

# MORE THAN A COLLEGE COURSE

A parents' guide to our College community



*"My daughter leaves College as a much more confident and independent person. I'd like to thank you for everything that you have done to contribute to her development - you have had a very big and positive impact on her."*

Yvonne Wilcock

# A message from the Principal

Deciding next steps after school has never been easy. We have set out this guide to help you gain an understanding of the support the College offers its students, not just academically, but in a much broader sense to help them on their journey into adulthood.

From pastoral care and enrichment activities during their time at College, to helping them understand their choices in terms of next steps, we've set out the ways in which we help young people develop into adults who have clear choices and a sense of purpose.

We hope you decide to join us to benefit from all we have to offer at this exciting stage of your child's life, when we can work together to provide the best possible life outcomes for them.

Anna Dawe  
Principal and CEO





# Employers we work with

## OUR LINKS WITH EMPLOYERS

We are proud of the links we have developed with employers, either through our work experience opportunities, our guest speaker schedule, or our employer events.

These strong relationships mean that students can learn at first-hand the career opportunities open to them relating to their particular area of study.

Our employer networks help us stand out from the rest of the post-16 institutions locally, and their support leads to many of our students going on to secure work after further or higher education.



BENTLEY

**electricium**

**Kraft Heinz**



MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL

**MBDA**  
MISSILE SYSTEMS



Next Stage  
4 Life



Wrightington, Wigan and  
Leigh Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust



sofology

THE  
**Cutting Rooms**  
HAIR SALON

**electricity**  
north west

Bringing energy to your door



GREENMOUNT  
PROJECTS



making  
space



**NHS**

North West  
Ambulance Service  
NHS Trust

GLASS FOR FUTURE



Nippon  
Electric  
Glass



Sellafield Ltd

Wigan  
Council

# Student Support

## PERSONAL TUTORS

At the beginning of term students will be assigned a personal tutor, who they will get to know when they become a member of a regular tutor group.

They will help them settle in and adjust to College life.

Personal tutors will:

- guide them through their course
- create an action plan to help them reach goals
- track progress and achievements
- help them access other support
- offer advice about overcoming challenges.



## LEARNING AND STUDY SUPPORT

Our Learning Resource Centres are based across the College, with library access to a wide range of books, magazines, newspapers, subject specific publications, DVDs and CDs.

Students may access computers and online resources, including the College intranet, Office applications, e-books, WiFi

access and Moodle - the College Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

Staff are on hand to help with enquiries and support to find the most relevant information relating to courses.



## ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT (ALS)

We welcome those with learning difficulties and disabilities. The ALS team is based at Parsons Walk and offers services for all centres.

To find out more call 01942 761887.

Each College Centre has a dedicated Head of Studies who will make sure students receive as much pastoral support as they need. This may include help to keep attendance up, or support with developing study skills to maximise potential.

Their role is to ensure that high standards are maintained and that all our students enjoy a positive learning experience during their time at College.

## HEADS OF STUDIES

They each lead a team of Student Liaison Officers, whose main role is to ensure an outstanding student experience and help them settle in to the College community. They can help address any issues your child may have in adjusting to the transition from school to College, or at any time throughout their studies.



# Support with next steps

## FAB FUTURES

Our Fab Futures team works with students to raise aspirations, explore careers options and develop employability skills, so they have the best chance of progressing to great jobs, apprenticeships, universities or higher level study when they leave College.

The specialist team supports:

- exploring careers options
- progression to the next course at College
- applications to universities
- finding an apprenticeship
- studying a Pre-Apprenticeship Programme
- securing meaningful work placements
- developing employability skills
- finding employment.

***“The FAB Futures team has given my daughter lots of guidance and support throughout her animal management course, helping her to find the right university and support through the UCAS application process. She has now been accepted into her first choice university”***

## WORK EXPERIENCE AND INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

Students will be expected to take up work experience as part of their course. It's the best way to not only develop confidence and gain an insight into the world of work, but also for them to start to learn to network with professionals. Many of our students progress to employment or apprenticeships following their work placements.



### LAUREN ALTY

**Former school:** Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy

**Course:** Level 3 Hairdressing

Lauren progressed from Level 2 Hairdressing and is doing her work placement at Alan's 4 Hair in Chorley, where she has been offered a full-time role when qualified.

***“I like the salon. The clients are friendly and the owner is very understanding and patient - it's a great working environment.”***

***“I learn the skills at College and put them into practice at the salon. I mostly enjoy colouring, as you can be really creative with it.”***

***“I want to own my own salon to mainly focus on colouring and extensions.”***

## MILLIE GALLAGHER

Millie impressed her industry placement bosses so much, that they offered her a part-time job to fit around her studies.

She is loving her experience at One Vision Studios, the non-profit group that provides training courses for people with learning disabilities in all aspects of media production.

Her experience has helped her decide to follow a career supporting those with learning disabilities.

T Level Health student Millie Gallagher also reached the UK finals of WorldSkills UK.



## MEET THE EMPLOYER EVENTS

We host a programme of events that you and your child will be invited to, where you can meet employers who are actively recruiting apprentices, or looking for young people to fill skills gaps after they achieve their qualifications.

**Monday 24 April 2023**

The Centre for Advanced Technical Studies  
New Market Street Wigan WN1 1RP

*“My son attended the Meet the Employer event at College as he was coming to the end of the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. This opportunity was amazing. He met lots of employers in the engineering sector to discuss his career plans and ambitions.*

*As a direct result, Ben was successful in securing an apprenticeship at Erlson Precision Components as an Apprentice Engineer”*



## STUDENT DESTINATIONS 2022

More than 450 students progressed to university

More than 750 students progressed to an apprenticeship or employment

More than 2,200 students progressed to their next steps in education





# Financial support

## BURSARIES\*

Bursaries are available for full-time students aged 16-19, who have a household income of less than £26,000 per year.

Your child could receive:

- **£55 each month**
- **travel support**
- **free College lunch.**

\*2022 bursary offer which may be subject to change for 2023

## CHILD BENEFIT

You will continue to receive Child Benefit until your child is 19. [www.gov.uk/child-benefit](http://www.gov.uk/child-benefit)



## TRANSPORT/TRAVEL/PARKING

If you live in Greater Manchester they may apply for a FREE bus travel card, called Our Pass.

A £10 admin fee is payable to Transport for Greater Manchester for Our Pass, but those eligible for the College's 16-18 bursary will have this fee reimbursed.

### Eligibility

- **16 and 17 year olds**
- **those 18 years old after the 31 August 2023.**

Those who are 18 years old before 31 August 2024 should apply for the College's free Arriva or Stagecoach bus pass.

Visit [Our Pass](#) for more information or to apply.



## FREE ARRIVA AND STAGECOACH BUS PASS



The FREE bus pass is available for full-time students aged 16-18 on or before 31 August 2023. Your child may save up to £379 a year.

The free bus pass can be used throughout the day, evenings and weekends.

Visit the website for [terms and conditions](#)

## FREE COLLEGE MEALS

Eligible full-time students can have a free meal each day they are in College, up to the value of £2.60 a day.

If your child is on a mandatory work placement, they are also entitled to a free meal bought off site.

To qualify you will need to be in receipt of certain benefits or meet other criteria. More on eligibility criteria [here](#)

## FREE COLLEGE BREAKFAST

All 16-18 year old students are offered FREE breakfast on the days they attend College, between 8.30am - 8.50am Monday - Friday during term time.



*"You have been a beacon of trust for my daughter from day one, willing always to work with her, encouraging, supporting, engaging, offering solutions to meet her needs, building a bridge of support that has helped her begin to believe in herself."*

Jeff Fieldsend

**WIGAN & LEIGH  
COLLEGE IS  
RATED 'GOOD'  
ACROSS ALL  
PROVISION  
TYPES**



*"I always felt happy to leave my granddaughter in your care and it made her so happy to be in College. I have watched her develop from a shy and introverted young lady to a happy, confident and motivated woman with a positive attitude to her future."*

Victoria Holcroft

# Enrichment

Life beyond the classroom is rich, varied and rewarding. Students will have every opportunity to enhance their learning with wider activities, which are not only loads of fun, but provide a boost to applications for university and employment.

Enrichment activities develop new interests, increase knowledge and skills, improve self-confidence and provide a welcome respite from the pressure of passing exams.

## TRIPS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Your child will be encouraged to expand their horizons and learn more about how their skills can be used outside the UK on annual trips abroad. College trips abroad are sometimes funded, however in some instances you may be required to top up the costs.



### FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF HISTORIC FEMALE AUTHORS

A Level English, History and Sociology students took a trip to the Bronte Parsonage at Haworth to visit the home of the literary sisters, authors of *Wuthering Heights* and *Jane Eyre*. They learned more about the lives of the Brontes, took a tour around the Parsonage, visited the church and explored the West Yorkshire village. On their return journey they visited the grave of poet Sylvia Plath to pay their respects.



### ITALIAN SKIING TRIP

Health & Social Care students took their first post-lockdown trip abroad with work experience in Folgarida, Italy.

Alongside practising their people skills working in hotels at the ski resort, they found time to hit the snow slopes learning how to ski.

The trip was part of the Erasmus+ Programme, which funds education, training, youth and sport in Europe.



## PASSION FOR PROSTHETICS

Students with shapeshifter skills visited the Prosthetics Event - the annual educational conference for media makeup artists.

Level 3 Media Makeup students were wowed by the stunning transformations carried out by industry greats such as Nick Dudman, Bill Corso and Jake Garner, whose careers include work on Harry Potter, Star Wars, Batman and many more blockbuster movies.

Students rounded off the day witnessing Neill Gorton transforming makeup and drag artist Alexis Stone into Mrs Doubtfire.



## SPORTS TEAMS IN EUROPE

Sports students and staff were delighted to see the return of the annual fortnight's training camps with Benfica, Portugal and Catalans Dragons in France.

The trips saw rugby teams coaching more than 60 junior Catalans players. Alongside altitude training, wrestling, weights and ice baths, the rugby team cycled the coastal path to the beautiful town of Collioure.

Meanwhile, those on the Football Development programme took a tour of the Estadio de Luz, home to the Benfica team. Between training sessions and friendly games they managed to fit in a sightseeing trip of Lisbon.





# Enrichment

## COMPETITIONS

Students learn lots from becoming a contender in College-wide, regional or national competitions.



## GM SKILLS COMPETITION SUCCESS



Students secured a range of awards at the Greater Manchester Colleges Group (GMCG) Skills Competitions. Graphic designers took top spot at Stockport College with a website brief set by mental health charity Mind.

The College hosted the performing arts competition, at The Edge venue, where students Blake Lockley and Elisha Westbrook won the Level 2 Dance and Level 2 Music competitions.

They performed in front of a packed auditorium for a judging committee, including former Hollyoaks actress Helen Noble.

Meanwhile, construction students scooped first place in Level 1 Brickwork and Level 2 Plumbing at Bolton College.

## WORLD SKILLS UK GOLD AWARD FOR APPRENTICE PLASTERER



Apprentice plasterer Sam Dean scooped the Gold Award at the national finals of the WorldSkills UK plastering competition. The apprentice at IB Plastering impressed the judges with his technical ability.

Sam said: *"It was a good experience, especially seeing all the other trades and their work. We had to showcase a bit of everything from running moulds, floating and skimming to beading up, and using casting plaster moulds and coving."*

Sam was one of just six competitors to reach the final.



## GUEST SPEAKERS

The College has developed lots of strong partnerships with employers, locally, nationally and internationally, so students will have every opportunity to hear from guest speakers from their particular industry sector, or even from politics and the news media.



### ANDY BURNHAM'S MESSAGE FOR STUDENTS

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, visited the College to speak to future public sector professionals.

*"I didn't believe at your age that I could have achieved what I have. You can often achieve more than you think if you keep a sense of belief and focus."*



### CELEBRITY SPEAKERS SHARE THEIR ROUTES TO SUCCESS

A Level students heard from those at the top of their game in the worlds of politics, PR and reporting when broadcasters Alistair Campbell, John Simpson,

David Blunkett, Krishnan Guru-Murthy and Evan Davis shared the secrets of their success, as part of a virtual guest speaker programme.



# Working together

## HOW YOU CAN WORK WITH US

We hope that you consider joining our College community. Your role is vital in helping prepare your child for the future and we aim to work closely with you to help them achieve their goals.

## CONTACTING US

If you want to find out more about any aspect of the route to College please contact us on:

**01942 761 600**

## PARENT WEBPAGES

For more about being a College community parent visit our webpages specifically aimed at current students' [parents](#).



## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

We are committed to creating an environment where learners, staff, governors, visitors and other stakeholders actively promote equality and diversity, tackle bullying and discrimination and narrow the achievement gap.

The College embraces and celebrates the differences between people, recognising the strengths and benefits of a diverse, inclusive society, workforce and student body.

No one is treated less favourably because of race (including ethnicity, colour, national/ethnic origins and nationality), sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief/non-belief, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, maternity/paternity or pregnancy, political belief, social status or career status.

## PARENT EVENTS

If your child decides to join us, you will be invited to a series of parent events, so that we can make sure that we are working together to support them in their next steps.





# Applying for College

## PRE-APPLICATION

When it comes to choosing options after school there are many ways we can help you both make that all important decision:

- Take part in a [virtual tour](#) of our learning centres.
- Visit our [website](#) to browse our courses and look at entry requirements.



- Visit our [open events](#), have a look round our centres, meet our staff and current students and find out more about the courses and facilities we offer.



## FOLLOWING APPLICATION

After completing an application form, either online, or by filling out the printed form in our prospectus, we will:

- Send them an appointment for their admissions interview, to discuss whether the course is right for them and how it aligns with their career aspirations.
- Following a successful interview, we will send a conditional offer based on them achieving certain GCSE grades.
- Depending on the course they have chosen, we may invite them to attend an audition, portfolio event or skills testing.
- We hold applicant welcome days in July, when they will come in to College to sample their chosen subjects, meet the tutors and other students who will be joining them on their course in September.
- Once they receive their GCSE results, we will invite them to College to complete their enrolment.





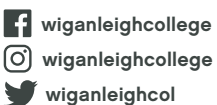
'LEADERS AND TEACHERS PROMOTE, AND LEARNERS AND APPRENTICES BENEFIT FROM A CULTURE OF CARE AND SUPPORT ACROSS THE COLLEGE. THEY CREATE AN OPEN, HONEST ENVIRONMENT WHERE LEARNERS AND APPRENTICES FEEL EMPOWERED TO RAISE ANY CONCERNS THAT THEY MAY HAVE. STAFF ARE PROUD OF THE INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT THEY CREATE IN WHICH MOST LEARNERS AND APPRENTICES FLOURISH'



## PARSONS WALK CENTRE

- CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING
- CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TECHNICAL STUDIES

4.30pm - 7.30pm • Monday 24 April 2023



01942 761 111  
wigan-leigh.ac.uk



 Wigan & Leigh  
College

# OPEN EVENING