

Frequently asked questions

Q. Why is the Hartford campus closing?

A. The decision to close the Hartford campus has not been taken lightly and the interests of our learners and potential learners remains paramount.

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 currently 15% 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.

Q. Will all courses be moved from the Hartford Campus?

All courses, excluding some of our engineering and electrical provision (Electrical Installation, Performing Engineering Operations and Fabrication & Welding), will be moved to either our Winsford or Warrington campuses from September 2018. The majority of courses will be at Winsford campus.

Q. Where will courses currently held at Hartford be held from September 2018?

Displaced courses currently based at Hartford will be relocated to our state of the art campus in Winsford – in the vast majority of cases – or Warrington for a small number.

Courses ***remaining at Hartford:***

- Electrical Installation
- Performing Engineering Operations
- Fabrication & Welding

Courses ***moved from Hartford to Winsford from September 2018:***

- Business
- IT
- English & Maths
- Foundation Learning
- Health & Social Care
- Childcare
- Public Services
- Travel & Tourism
- Electrical Engineering/Mechanical Engineering L3 and above
- Art & Design
- Gaming, Media & Graphics
- Sport Level 3, 2nd years only
- Access & Health Studies
- Adult & Community Learning
- Professional & Education Studies

Courses moved from **Hartford to Warrington** from September 2018:

- Construction trades: Carpentry & Joinery, Brickwork & Plumbing
- Motor Vehicle
- Science
- Sport
- Performing Arts & Dance
- Music
- Photography

Q. Will free transport be provided for students whose courses are now taking place elsewhere?

We are in the process of speaking to all students, applicants and their parents regarding the changes to course locations.

For courses moved to Winsford:

If learners are on full time study programmes at Winsford campus and live MORE than one mile away from the Winsford campus, they will get a free 24/7 Arriva bus pass.

For courses to Warrington:

A free shuttle bus will be provided from Winsford Bus Terminal (Verdin Exchange), Northwich Bus Station and then to Warrington campus. It will depart Winsford at approx. 7.30 AM and Northwich Bus Station at approx. 7.50 AM and will leave Warrington campus at 4.30 PM.

Q. Are college staff at risk of redundancy as part of the closure of the Hartford campus?

There is a proposed reduction in staffing of 56 full time equivalent (FTE) out of 390 FTE staff. Wherever possible, volunteers for redundancy from the affected employees will be sought to mitigate the need for compulsory redundancies. We would also be interested in any requests for term time online working, reduced hours and flexible retirement. We are currently in consultation with staff and trade unions.

Q. For students who will now study at Winsford, is there an opportunity to look around before September?

There is an open evening at the Winsford campus on Tuesday 20th March, 5.30 PM – 8.00 PM. We would urge current and prospective students, and their 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 also holding parent and learner information events, aimed specifically at continuing learners. The Warrington event is on Wednesday 21st March, 6.30 PM – 7.15 PM and the Winsford event is on Tuesday 27th March, 6.30 PM – 7.15 PM.

Q. Why was the announcement made on social media before informing learners?

Staff were informed at 1.00 PM on Friday 9th March and the media ran with the news, online from 2.00 PM. Letters were sent out first class to all continuing learners and because of the

intense media coverage, a decision was made late Friday afternoon to include a statement on the college website and social media pages. This was deemed necessary, rather than leave communication until Monday. Inevitably some learners did hear about the closure via social media.

Q. Where will my HE course be delivered?

Course Name	Campus
Art and Design: Arts Practice – (Fine Art) HNC/D	Winsford
Business HNC/D	Warrington
Health and Social Care HNC/D	Warrington Winsford
Construction & the Built Environment HNC	Warrington
Creative Media Production	
Art and Design: Graphic Design HNC/D	Winsford
Computing & Systems Development HNC/HND	Warrington Winsford
Electrical & Electronic Engineering HNC/D	Warrington Winsford
General Engineering HNC/D	Winsford
Mechanical Engineering HND	Winsford
Performing Arts HNC/D (Dance)	Warrington
Performing Arts HNC/D (Acting))	Warrington
Music HND – teaching out	Warrington
Applied Biology	Warrington
Applied Chemistry	Warrington
Sport and Exercise Science HNC/D	Warrington
Sports HNC/D	Warrington
Travel & Tourism Management HNC/D	Winsford