



Warrington & Vale Royal College Estate Review

Hartford campus is closing. All students and applicants who are affected by this will be receiving a letter from the college, outlining where their course will be held from September 2018.

There will also be student and parent information evenings with key staff.

Our Winsford Campus will be offering a wide range of school leaver and adult courses in September, so please do come along to our Winsford campus Open Day on Tuesday 20th March, 5.30 PM – 8.00 PM if you would like to take a look around.

Please read the below statement for further information.

Warrington & Vale Royal College is set to re-shape the Vale Royal estate and operational aspects of the organisation as part of exciting plans for an enhanced post 16 offer for the Winsford community.

Throughout this first transition year of the merger between Warrington Collegiate and Mid Cheshire College, the college has been committed to improving the learning experience for students across all its campuses whilst carefully monitoring current and prospective student recruitment, and changes to income and costs.

Significant work has been undertaken to market the curriculum, however, the college's income is set to reduce and a review of the college's estate has shown that the college's Hartford campus is seriously under-utilised. Guided by the principles of best value for money and an enhanced learning experience, the Board of Corporation at the college has resolved to de-commission the majority of the Hartford campus from September 2018, preserving priority provision in engineering and advanced manufacturing. Displaced curriculum currently based at Hartford will be re-located to our state of the art campuses in Winsford - in the vast majority of cases - or Warrington.

A college spokesperson said:

“As stated in our original merger proposal, we committed to the consolidation of our estate and in-parallel, curriculum specialisation to match the Local Enterprise Partnership's strategic economic priorities and raise skill levels in response to the government's Industrial Strategy. This, in turn, will facilitate investment in specialist, 'best in class' facilities and resources to meet and exceed industry standards.

“This is part of our strategy to re-shape the Vale Royal aspect of the college's operation and estate, focusing on Winsford as the primary location. We have been working closely with key stakeholders in the Winsford area who have embraced the college in their plans for the re-generation of the town, to which the college is entirely committed.

“In keeping with the aims of the area based review, we will ensure that Warrington & Vale Royal College is financially sustainable and readily able to respond to any challenges ahead, meeting economic and skills priorities and the needs of the communities we serve, both now and in the future. Above all we aim to provide an excellent learning experience and a breadth of provision across the college estate, providing a range of clear progression routes at all levels, from Entry upwards, into positive destinations, higher level study and/or fulfilling careers.

“We have commenced a consultation with staff and trade unions about these proposals to achieve a strong and sustainable future for the college and to ensure that staffing levels are appropriate. 56 full time equivalents (FTE) out of 390 FTE are at risk but wherever possible, volunteers for redundancy from the affected employees will be sought to mitigate the need for compulsory redundancies.

“There is an open evening at the Winsford Campus on Tuesday 20th March, 5.30 PM – 8.00 PM. I would urge prospective students and parents to come along to this event, meet staff, take a look around our fantastic facilities and find out more about our vision for Warrington & Vale Royal College.

“We are writing to all our learners, parents, applicants and stakeholders to inform them of the changes and are holding information evenings over the next few weeks.”