

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Most students aged 16-18 can enrol on a study programme for free, as their fees are funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

There is a range of financial assistance available including:

- Free college meals for 16-18s*
- Free Breakfast (term-time only)
- Care to Learn* - For students with children who are using a registered childcare provider, government funding for childcare is available through the Care to Learn scheme.
- Free transport for 16-18s*

Students can also apply for support for any additional course costs such as equipment, trips and books etc.

*Conditions apply

WEEKLY BURSARY

Students may be entitled to a weekly bursary if they:

- Are in care
- Are a care leaver
- Receive income support
- Receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA)

For more information on fees and financial support, please contact the Student Services team on 0151 551 7777 or visit wmc.ac.uk/financial-support.

PARENTS' PORTAL

Wirral Met is keen to work with parents and guardians to support students to achieve the best they can. By registering, you can view the progress your son/daughter is making. After you have logged in you will be able to access your child's attendance, behaviour, timetable and progress from within Parent Portal.

To sign up to receive progress updates on your son/daughter, please visit wmc.ac.uk/parents and follow the instructions.

WE OFFER ADULT COURSES TOO!

We offer a wide range of full-time and part-time courses for adults looking to improve their career prospects or learn a new skill, from Entry Level to Higher Education. Taught by our expert tutors with industry experience, we can help you get qualified and fulfil your career goals and ambitions.

Financial support is available and you may be entitled to free tuition, depending on your circumstances. Call our Student Advisers on 0151 551 7777 or use the Live Chat function on our website Monday to Friday 9.30 am - 4pm (all year round) and Wednesdays until 6.30 pm (term-time only) - wmc.ac.uk.



Wirral Met College

**A guide for parents,
guardians & carers
2021/22**

WELCOME

We value the contact we have with parents, guardians and carers of students aged 16-18. Leaving school and starting College is a very important decision and, as a parent or guardian, you will want to make sure your son or daughter has made the right choice.

We hope you will join us in supporting and encouraging your son/daughter to take their studies seriously, attend regularly, behave appropriately, be punctual and hand work in on time. We will provide you with information on their progress, with regular opportunities to talk to staff about any issues or concerns you may have. Please call 0151 551 7777 if you do have any concerns or visit wmc.ac.uk/parents for further information.

Sue Higginson,
Principal

KEY DATES

Start of Term 1 Wednesday 1 Sep 2021	End of Term 1 Friday 17 Dec 2021	Spring Break Monday 11 Apr to Friday 22 Apr 2022
Half Term Monday 25 Oct 2021 to Friday 29 Oct 2021	Start of Term 2 Tuesday 4 Jan 2022	Start of Term 3 Monday 25 Apr 2022
	Half Term Monday 21 Feb 2022 to Friday 25 Feb 2022	Half Term Monday 30 May to Fri 3 Jun 2022
		End of Term 3 Wednesday 29 Jun 2022

QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED

PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

Our study programmes are available from pre-GCSE to level 3 (equivalent to A Levels) so we can support individual students' needs whatever level they are working at. Your son/daughter's study programme will include: a **main qualification; maths and English** (if they have not yet achieved a grade 9-4 in GCSE maths and/ or English); **work experience and employability skills**; a **personal tutor** to work with them to ensure they have a positive experience and **non-study activities** such as trips, voluntary work and charity fundraising.

TRAINEESHIPS

Traineeships are designed to help young people gain the necessary work skills and experience to progress to an apprenticeship or job. They are a partnership between the employer and the college and involve high quality work experience, English, maths and a period of work preparation training such as developing interpersonal skills, CVs, job search and interview skills.

APPRENTICESHIPS

An apprenticeship is a job with training that develops students' skills and knowledge whilst they earn. We work with many employers who want to recruit apprentices in a wide variety of jobs and sectors.

T LEVELS

T levels are technical qualifications at level 3, equivalent to taking 3 A levels. T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approx 45 days). T Levels are for those aged 16-19 who have finished their GCSEs and want to progress into a job, apprenticeship or university level course. In 2022, we will be offering T Levels in **Onsite Construction, Digital Support Services** and **Education and Childcare**. For more information, visit wmc.ac.uk/tlevels

CAREERS ADVICE

Our information, advice and guidance service holds the matrix Standard, a national quality award which demonstrates that we provide a high standard of impartial information, advice and guidance to help our students explore options and plan the right approach for their career.

Every year we organise a number of events for students and parents to provide information on next steps to Higher Education, apprenticeships and employment.



Visit wmc.ac.uk/student-support/careers-education for details of our Careers Programme, including the START online careers tool.

ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY AND ATTITUDE TO LEARNING

We expect students to attend all sessions on their study programme. Maths and English is a mandatory part of a student's study programme if they have not achieved a grade 4 at GCSE. Punctuality is an important employability skill. Students who are late will miss key learning time and disrupt the learning of others.

The College has a clear policy and procedure regarding attendance and punctuality. Unexplained absences will be followed up with parents/carers as will persistent lateness or any behaviour that suggests a poor attitude to learning. Students who are unwell or have a genuine reason for absence must contact the main switchboard number on 0151 551 7777 (option 3).

ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT

The Additional Learning Support (ALS) Team enables students to be as successful as possible. We have a team of over 60 highly trained and qualified staff, including specialist tutors, communication support workers and learning support assistants.

The team work with students across all subject areas and levels. They provide support for a wide range of needs, including:

- Dyslexia/Dyspraxia
- ADHD
- Moderate/Complex Learning Difficulties
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Autism Spectrum Condition
- Blind or Partially Sighted
- Physical Difficulties
- D/deaf or Hard of Hearing

PASTORAL SUPPORT MENTORS

Our Pastoral Support Mentors can support your son/daughter with:

- Any issues affecting their attendance at college
- Problems relating to finance, childcare or accommodation
- Personal issues
- Physical difficulties
- Any other issues affecting their College courses

The team works with students to overcome any difficulties affecting their course; help your son/daughter set goals and put them in contact with other services who can help.