some fantastic facilities including The School of Science, The Hair & Beauty Lounge, Advanced Construction and Engineering Centre, the Sports Performance Lab and the Electrical Centre. The additional funding has meant we are able to develop our facilities further for the benefit of our students, both current and future.

Funding in improving various teaching areas is already in place, as well as into an employability hub which will incorporate innovate meeting and delivery spaces. Alongside this, we aim to refurbish the social spaces for our students including study pods, relaxing seating areas, a modern dining experience, plus a brand-new visitor reception area.

Our Digital classrooms now boast state-of-the-art computer equipment which includes Stone Magma High Performance Workstations (Assu B660M-A) with a number of bespoke aspects for each individual computer, including fully modular quiet PSU and Windows 11 Home Advanced.

The Health Care department now has a real-life hospital ward for students to train in, complete with reception, waiting area and hospital beds. The Ward is packed with some fabulous resources including a catheterization simulator, a Seymour II wound care simulator, Hemiplegia Simulator and GERi complete nursing skills manikin.

Early Years students can now train in a mock primary school setting, a specialist practical classroom that contains children's furniture and a wide range of children's teaching aids that will support and inspire our students thinking, as well as virtual babies that offer students that chance to experience what caring for a baby really entails.



Gareth Sutton, Vice Principal said, "we were extremely grateful to be awarded the LSIF and T Level funding and have invested into areas that will have the most impact on our student experience. We are proud to be able to offer some of the very best teaching facilities and current technologies around and would love the local community to visit the college and see firsthand. Do come along to one of our events or if you would like a personal campus tour, please contact us and we will happily book a slot."



# Our Alumni

West Lancashire College students progress into some fantastic careers, and we are so proud of the achievements of all our students, here are just a few of our recent alumni:



HANNAH SAID

## Hannah

**Former Our Lady Queen of Peace RC High School pupil**

**Studied:** Health & Social Care and Psychology

**Progressed to:** Paediatric Nursing at Edge Hill University

"I have enjoyed my courses as they aren't based solely on exams; students have been able to express themselves through assignments where we have incorporated our own ideas."



DIANA SAID

## Diana

**Former Lathom High School pupil**

**Studied:** Public Services Level 3

**Progressed to:** Education and Special Educational Needs at Edge Hill University

"West Lancashire College has provided me with a stable foundation, as it does for all of its students, enabling them to venture into any career or field of study that they wish to pursue."



ABIGAIL SAID

## Abigail

**Former Ormskirk High School pupil**

**Studied:** Business Administration Level 3 Apprenticeship

**Progressed to:** Distance Learner Data Administrator at NCG

"I have recently completed a Level 3 Apprenticeship in Business Administration. I found this course immensely fulfilling and have experienced unwavering support from both the staff and my fellow apprentices. I have been able to hone my abilities in communication, understanding of business operations and project management skills all of which I hope to apply to future career opportunities within the Creative sector. I would implore anyone to consider completing an Apprenticeship, as it will not only give the opportunity to gain professional knowledge but also allow for personal development and individual growth."



BEN SAID

## Ben

**Former Burscough Priory pupil**

**Studied:** Children's Play, Learning and Development Diploma Level 3

**Progressed to:** Education and Special Educational Needs at Liverpool Hope University

"I knew that West Lancashire College could provide me with the skills I needed for university. I've enjoyed the placement, where I've had the opportunity to work in the setting."



AUSTIN SAID

## Austin

**Former Lathom High School pupil**

**Studied:** Computing Level 3

**Progressed to:** Cyber Security at University Academy 92

"My course has allowed me to enjoy meeting people like myself and form strong friendships because of our common interest: computers. I've learnt a lot on my course and it has helped me figure out what I want to specialise in. I am looking forward to studying Cyber Security at University."



BENJAMIN SAID

## Benjamin

**Former Up Holland High School pupil**

**Studied:** Motor Vehicle Level 1 and Computer Science Level 3

**Progressed to:** Games Programming at Edge Hill University

"I really enjoyed learning about new programming languages and how to interpret code at West Lancashire College, which has led me to studying at University for the necessary knowledge to become either a software developer or a C# developer."

# Fully funded international trips for West Lancs students!

This year, we are delighted to have been able to secure government funding through Turing for educational international trips to some fantastic destinations.

Turing is the UK's global programme to study and work abroad whose objectives are levelling up across the UK, to develop student skills and also provide value for UK tax payers. The funding has enabled us to offer the trips all expenses paid, which is a fantastic opportunity for our students.

Our Health and Social Care students visited Malta in April and carried out their industry placement in an international hospital and care settings. Digital Technologies, Construction, Engineering and Motor Vehicle students visited Austria just after Easter and undertook industry placement in some of the leading car manufacturers, construction and digital companies in Vienna. In June, Education and Early Years students will be attending Cyprus where they will work in an international school.

For 24/25 we have bid for more trips through Turing to destinations including The Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Malta, and Cyprus, and are hopeful that students joining us from

September will benefit from these fantastic opportunities.

For more information about the T Level courses that we offer, please visit

<https://www.westlancs.ac.uk/apply-now/t-levels/>



# Parent Event

Our Parent/Carer information evening has been designed to help as your child transitions into post-16 education and there will be lots of information available on the night to support you.

You will be able to talk to our team of dedicated support and teaching staff about a variety of topics, including:

- The next steps
- When your child will enrol
- Transport to and from college
- Student support
- Financial support
- Additional learning support
- Uniform, it and equipment requirements
- Subject information

We look forward to welcoming you!

Please book your place at **Eventbrite.co.uk** or scan the QR code below.



You can hear from our Vice Principal Gareth Sutton at the welcome presentations at 5pm and 6pm. You are welcome to call in at any time between 4.30pm and 7pm on Tuesday 25th June 2024.





# How can I support my child?

As a parent, you know that this is a crucial time for your child as they decide on their next step. Below, you will find out frequently asked questions that we hope will help you to support them in their decision on their post-16 education.

## College or Sixth Form – which is best?

The choice of this depends on the individual student. As a college, we offer T Levels, BTECs, and Vocational courses which will lead into further study at University, employment or an Apprenticeship in a more adult-set environment. We also offer technical courses where students can learn a trade or skill. Our programmes of study aim to provide skills which promote independence, build resilience and allow students to progress onto their next step, whatever that may be.

## When should my child apply to college?

Your child can apply to study at West Lancashire College whilst they are in Year 11 and as soon as they feel confidence with their preferred course choice. We would advise that they send in their application as soon as possible, as they will then have the best chance of securing a place.

## How does my child apply?

Completing the application is easy and can be completed on any mobile device, laptop, computer or iPad.

- Visit our website [www.westlancs.ac.uk](http://www.westlancs.ac.uk)
- Search for your child's chosen course and complete the online application
- You will receive confirmation of the application in an email
- Our Admissions Team will shortly be in touch to talk through the application and to inform them of what happens next. We will keep in touch throughout the year with lots of useful information about college life

## What should I do if my child does not know which course to choose?

We advise anyone who is unsure to visit our Open Events to receive a taster of our courses. We also have a team of Careers Advisers who can provide a Careers Guidance Interview Monday to Thursday, from 4pm-5pm. To book, please call **01695 52383** or email [admissions@westlancs.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@westlancs.ac.uk)

## What will it cost for my child to study at West Lancashire College?

If your child is under 19 on the 31st of August in the year that their course starts, the course tuition is free. Some courses do have associated costs with uniform and/or kit, but this will be discussed at the interview. Financial support is available for those who need it.

## Is financial support available?

Information on transport, bursaries and help with uniform and kit costs will be discussed at the interview. We offer a free college coach service and have a superb financial support package for our younger students.

## Is there information for parents of students who have already applied?

Once your child has applied to study with us, they will be invited to attend an interview where they will receive more information about the college, as well as be given the opportunity to talk with the subject tutors, ask questions and receive specialist guidance on all courses.

## My child has accepted a conditional offer but has changed their mind about which subject(s) they would like to study. What will happen next?

It is very common for students to change their mind during the application stage. Anyone wishing to change their mind should contact our Admissions Team on **01695 52383** or [admissions@westlancs.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@westlancs.ac.uk)

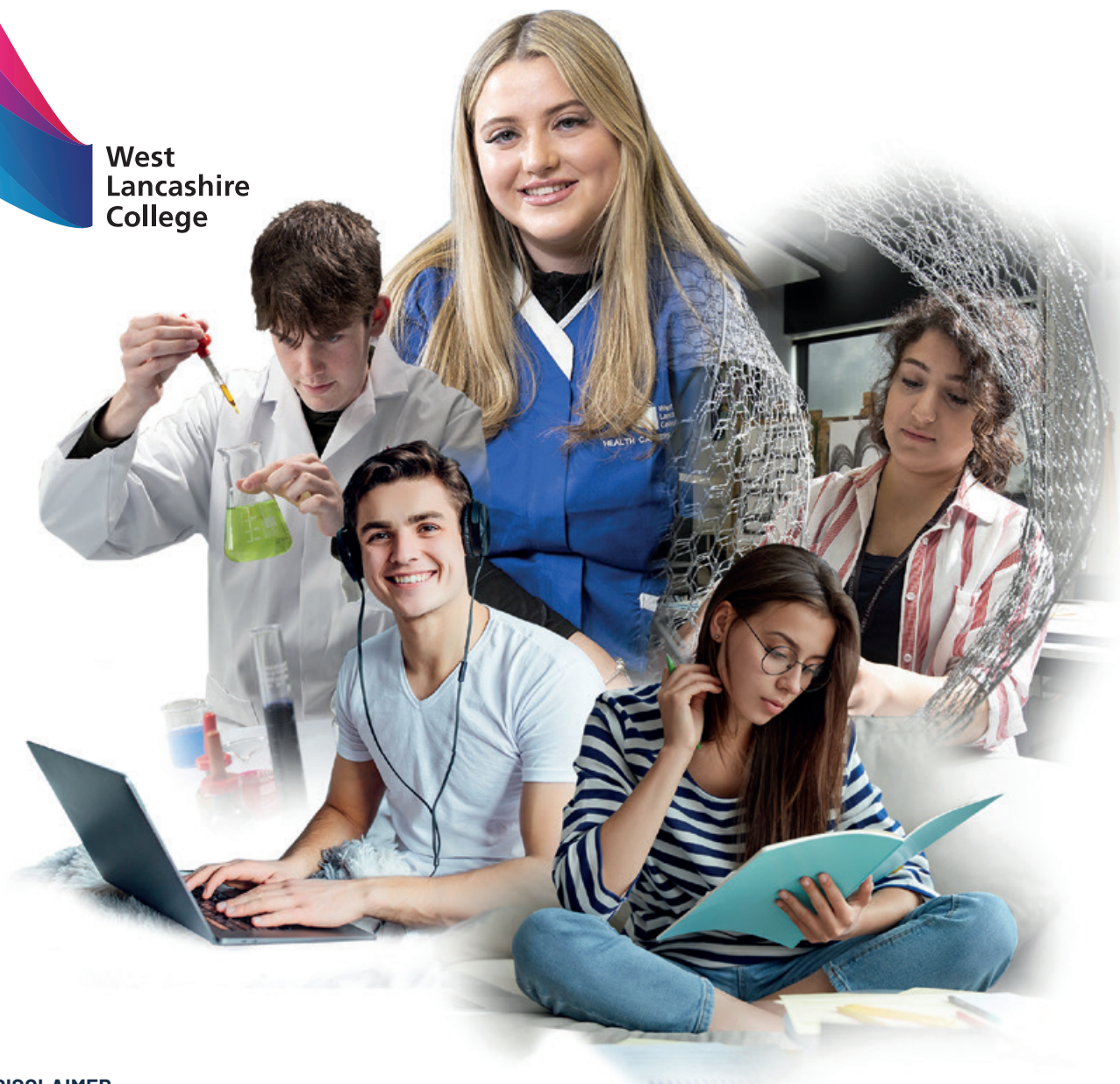
Applications who change their chosen subject may need a further interview to establish if the course is suitable to them.

When does my child start at West Lancashire College? All applicants with an offer of a place will be written to in August with a date and time to enrol. If you have not received a letter by mid-August, have misplaced the letter or are unsure of the arrangements, please call our Admission Team on **01695 52383** who will be happy to help.

**Learners are starting to develop their work ready skills through good quality work experience and work placements.**

Ofsted January 2022





## DISCLAIMER

Information and courses published in this guide is intended for guidance purposes only and does not constitute a contract.

West Lancashire College makes every effort to ensure that the information on courses given in this guide is up-to-date and accurate. However, the information may be subject to change, and we do not guarantee its accuracy. NCG and West Lancashire College do not accept any liability for omissions, errors, or changes.

We reserve the right to review or amend entry requirements for any of our courses.

On occasion, it is necessary to move or withdraw courses owing to a variety of reasons. The College cannot, therefore, guarantee the provision of all courses advertised in this guide. Where a course is removed or amended, the college will make every effort to transfer students to a suitable and available alternative course.

Where applicable, we follow the guidelines set by funding authorities. Fees are subject to status and may change at short notice due to circumstances beyond our control. The fees payable are those in force at the time of enrolment, which supersedes any that may previously have been advertised.

## West Lancashire College

College Way, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6LH

Phone: **01695 52300**

Email: **[enquiries@westlancls.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@westlancls.ac.uk)**

Visit: **[www.westlancls.ac.uk](http://www.westlancls.ac.uk)**

