

WCG

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



OUR VALUES

- Put the **student first**
- Deliver the **highest quality**
- Act with **fairness, openness** and **respect**
- **Challenge** and **innovate**

“

Raising aspiration and realising
potential through excellence in
learning and development.

WCG Mission





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WELCOME

Welcome to the Annual Report for WCG's activities in 2022, a year where we finally moved on from the major disruption caused by the Covid pandemic, but continued to face major upheavals nationally and internationally. A combination of political turmoil in the UK, the war in Ukraine and the resultant spiralling of costs meant that life was still far from normal. Within this unsettled context, however, WCG staff and students have continued to make significant progress and a real contribution to the local and regional economies in which we operate.

The year started with our receipt of the Queen's Anniversary Prize at St James Palace from HRH Prince Charles and Princess Anne, in recognition of significant work in the development of engineering apprenticeships. We were pleased to subsequently be invited to The Queen's Anniversary Trust Student Trial, focused on sustainability. We were delighted that our project was the only winning college project and assisted our online sustainability learning programme now in place for all students.

We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the spring with tree planting in all our colleges. We then marked the passing of a great monarch in the autumn, with books of condolence at each campus to mark this poignant occasion.

2022 was a year which also saw a significant number of other positive developments and achievements across our college group.

Following degree awarding powers being granted in 2021 we were permitted to use the title Warwickshire College & University

Centre (WCUC) and from 2022 have begun to use this designation for all our higher education provision.

T Level provision for 16-18 year-olds was expanded with delivery across Digital Services, Engineering and the Built Environment, all of which are being supported by additional government investment to create new learning environments which benefit this flagship provision. Further developments are already underway to introduce new pathways in Health, Childcare and Education, Business, Craft and Design and Media Broadcast and Production in 2023.

For businesses and adult learners across the region, WCG led a skills accelerator programme funded by the government's Strategic Development Fund, bringing together the four colleges in Coventry and Warwickshire. The Coventry and Warwickshire Adult Learning programme saw the funding utilised to create a new electric vehicle technology facility at Warwick Trident College, a railtrack training facility and additional construction facilities at Moreton Morrell College. The funding has enabled us to already deliver training in these regionally important skills areas to groups of adult learners.

Whilst the SDF funding enabled facility developments at two colleges, further changes were being made at Evesham College, with the creation of a new central hub building for students and staff, as well as a new entryway into the college.

WCG's achievements were not just restricted to physical development of our estate. The Careers Team were successful in achieving the coveted Quality in Careers award, recognising the outstanding work

carried out across the group by way of independent careers guidance and the group leadership's commitment to this approach.

We expanded our successful Prince's Trust Team delivery, taking on the running of Team programmes in Lincolnshire, integrating them into what is already the largest provision of Prince's Trust Team programmes in the UK. This expansion confirms the confidence which the Prince's Trust has in WCG's provision of these vital programmes.

Finally, the past year has been one with increased focus on our staff's wellbeing. Wellbeing@WCG was launched for the benefit of all our staff and delivered support and education across a number of wellbeing themes during the year, from menopause awareness to pregnancy loss support to managing money.

WCG's place and influence in the region continued to be cemented through the year, with the college being called on as the voice of further education regionally, in events such as the Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce Economic Conference and the innovative new Future Forward conference staged at the Warwick School. In 2023 we will continue to ensure that our group works to meet the skills needs of our region to support its prosperity.



Angela Joyce
CEO, WCG



THE YEAR AHEAD

The economic landscape changed dramatically in 2022, so that whilst the UK emerged from the shadow of Covid, this did not signal a return to 'normal'. Rather, we saw a new set of challenges impact on everyone's lives and across the FE sector, driven by the war in Ukraine, rising energy costs and not least, political uncertainty and upheaval in the UK.

As we enter 2023, some of these factors will continue to have an impact on WCG, including the challenge posed by rising costs set against very modest increases in funding for our learners.

A significant change that will gather pace in 2023 is the Level 3 reforms, which see more T Levels being introduced and a gradual move away from funding for traditional Level 3 BTEC programmes. WCG is well placed to manage this transition, having introduced a number of T Levels in 2022 and with a significant number due to start in 2023 and more in 2024.

The Skills and Post-16 Education Bill will also continue to shape our further education environment, with Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) beginning to take shape for both of the regions we operate in. The Chambers of Commerce in Coventry & Warwickshire and in Worcestershire are both leading the development of these LSIPs and WCG are delighted to be centrally involved, with positions on the board of both LSIPs.

We also anticipate seeing a change in our relationship with feeder schools across the region this year as new Provider Access Legislation (PAL) came into effect on 1 January. This puts more responsibility onto schools to provide opportunities for all pupils in Key stages 3, 4 and 5 to have meaningful interactions with providers like ourselves.



Our work in the last 18 months on the Strategic Development Fund projects in Coventry & Warwickshire should begin to bear fruit this coming year, as WCG will have a range of new adult learning facilities fully in use and with the capacity to deliver new programmes of reskilling to meet the needs of important sectors such as vehicle electrification, railway engineering and construction. These new offers, coupled with the Lifelong Learning Entitlement for adults will see adult learning patterns evolve in the coming years, for which WCG is well prepared.

As all these developments take place in 2023, WCG will focus on maximising the value that we deliver through any additional funding and opportunities that are provided. We will also continue to leverage the benefit of our University Centre branding and Bachelor degree awarding powers, as well as our Queen's Anniversary Prize.

I would like to give my thanks to all the governors, staff and students who have contributed to the success of WCG through their diligent work and dedication throughout the past year and who continue to deliver in 2023.

I am sure that 2023 will create some unexpected challenges and changes, as recent years have, but our experience is that WCG is well equipped to respond positively and dynamically.

Gill Clipson MBE
WCG Chairman

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

I am delighted and flattered to have been appointed as President of Warwickshire College and University Centre in October 2022 and already immensely proud of the work undertaken by the senior team and staff of WCUC who tirelessly work to support businesses and learners across Warwickshire, Worcestershire and, indeed, further afield.

I view this role as an opportunity to champion the great work of WCUC alongside, where I can, connecting our colleges to local employers and stakeholders.

My first duty, in October, was to attend the Graduation Ceremonies where I was pleased to support our Chief Executive in the presentation of certificates to Graduates. The Graduation Ceremonies were wonderful with students and their families and friends at the centre of the celebrations and I was pleased to address the audience as the Guest Speaker.

A further duty, indeed a great pleasure, was to join the senior team in receiving a large number of international guests who were visiting the locality. The international guests were hosted by Warwick Trident College and afforded the opportunity to learn about how one of the most successful college groups in the UK worked to remove barriers to study for learners, and nurtured investment in education & qualifications by local employers.

As a champion of WCUC, I hope to support the Chief Executive and her senior team in progressing the ambition and plans for Moreton Morrell College, including Moreton Hall specialising in hospitality and tourism. This which would add to the existing huge array of education and study opportunities



made available by the group which includes engineering apprenticeships, for which the WCUC holds the Queen's Anniversary Prize.

I very much look forward to my term as President of WCUC.

Louise Bennett OBE DL
WCG and WCUC President



WCG GROWTH AND SUCCESS Just a few of our highlights over the past year...

WCG launches new staff wellbeing initiative

WCG launched in January a new staff wellbeing initiative for its 1300 employees which offers tailored support to create a healthier environment for its employees. The initiative aims to bring wellbeing to life for staff members, and will focus on different topics throughout the year that are tailored to their needs. Employees will be invited to take part in awareness training, join online community forums and will be provided with guides featuring information and top tips to build awareness. They will also be signposted to a variety of external support services as well as WCG's Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) provider should anyone require additional help. The first topic being covered is menopause support, followed by domestic abuse, pregnancy loss and bereavement support.



Queen's Anniversary Prize awarded to WCG at St James's Palace



His Royal Highness Prince Charles and Her Royal Highness Princess Anne presented WCG with a prestigious prize which recognises its pioneering work in developing future engineers. WCG was presented with The Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in a ceremony at St James's Palace in February 2022, following the initial announcement in November 2021, in recognition of the college's work in the engineering sector over the last quarter of a century. WCG was the only college from the Midlands to be recognised among the 2020-2022 winners, one of 21 winning universities and colleges from across the UK with only five other colleges receiving this accolade.



Fundraising success for community garden project at Birmingham church

Young people from Birmingham have raised £3,300 to fund works to create a new community garden at a church in Selly Oak. The funds to create the new space at St Mary's Church were raised by students enrolled in The Prince's Trust Team programme, which is delivered in the area by college group WCG in partnership with West Midlands Police. Students enrolled on the programme then used the funds to purchase materials and carried out the works themselves to create two large planting beds for the community at the church to use.



WCG provides an inclusive experience online

WCG now provides an inclusive online experience to enable website visitors to access online content and services barrier-free. As part of our diversity and inclusion strategy, website visitors are now able to access a wide range of accessibility and language support tools to customise their digital experience through Recite Me assistive technology. Being able to offer an inclusive experience is essential to support over 20% of the population who may encounter barriers when exploring our website due to having a disability, learning difficulty, visual impairment or if they speak English as a second language. The Recite Me assistive toolbar on our website includes screen reading functionality, multiple reading aids, customisable styling options, and an on-demand live translation feature that boasts over 100 languages including 35 text-to-speech and styling options.



Worcestershire colleges partner to ensure delivery supports regional economy

Three major Worcestershire colleges have joined forces to ensure education and training provision is developing skilled workers to support the needs of the regional economy. College group WCG, Kidderminster College and Heart of Worcestershire College have secured funding through the Government's Skills Accelerator Progression Fund to launch the collaboration, titled the Connectors project. It will focus on how colleges can implement the Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIP) in Worcestershire.



MP praises major Evesham College redevelopment plans

Nigel Huddleston, MP for Mid Worcestershire, praised major redevelopments at Evesham College after attending a consultation event showcasing the plans. He visited the week-long consultation alongside residents, councillors and employers to find out more about the Evesham New College plans. The college held four events over the course of a week to help people to better understand its plans to create a college focused on developing technical skills and meeting local and regional economic needs. The event displayed boards that detailed the plans for the college site, which include retaining the three key buildings that house all the workshops, studios and salons required for technical programmes, as well as relocating the main college entrance.



Tutor 'braves the shave' for Macmillan Cancer Support

A tutor from Evesham College has 'braved the shave' and raised more than £400 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Maison McDonnell, from Solihull, raised vital funds by shaving off his hair for charity. His Level 1 and Level 2 plumbing students came up with the idea to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, which the students had already supported through a shoebox appeal at Christmas.



The Prince's Trust Team Programme relaunches in Lincolnshire

A major programme which provides opportunities for young people to develop new skills and strengthen their career prospects has relaunched in Lincolnshire. The Prince's Trust Team Programme Lincolnshire, which operates across Grantham and Lincoln, offers participants a free 12-week employability course which aims to help young people develop employability skills and enhance their CVs. The programme has not been operational in the area since before the pandemic, but is now relaunching with new team leaders and a host of new activities, delivered by WCG, the largest provider of programmes for the Trust in England.



WCG joins EIDA as part of wellbeing initiative

WCG has become a member of the Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse (EIDA), a network which raises awareness and provides resources for employers to play their part in tackling domestic abuse as part of its commitment to creating a healthier environment for employees. It came as WCG announced the launch of a new domestic abuse awareness and support initiative for staff as part of its Wellbeing @ WCG programme, which is offering tailored support to its 1,400 employees on a number of different topics throughout the year. The initiative will see WCG launch a video to educate staff about spotting the signs of domestic abuse and how they can respond and offer support.



WCG GROWTH AND SUCCESS Just a few of our highlights over the past year...

WCG celebrates Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Students and staff at WCG have been planting trees to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. All six colleges in WCG came together to plant a rowan tree at each of the sites. The young rowan trees, which are a favourite for wildlife, were supplied by Pershore College Garden Centre and Nursery. The initiative's focus on sustainability mirrors the college group's own green ethos, and the tree planting comes as the college group is awarded the Planet Mark sustainability certificate for an eighth consecutive year, which recognises organisations that make year-on-year reductions in carbon emissions.



Warwick Trident College holds special celebration to mark arrival of Queen's Anniversary Prize

Staff, students and apprentices at Warwick Trident College held a celebration event as a prestigious prize which recognises its innovative engineering training arrived at the college.

WCG was presented with The Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in February and for the first-time staff and students at the college were given a chance to see the award. The prize was awarded to the college group for its pioneering work in the engineering sector, and Warwick Trident College is one of WCG's three centres of engineering excellence – alongside Evesham College and Rugby College.



Revolutionary health scheme for jobseekers launches in Leamington Spa

Pet-Xi has teamed up with Royal Leamington Spa College's gym to help unemployed people improve their physical and mental wellbeing. PET-Xi has launched its 'Ignite' pilot health programme to help those in and around Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth referred to the company as part of the government's Restart Scheme. The scheme takes a holistic approach to helping its participants not only find work but also improve their long-term health and wellbeing and increase their likelihood of staying in work in the future. Ignite will see those referred to the Restart Scheme enrolled at Royal Leamington Spa College's gym, where they will receive a full induction, a tailored plan based on their fitness level, and additional advice and support from a dedicated health coach across a three-month period.



The Princess Royal visits Pershore College students at RHS Malvern Spring Festival

Princess Anne stopped by to speak with staff and students from a local college as they showcased their Commonwealth and environmental themed garden at a major show. She visited the garden created by supported learning students from Pershore College during the RHS Malvern Spring Festival and spent time at the garden to find out about its inspiration, environmental credentials and the work the students had put in to create it. A group of 90 students created the garden, which was entered into the School Garden Challenge at the event, and came away as highly commended. The four-metre squared plot included themed bunting made by the students and a model of the Queen's royal train, which travelled around the edge of the raised beds. Catering students created a special cream tea for the unveiling of the garden including home baked scones and jam made using fruits grown at the college.



New simulation rail track training facility opens at Moreton Morrell College

A new training facility has been laid at Moreton Morrell College to help develop the next generation of skilled individuals to keep the country's trains on track. WCG has partnered with RMF Group to create a new simulation rail track facility, which gives learners the chance to perfect their track maintenance skills while working effectively as a team and preparing for a promising career in the rail industry. The new teaching facility has cost more than £78,000 and has been funded by the DfE through the Skills Accelerator Development Fund.



CEO and Principal take part in inaugural FUTURE FWD Creative Conference

A new concept in education conferences, Future Fwd, was established in July by Warwick Foundation Schools, focused on Next Generations and how educationalists and business leaders can enable them to be the changemakers of tomorrow. The traditional conference format was reimaged as a practical, future-focused, creative conference, with young people at its core. Angela Joyce, Chief Executive of WCG and Peter Husband, Group Principal and COO were privileged to be speakers and round table discussion leaders at the event. Warwickshire has a rich heritage of academic excellence and of industry innovation, so WCG were pleased to be working with other forward-thinking organisations to focus on how we work collaboratively to best support our future generations.



Housebuilder donates 4,000 bricks to Rugby College

Luxury housebuilder Mulberry Homes has made a donation of 4,000 bricks to Rugby College, near its upcoming Mulberry Homes at Houlton development and head office. The 4,000 bricks will be used by students so that they can practice their bricklaying skills. The donation is the first step in what will be an ongoing relationship between Rugby College and Mulberry Homes, as later in the year the housebuilder will be partnering with the college to offer apprenticeships and industry experience to students.



WCG wins Royal Anniversary Trust Student Trial Prize Fund

A combined staff and student effort at WCG has received national recognition as part of the legacy of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. WCG was named the latest winner of the Royal Anniversary Trust Student Trial Prize Fund through the Platinum Jubilee Challenge. The college group has been given £5,000 by the Royal Anniversary Trust to bring its concept of online learning modules - which focus on making sustainability and climate change a more accessible subject - to life. WCG were one of only five winners that were announced at the Platinum Jubilee Challenge residential, and the only college to be recognised by the 42-strong judging panel.



WCG awarded Quality in Careers Standard

WCG has been recognised for its outstanding careers work and been presented with a major standard. The college group has been awarded the national Quality in Careers Standard - awarded under licence by Ixion. The Standard is awarded to education providers who can demonstrate the importance they place on careers and how they support students to make decisions about their life after school or college. Achieving the national Quality in Careers Standard shows how the principal, governors and leadership team at WCG embrace, promote and endorse quality careers education and recognise the part it plays in the overall success of the college and its students.



WCG GROWTH AND SUCCESS Just a few of our highlights over the past year...

WCG appoints new President

A nationally acclaimed Chamber of Commerce chief executive has been appointed as president of WCG. Louise Bennett was awarded an OBE for her services to enterprise and led Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce as its chief executive for nearly 20 years – a role which has seen her work closely with WCG. She had previously spent four years with Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, following a varied career which saw her hold senior management roles in an acute hospital, retail and running her own business. She is a Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands and is the immediate past High Sheriff of the County of the West Midlands 2021. Louise has recently been appointed as Chair for the British Chambers of Commerce Local Skills Improvement Plans Group, in response to the Skills Act 2022.



Prince's Trust Team Programme in Leicestershire receives Platinum Jubilee award

The Prince's Trust Team Programme, which provides valuable opportunities to young people not in education or employment has been recognised for its work in the Leicestershire community. The team has been presented with a Platinum Jubilee Community and Business Award by Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Dr Nik Kotecha OBE. The one-off award was created by Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire Mike Kapur to celebrate Her Late Majesty's 70 years of outstanding public service by recognising the achievements of organisations which have done something exceptional and positive for the community.



Vital flood prevention project completed at Moreton Morrell College

A vital project to help minimise the impact of flooding on people living in Wellesbourne has been completed by Wellesbourne and Walton Flood Action Group (WWFAG), working with Moreton Morrell College to help slow the flow of Newbold Brook, which runs through the north of Wellesbourne. The project is the first stage in a string of planned Natural Flood Management intervention works which will positively impact both Newbold Brook and the River Dene by 'slowing the flow'.



EV training facility opens at Warwick Trident College

A new £477,000 electric vehicle training facility has been completed to help train the next generation of motor vehicle specialists at Warwick Trident College. College group WCG has partnered with consultants and industry experts Miretur Ltd to create the facility which will support students on automotive courses at the college.

The facility will also be used in training programmes developed by Miretur, and features fully-converted workshops with specialist features for the training of skills associated with electric vehicles. The workshop is home to three electric vehicles, one hybrid, one plug-in hybrid and one fully electric - with specialist tools and diagnostics equipment also available.



Launch of Coventry & Warwickshire Adult Learning

Matt Western, the MP for Warwick and Leamington visited Warwick Trident College for a launch event of new adult learning facilities across Coventry and Warwickshire, branded Coventry & Warwickshire Adult Learning (CWAL). The facilities and resources will be helping to develop a new talent pipeline for the automotive, construction and railway industries.

The event attracted employers from across the area to find out more about the new facilities and also saw attendees given a tour of the recently completed electric vehicle (EV) training facility at Warwick Trident College.



Leading spa resort recognises outstanding practice at Royal Leamington Spa College

The college has been named a College of Excellence by Ragdale Hall Spa, which was named 'Best Spa for Guest Experience' at the Good Spa Awards 2022. The College of Excellence award certifies that Royal Leamington Spa College has high standards of training and consistently collaborates with Ragdale Hall Spa to offer students work experience and enhance employment opportunities. This is the seventh year we have been awarded this prize and that is testament to the work the college's staff put in to maintain high standards in the hair and beauty department.



Pershore College provides funding boost to school allotment gardens

The college, which has sponsored the Worcester Show Schools' Gardening Competition since 2020, match-funded donations to 15 schools in Worcester alongside the Worcester Allotments Forum and Worcester City Council, to encourage many young people to get involved with their school gardens and allotments and develop an interest in horticulture.



Duo of degree-level courses receive AHPR accreditation

Moreton Morrell College has been awarded accreditation for two of its degree-level courses from a major industry body – further increasing the stellar reputation of its veterinary physiotherapy and animal therapy graduates.

The college, which is part of college group WCG, has seen its BSc Veterinary Physiotherapy and BSc Canine Therapy and Rehabilitation courses accredited by the Animal Health Professions Register (AHPR).

The accreditation positions the college and its students perfectly to capitalise on the continued professionalisation of both disciplines – with calls from industry to make both titles protected by law.

The degrees are delivered by Warwickshire College and University Centre (WCUC). The university centre launched last year after WCG became the first college group to hold both Bachelor and Foundation degree awarding powers and can now curate and award its own degree-level qualifications.



Rugby student stars on Hippodrome stage

A Rugby performing arts student starred at the Birmingham Hippodrome as part of a Shakespearean 'monologue slam' organised by a prominent national theatre company. Kelise Foster is currently studying a degree in Performing Arts at Rugby College and came through an open audition process to star in MonologueSlam UK. The show was set-up to showcase talent in the industry and is supported by the Mawa Theatre Company. The company is the UK's first all-Black, all female Shakespeare Company representing women of the African diaspora.



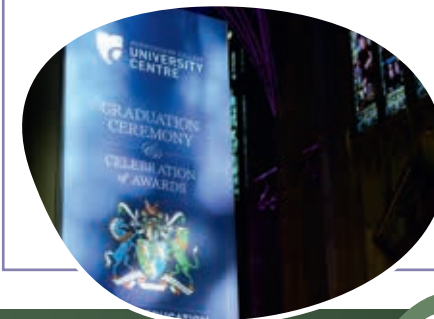
Student's artwork displayed on billboards in the Netherlands

A student from Royal Leamington Spa College has seen her artwork displayed on billboards across the Netherlands as part of an international festival. Katie Jones, who is studying on the Level 6 BA Graphic Design with Photography course, had work selected to be shown as part of the International Motion festival - DEMO (Design in Motion) Festival. Held for the second time since 2019, the festival is a 24-hour event showcasing the world's best motion design on 5000 screens and billboards across the Netherlands.



WCUC launch leads to surge in degree course applications

Applications for degree courses at Warwickshire College and University Centre (WCUC) have seen a significant boost since the launch of the new university centre in late 2021. Applications for the year were up by over 10% across the board. It is the first recruitment cycle for WCUC and also comes after the college became the first college group in the UK to be granted Bachelor degree awarding powers by the Office for Students, alongside the Foundation degree awarding powers already in place.



Moreton Morrell students research impact treatments can have on horse stress

Moreton Morrell College students have discovered the impact treatments can have on stress in horses after tapping into the expertise of a state-of-the-art research centre. Maya Grist and Kaya Wales are both studying degrees at the college and have been conducting research into cortisol in horses using saliva swab tests conducted at the Agri-Tech Research Centre at Pershore College – both part of college group WCUC. Maya, from Swindon, is studying a three-year degree in Equine Therapy and Rehabilitation and Kaya, from Stratford upon is in the final year of her Equine Science degree. The pair both conducted separate research projects, with Maya researching the impact of cryotherapy on horse stress levels and Kaya focusing on the effect that the use of essential oils can have on the animal.



Degree students take to stage at Rugby College in 'Be My Baby'

Degree-level students at Rugby College returned to the stage for the first time since the pandemic when they performed a popular British play. The students on the new BA (Hons) Performing Arts course brought Amanda Whittington's 'Be My Baby' to The Platform Theatre in Rugby College. It marked the first time the degree students got to perform in front of a full audience at the college – with other performances curtailed by the impact of Covid-19. Around 20 students supported the production across the three days, with members of the public invited to come along and see the next generation of stage talent. Be My Baby follows the story of 19-year-old Mary, who is seven months pregnant when her mother delivers her into the charge of a church-run maternity for young, unmarried women.



Graphic design and photography students wow national charity

A trio of graphic design and photography students wowed a national charity and could be set to have their designs published on major transport networks. Katie Jones, Riannon Grimsley and Olivia Krawczyk created six posters to educate, inform and sparked conversation around sex and people with disabilities. The students from Royal Leamington Spa College are all studying HND Graphic Design and Photography. Tutors at the college organised for Katie, Riannon and Olivia to present their designs to charity Enhance The UK – which aims to change the way people view disability. Its global campaign 'Undressing Disability' aims to raise standard in sexual health and sexual awareness for people with disabilities.



Graduates from Warwickshire and Worcestershire celebrate in trio of ceremonies

More than 160 graduates from Warwickshire College and University Centre (WCUC) attended the ceremonies at St Mary's Church in Warwick.

The three ceremonies saw students from Royal Leamington Spa College, Rugby College, Moreton Morrell College and Pershore College graduating. The ceremonies, held over two days, were followed by a procession through the heart of Warwick in the historic parish church.

The graduates came from a wide range of courses, including business, counselling and psychotherapy, early years, business management, performing arts, game design, engineering, floristry, equine therapy and rehabilitation, veterinary physiotherapy, veterinary nursing and many more.



IET Accreditation for Engineering Top-up degree

WCUC's Level 6 Top-up BEng degree in Manufacturing Engineering received accreditation from the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) at the end of 2022. This prestigious accreditation will now allow graduating engineers from Rugby College to register for Incorporated Engineer (IEng) status, which is important for those looking to progress their careers and evidence their professional knowledge and skills, gained through the degree programme.



Trio of Fellowships awarded by WCUC

Three new Fellowship awards were awarded at the WCUC graduations ceremonies in October 2022.

David Darling, Founder & CEO of mobile game development studio and publisher Kwalée and co-founder of Codemasters, has been named a Fellow of Warwickshire College and University Centre at the ceremony which included graduates from the university centre's Games Art degree programmes. David is recognised as one of the founding fathers of 'Silicon Spa', having founded Codemasters with his brother Richard in the region in 1986.

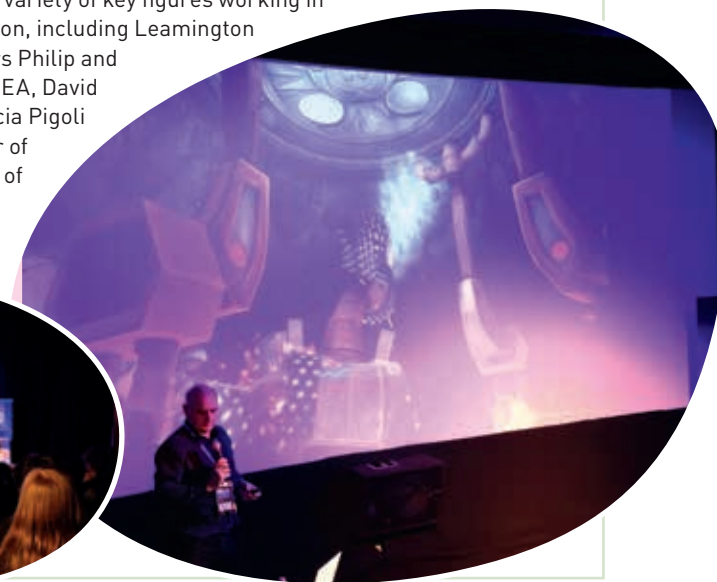
At the land-based degrees ceremony, Judy Edwards was awarded her Fellowship of WCUC. The award was in recognition of her significant contribution to the equestrian provision at Moreton Morrell College and the leading role she played in the development of the wider equestrian industry. Judy is a leading figure in the equestrian industry and former chief executive of The Pony Club for 10 years.

The third Fellowship was awarded to Peter Manford, who spent 14 years on the board of governors of WCG and was Chair of the board for the final five of those years. Peter, a solicitor by profession, extended his term as Chair in order to help the college navigate the challenges brought by the coronavirus pandemic.



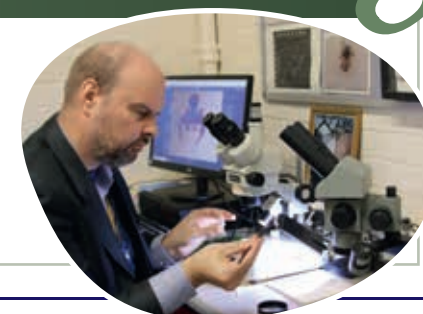
'Let's Talk Games' success in Royal Leamington Spa

The next generation of video game designers in Leamington heard about the incredible possibilities right on their doorstep from some of the biggest names in the sector at a one-day conference. Students at WCUC heard from giants of Leamington's game industry past and present at its 'Let's Talk Games' event around the history of the industry in the town, emerging technology in the business, and what working in the sector involves. The dozens in attendance also heard from an all-female panel of WCUC alumni who have gone on to have successful careers working for games companies in Leamington. The audience also heard from a variety of key figures working in the games industry in Leamington, including Leamington games industry gaming pioneers Philip and Andrew Oliver, Jason Garlick of EA, David Paris of Playground Games, Lucia Pigoli of Sumo Leamington, Joe Taylor of Rebellion North and a selection of character artists from Ubisoft Leamington.



Professor lands key role on major new journal

WCG has continued to grow its internationally recognised research profile after Professor Richard J. Pearce, associate professor for Animal Ecology and Biodiversity Research was appointed to the editorial review board for Frontiers in Arachnid Science academic journal. Frontiers in Arachnid Science was officially launched on November 2nd and is the latest open access journal from the renowned scientific journal publisher. Professor Pearce, who is based at Moreton Morrell College, is a nationally-renowned arachnologist, and runs his research programme from a laboratory at the college in Warwickshire. He has served on the Council of the British Arachnological Society and his involvement with international societies sees his expertise impact on a range of projects across the globe.



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

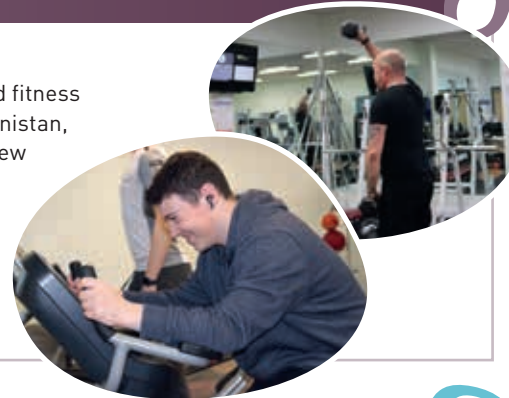
Refugees gain tools for success with English Language courses

Royal Leamington Spa College began offering English language lessons for refugee students in summer 2022, and has now welcomed learners from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. The college's English as a Foreign Language (EFL) department, which last year taught 16 different nationalities, offered courses for students of different abilities to improve their English speaking, listening, reading and writing within a supportive, educational setting.



Rugby College providing safe exercise space for asylum seekers

Rugby College has partnered with Community Welcome to provide free access to its gym and fitness facilities for people seeking sanctuary from across the globe. Refugees from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Iran are among the people to have already benefited from the new arrangement. Community Welcome has now welcomed a new group of young men and they have started to use the gym, with the previous group having moved onto the next stage of the asylum process. The gym sessions are part of a wider sports project for asylum seekers in Rugby which has been running for around three months, supported by a grant from Warwickshire County Council – which includes a weekly warm up session with a PT followed by football skills and a match with a professional coach.



Delegation with the British Council visits Trident College

Decision makers from across the globe visited the college to discover more about how the college works in partnership with employers to develop technical and vocational education programmes. More than 50 delegates from around the world paid a visit as part of a conference organised by The British Council.

The conference titled 'Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) for a sustainable economy' provided visitors with the opportunity to reflect on the work the UK has done to develop an effective TVET system and consider how potential takeaways could be applied in their own countries. The college visit provided opportunities for delegates to hear directly from an established Further Education College, which has a track record of working successfully with employers, exemplified by it receiving The Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2021.



WCG STUDENT LIFE, SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Double prize for students in national bricklaying competition

WCG is enjoying a double celebration after two of its students won the regional junior and senior editions of a prestigious bricklayer's competition, held at Rugby College. Declan Hobley, from Bretford, won the senior prize, while Owen Shaw, from Solihull, came away as the victorious junior in the Guild of Bricklayers competition. The Guild of Bricklayers is an association first founded in 1932, with the dual aims of promoting and maintaining the highest standards of craftsmanship in brickwork. Each year, the Guild, through its network of sections, organises regional brickwork competitions at senior, junior and schools levels.



Rugby College presents 'Sweeney Todd'

Performing arts students at Rugby College stated their long-awaited return to the stage with their first major production in nearly three years. A total of 30 Level 3 students took part in the college production of Sweeney Todd, with performances taking place across three evenings in the Platform Theatre at the college in March. Henry Gallagher played the role of Sweeney Todd and Cailin Tite played Sweeney Todd's business partner and accomplice, Mrs Lovett.



Supported Learning to enter RHS Malvern Festival competition

Green-fingered students have been learning more about the Commonwealth and environmental issues as part of a gardening challenge at a well-known horticultural show. A group of 90 supported learning students from Pershore College created a special entry for the RHS Malvern Spring Festival School Garden Challenge. Students who are studying land-based courses at the college are working with tutors to create 'A walk through the Commonwealth' garden featuring a range of flowers and plants native to Commonwealth countries, decorations, a water feature and a bistro garden furniture set.



Carpentry students raise funds for Ukraine charity appeal

Carpentry students at Moreton Morrell College are using their skills to make products to raise funds for a charity appeal which is supporting those living in Ukraine. Level 3 carpentry students held a stall at the college's annual Lambing and Animals Weekend, in aid of Oxfam's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. The group of nine students designed products including planters, bird boxes, garden benches, candle holders, welly hangers and outdoor storage before working out the cost of the materials and what they should be priced at. £800 worth of orders from customers were taken as well as a raffle which raised additional funds.



Outdoor areas of a church in Rugby transformed

Students from five different countries have helped to transform the outdoor space at Rugby United Reformed Church on Hillmorton Road, as part of The Prince's Trust Team programme. A team of eight students have renovated three different outdoor spaces as part of their Prince's Trust Team programme, which is run by WCG and works with young people aged 16 to 25. Students who have just arrived in the country from Ukraine, South Africa, Afghanistan and the Philippines were joined by UK students to create a safe and secure children's garden, renovate the church's reflective memorial garden and also renovate the recycling garden.



Further Education Students of the Year 2022



WCG STUDENT LIFE, SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Furniture students display skills to thousands

A pair of Warwickshire college students showcased their construction skills to more than 10,000 people as part of a public art project. First year student William Langston and second year student Alfie Morrey, who both study Level 3 Furniture Design and Making at Royal Leamington Spa College completed a successful industry placement with the esteemed Royal Shakespeare Company. During their time at the world-renowned theatre company, they worked with the construction site crew and set building team to create a large wooden structure named 'Sanctuary' Designed by David Best and produced by Artichoke in association with Imagineer Productions, the 65-foot tapering tower was a memorial to those lost during the COVID-19 pandemic and as an act of thanks to everyone who kept the country going during that incredibly challenging time.



WCG catering students meet celebrity chef James Martin at Pub in the Park

Rugby College catering students volunteered at Pub in the Park in Warwick and had a chance to meet and talk to celebrity chef James Martin! Level 2 Professional Cookery student Luke Lines was among the students who attended. He said: "It was a memorable and unique experience that rarely happens for normal college students like us. The kitchens were so fast-paced, intense and informative. And meeting James Martin was surreal given his status as a world-renowned chef. The memory will last a lifetime!" Luke was among a group of up to nine Level 1, 2 and 3 students who set to work alongside a range of top chefs on various shifts across Tom Kerridge's three-day food and music festival.



Students take to the stage with interpretation of Tess of the d'Urbervilles

Talented Rugby College performers brought the West End interpretation of a nineteenth century classic to life for a series of summer shows in Warwickshire. Their reproduction of Tess of the d'Urbervilles took place at The Platform Theatre within the college campus. Ollie Wheeler, a final year Performing and Production Arts student, has a personal investment in Thomas Hardy's classic tale, having performed and sang in the musical version's official run at Theatre Royal Winchester in August 2017. The Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing and Production Arts is run by Rugby College and awarded by University of Arts London.



Moreton Morrell students host family fun horse show for charity

Students at Moreton Morrell College geared up to host a family fun horse show to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society. Around 15 students were involved in the event, which was the first-of-its-kind at the college, and has been organised from scratch by those in the second year of their Equine Management studies. The equine event - which was open to the public, took place in May and featured a packed schedule of shows taking place in the equine arenas at the college. Students have been in touch with local businesses and traders to organise trade stands at the event, with a raffle also organised with donations from businesses in the region.



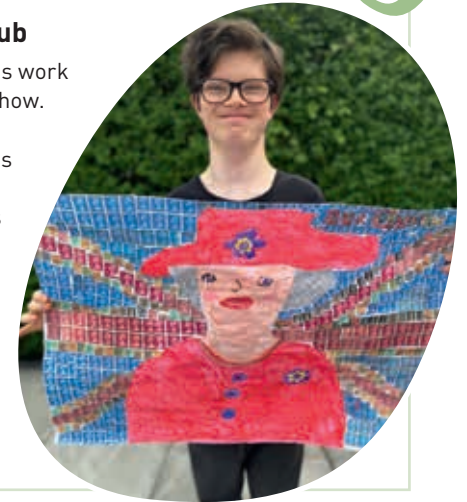
High Sheriff honour for Rugby College catering students

Students from Rugby College put their catering skills to the test and delivered a luncheon to celebrate the inauguration of the High Sheriff of Warwickshire. The students, who are currently undertaking catering courses at the college, supported the delivery of David Kelham's inauguration at the Lord Leycester Hospital in Warwick. A total of seven students from Rugby College helped to set-up the Great Hall for the lunch and also had the chance to use their front-of-house training to serve VIP customers – which included Lords, Ladies, Judges, other dignitaries and prominent guests. The students also had the chance to prepare the food and drink for the lunch event.



Student stars on Grayson Perry's Art Club

A supported learning student from Shrewley had his work exhibited to the nation on a popular Channel 4 art show. Finley Smith, a student at Royal Leamington Spa College, had his painting of the Queen showcased as part of Grayson Perry's Art Club in May. The show also featured Finley reading his poem 'The Queen's Picnic', with his royal themed painting and poem forming part of a jubilee special episode of the show. Tutors at the college heard about Grayson Perry's appeal for submissions to his art club and decided to submit the work which Finley had created in college, following which producers contacted the college and said they wanted to feature Finley on the programme.



Students raise hundreds at charity dog grooming day

A group of college students has turned their hand to dog grooming and raise funds for a wildlife reserve in South Africa. Level 3 Animal Welfare students at Pershore College sold tickets and groomed Spaniels, Dachshunds and German Shepherd's alike for Mankwe Wildlife Reserve in South Africa - a family run, 4700 hectare nature reserve specialising in animal education and research.

The group of 10 students raised more than £350, with a party of 17 pupils of staff from the college planning to follow up on the event with a visit to North West South Africa in June 2023.



First recipient of Bev Clucas Trophy

A Leamington business student has been announced the inaugural winner of an award named in memory of a popular and well-respected Kenilworth finance manager. Dougie Thomas won the Bev Clucas Trophy at Royal Leamington Spa College, an award which recognises an outstanding business and enterprise student at the college who displays the values of happiness, hard work and selflessness. It is named after Bev Clucas, who passed away in 2021 and worked for Kenilworth business Leisure Concepts, which sponsored the award.

Dougie, from Leamington Spa, is a Business Level 3 Extended Diploma student at the college.



WCG students celebrate results day success

Staff and students at WCG celebrated their A Level and BTEC results in August. WCG received A Level results for learners across two of its colleges, and BTEC results across all six colleges in the group. A Level students at Rugby College and Royal Leamington Spa College received their results, following two years of challenges brought by the pandemic and will now be heading on to their next steps in Higher Education, jobs or apprenticeships. The colleges saw particular success in subjects including Sociology, English Literature and Business studies, – where a 100 per cent pass rate was achieved.



WCG STUDENT LIFE, SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Former student inspires peers with his pathway into adult nursing

A former Pershore College student who was inspired to follow a career in nursing after being a full-time carer for his grandparents has returned to the college to share details of his pathway to university. Reece Hands completed an Access to Higher Education (HE) Health Professions course and has now embarked on a degree in Adult Nursing at University of Worcester. He had been working in logistics pre-Covid but was made redundant during the pandemic. In that time he started caring for his nan, and after his nan passed away became a full-time carer for his grandad. Reece secured a place on his dream course at the University of Worcester after his course, with 100 per cent of students passing the WCG Access course and heading off to university.



First recipient of The Looi Trust scholarship

WCG has announced the first recipient of a new scholarship and bursary scheme launched in memory of a major supporter of the college. Tom Horn, from Coalville in Leicestershire, has been named the inaugural recipient of The Looi Trust scholarship for this academic year. Tom is in his second year studying for a degree in Equine Therapy and Rehabilitation at Moreton Morrell College, and will receive an award of £500 under the scheme. The scholarship fund was created from an endowment made by Madame Gertrude Marsh-Looi, the widow of the college's first ever foreign student. Mdm Marsh-Looi was a major supporter of the college and passed away in 2020 at the age of 92.



Student shares experiences as part of Anti-Bullying Week

A student who set her sights on becoming Miss Teen Great Britain has been sharing her experiences of bullying with classmates at Royal Leamington Spa College. Keelie Fowkes spoke with her peers at the college as part of Anti-Bullying Week. As a victim of bullying at secondary school, the Level 3 Health and Social Care student is motivated to use her experiences to raise awareness of the problems that can beset victims subjected to bullying in the classroom and on the playground.



Photography students capture festive magic at St Mary's Church

Royal Leamington Spa College students on the Level 3 Visual Communications course headed to St Mary's Church to photograph all of the 55 trees at its festival which attracted more than 5,300 visitors over 10 days. The group of 11 students were given a private viewing of the festival and asked to capture the trees from all angles. The college organised for a prize to be presented for the winning photograph.



WCG APPRENTICESHIP AND EMPLOYER SUCCESS

WCG yellow bus hits the road for National Apprenticeship Week

A big yellow bus visited five counties across the Midlands to help young people find the perfect apprenticeship to springboard their future career as part of National Apprenticeship Week. Students from schools in the West Midlands, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Worcestershire and Northamptonshire met the apprenticeships team from WCG in an American-style yellow school bus, which featured a wide range of activities for pupils at the schools to interact with apprenticeships being showcased ranging from construction and engineering, to arboriculture and motor vehicles.



Hospitality Apprenticeships Fair launches for National Apprenticeship Week

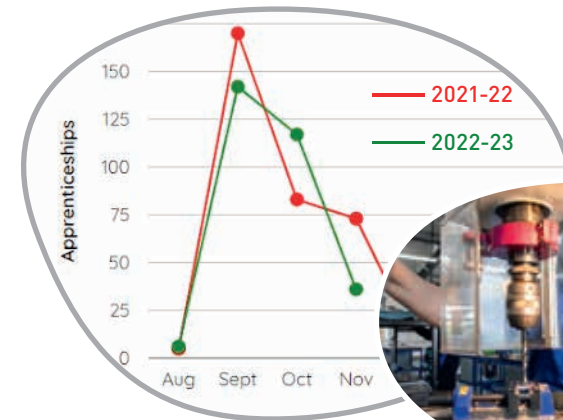
Businesses were urged to consider apprenticeships to help bridge the recruitment crisis in hospitality – and a new apprenticeships fair was launched to help them do so. The Hospitality Apprenticeships Fair took place at Metropolis restaurant in Coventry as part of National Apprenticeship Week. It was a collaboration between WCG, Stratford-upon-Avon College, Coventry College, Coventry City Council, Warwickshire Skills Hub and Pet-Xi and attracted local employers from across the region's hospitality sector, with the likes of Caviar & Chips and Bespoke Hotels attending. Prospective apprentices were able to meet face-to-face with employers and training providers to explore opportunities for apprenticeships within the hospitality industry.



Bucking the national trend

In the third quarter of 2022, as the new academic year started, the number of new apprentices starting with WCG Apprenticeships showed growth at a time when the national picture was the exact opposite.

WCG apprentice starts grew by 3% in the critical August to October period, as September is the month when the greatest number of apprentices start each year. By contrast, the number of apprenticeship starts nationally declined by 16% in August to October 2022 compared to the same period a year earlier.



Double prize for farrier apprentice

A Worcestershire farrier has received national recognition after securing two awards from the profession's leading trade organisation. Pip Rowland, from Evesham, has been recognised by the Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF) in a graduation ceremony at the Honourable Artillery Company in London. The 24-year-old, who is a keen polocrosse player, had recently completed his four-year farriery apprenticeship through Moreton Morrell College. He was presented by the WCF with two prizes, the David Llewellyn Prize and the Mike Seckington Prize. The David Llewellyn Prize is in recognition of the best theory paper across all candidates and the Mike Seckington Prize is presented to the student with the highest mark in the practical aspect of the exam.



WCG APPRENTICESHIP AND EMPLOYER SUCCESS

Apprentices celebrate in style at graduation ceremony

Apprentices from across the Midlands were celebrated in a special graduation ceremony held at Warwick Racecourse. The apprentices were joined by family, friends, tutors and employers to celebrate completing their apprenticeships with WCG. More than 60 apprentices graduated on the evening, with over 170 guests in attendance for the eighth apprenticeship graduation event hosted by WCG. Radio presenter Dave Sharpe was the master of ceremonies, with guests hearing from keynote speaker Louise Bennett OBE DL, chief executive of Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce (and now WCG President).



WCG apprentice gears up for mini racing history

A Southam apprentice has set his sights on becoming one of the youngest winners of an esteemed national motor racing championship after a revelatory first season behind the wheel. Ryan Taylor, a second-year apprentice on a Level 3 Motor Vehicle course at Warwick Trident College, is looking to follow up on his inaugural third place finish in the 22-person Mini Seven S Class racing league by going two steps further during the 2022/23 season. Ryan said: "I made the choice to begin a motor vehicle apprenticeship before I started my racing career – and everything is going along nicely at the moment. I'm doing my best both at college and on the race track and am seeing where it takes me. I've been around mechanics every day for as long as I can remember and it's an absolute joy gaining new experiences in my studies and competing at some of the toughest tracks in the country".



Award-winning success for Pershore horticulture students

Three apprentices at Pershore College have won a major horticulture award and will now get the chance to attend one of the sectors' most prestigious conferences in Germany. Tom McDonald from Evesham, Donn e Perauld from South Africa but living in Farnborough, and Abigail Green from Worcester, all Crop Technician Level 3 students have won the International Plant Propagation Society (IPPS) 6-pack award – which gives six 'new to the industry' horticulturists the chance to attend the IPPS European Region Annual Conference in Zwischenahn in Germany.



Carpenter George Clarke takes first place in regional SkillBuild challenge

A Shipston-on-Stour apprentice is a cut above the rest after claiming the top prize at a Midlands carpentry competition and will now go on to compete on the national stage. George Clarke, 18, studies at Moreton Morrell College and came first in the Site Carpentry category in the SkillBuild challenge for the Midlands region. He is an apprentice at Steve Clarke Carpentry & Construction, which he does alongside studying for his qualifications at the college. He competed in a category of 15 other carpenters and was tasked on the day with drawing, cutting, fixing and assembly of a complex roof.



Horticulturist wins major Worcestershire apprenticeship prize

An Evesham horticulturist has received a major regional apprenticeship prize and has now secured a place on a prestigious programme at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Anja Seymour was named Advanced Level Apprentice of the Year at the Worcestershire Apprenticeships Awards 2022 after completing an apprenticeship with Pershore College. The 20-year-old completed the two-year apprenticeship in Horticulture while working for Cotswold Garden Flowers and has begun the three-year Kew Diploma in Horticulture programme at the iconic botanic gardens.



Arborist recognised with major industry award

Edd Acutt, a Kidderminster arborist who has overcome his fear of heights to excel in the profession has been recognised with an award from a major industry organisation. Edd recently completed a Level 2 apprenticeship in Arboriculture at Pershore College and works for a local housing association to maintain trees and other plants on its sites. He has been presented with the Royal Forestry Society Certificate in Arboriculture (RFS Cert Arb) in recognition of his high standard of academic work and practical skills. The RFS has partnered with Pershore College to recognise students who complete Arboriculture apprenticeships at the college in Worcestershire.



WCG teams up with Taylor Wimpey Midlands to create bricklayer training facility

The latest phase of a major collaboration between WCG and a national developer is set to benefit students across the region. WCG and Taylor Wimpey Midlands are creating a training facility for apprentice bricklayers at Moreton Morrell College. As part of the partnership an area has been provided to enable bricklayers to practice their building skills. Work is still ongoing to develop the space, but the initial cohort of bricklayers have enjoyed four days of practical training with master craftsman Gez Baldwin at Moreton Morrell College.

The work has included a day's theory to help them gain a great understanding of the jobs a qualified bricklayer is expected to carry out on a Taylor Wimpey site.



WCG COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

Record-breaking visitor numbers for Lambing and Animals Weekend

A record-breaking number of visitors have flocked to a popular annual event to meet the first lambs of spring as they were welcomed into the world. More than 4,000 people visited Moreton Morrell College's annual Lambing and Animals Weekend, held at WCG's Nether Moreton Farm, making it the event's busiest year to date. Visitors were able to meet and hold the new born lambs, with a lucky few even seeing some being born, as well as sit on a tractor and speak to the farm manager. The college's Animal Centre also opened its doors for people to get up close to meerkats, porcupines and other exotic animals, and families enjoyed taking part in a special adventure trail around the grounds of the college. The event's new farmers' market was also a hit with visitors, giving people the opportunity to sample a range of local produce and purchase goods from local small businesses.



Angela Long appointed to spearhead 'Venues' relaunch

WCG appointed a new coordinator to spearhead the relaunch of its conferencing and events venues. Angela Long will lead WCG's 'Venues' brand which operates conference and events venues across its colleges in Warwickshire and Worcestershire. Long's appointment comes as WCG reopened the doors to its conferencing and meeting spaces for the first time in two years. Its primary venues available to host events are based at Rugby College and Warwick Trident College, however there are also spaces available at Moreton Morrell College, Royal Leamington Spa College and Pershore College. The college invests the proceeds from all bookings at its centrally-located venues back into the education of its students.



WCG Venues partners with Anthony's Catering

A Nuneaton catering company has partnered with WCG to support its re-launched conferencing and events venues. WCG has appointed Anthony's Bistro as the catering partner for its 'Venues' brand which operates its conferences and events across its colleges. WCG has committed to using local suppliers to deliver 'Venues' and that all partners will be within 30 miles of its colleges. Anthony's Bistro was set up in 2011 and started life as a coffee shop. After more than 10 years, the owners decided to close the coffee shop and redirect the business to specialise in external catering – with a focus on weddings and conferences. It is staffed by local people and uses local suppliers for all of its produce where possible, including meat from popular Nuneaton butcher Frank Parker and vegetables from Leicester Market. The business has also recently started working with Gayton's Bakery in Atherstone.



National creative arts festival returns to Rugby College

Puppets, illusions, creative arts and storytelling were the focus of a two-day festival that returned to Warwickshire for the first time in three years. Rugby College welcomed the newly-named Equip Festival to its Rugby base in October. Previously known as the Puppet and Creative Ministry Festival, the event is back at the third time of asking due to two cancellations due to the Covid pandemic, and made a grand return to the calendar by inspiring, encouraging and resourcing creative arts enthusiasts. 250 people were expected at the event, with over 750 puppets on display and in use at the festival.



Stay at college gives performance boost to Bowls England

The CEO of Bowls England says the Commonwealth Games has helped to raise the profile of Leamington as the home of English bowls. The lawn bowls team stayed at Royal Leamington Spa College throughout the tournament and secured two Gold, two Silver and three Bronze medals. Jon Cockcroft, CEO of Bowls England, said: "The schedule in the games was pretty intense, and while there wasn't much downtime for our athletes, the reception we had throughout the games in Leamington was great. Staying at Royal Leamington Spa College was a massive performance gain for us. It enabled players to nip back for a rest during the day and avoid having to drive back to the athlete's village. That flexibility proved really important and the proximity to the venue also meant that it was easier for our athletes to support their teammates.



Link Nurseries to be more wheelchair accessible after generous donation in will

Work is set to begin to make a Powick horticultural therapy centre more accessible to people in wheelchairs thanks to a generous donation. Link Nurseries is set to make a range of improvements for visitors after being left £5,000 in a will. Timothy Bache, from Worcester, left the legacy to The Bransford Trust, which has facilitated the donation to Link Nurseries. When work is completed, the therapy centre will feature a new concrete slab entrance and also new wheelchair access into the on-site shop and green classroom. The funds will also see increased fencing around Well-Bean Gardening Club plots and allotment areas, to protect the plots from being destroyed by rabbits.



Double celebration at Malvern Autumn Show

Horticultural therapy centre Link Nurseries and Pershore College Garden Centre & Nursery received prizes from the judging panel at the popular show held at the Three Counties Showground. Pershore College Garden Centre & Nursery won the Best Exhibit in the Plant Village award, while Link Nurseries came away with a bronze medal for its own display. Volunteers from Link Nurseries helped to create a mini-version of the therapy centre on site at the show, complete with canopy, quiet garden, work from its craft and art groups, and reproduction of the gardening boxes created by its Well Bean Gardening Club. Meanwhile, elsewhere on the showground, Josh Egan-Wyer and his team from the garden centre and nursery were wowing judges with their own plant display. The display was the result of months of growing and ensuring plants were up to the high judging standards of the Royal Horticultural Society.



WCG ALUMNI

A television star and best-selling author made a triumphant return to his former college in Warwickshire which had played a key role in his career.

Kaleb Cooper shot to fame in 2021 as Jeremy Clarkson's right-hand man in the hit Prime Video series Clarkson's Farm. The show documented the former Top Gear star's attempts to run a 1,000-acre farm in the Cotswolds.

The success of the programme saw a second and third series be given the greenlight, propelling 24-year-old Kaleb from being a young farmer with humble beginnings into becoming an unlikely TV celebrity.

Many of the skills that millions of viewers have seen in action on their television screens and Clarkson has become dependent upon were honed at Moreton Morrell College.

Kaleb achieved Level 2 and Level 3 Agriculture Apprenticeship qualifications when he was a teenager back in 2016 and he recently returned to the college as a special guest speaker.

In a Q&A session at the college Kaleb commented on how coming to college had helped him: "I'd rather be down on the farm learning than just be sat in the classroom. So that was a really big help for me, coming out of school where I was in a classroom all the time, to being in a college that had a farm. That was amazing."

Kaleb, who was also promoting his book 'The World According to Kaleb', told the audience how he started life in farming by selling eggs laid by three chickens his mother gifted him for his thirteenth birthday.

While he can now boast an Instagram following nearly 200 times greater than the population of his home town of Chipping Norton in the Cotswold Hills, it was rubbing shoulders with like-minded fellow young farmers that formed the highlight of his time at Moreton Morrell College.

"Coming in, speaking to people who were the same age as me, who are young farmers, the same as me and speak farming, was what I enjoyed most," he said.

"There were people from Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and everyone else around the local area who are also farmers; it was a pleasure to meet them."

Kaleb's return to Moreton Morrell College was part of the college's long-standing commitment for attracting back its alumni to share experiences with the next generation of learners.

Jenny Bulayima, Alumni Officer for WCG, had invited Kaleb to visit Moreton Morrell College to meet students as part of the launch of the new WCG and WCUC Alumni Society.

She said "we believe that it's incredibly important to retain the connection to past students so that we can continue to engage with them, and showcase their successes as a means of motivating and encouraging today's learners.

"Kaleb Cooper is an excellent example of a WCG apprentice who has gone on to great things, and his passion for farming was a great stimulus to all our current agriculture students.

"As the Alumni Society develops we hope to see many more alumni coming back into all our colleges to share their wealth of experience and knowledge with the next generation."





WCG GOVERNING BODY



Gill Clipson MBE

Chair of the Corporation
Chair of Academic Standards and Quality Assurance Committee
Link Governor for FE and Skills
Chair of Skills and Education Awards Board
Former Deputy CEO AoC



Louise Bennett OBE DL

WCG President
Member of the Council of the High Sheriffs' Association of England & Wales
Former High Sheriff of the County of the West Midlands, Chief Executive of Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, Director of the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce



Dave Webb

Chair of the Remuneration Committee
Vice-Chair of the Corporation
Link Governor for Health and Safety
Former Executive Director, Stratford on Avon District Council



Angela Joyce

Chief Executive Officer WCG



Chris Bradshaw

Chair of Audit Committee
Link Governor for Safeguarding and Prevent
Former Director - NHS BCH



Philippa Cresswell

Governor
Executive Director On Board Customer Experience for Avanti West Coast Rail



Nick Eastwood

Governor
Former Chief Executive then Deputy Chairman of Wasps RFC and Global Head of Corporate Services at The Body Shop



Philippa Gerrard

Academic Staff Governor
Head of Department for Animal Welfare, Veterinary Nursing and Sport at Moreton Morrell and Pershore College



Josh Gulrajani

Link Governor for Higher Education
Head of Strategic Planning and Insights at Bath Spa University



Colin Hooper

Governor
Chair of Property Working Group
Former Estates Director at Stoneleigh Park



Wende Hubbard

Governor
Co-opted member of Audit Committee
Managing Partner at Bullock & Burgis



Andrew Lazenby

Governor
Former CEO of Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) and Innovation for Agriculture (IFA)



Pete Maguire

Governor
Commercial Lawyer
with Wright Hassall



Dylan Marshall

Student Governor



Linda Norville

Link Governor for
Equality and Diversity
Freelancing as Youth
Business Mentor
Former Senior
Head of Education at
The Prince's Trust



Olu Orugboh

Co-opted Governor
for Digital
CEO and Founder
of Synergy Solutions



Matthew Rhodes

Governor
Former Greater
Birmingham and Solihull
LEP board member



Julie Skinner

Governor
Educational consultant and
former Vice Principal of
Exeter College



Katherine Skudra

Support Staff Governor
Head of Student Welfare
and Safeguarding WCG



Philip Wainwright

Governor
Former Group Development
Director of the Loxam
Powered Access Division



Steve Williams

Chair of Resources
Committee
Former FD
Philips Electronics



Caroline Menadue

Clerk to the Corporation
and Company Secretary



FINANCIAL INFORMATION for year to 31 July 2022

INCOME (M)

FUNDING BODY GRANTS	34,459
TUITION FEES AND EDUCATION CONTRACTS	10,002
OTHER GRANTS AND CONTRACTS	517
OTHER INCOME	3,843
TOTAL INCOME	48,821

FUNDING BODY GRANTS (M)

EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY - ADULT	2,534
EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY - 16-18	21,175
EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY - 16-18 APPRENTICESHIPS	5,969
HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL	980

SPECIFIC GRANTS (M)

RELEASES OF GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANTS	638
FUNDING BODY NON RECURRENT GRANTS	3,163
TOTAL	34,459

WCG STUDENTS PROGRESS TO POSITIVE, SUSTAINED DESTINATIONS AND THE RESULTS CONTINUE TO BE VERY GOOD...

94.1%

of 16-18 leavers in June 2021
were in a positive, sustained
destination ten months later

95.2%

of 19+ leavers in June 2020
were in a positive, sustained
destination ten months later

97.3%

of apprentices who left in the
summer 2021 continued to
be in a sustained destination
ten months later

88.1%

of students with high needs
who left in the summer 2021
continued to be in a sustained
destination ten months later



STUDENT INFORMATION

9,818
STUDENTS
(2021/22)

AGE

16-18	4,449 (45.31%)
19 - 24	2,442 (24.87%)
25+	2,826 (28.78%)
UNDER 16	101 (1.03%)

GENDER

FEMALE	4,725 (48.13%)
MALE	5,093 (51.87%)

ETHNICITY

WHITE	8,671 (88.32%)
BLACK AND OTHER MINORITY	1,113 (11.34%)
ETHNICITY UNKNOWN	34 (0.35%)

LEARNING DIFFICULTY / DISABILITY

YES	2,418 (24.63%)
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COUNTIES

LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE	343 (3.49%)
SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS (NORTHAMPTONSHIRE)	371 (3.78%)
OTHER COUNTIES	1,177 (11.99%)
OXFORDSHIRE	249 (2.54%)
COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE	6,079 (61.92%)
GREATER BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL	616 (6.27%)
WORCESTERSHIRE	983 (10.01%)

TYPE OF STUDENT

FULL-TIME	3,218 (32.78%)
PART-TIME	4,128 (42.05%)
APPRENTICESHIP	1,808 (18.42%)
WORKPLACE LEARNING	32 (0.33%)
INTERNATIONAL	60 (0.61%)
HE	572 (5.83%)

LEVEL OF STUDY

ENTRY / LEVEL 1	1,203 (12.25%)
LEVEL 2	2,500 (25.46%)
LEVEL 3	3,604 (36.71%)
LEVEL 4	147 (1.50%)
ABOVE LEVEL 4	889 (9.05%)
OTHER	1,475 (15.02%)*

*At Full Cost recovery counted in other training category.



Registered Office

Warwick New Road
Royal Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 5JE

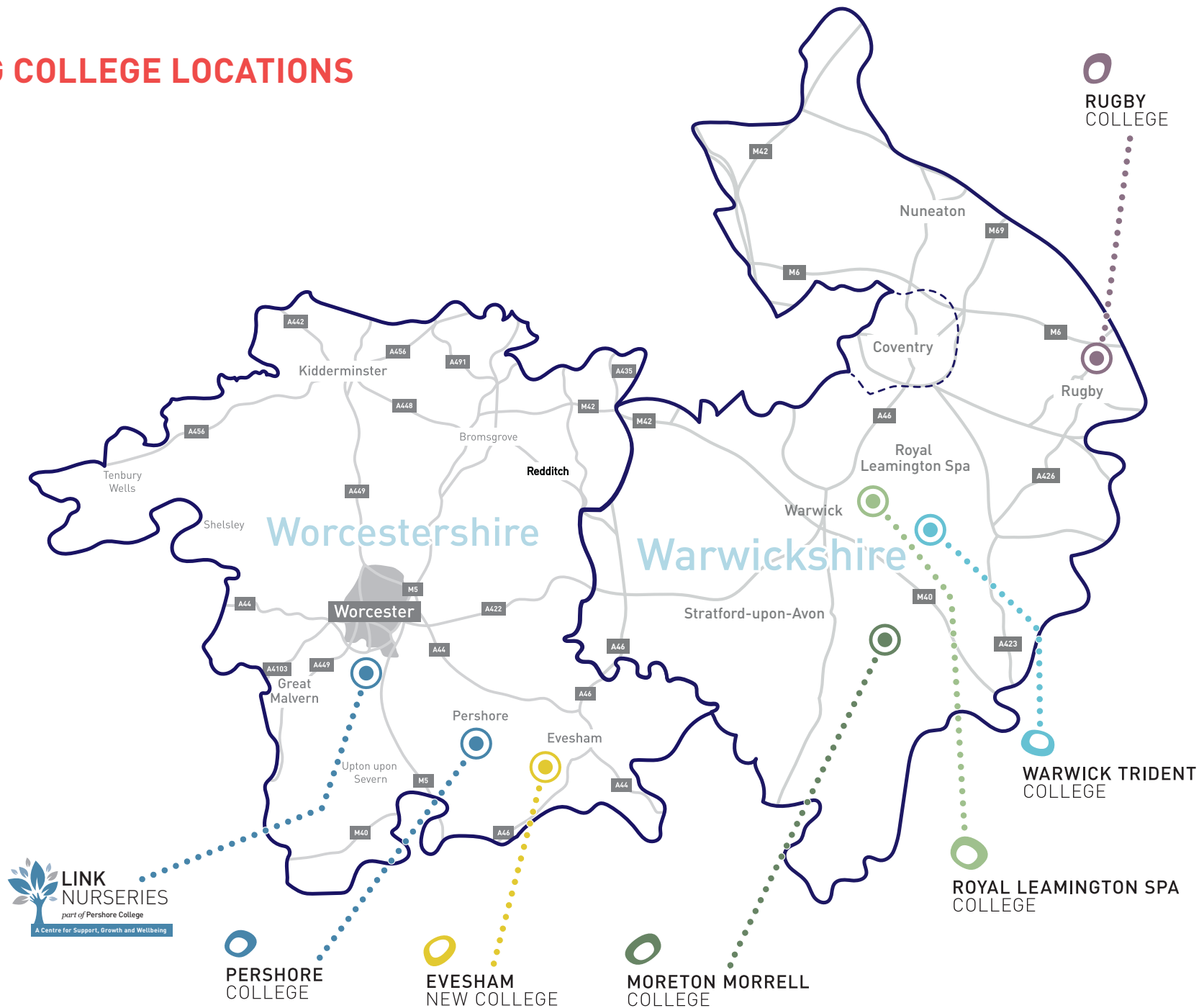
The following are trading names of Warwickshire College



APPRENTICESHIPS



WCG COLLEGE LOCATIONS



WCG PRINCE'S TRUST PROGRAMME LOCATIONS



Prince's Trust

START SOMETHING

Coventry & Warwickshire

- 1 Leamington Spa
- 2 Rugby
- 3 Coventry City
- 4 Nuneaton

Leicestershire

- 5 Leicester City (x2 locations)
- 6 Hinckley
- 7 Loughborough
- 8 Melton Mowbray
- 9 Coalville

Derbyshire

- 10 Derby City
- 11 Ilkeston / Belper / Ripley
- 12 Chesterfield

Lincolnshire

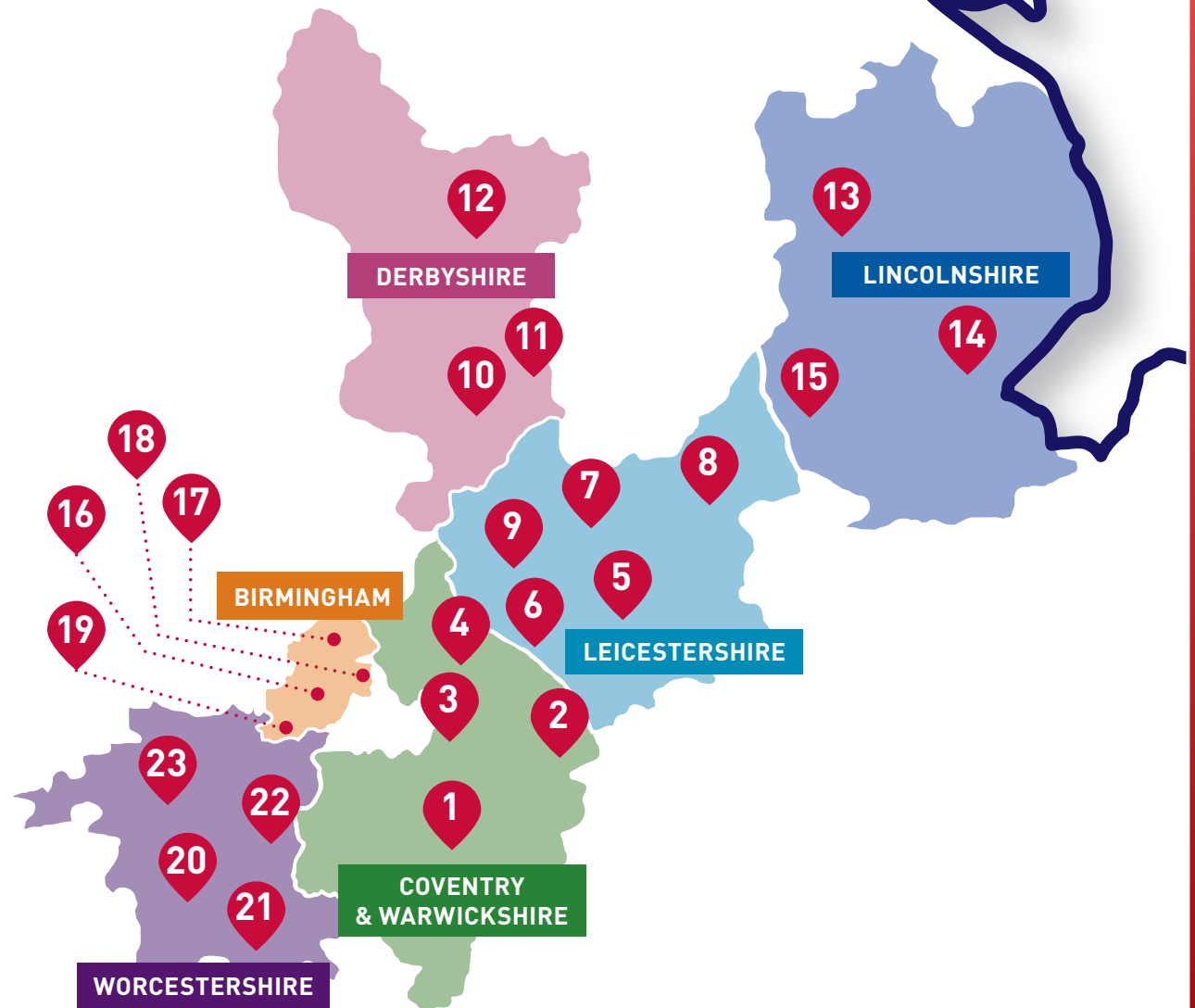
- 13 Lincoln City
- 14 Boston
- 15 Gainsborough/Grantham

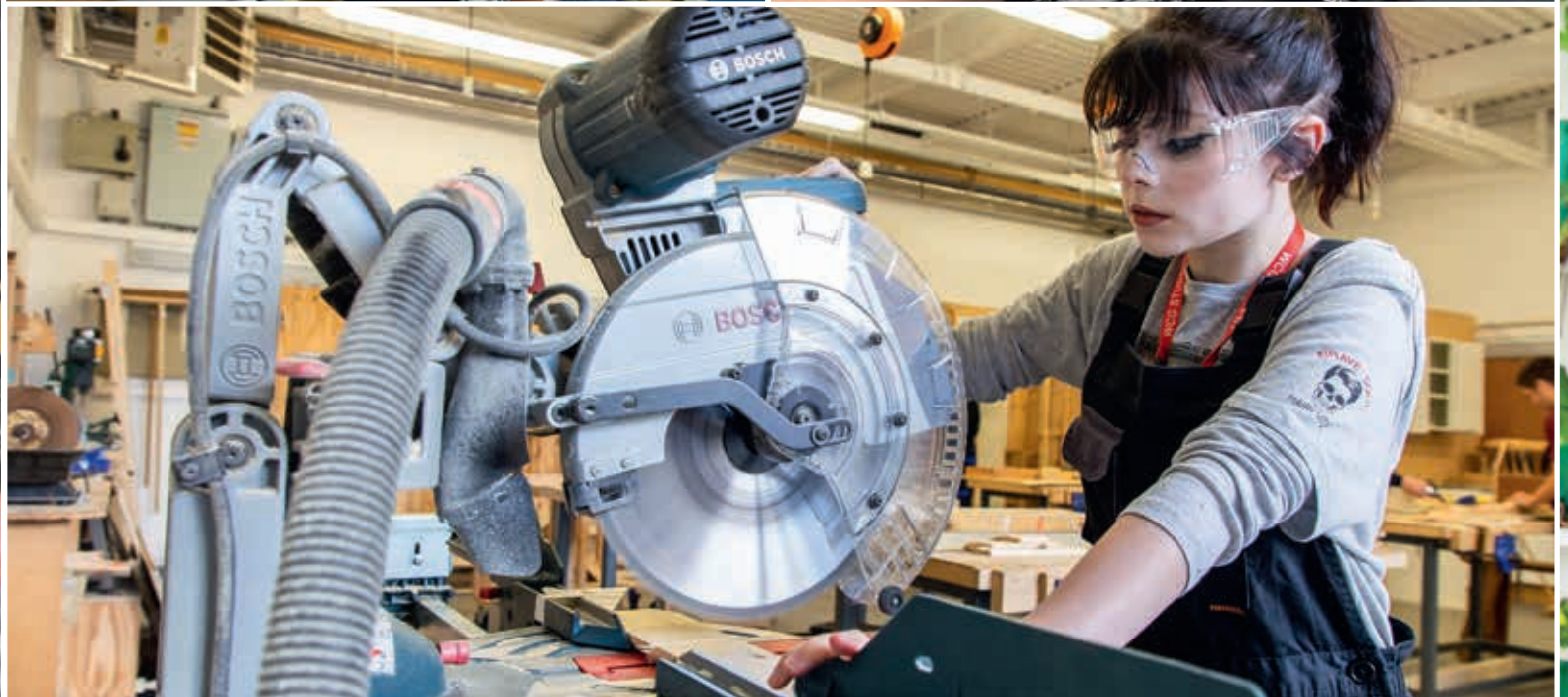
Birmingham

- 16 Digbeth
- 17 North Birmingham
- 18 Chelmsley Wood
- 19 Longbridge

Worcestershire

- 20 Worcester City
- 21 Evesham
- 22 Redditch
- 23 Kidderminster







“WCG’s place and influence in the region continued to be cemented through the year... In 2023 we will continue to ensure that our group works to meet the skills needs of of the UK, to support its prosperity.”

Angela Joyce
CEO, WCG



wcg.ac.uk

@WCollegeGroup @wgc_collegegroup wcg-collegegroup



wcuc.ac.uk

@WCandUC @WCandUC @WCandUC WCandUC

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA COLLEGE

Warwick New Road,
Leamington Spa, CV32 5JE

@LeamingtonCollege @LeamColWCG
 @RLSCollegeWCG @rlscolwgc

RUGBY COLLEGE

Technology Drive, Rugby, CV21 1AR

@RugbyCollege @RugbyColWCG
 @RugCollegeWCG @rugcolwgc

WARWICK TRIDENT COLLEGE

Trident Park, Poseidon Way,
Warwick, CV34 6SW

@WarwickTridentCollege @TridentColWCG
 @TriCollegeWCG @tricolwgc

MORETON MORRELL COLLEGE

Moreton Morrell, Warwick, CV35 9BL

@MoretonMorrellCollege @MoretonColWCG
 @MMCollegeWCG @mmcolwgc

PERSHORE COLLEGE

Avonbank, Pershore,
Worcestershire, WR10 3JP

@PersshoreCollege @PersshoreColWCG
 @PerCollegeWCG @percolwgc

EVESHAM COLLEGE

Cheltenham Road, Evesham,
Worcestershire, WR11 1LP

@EveshamNewCollege @EveshamColWCG
 @EveshamNewCollege @evecolwgc

LINK NURSERIES

Hamilton Close, off Hospital Lane. Powick,
Worcestershire, WR2 4NH

@LinkNurseries