



West Lancashire College Strategy Towards 2030



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PART OF



Christian Thersby

Principal, West Lancashire College

For over four decades, West Lancashire College has stood as a cornerstone of vocational and technical education across West Lancashire and its neighbouring communities. As a proud member of NCG—one of the UK's leading national providers of further and higher education and Apprenticeship training—our College is uniquely positioned to lead and innovate in a rapidly evolving educational landscape.

Our new strategic plan builds on this legacy with a bold and ambitious vision for the future. At its core lies a steadfast commitment: to deliver an exceptional learning and educational experience that empowers every learner to achieve their full potential and prepares them for lifelong success. At the same time, we will strengthen our role as a dynamic partner to local employers and a responsive contributor to the economic and social development of our region serving all stakeholders.

With deep roots in our community and a clear eye on the future, West Lancashire College is poised to shape the next chapter in education—one defined by excellence, inclusion, innovation and sustainability.



Liz Bromley

CEO, NCG

West Lancashire College is an anchor institution at the heart of Skelmersdale, at a time when communities need the opportunities provided by further education colleges more than ever.

As part of NCG, West Lancashire College plays a key role in supporting our mission to enable social mobility and economic prosperity in the Lancashire region and beyond.

West Lancashire College works in partnership with local government, employers, civic and community stakeholders, to develop and deliver high-quality education that is responsive to local, regional and national skills needs. These partnerships support West Lancashire College and NCG to develop a workforce of the future, with the skills and talents that our local communities need to be successful and sustained. Working alongside partners and through the Local Skills Improvement Fund, we have recently invested in the refurbishment and electrification of our training kitchens. This has enabled the re-introduction of Catering & Hospitality programmes as a response to meeting skills needs in the local and regional visitor economy,

Learners are at the heart of West Lancashire College, and I have seen first-hand the life-changing opportunities and experiences on offer here. West Lancashire College have many fabulous initiatives including fully funded international trips via Turing, a designated free college coach service and a free breakfast sponsored by local employers, all introduced to support social mobility and ensure students have the very best chance of success.



West Lancashire College – part of NCG

West Lancashire College is proud to be part of NCG, one of the country's leading college groups, supporting tens of thousands of learners through its nationwide network of colleges:

- Carlisle College
- Kidderminster College
- Lewisham College
- Newcastle College
- Newcastle Sixth Form College
- Southwark College
- West Lancashire College

As part of NCG we work in partnership to support a clear mission – to enable social mobility and economic prosperity through exceptional education.

NCG colleges offer a wide range of vocational Further Education and Higher Education courses and training programmes, including apprenticeships, employability and workplace learning, and work to support those in our communities who need it most. We're the first Further Education institution in the UK to be awarded Taught Degree Awarding Powers (TDAP) on an indefinite basis, enabling us to develop and award our own Honours and Master's degrees.

Together, we play a key role in providing education and training to learners, apprentices and employers across



the UK, building a skilled and talented workforce for the jobs of tomorrow.

We believe in the transformative power of education, and we develop partnerships with government, employers and community stakeholders that help us to address local, regional and national skills challenges, respond to the needs of our region's key industries and support the ambitions of our local and national government. These collaborations are key to our success in changing lives and accomplishing real change for individuals, communities and economies across the country.



West Lancashire College Purpose

West Lancashire College has a pivotal role in providing vocational and technical education in West Lancashire and the surrounding area, its purpose is to deliver NCGs mission and strategy in a way that meets the needs of our local area.

Our vision is to position West Lancashire College at the heart of our local community, being recognised for

the work we do supporting social mobility through a skills and careers focussed curriculum that connects individuals to opportunities and enables people to fulfil their potential. Our strategy has been formed within the framework of NCGs Strategic Pillars and is aligned to the Lancashire Local Skills Improvement Plan.

➤ Lauren

“West Lancashire College gave me the opportunity to achieve something that I never thought was possible. My Access to Nursing & Midwifery course allowed me to change my career seamlessly. Working full time and doing an evening course was one of the most challenging times I’ve faced but the support and flexibility made my journey so much easier. After what feels like 5 minutes at Edge Hill University, I have now secured a job as a Midwife and can’t wait to start my new journey!”

Lauren, Access to Nursing and Midwifery

West Lancashire College Context & Place

West Lancashire College is a small community-based college in the heart of Skelmersdale delivering a range of vocational and technical qualifications. Situated within commuting distance of Manchester and Liverpool, and close to the M6 corridor, the college is well placed to serve a diverse range of skills needs in the locality.

Lancashire is one of the most diverse economic areas in the country, with no urban core but a polycentric set of towns and cities, rural and coastal areas, agricultural and industrial zones. With a population of 1.5m people, Lancashire's 55,000 businesses generate 700,000 jobs across a range of important and future-facing sectors from manufacturing and tourism to cyber, digital and low carbon. The thriving £35bn economy is home to globally leading firms with sector/supply chain clusters including the fourth largest aerospace cluster in the world. There is a pan-Lancashire labour market, particularly for technical and professional roles while workforce is also imported from and exported to neighbouring areas including Greater Manchester, Cumbria and the Liverpool City Region.

Lancashire is characterised as having a lower job density than is typical nationally (77 jobs for every 100 working aged people compared to 85 in Great Britain), and a workforce that has a lower proportion of residents with higher level qualifications (LLSIP, March 2023). Lancashire's working age population is decreasing,



and significant numbers are leaving the workforce as a result of ill health or caring responsibilities. In addition, businesses in some sectors are experiencing challenges finding workers who are appropriately qualified or have the qualities they are looking for.

Within West Lancashire, Skelmersdale and the surrounding areas have some of the highest indices of deprivation for employment, health, and education. West Lancashire College, along with other anchor institutions in the local area are collaborating to help build an inclusive economy to serve the region's needs. In line with the Lancashire LSIP, we work with other education providers and employers to make sure skills and qualifications are closely aligned to labour market demands so businesses have a skilled and productive workforce to draw upon.



Our Vision

West Lancashire College will be at the heart of its local community, recognised for the work we do in supporting social mobility through a skills and careers focused curriculum that connects individuals to opportunities and enables people to fulfil their potential throughout their lives.

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Our Mission

West Lancashire College will enable social mobility and economic prosperity through the provision of an outstanding learner experience, supported by meaningful collaboration and partnerships which connect learners to exceptional opportunities.

Our Strategic Objectives



1

We will provide an exceptional learning experience for all our learners.



2

We will improve our financial viability to support good financial health and ensure the long-term future of the college.



3

We will develop a highly skilled and high performing workforce that motivate and inspire our learners.



4

We will further develop our work with local stakeholders to enhance the learner experience through curriculum design, work experience and progression opportunities.



5

We will expand our curriculum offer and generate sustainable growth in learner numbers to meet local skills priorities.

Local Employer Partners



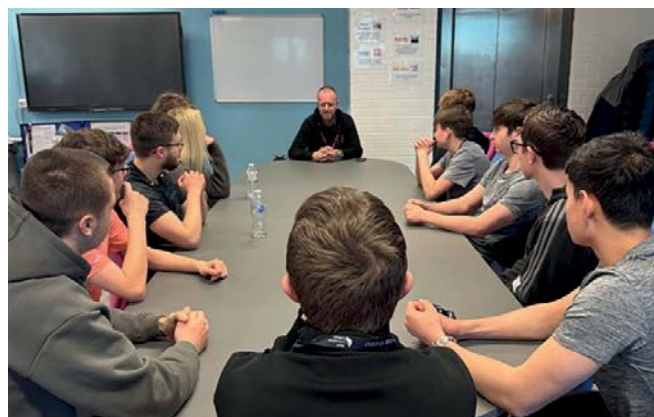
“Tawd Valley Developments is delighted to be working with West Lancashire College. As the local Skelmersdale based Council owned development company, we are active on a range of projects both small and large in nature ranging from the masterplan for regenerating Skelmersdale Town Centre down to a block of 12 apartments at the heart of the local Digmoor community. We have a strong partnership with the college, supporting Careers Fairs alongside our contractors and have recently provided a number of work placements for students. College students have also been engaged and active on several of our sites supporting biodiversity improvement schemes, bricklaying and carpentry relevant to their course studies.”

Mark Kitts, Managing Director Tawd Valley Developments



“West Lancashire College has been instrumental in fostering the development of construction skills amongst its students, which in turn has greatly benefited our local and regional economy. Their proactive collaboration with businesses, like ours, ensures that the curriculum is perfectly aligned with the industry’s demands. This partnership has been invaluable in preparing a skilled workforce that meets the current and future needs of employers.”

Derry Green, Owner of The Secret Garden Glamping



> Dean

“The opportunities given to me at West Lancashire College have been amazing – international trips, regional competitions, and industry placements with companies including Envision Media, Grafit Display Hire and JNM Exhibitions where I have supported developing websites. We have also had the opportunity to visit lots of universities to explore our future options, and I am delighted to have been offered a place to study BSc (Hons) Software Development at the University of Salford.”

**Dean, T Level Digital Production,
Design and Development (Digital) Level 3**



West Lancashire College

College Way
Skelmersdale
WN8 6LH

Tel: 01695 52300

Email: enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk

www.westlancs.ac.uk

NCG

Rye Hill House
Scotswood Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7SA

Tel: +44 (0) 191 200 4000

Fax: +44 (0) 191 200 4517

www.ncgrp.co.uk

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