

RIVERSIDE COLLEGE 2027

Riverside
College
Widnes & Runcorn



Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



99%

Vocational
Pass Rate

100%

T Level
Pass Rate

Open Events

We are delighted to be holding our Open Events on the dates below. Come along to meet the tutors, hear from our students and tour the facilities.

Please check our website for any changes.

Tuesday 20th October 2026, 5pm – 7pm

Tuesday 17th November 2026, 5pm – 7pm

For more information visit our website or scan the QR code to book on to one of our events:

[www.riversidecollege.ac.uk
/open-evenings](http://www.riversidecollege.ac.uk/open-evenings)



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Why Choose Riverside College



**New For 2026
Green Skills Centre**



**New for 2026
Hairdressing Salons**

£28m Investment

We are continually investing in facilities that support our professional courses, inspiring ambition and providing students with industry standard learning environments. In 2026, we opened our new Green Skills Centre and newly refurbished Vita hairdressing salons.



Outstanding Results

- 99% Vocational Pass Rate
- T Level Pass Rate 100% with 95% achieving high grades



Employer Engagement with local and national companies offering students industry experience

Ofsted Outstanding

We have once again been rated Outstanding by Ofsted, highlighting our consistent excellence in education



21 Direct College Buses

which students who live 1.5 miles from college can travel FREE on



Outstanding Tutors who have vast industry experience

Award Winning Support and financial bursaries for qualifying students



Results and the Class of 2026

The Class of 2026 has celebrated a **99%** Vocational Pass Rate and a **100%** T Level Pass Rate, with successful students progressing to university, apprenticeships and directly into jobs in their chosen industry.

Here are a few of the student's destinations:



Thomas Peers

Level 3 VRQ Light Vehicle Maintenance

Automotive Technician, Grangeside of Runcorn

Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic and Church of England Academy



Ashlea Ozanne

Level 3 Advanced Diploma Professional Beauty Therapy

Beauty Therapist, Amoda Beauty Padgate Academy



Daniel Boyes

Level 3 Diploma Advanced Industry
Engineering

Aircraft Maintenance Technician
Apprenticeship, Virgin Atlantic
Wade Deacon High School



Maria Tokarska

Level 3 Extended Diploma Health & Care

University of Manchester, Midwifery
St. Gregory's Catholic High School



Freya Cullen Jones

Level 3 Advanced Diploma Professional
Hairdressing

Hair Stylist, Chadwigs Hair Salon
St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic Academy



Ruby Ungi

T Level Education and Early Years

Primary Education, Edge Hill University
Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy

How to Apply

A step-by-step guide

- **Sign Up:** Visit the website at www.riverside.ac.uk or scan the QR code to submit your application (please ensure you include accurate contact details and fully complete your application by Friday 11th December 2026).
- **College Interview:** You will be invited to meet with a College Admissions Tutor who will help you choose the course/subjects that are right for your future career goals.
- **New Student Day:** Join us in July for New Student Day where you'll get a taste of your course, meet your tutors, and get to know other students, setting you up for a smooth start to the term.
- **Enrolment:** After receiving your GCSE results, you will be invited to attend College to complete your enrolment and find out everything you need to start your course.
- **Let's Go:** Finally, in September, your classes begin.
Get ready for new adventures and learning at college!

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact our Admissions Team via email at courses@riverside.ac.uk or call 0151 257 2022.



Scan Here to Apply
Application Deadline
Friday 11th December 2026

FREE College Buses to start your journey with Riverside College

Students living 1.5 miles from college can travel FREE on our 21 direct routes with Warrington's Own Buses.

Travel to college in style on modern, zero-emission electric buses.

Plus, the latest technology – charge your devices and connect to WiFi onboard!

Use this QR code to download our current timetables



Find out where your closest bus stop is:



Investing in **Your Future**

Riverside College has made a significant investment in it's facilities, ensuring that classrooms, workshops, training salons, and kitchens are equipped with cutting-edge technology that reflects current industry standards and prepares students for future success.

New Vita Salon Opened 2026



Scan the QR
code to watch
our facilities
tour video

Green Skills Centre Opened 2026



Learn in a dedicated Green Skills Centre with industry standard equipment and modern facilities, building the skills, knowledge and confidence needed for careers in the sustainable and renewable energy sectors.

Facilities for an Outstanding Learning Experience







Outstanding Experiences, Successful Students

Riverside College offers a wide range of fantastic opportunities, including work experience, competitions, trips, guest speakers and award ceremonies, all carefully designed to inspire, challenge and prepare students for future success.



Daniel McEvoy, Computing & Digital Skills student, received the Highly Recommended Award for Outstanding Achievement (Post-16) at the Knowsley Education Awards.



Motorsport Students at the Greenpower Education Trust F24+ at Aintree Motor Circuit.



Student achievements are celebrated at the Student of the Month Awards.



Mia Williams, Painting and Decorating Apprentice at Ian Williams, received the prestigious Neil Ogilvie's Special Achievement Award at The Painting and Decorating Association Gala Dinner Awards.



During their work experience with Miss England and the theatre company A Place For Us, students showcased their creative talents in hair and makeup design, contributing to the award-winning production of Les Misérables at the Epstein Theatre while ensuring performers were stage-ready.



Freya Cullen-Jones, Level 3 Hairdressing student crowned the winner of the Concept Hair Magazine Avant-Garde Hair Competition.

Media Make Up student Macy Morris was awarded Best Student Make Up Artist of the Year at Miss England 2025.



Market Take Over Day is a great opportunity for Business students to gain valuable work experience and fine tune their sales skills.



Catering students gain vital work experience at large events including Chester Racecourse.

Enrichment Activities

Experience life beyond the classroom at Riverside College through a wide range of enrichment activities. Join weekly 5-a-side football and table tennis sessions, take part in competitive football, rugby, and netball teams, and get involved in charity events, student clubs, and vibrant social spaces - all designed to support personal growth, spark new interests, and build lasting friendships.

- National Competitions including WorldSkills UK
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Charity and fundraising
- A variety of sports activities including weekly 5-a-side football and table tennis, along with competitive football, rugby and netball teams that participate in AoC leagues
- Annual 5k Race for Hope, Charity Santa Stroll and cross college Padel and Football 5-a-side tournaments
- Driving Theory Classes
- Esports National League
- Pride Club
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Social spaces including Starbucks







Student Wellbeing and Personal Support

At Riverside College, your welfare is our priority. Our Student Services Team is on hand to support with your mental health and wellbeing, as well as providing assistance with financial support, enrichment activities, placements, work experience opportunities, and any general queries you may have during your time at college.

You will be assigned a Personal Tutor who will be there alongside you every step of the way to guide you through college life and help you make decisions on both a personal and academic level.



Parents and Carers

We understand the importance of keeping parents and carers informed, which is why we ensure prompt communication regarding attendance, progress and achievements. Throughout the year, we host welcome evenings and progress evenings where parents and carers can engage with the college community and stay updated on your journey.

Inclusion and Learning Support Team

At Riverside, we have a dedicated team of tutors and support workers who assist students facing barriers to learning. We work with students to write an Inclusive Teaching Plan, identifying and implementing tailored support strategies for teaching and learning. This support may be adapted throughout a student's time at college to help them achieve success and promote the best outcomes for progression. Our team offers support in the following areas:

- Offering specific class support through learning support workers
- Supporting you in organising and planning your work and in developing study skills
- Introducing resources such as assistive technology to promote independent learning
- Conducting assessments for exam access arrangements where applicable
- Supporting students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) through a dedicated EHCP team to plan a smooth transition into college



Find out more
information

Careers and Work Experience

Our dedicated Careers Team helps students explore their options, build essential employability skills, and progress confidently into university, apprenticeships, or employment. Students receive personalised one-to-one guidance from qualified advisers to explore career pathways, make informed decisions, and set achievable goals. We support key employability skills, including CV writing, personal statements, interview preparation, communication, teamwork and leadership.

Through strong employer and industry links, students gain valuable real-world experience through work placements, guest speakers, and careers events. We also provide expert support for UCAS applications, apprenticeships and employment opportunities. For courses with mandatory work experience requirements, our Industry Placement Team helps students secure and complete their placements.



Financial Support

At Riverside College, students can access financial assistance to support them during their studies.

We may be able to support you with:

Travel

FREE Bus Travel for all students who live 1.5 miles from College (See pages 10 and 11 for more details about the Warrington's Own Buses dedicated college bus routes).

Financial Support

Riverside College offers a range of financial support to help students succeed. If eligible, you could receive FREE college meals, and help with the cost of essential course items such as uniforms, kits and equipment.

All support is based on individual financial need and is means-tested following a financial assessment.

For full details on eligibility and how to apply, visit:
www.riversidecollege.ac.uk/student-bursary







COURSES AT RIVERSIDE COLLEGE

Scan here for more information about
courses at Riverside College or visit
[www.riversidecollege.ac.uk/school-
leavers/course-areas](http://www.riversidecollege.ac.uk/school-leavers/course-areas)





“Students and apprentices enjoy a broad curriculum that extends their experiences and prepares them for their next steps, work and life in modern Britain.”

Ofsted Outstanding

Please note: Information is correct at the time of publication, but courses and qualifications may change due to government policy or operational requirements. For the latest course information, please visit our website.

Qualifications Explained

How do you like to learn?

At Riverside College, we understand that everyone learns differently. Whether you are hands-on or more academic, we offer a wide range of qualifications to suit your learning style, career goals and exam grades.

Different types of qualifications on offer to school leavers in this guide:

Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3

Certain subjects begin at Level 1 while others start at Level 2 due to the incorporation of new practical skills. Selected Level 2 qualifications are now delivered over two years, ensuring students gain the skills required for industry success. Some students may advance to Level 3, while some might progress onto an apprenticeship to further their training and qualifications, or other students may go directly into industry.

Level 3 Extended Diploma

This two-year Level 3 course, equivalent to 3 A Levels, develops the skills and knowledge needed for higher education, apprenticeships or employment. Assessment may include coursework, practical assessments and exams.

T-LEVELS

T Levels are Level 3 qualifications studied over two years and equivalent to 3 A Levels. You'll spend 80% of your time in college and 20% on an industry placement, gaining the knowledge and skills needed for higher education, apprenticeships or employment.

From time to time, national changes to qualifications may mean that some courses are updated or replaced. If this affects a course we have offered, we will make sure students are supported and offered the most appropriate qualification to help them achieve their goals. These changes can sometimes affect the duration of a course, reflecting updated industry requirements and the additional skills, knowledge and experience included within the qualification. This ensures students continue to gain the competencies needed for their chosen career path



Apprenticeships

Apprentices are employed full-time, gaining skills and experience through on and off-the-job learning. Off-the-job training typically takes place at college, and achievement is assessed through an independent End Point Assessment, with grades ranging from Pass to Distinction.

Maths and English

Maths and English form part of your programme. If you have not achieved a grade 4 or above in GCSE Maths and/or English Language, you will continue to study these qualifications alongside your course.

Check our website for an up-to-date list of qualification details.

Business and Retail

Business Studies at Riverside College turns big ambitions into real opportunities. You'll build practical, up to date business skills, grow your confidence and explore exciting pathways in marketing, finance, retail, travel and enterprise, setting you up for success in further study or the world of work.

A unique experience of:

- Guest Speakers to provide insights into various industries
- Work Placements to develop confidence and hands on experience
- Trips to companies and businesses in major cities
- Competitions to encourage leadership and entrepreneurial skills



Business Students Take Over Widnes Market

BUSINESS AND RETAIL

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Level 1 Introductory Diploma	Business	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 2 inc. English Language & Maths
Level 2 Extended Certificate	Business	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 3 inc. English Language & Maths
Level 3 T Level (Cronton Campus)	Business, Marketing and Finance	5 GCSE Grade 9 – 4 inc. English Language & Maths





Scan here for all
Business courses

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CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN

Catering and Hospitality

At the Centre of Excellence in Catering and Hospitality, students benefit from training with industry specialists and Michelin Star Chefs, extensive opportunities for paid work experience and hands on training in our state-of-the-art modern kitchens and restaurant; Scholars Restaurant.



Scholars Training Restaurant and Kitchens

Catering and Hospitality students will have the opportunity to train in brand new industry standard restaurant training facilities. The kitchens have been designed to provide students with a range of different cooking amenities to enable them to gain a variety of skills and techniques in preparation for a successful career in the industry.

Facilities include:

- Modern training restaurant and bar with a living wall
- Top of the range modular kitchen equipment
- A well-equipped production kitchen for preparing restaurant dishes
- A mobile teaching station and separate teaching area
- Bakers ovens
- Separate preparation and cooking areas
- Pastry kitchen



HOSPITALITY – FRONT OF HOUSE COURSES

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Level 2	Professional Food & Beverage Services	4 GCSE at grade 9 – 3 including Maths and a Grade 4 in English Language
Level 3 Diploma	Food and Beverage Service Supervision	Level 2 Diploma in Food & Beverage and a good standard of English/Maths



Scan here for all Catering
and Hospitality Courses



CATERING AND HOSPITALITY

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Level 1 Diploma	Catering and Hospitality	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 2 inc. English Language & Maths
Level 2 Diploma	Professional Cookery	4 GCSE at grade 9 – 3 including Maths and a Grade 4 in English Language
Level 2 Diploma	Professional Bakery and Patisserie	4 GCSE at grade 9 – 3 including Maths and a Grade 4 in English Language
Level 3 Diploma	Professional Cookery	Level 2 Diploma in Professional Cookery and a good standard of English/ Maths



Computing and Digital

Computing and Digital Technologies at Riverside College opens the door to exciting opportunities. You'll build confidence and real world digital skills, working with technology that employers value, and progress into further study, apprenticeships or employment in a fast growing, high demand industry with strong starting salaries.

A unique experience of:

- Modern computer suites
- Esports Gaming PCs with RTX 4070Ti graphics cards
- Robotics
- Games Development
- CISCO IT Essentials and CCNA



Enrichment
including the College
Esports Teams



Learn more about our
Computing & Digital Courses.



COMPUTING AND DIGITAL

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Level 1 Introductory Diploma	Cybersecurity Online Safety & Digital Skills	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 2 inc. English Language & Maths
Level 2 Foundation Certificate	Digital Systems and Data	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 3 inc. English Language & Maths
Level 2 BTEC Technical Diploma	Digital Technologies	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 3 inc. English Language and Maths
Level 3 T Level (Cronton Campus)	Digital Software Development	5 GCSE Grade 9 – 4 inc. English Language & Maths
Level 3 National Extended Diploma	Esports, Interactive Media & Enterprise	5 GCSE Grade 9 – 4 inc. English Language & Maths



Riverside College Higher Education

We offer a HNC, HND
and BSc (Hons)
in this subject.
See website
for details.

Construction

At Riverside College, we provide training in a variety of construction courses. Successful students progress into jobs in the industry, apprenticeships and some onto higher education and training.

A unique experience of:

- State of the art Construction Centre with industry standard workshops
- Gas Training Centre
- Links with local and national employers
- Work Experience
- Industry specialist tutors
- Outstanding Apprenticeship Team
- HNC and HND in Construction

Please note: Information is correct at the time of publication, but courses and qualifications may change due to government policy or operational requirements. For the latest course information, please visit our website.

Scan here for all Construction Courses,
including any extra entry requirements.





**Riverside College
Higher Education**

We offer a HNC
Construction in
this subject.
See website
for details.



JOINERY

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
City and Guilds Level 1 Diploma	Joinery	4 GCSE Grade 9-2 inc. English Language & Maths
City and Guilds Level 2 Diploma	Carpentry and Joinery	4 GCSE Grade 9 - 4 inc. English Language & Maths
City and Guilds Level 3 Diploma	Carpentry and Joinery	Level 2 in Carpentry and Joinery and a GCSE Grade 4 or Level 2 English Language and Maths



BRICKWORK

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
City and Guilds Level 1 Diploma	Brickwork	4 GCSE Grade 9-2 inc. English Language & Maths
City and Guilds Level 2 Diploma	Brickwork	4 GCSE Grade 9 - 4 inc. English Language & Maths



PAINTING AND DECORATING

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
City and Guilds Level 1 Diploma	Painting and Decorating	4 GCSE Grade 9-2 inc. English Language & Maths
City and Guilds Level 2 Diploma	Painting and Decorating	4 GCSE Grade 9 - 4 inc. English Language & Maths



PLUMBING

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
City and Guilds Level 1 Diploma	Plumbing	4 GCSE Grade 9-2 inc. English Language & Maths
City and Guilds Level 2 Diploma	Plumbing	4 GCSE Grade 9 - 4 inc. English Language & Maths
City and Guilds Level 3 Diploma	Plumbing	Level 2 in Plumbing and a GCSE Grade 4 or Level 2 English Language and Maths



ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
City and Guilds Level 2 Diploma	Electrical Installation	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 4 inc. English Language & Maths
City and Guilds Level 3 Diploma	Electrical Installation	Achievement of Electrical Installation at Level 2 or equivalent (C&G 2330 Level 2 or C&G 2365 Level 2) and GCSE English & Maths Grade 4 or above



Engineering

The Engineering department provides industry standard training for career development. Our purpose built workshops, developed in collaboration with industry partners, feature advanced technologies, ensuring our students acquire high-level skills and can transition directly into the workplace with nationally recognised qualifications.

A unique experience of:

- New for 2026 Green Skills Centre
- New Hydrogen Centre with a large-scale Hydrogen Training Pipe
- Industry standard engineering and welding workshops
- Work on live projects with local employers
- Industry Specialist Tutors
- Outstanding Apprenticeship Team
- HNC and HND in Engineering at Cronton



Scan here for all Engineering
and Motor Vehicle Courses

ENGINEERING

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Level 1 Diploma	Engineering and Manufacturing	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 2 inc. English Language & Maths
Level 2 NVQ	Performing Engineering Operations (Electrical / Mechanical)	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 3 inc. English Language & Maths or Level 1 Engineering
Level 3 Diploma	Advanced Industry Engineering	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 4 inc. Science, English Language & Maths



**Riverside College
Higher Education**
We offer a HNC & HND
in this subject.
See website
for details.

Motor Vehicle and Motorsport

A unique experience of:

- Latest technology and equipment
- Trips to motor shows and exhibitions
- Links with high profile employers
- Green Car project challenge
- Motorsport car
- Industry specialist tutors



MOTORSPORT ENGINEERING

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Level 2 PEO Engineering (Motorsport)	Motorsport Engineering	4 GCSE Grade 9 - 3 inc. English Language & Maths or completion of a Level 1 Engineering qualification with strong English and Maths results
Level 3 Engineering Technology	Motorsport Engineering	A suitable Level 2 Diploma in Engineering or Motor Vehicle & GCSE Grade 9 - 4 in English Language & Maths

LIGHT VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Level 1 VRQ	Light Vehicle Maintenance	4 GCSE Grade 9 - 2 inc. English Language & Maths
Level 2 VRQ	Light Vehicle Maintenance	4 GCSE Grade 9 - 3 inc. English Language & Maths
Level 3 VRQ	Light Vehicle Maintenance	Level 2 Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance or equivalent Motor Vehicle qualification and GCSE Grade 4 in English Language & Maths

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN

Hair, Beauty, Nails and Media Makeup

At the Centre of Excellence for Hair, Beauty, Nails, and Media Makeup, we have industry standard facilities, including beauty treatment rooms, a nail bar, advanced media makeup studios and NEW for 2026 modern hairdressing salons. Our strong connections with top employers like Peaches and Cream, Lime Pictures, and Clarins offer students job opportunities, work placements, and training on the latest techniques and products.

A unique experience of:

- Compete nationally in competitions, including WorldSkills UK and Concept Hair Magazine
- Industry experienced tutors
- Masterclasses led by industry specialists
- Additional specialist workshops
- Gain hands-on experience in the working training salons
- External Work Experience can include, Miss England Hair & Makeup Team and the award winning 'A Place for Us' theatre production company
- Industry partners and links including Clarins, Mood Hair Colour, NSI and Peaches and Cream
- Extra add on short courses including Lash Lifting and Brow Lamination
- Higher Qualifications (HNC/HND)



**Riverside College
Higher Education**

We offer a HNC & HND
in this subject.
See website
for details.

Competitive Experience

Students have the chance to demonstrate their talents through in-house competitions, with many advancing to prestigious national and industry-led events.



Scan here for all Beauty, Hair,
Makeup and Nails courses

BEAUTY

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Level 1 Diploma	Beauty Therapy	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 2 inc. English Language & Maths
Level 2 Diploma	Beauty Therapy & Nails	4 GCSE at grade 9 – 3 including Maths and a Grade 4 in English Language
Level 3 Advanced Diploma	Professional Beauty Therapy	Level 2 in Beauty Therapy or Level 2 Beauty Therapy & Nails at Riverside College with a good standard of English & Maths. You may be required to attend a practical assessment & interview



NAILS

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Level 2 Diploma	Beauty Therapy & Nails	4 GCSE at grade 9 – 3 including Maths and a Grade 4 in English Language
Level 3 Advanced Diploma	Professional Nails Services	Level 2 in Nails Services or Level 2 Beauty Therapy & Nails at Riverside College with a good standard of English & Maths. You may be required to attend a practical assessment & interview



A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

NEW FOR 2026

Our newly refurbished Hairdressing Training Salons provide a modern, professional environment where you can develop the skills needed for a successful career. While hands-on training has always been at the heart of our hairdressing courses, our updated salons feature contemporary facilities that reflect the standards of today's salons. Working with real clients is an essential part of your learning journey, helping you build confidence, perfect your techniques, and gain valuable customer service experience in a realistic salon setting. This practical experience ensures you are industry-ready and prepared for employment or further study.



HNC/HND in Make Up & Hair Artistry

Students who have successfully completed a Level 3 qualification at Riverside College in Media Makeup, Beauty, Hair, or Nails can apply for the HNC and HND courses in Make Up and Hair Artistry. Scan here for more information.

Media Makeup –
Higher Education
HNC/HND





Macey Morris

Miss England 2025 Student Make Up
Artist of the Year.

HAIRDRESSING

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Level 1 Diploma	Hairdressing	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 2 inc. English Language & Maths
Level 2 Diploma	Professional Hairdressing	4 GCSE at grade 9 – 3 including Maths and a Grade 4 in English Language
Level 3 Advanced Diploma	Professional Hairdressing	Level 2 in Hairdressing with a good standard of English and Maths. You may be required to attend a practical assessment & interview



MEDIA MAKEUP

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Level 1 Diploma	Makeup Artistry with Hairdressing	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 2 inc. English Language & Maths
Level 2 Diploma	Professional Hair and Media Makeup	4 GCSE at grade 9 – 3 including Maths and a Grade 4 in English Language
Level 3 Advanced Diploma	Professional Theatrical and Media Makeup	Successful completion of Level 2 Media Makeup, plus a minimum of GCSE Grade 9 – 4 in English Language & Maths



Health and Care

Health and Care courses at Riverside College are both exciting and innovative, providing students with invaluable hands-on experience in our Clinical Practice Ward and Care Room. These courses include placement hours, ensuring students gain practical industry experience, setting them up for successful careers in health and care.



Riverside College Higher Education

We offer a
FD & BSC (Hons)
in this subject.
See website
for details.



Scan here for all Health
and Care courses



HEALTH AND CARE

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Entry Level	Early Years and Health & Care	N/A
Level 1 NCFE CACHE Diploma	Introduction to Health & Care and Children & Young People	4 GCSE Grade 9 - 2 inc. English Language & Maths*
Level 2 Extended Certificate	Health & Care	4 GCSE Grade 9 - 3 inc. English Language & Maths*
Level 3 Extended Diploma	Health & Care (Riverside College and Cronton Sixth Form)	A minimum of 5 GCSE at Grade 9 - 4 inc. English Language and Maths*

*Students require a clear DBS for placement
(Disclosure & Barring Service - background check)



Early Years and Education

Early Years students will study a wide range of subjects, enabling them to progress into a variety of careers within the Early Years sector. Throughout the course, students will undertake a range of high-quality placements, providing invaluable opportunities to develop their professional skills, knowledge, and industry experience.

EARLY YEARS AND EDUCATION

Level	Course Title	Entry Requirements
Level 1 CACHE Diploma	Introduction to Health & Social Care and Children and Young People	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 2 inc. English Language & Maths*
Level 2	Early Years Practitioner	4 GCSE Grade 9 – 3 inc. English Language & Maths*
Level 3 – T Level	Early Years and Education Assisting Teaching Pathway	A minimum of 5 GCSE at grade 9 – 4 including a Grade 4 in English Language, Maths, and 4:4 in Science. Students must also have a clear DBS*

*Students require a clear DBS for placement
(Disclosure & Barring Service – background check)



Each course includes specific placement hours and opens doors to various career opportunities. Scan the QR code to find the course that suits you best.



Foundation Studies

Foundation Studies is designed to support young people with learning difficulties, disabilities, or those requiring social and emotional assistance during their transition into college. It provides a safe and nurturing environment that helps students prepare for further education and adult life, empowering them to become confident, valued members of society.

Students studying in Foundation Studies benefit from a bespoke campus with its own large outdoor area for activities including sports, gardening and socialising, while also having full access to the wider college's facilities, support services, social spaces and enrichment activities mentioned in this prospectus. Work experience and local community involvement are embedded throughout many programmes, including opportunities to work in the Catering Cup, our community café in Ditton, and take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.



Before starting at Riverside College, you'll take part in visits and activities to help you settle in. Your learning pathway is personalised to your goals, with targets and qualifications to support a meaningful college journey.

Foundation Studies Pathways

- **Pathway to Independence**

Focusing on preparing for adulthood.

- **Pathway to Progression**

Covering a variety of subjects, this prepares students for employment, supported internships or progress onto another college course within this guide. This route includes specialist groups focused on social development and supporting students with anxiety, including those who can work at higher levels, but may need help building confidence and other essential life skills.

- **Pathway to Vocational Studies**

Subject routes include Construction, Catering & Hospitality, Business and Digital Enterprise, where students access industry-standard facilities, often within the main college site, including construction workshops, training kitchens and IT suites, and undertake a relevant industry-recognised professional qualification. This helps prepare students to progress onto one of the other courses within this guide.

Students also study maths and English at the appropriate level including GCSEs.



Contact us on 0151 257 2022 for more information or to arrange a visit.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships at Riverside College let you earn while you learn. With our high achievement rates and successful destinations, you can:

- Get a real job and continue your education
- Work with experienced staff
- Earn a wage and receive holiday pay with paid training
- Have study time related to your role (at least 6 hours a week)
- Gain hands-on experience and valuable skills that employers want
- Choose from various industries and organisations



Apprenticeships

We are proud to have been recognised by the Department for Education as an Expert Provider for Apprentices, one of just 13 providers in England selected to take part in this pilot scheme.



Apprenticeship Career Paths available:

- Accountancy
- Bricklayer
- Business Administration
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Customer Service
- Digital Support Technician
- Early Years
- Electrical Installation
- Engineering
- Hairdressing
- Health and Social Care
- Information Communications Technician
- Metal Fabricator
- Painting and Decorating
- Pipe Welder
- Plumbing

James Green

Royal Navy Accelerated Apprentice scheme
(Air Engineering)
Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy

How to Apply for an Apprenticeship

- We have a current list of available apprenticeships on our website: www.riversidecollege.ac.uk/apprenticeships/vacancies and to apply for any of these apprenticeships you will need to set up an account at www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
- You can also find your own employer. If you have an employer who would like to employ you as an apprentice, please contact our Apprenticeship Team on **0151 257 2828** or email us on apprenticeships@riversidecollege.ac.uk to discuss the next steps.

Entry Requirements for an Apprenticeship

Level 2 – 4 GCSE passes at Grade 9 – 3 including English and maths or equivalent

Level 3 – 4 GCSE passes at Grade 9 – 4 including English and maths or equivalent

We recommend that you also apply for a full-time course alongside your apprenticeship applications.

See page 8 for more information about applying for a full-time course.

Scan to watch our videos celebrating
National Apprenticeship Week,
featuring real apprentices





Powerful Partners for Your Future

At Riverside College, we pride ourselves on forging strong industry connections that provide our students with unparalleled opportunities for growth and success.

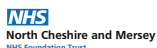
Our partnerships with leading companies, robust career services, and real-world project experiences ensure that our students are not only well-prepared for the workforce but also highly sought after by top employers.

Students also have the opportunity to secure valuable work placements with our partner companies, ensuring they develop industry experience, build professional networks, explore various career options and boost their confidence.

“Leaders plan training effectively with employers to meet their skills needs. They engage very productively with employers and stakeholders to skilfully design and teach the curriculum.”

Ofsted Outstanding

Riverside College works with leading companies to ensure our students are equipped with the current knowledge and skills required in their chosen industries. Some of our esteemed partners include:



Working with industry partners, Riverside College launched the Hydrogen Training Centre and new green energy qualifications to meet the needs and skills shortage in the Liverpool City Region.



Scan here to watch the video of the opening launch



Higher Education Courses at Riverside College

Progression to HNC/HND and Degree Level Courses

At Riverside College, we provide an exceptional opportunity for students to continue their higher education journey within a familiar and supportive environment. By staying with us, you benefit from the same dedicated teachers, convenient locations, and state-of-the-art facilities.

We offer a variety of progression courses including HNC, HND, Foundation Degrees, and Postgraduate Degrees, with many having the option to complete a one-year top-up to earn a bachelor's degree in the following subjects:

- Computing and Digital Technologies
- Construction (Cronton College)
- Counselling (Adults / Children and Young People)
- Education and Teacher Training
- Engineering (Cronton College)
- Health and Care
- Make Up and Hair Artistry
- Sport (Cronton College)

If you have previously studied at another institution, you are also welcome to apply directly to us.

For more information about our courses, please visit www.riversidecollege.ac.uk



Why Choose Riverside College for Your Higher Education?

- Outstanding Results: Achieve your academic goals with a 99% pass rate and 89% high grades for bachelor's degrees in 2026
- Excellence in Education: 64% of our bachelor's degree graduates achieved a 1st Class Honours in 2026
- Financial Advantage: Benefit from lower debt without compromising on the quality of your education
- Exclusive Bursary: Receive a £500 bursary gift if you are a qualifying first-year full-time student*
- Counselling Supervision £600 bursary gift to support your development

Embark on your higher education journey with confidence at Riverside College, where excellence and support go hand in hand.

*Terms and conditions apply.



Riverside College

Widnes & Runcorn



Open Events

Tuesday 20th October 2026, 5pm – 7pm

Tuesday 17th November 2026, 5pm – 7pm

Contact us

Tel: 0151 257 2022

Email: courses@riverside.ac.uk

Please check our website for any changes or additional information:

www.riverside.ac.uk

Riverside College, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QQ

We make every effort to ensure the information in this guide is correct at the time of publication. However, subjects and qualifications are subject to government policy changes, and we reserve the right to make changes to our course offering for operational reasons.

If you would like a copy of this document in large format or braille, please call 0151 257 2800.



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