

# How do we measure up against the Gatsby Benchmarks?

Gatsby benchmarks have become a key framework around which the Government's careers strategy and guidance in college has been built. Warrington & Vale Royal College is committed to providing high quality careers education, information, advice and guidance for all students in order for them to progress into sustainable education, training or employment.

Below outlines how we match ourselves against the eight benchmarks:

## 1 A stable careers programme

We take a whole college approach to planning and delivering the careers programme. Students are provided with numerous opportunities to access information, advice, guidance and careers education throughout their time at college via combination of curricular and co-curricular activities.

## 2 Learning from career and labour market information

Our curriculum is aligned to the needs of industry and local and national priorities. With support from a number of sources, including EMSI data and the Cheshire & Warrington LEP, each curriculum area produces a curriculum intent that is responsive to skills and employment gaps.

## 3 Addressing the needs of each student

Our tutorial programme, ASPIRE is career and destination-focused, helping students prepare for their future success. The programme is differentiated to address the needs of our students. Students complete a flightpath which guides them through their studies and is focussed on equipping students to reach their destination. The college's Transforming Lives Strategy underpins everything we do to support students.

## 4 Linking curriculum learning to careers

The college ensures careers is heavily embedded into curriculum through its design, as well as enlisting support from industry experts to shape the offer and deliver sessions - linking learning to real work experiences.

The college has recently established centres of excellence. Our Business Centre Managers work with industry and curriculum to promote employer engagement and create opportunities for closer working.

## 5 Encounters with employers and employees

Employer talks and live briefs are a regular part of a student's study programme. Each year the college holds Employer Weeks where employers are invited in to speak to our students and interview them for a vacancy post their studies.

## 6 Experience of workplaces

All students on full-time programmes are given the opportunity to undertake an industry placement.

From September 2023 the college will be offering T Level pathways, which have industry placements at their core. For students with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP), our supported internship programme works collaboratively with employers to match job roles to the students' skills.

## 7 Encounters with further and higher education

The college has extensive relationships with universities who frequently attend college, this provides opportunities for our students to gather information and ask questions. The college has a Higher Education and Progression Week where universities, employers and apprenticeship providers deliver talks and showcase their provision.

The college has a provider access agreement which can be found on the college website.

## 8 Personal guidance

All students have access to a highly qualified and experienced team of careers advisors, as well as the college's own online careers classroom.

Warrington & Vale Royal College holds the Matrix standard for advice and guidance.



**Warrington  
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College**

