

Parent Newsletter

Take a fresh look at
West Lancashire College!



West
Lancashire
College



100%*
pass rate on Level 3
BTEC courses

*2020 College achievement data

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to let you know about some exciting updates at West Lancashire College both to our course offer, investment into our building and facilities, some fabulous forthcoming events and information on how you can support your son or daughter as they progress to their next step through these uncertain times.

We are very proud of our college, the excellent support we provide to our students and the great opportunities we offer to connect young people to their chosen career.

We have very good student satisfaction, excellent achievement rates that are above the sector benchmark and an exceptionally high number of students who progress to a positive sustained destination.

Visiting the college in person is sadly not possible at the moment, however we are working closely with our local partner schools to provide a range of online resources offering information, advice and guidance and careers support. We are very much still here to support your son/daughter, whether they are in Year 10 or 11, we can offer course, support, careers and general college information, or just help to provide reassurance through these very difficult times.

Our next Open Virtual Open Event is on Monday 8 February, 6pm-7pm, where you can view a range of online subject specific videos, course and support information and take a virtual tour. In addition, there will be a live Q&A with our Teachers where you can ask questions either by video or chat function. If your son/daughter would prefer a personal one to one chat, we have introduced an Applicant & Parent Hotline open 9am-5pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-4.30pm Friday. Simply call 01695 52383 or email admissions@westlancs.ac.uk to arrange a suitable time.

Applications for entry to college in September 2021 are still open, and interviews continue to take place by telephone, Teams or Zoom. Further details can be found on our website www.westlancs.ac.uk

Whatever you thought you knew about West Lancashire College, please take a fresh look, I am positive we can offer your son/daughter one of the very best post 16 options around.

I do hope you and your families are keeping safe and well, and I look forward to seeing you at West Lancashire College in the very near future.

Best wishes

Denise Williamson
Principal

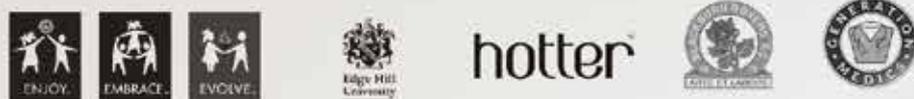


Get better connected with West Lancashire College

At West Lancashire College we pride ourselves on the strong connections we have with employers across the North West Region and beyond. These connections all lead to fabulous opportunities for our students which include:

- Immersive Industry Placements
- Work Experience
- Industry guest speakers
- University visits
- Industry visits appropriate to each subject area
- Mentoring
- Mock interviews and job preparation
- Live Projects
- Industry Careers Advice

All of the above, plus our qualifications have been shaped by local, regional and national employers ensuring your son/daughter will have the appropriate skills for the North West jobs market, or the qualification they need to get to university. We have a massive choice of courses including BTECs, A Levels, Technical qualifications and Apprenticeships, at levels to suit all abilities. For course details please visit www.westlancs.ac.uk/courses



Introducing our unique A Level Schools

The School of Medicine and The School of Science offer much more than standard A Levels. Our unique programmes have been designed in partnership with leading employers and universities, including the West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group and Edge Hill University, to give students a distinct competitive edge for progression to study Medicine and the Sciences at university.

Students study traditional A Levels alongside immersive work experience on our Discovery work placement programme, attend workshops and seminars delivered by professionals and University Professors, are prepared for university tests including UKCAT and MMI for those applying for Medical degrees, plus have the opportunity to attend inspiring guest speaker and guest seminar events.

The School of Medicine is now in its second year and over the last few weeks we have been busy preparing our medics for BMAT and UCAT Medical school exams. Our students had some outstanding scores, not least William Skelton, former Rose Bridge High School pupil, who was placed in the top 20% of all entrants in the UK.

Our medical students have now submitted their personal statements and UCAS applications to various medical schools across the UK ranging from local medical schools such as Manchester, Leeds and Lancaster to those further afield such as Oxford and Glasgow.

Our attention is now on preparation for medical interviews, this is done through our partnership with Generation Medics, an award-winning, non-profit founded company, founded by Doctors in Oxford to support people to lead successful careers in healthcare. All students will be prepared on common questions, techniques and the unique qualities each specific medical school looks for. It will culminate in simulated mock interviews with multiple stations, just like the real thing.



Our A Level Schools are unique, offering 33% more contact time than other A Level programmes, and with our outstanding partnerships with industry, West Lancs A Level students leave college with skills and connections that are second to none.

If your son/daughter would like to find out more about joining our unique A Level Schools, please contact Admissions on **01695 52383** or email **admissions@westlancs.ac.uk**

Will set for University of Oxford

We are super proud to announce that William Skelton, School of Medicine Student and former Rose Bridge High School pupil, has received an offer of a place to study Medicine at St Anne's College, University of Oxford. This amazing achievement is brought into focus when you consider that over 2900 year 13 students applied, this number was whittled down to 400 for approximately 100 places.

Will has worked extremely hard over the last 18 months, culminating in some excellent predicted grades (A*, A*, A*) and superb UCAT and BMAT (medical aptitude tests) that put him in the top 20% of medical applicants in the country.

As well as in class support from The School of Medicine staff, Will has been partnered with an Oxford Medic graduate to support him through the process. The School of Medicine team and whole of West Lancashire College wish him the very best of luck!



92%*
**of learners progress
to a positive
sustained destination**

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 ultimate career aim, if they know this.

A Levels - A Levels are great for students who are interested in progressing to university or higher-level studies and have enjoyed GCSE style teaching and learning in school and are comfortable with examinations as the main form of assessment. A Levels are also good for those who are still unsure of their future career as they enable students to keep your options open for a little longer. At West Lancashire College, we offer a range of traditional A Level subjects through The School of Medicine and The School of Science that allow entry to degree level study in medicine and the sciences.

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

BTECs are great if you know the career you would like to embark on and they combine practical learning with subject theory content, so really prepare students for their next step. At West Lancashire College we offer BTECs in; Art & Design, Business, Childhood Development, Computer Science, Engineering, Health & Social Care, Performing Arts, Psychology, Public Services, Science, Sports Science and Travel & Tourism.

Technical Courses - Technical courses are industry specific and offer training at a variety of levels. They provide knowledge and practical skills needed to progress into further study, skilled employment or Apprenticeships. At West Lancashire College, we offer technical courses in Beauty Therapy, Bricklaying, Carpentry & Joinery, Electrical, Hairdressing, Motor Vehicle, Plastering and Plumbing.

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 great for pupils who are ready to enter the world of work. At West Lancashire College, we offer Apprenticeships in: Bricklaying, Business Administration, Carpentry & Joinery, Customer Service, Dental Nursing, Electrical Installation, Engineering, Hairdressing, IT Infrastructure, Pharmacy Technician, Plastering and Plumbing & Domestic Heating. 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 son/daughter to find a suitable employer.

If you are unsure which is the best option for your child, one of our Careers Advisers would be more than happy to help. Please contact **01695 52383** or email **admissions@westlancs.ac.uk**



Investing in their future

At West Lancashire College it is our priority to give young people access to the very best facilities, resources and opportunities. Over a number of years, we have made a significant investment. In 2011 we invested £42.8m in a brand new campus situated in Skelmersdale town centre, which benefited from the addition of a £2.5m Construction, Engineering & Logistics Centre in 2019.

We have recently embarked on our latest initiative to enhance our fabulous campus giving our current and future students even more opportunities to benefit from amazing facilities and resources.

Thanks to £1.3m funding from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal Programme, which aims to unlock growth and give local people the ability to drive forward growth for the area, we are currently constructing a new STEM Centre which will house a large, hi-spec, fully equipped laboratory, preparation room, external teaching space and an Engineering suite.

The STEM Centre will support the delivery of our unique A Level programmes; The School of Medicine and The School of Science, Access to Medical Science and Applied Science courses, and offers students access to the very best specialist equipment and technology. It also provides an opportunity to further enhance our offer with the addition of Apprenticeships in Pharmacy Technician and Dental Nursing.

In addition, we have created brand new Gas assessment bays in our Construction Engineering & Logistics Centre, which has enabled us to deliver the much sought after Plumbing Level 3 Apprenticeship and other industry standard gas courses. We have also upgraded much of the machinery and equipment in the Centre.

The investment has also allowed us a very exciting refurbishment opportunity; one of our current IT Suites will be converted into a 'Gaming Cave', a Virtual Reality environment with wall to ceiling screens and the very latest in digital technologies, which will enable us to train people to support the current digital skills gaps in our region.

Finally, we have installed a brand new CCTV system and have upgraded WiFi across our campus - we now have 1.1Gbps connectivity to the Internet. That's around 30 times faster than the standard fibre broadband speed you get at home, giving our students faster connections, greater user capacity and more coverage!

About Lancashire's Growth Deal programme In the last three years the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has successfully secured £320m of Growth Deal investment from the Government's Local Growth Fund. This funding, one of the largest Growth Deal settlements to be allocated to a LEP, is designed to help improve and upgrade existing commercial infrastructure, kickstart new economic initiatives, and unlock additional private investment to drive further growth across the county. Over 40 projects have directly benefitted from the LEP's Growth Deal Programme. These include: • New and improved transport connections including the Blackburn-Bolton Rail Corridor; the Broughton Bypass; the Centenary Way Viaduct; and the Hyndburn-Burnley-Pendle Growth Corridor; • World-class higher education, research and vocational skills provision and facilities including UCLan's flagship Engineering and Innovation Centre; the national Energy HQ in Blackpool; Lancaster's Health Innovation Campus; and Myerscough College's Food & Farming Innovation Centre; • A wide-ranging package of regeneration programmes specifically for Blackpool including a new international conference centre at the Winter Gardens complex; the development of Blackpool town centre 'Green Corridors'; traffic management, bridge and road improvements and an extension of Blackpool's tram network. The Growth Deal programme will help to generate up to 11,000 new jobs, create 3,900 new homes and attract £1.2 billion of additional public and private investment for Lancashire. Lancashire's Growth Deal programme is also fully aligned to other major economic initiatives such as the £450m Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal, the £20m Growing Places Investment Fund, and the Lancashire Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Enterprise Zone Cluster. For more information visit www.lancashirelep.co.uk

WLC Alumni

We are so proud of the great things our former students have gone on to achieve, here are just a few...



Niamh Donnelly

WLC: Performance Academy Student, achieved D*D*D*

Higher Education: BA (Hons) in Acting at the University of Central Lancashire

School: Our Lady Queen of Peace High School

Now: Actor, represented by Janet Hampson Personal Management and starring as 'May' in Series 5 of BBC's 'The Break'.



Romans Ilemenovs

WLC: Art & Design Extended Diploma, achieved D* D* D*

Higher Education: BA (Hons) Comic & Concept Art, Leeds Art University

School: Upholland High School

Future Career: Concept Artist



Alex Murray

WLC: A Levels & BTEC Law

Higher Education: BA (Hons) Applied Psychology at Liverpool John Moores University, and a Masters in Health Psychology

School: Our Lady Queen of Peace High School

Now: Support Worker for children in residential care



Matt Smith

WLC: Information Technology Extended Diploma D*D*D*

Higher Education: BSc Games Programming, Edge Hill University

School: Our Lady Queen of Peace High School

Future Career: Games Programmer



Melanie Hughes

WLC: Business Extended Diploma, achieved D*D*D*

Higher Education: Primary Teaching with QTS at Edge Hill University

School: Lathom High School

Future Career: Primary School Teacher



Ryan Wilkes

WLC: Business Extended Diploma, achieved D*D*D*

Higher Education: Higher Apprenticeship

Now: Bid Management Co-ordinator, Kuehne & Nagel, Bid Management Co-ordinator



Lucy Sephton

WLC: Health & Social Care Extended Diploma, achieved D*D*D*

Higher Education: BSc (Hons) Midwifery at Edge Hill University

School: Lathom High School

Future Career: Midwife

How can I support my child?

As a parent you know that this is a crucial time for your son or daughter as they decide on their next steps. Below are frequently asked questions that we hope will help you to support them to make decisions on their post-16 education.

College or sixth form, which is best?

This very much depends on an individual student. West Lancashire College offers A Levels and Vocational courses which lead to University, employment or Apprenticeship in a more adult environment to a school or sixth form. We also offer Technical courses where students can learn a trade or skill. Our programmes aim to provide skills which promote independence, build resilience and allow students to progress onto their next step whatever it may be.

When should my child apply to college?

Your son/daughter can apply to college whilst they are in Year 11 and as soon as they feel happy with their preferred course choice. We would advise that they send in their application as soon as they can and no later than the Easter holidays to have the best chance of securing a place on the course they have chosen. Please note, we will still consider applications we receive after the Easter holidays.

How does my son/daughter apply?

Completing the application is really easy and can be done from any mobile device or laptop.

- Choose a course/programme
- Visit our website – www.westlancs.ac.uk/apply
- Complete the online application
- Receive confirmation of application email
- Our Admissions Team will be in touch to talk through the application and let them know what happens next and will also keep in touch throughout the year with lots of useful information about college life.

What should I do if my son/daughter does not know which course/career to choose?

We advise anyone who is unsure to visit one of our Virtual or in person Open Events. We also have Careers Advisers who can provide a Careers Guidance Interview 4pm-5pm Monday to Thursday. To book a Careers session call 01695 52383 or email admissions@westlancs.ac.uk

What will it cost for my son/daughter to study at West Lancashire?

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

Is there any financial support available?

Information on transport, bursaries and help with kit/uniform costs will be covered at interview. We offer a FREE college coach service and have a great financial support package for our younger learners.

Information for parents of students who have already applied

Once your son/daughter has applied to college they will be invited to attend an Interview either via telephone, video call or in person, where they will receive more information about the college, have the opportunity to link with subject tutors, ask questions and get specialist guidance on all courses.

My son/daughter has accepted a conditional offer but has changed their mind about which subject/s they would like to study

It is very common for students to change their mind during the application stage. Anyone wishing to change should contact the Admissions Team on 01695 52383 admissions@westlancs.ac.uk

Applicants changing their chosen subject may need a further interview to establish if the course is suitable.

What if my son/daughter does not get the GCSE grades they need?

We know that students don't always get the grades that they were predicted, and the main thing is for them not to worry. They should still come along to their enrolment appointment where we will be able to discuss all options available. This may mean looking at alternative courses or a lower level course in the same subject area where possible.

Can my son/daughter apply to more than one college/sixth form?

Yes, students can apply to as many different colleges as they wish. They can then decide, through research, visits and taster days where they would like to study. We would ask for them to let us know their decision as soon as possible after their interview.

When does my son/daughter start at College?

All applicants with an offer of a place will be written to in August with a date and time to enrol.

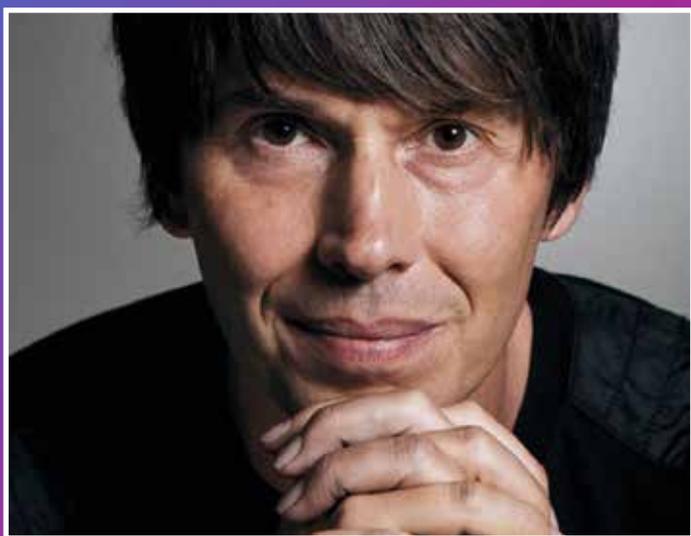
If they have not received a letter by mid-August, have misplaced the letter or are unsure of the arrangements, please call the Admissions Team on 01695 52383 who will be happy to help.



95%*
Student
satisfaction

*2020 on Programme College Survey Data

WLC to welcome Professor Brian Cox at Science Summer School



Amidst the challenges facing us all at present, we are very pleased to share some positive news which will excite all students with an interest in making a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM).

Professor Brian Cox MBE will be joining us 'in person' at West Lancashire College on Tuesday 6 July 2021, where he will host the first Science Summer School to take place in the North West and, sharing his vision that "Britain is the best place to do science".

Science Summer School is an annual event, hosted by Professor Brian Cox, with the aim to inspire young people to pursue careers in STEAM and become the

next generation of Britain's scientists. This year's event has been organised in partnership with Well North Enterprise, the college and a group of West Lancashire High Schools including Lathom, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Upholland, Bishop Rawsthorpe, St Bede's, Burscough Priory, Ormskirk School and West Lancs Community High School.

Professor Cox's visit and vision are timely. Simply put, we need to encourage more young people into careers spanning science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. The national situation may be bleak at present but we must look to the future and STEAM subjects offer fabulous career opportunities for young people.

There will be opportunity for the young people of West Lancashire to attend Science Summer School 2021 through their school, and we will share more details with you nearer the time.

In the meantime, if your son/daughter is interested in STEAM subjects, we have a number of options available including The School of Science and The School of Medicine A Level Programmes, BTECs in Applied Science, Engineering, Art & Design and Computer Science.

You can find out more at
www.westlancs.ac.uk/courses

Further Information

If you have further questions, we are here to help. Please contact our Parent/Carer Hotline **01695 52383** or email admissions@westlancs.ac.uk

Virtual Open Event

Monday 8 February 2021, LIVE Q&A 6pm-7pm,
to register your interest go to www.westlancs.ac.uk

West Lancashire College, College Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 6LH
01695 52300 / www.westlancs.ac.uk / admissions@westlancs.ac.uk