



SCHOOL LIAISON

GUIDE

2023/24

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WELCOME



Our dedicated School Liaison team work with schools across Wirral to provide students with the opportunity to discover and explore career pathways, take part in a range of interactive activities, and give students and their influencers up-to-date careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG).

This guide provides an overview of the range of activities we offer and how we can help students prepare for the next stage of their education and the world of work. Our activities are delivered both in schools and across our campuses and are designed to be interactive and engaging. Some of our activities can also be delivered virtually if required. Alongside our standard activity offering we can work with you to tailor bespoke solutions to meet the requirements of your school.

For more information or to book an activity contact:

Paul Martin

paulmartin@wmc.ac.uk

0151 551 7468

OUR

CAMPUSES

CONWAY PARK **Europa Boulevard,** **Birkenhead, CH41 4NT**

Conway Park is dedicated to careers in the visitor economy and also supports students who need to develop skills for independent living. English for speakers of other languages is also based in this campus.

THE OVAL **Old Chester Road, Bebington,** **CH63 7LH**

Dedicated to careers in public and uniformed services and sport, this campus is set within Wirral's key sports facility - The Oval.

TWELVE QUAYS **Shore Road, Birkenhead,** **CH41 1AG**

Twelve Quays campus supports careers in Health and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Media.

WIRRAL WATERS **Tower Road, Birkenhead,** **CH41 1AA**

Wirral Waters is a multi-award winning construction campus, offering students the opportunity to work on one of the largest and most exciting regeneration projects in the UK.

HAMILTON UNIVERSITY **CENTRE** **Argyle Street, Birkenhead,** **CH41 6AY**

Hamilton University Centre supports pathways to professional careers and university level study.





MEET

OUR

TEAM

OUR

SCHOOL LIAISON

TEAM

PAUL MARTIN
SCHOOL LIAISON LEAD

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0151 551 7468



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SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER

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OUR

CAREERS

LEADER

PHILIPPA DICKINSON
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

philippadickinson@wmc.ac.uk



Visit our website for more information:
wmc.ac.uk/student-life/schools

THE

GATSBY

BENCHMARKS



The services we offer help schools to meet the Gatsby Benchmarks and incorporate best practice as detailed in the Gatsby Toolkit for Schools. For each of the activities outlined in this guide we have identified which of the eight benchmarks it meets. The activities we offer can also contribute to fulfilling your school's obligations under the 'Baker Clause' which stipulates that schools must allow colleges and training providers access to every student in Years 8-13 to discuss approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.



Benchmark 1

A stable careers programme



Benchmark 2

Learning from career and labour market information



Benchmark 3

Addressing the needs of each pupil



Benchmark 4

Linking curriculum learning to careers



Benchmark 5

Encounters with employers and employees



Benchmark 6

Experiences of workplaces



Benchmark 7

Encounters with further and higher education



Benchmark 8

Personal guidance



OUR

ACTIVITIES



To discuss your requirements, book an activity or find out more information about our School Liaison offer, contact our team today:

PAUL MARTIN

SCHOOL LIAISON LEAD

paulmartin@wmc.ac.uk

0151 551 7468

AKASHA COSTELLO

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER

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ASSEMBLY

PRESENTATIONS

Our assembly presentations are a great way to deliver key information to a large group of students within a relatively short space of time. We can adapt the length of presentations to suit your schedule and cover a range of topics to meet the needs of students.

INTRODUCTION TO COLLEGE LIFE

GATSBY BENCHMARK: 1, 2 & 7

SESSION LENGTH: 10 MINS - 1 HOUR

This presentation is a great introduction to Wirral Met and offers pupils a taste of what life at college is like. It features an overview of our study pathways, facilities, support and the additional opportunities available to students. It will cover topics such as; how you can study, courses available from September, trips and enrichment activities and Open Evening information. The presentation can be tailored to meet the needs and interests of the students we deliver it to.

DISCOVER T-LEVELS

GATSBY BENCHMARK:
1, 2, 3 & 7

SESSION LENGTH:
10 MINS - 30 MINS

As T-Levels are still a relatively new qualification, students and their influencers may have a lack of awareness or misconceptions about this option and whether it is right for them. Our presentation introduces students to T-Levels, covers the benefits of studying this qualification compared to other post-16 pathways and provides an overview of the options available to study at Wirral Met.

STAYING LOCAL FOR UNIVERSITY

GATSBY BENCHMARK: 2, 3 & 7

SESSION LENGTH: 10 MINS - 1 HOUR

This presentation offers students information about university life at Wirral Met, the courses available, the benefits of studying with us, and how to apply. It considers the advantages of studying locally as opposed to moving away for university and positions higher education as a viable option for those who may not have considered it before.

START YOUR CAREER WITH AN APPRENTICESHIP

GATSBY BENCHMARK: 1, 2, 3 & 7

SESSION LENGTH: 10 MINS - 30 MINS

Allowing students to earn whilst they learn, an apprenticeship provides valuable workplace and industry experience whilst they work towards a qualification. From level 2 through to degree apprenticeships, Wirral Met offers a wide range of apprenticeship programmes across the Liverpool City Region. Our apprenticeship presentation provides students with essential knowledge about apprenticeships, including where to find them and how to apply for them. We also share some apprenticeship success stories to show students examples of where this pathway can lead to.

ONE

TO

ONE

SESSIONS

Our one-to-one sessions provide the opportunity for students to access tailored support and advice from a member of our expert team. They allow for students to ask questions that may not have been covered by presentations and receive information that is personalised to their interests and career aspirations.

Sessions can be delivered on a drop-in basis and students can also opt to attend a session as part of a small group.

HOW TO APPLY TO WIRRAL MET

GATSBY BENCHMARK: 3, 4, 7 & 8

SESSION LENGTH: 30 MINS - 1 HOUR

In this individualised session we will cover the college application process, discuss career aspirations, study options and pathways and support applicants through making an application. This is available to individuals and groups.

PERSONAL GUIDANCE

GATSBY BENCHMARK: 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8

SESSION LENGTH: 30 MINS - 1 HOUR

These sessions are fairly open and can be tailored to the needs of the individual pupil. You may have identified that certain students may be nervous about joining college or have become disengaged from lessons. They may be confused about the options available to them and where these can lead. These informal and relaxed sessions can help re-engage and inspire students as well as providing them with an action plan for their next steps. Pupils can also attend personal guidance drop-in sessions with parents/ carers at Conway Park Campus - Monday 10am-1pm, Wednesday 1pm-6pm & Friday 10am-1pm (term time only).

TOURS

AND

TASTERS

The best way for students to find out if studying at Wirral Met is the right choice for them is to come and visit our specialist facilities, try out a range of our career-focussed taster sessions and speak to our staff and students. There are a number of opportunities for your students to do this:

COLLEGE DISCOVERY DAYS

GATSBY BENCHMARK: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7

SESSION LENGTH: ALL DAY

Our college discovery days allow students to spend a full day on campus, participating in a timetable of varied taster sessions and interactive lessons delivered by our course tutors. Students will attend up to six taster sessions within the day, introducing them to various subject areas they might not have explored before. The day also gives them an opportunity to view our state-of-the-art facilities and speak to current Wirral Met students about their experiences at the College, giving them a rounded overview of college life.

CAMPUS TOURS

GATSBY BENCHMARK: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 7

SESSION LENGTH: 30 MINS - 2 HOURS

Tours of the college campuses can be customised to meet your pupils' specific needs and interests. Tours give them the chance to visit our specialist facilities, meet tutors and current students, and have the opportunity to observe teaching and learning as it happens. Tours can be arranged throughout the year and are available for groups and individuals.

CURRICULUM-LINKED TASTER SESSIONS

**GATSBY BENCHMARK:
1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7**

**SESSION LENGTH:
1 HOUR - 2 HOURS**

Our wide range of vocational courses are delivered by industry expert tutors, meaning we are able to deliver a variety of career taster sessions at our college campuses. The sessions include interactive, hands-on experience of job-related courses using our specialist facilities. The aim of our tasters is to inspire young people to explore their interests and learn more about careers they may have in mind. In some areas we can also deliver these sessions at your school.

INCREASING DIVERSITY WITHIN INDUSTRY

GATSBY BENCHMARK: 1 & 7

SESSION LENGTH: 1 HOUR - 2 HOURS

As part of our commitment to increase diversity across curriculum areas, we regularly host exciting visits to our Engineering, Construction and Automotive departments. The sessions are aimed at Year 10 girls and BAME students, with the intention of challenging student's perception of these industries and encouraging applications from underrepresented groups. The format of the day can be tailored to meet the needs of the students attending, but generally includes a hands-on taster session of an Engineering, Construction or Automotive course, a tour of our workshop areas and a Q&A with some of our female staff and students to hear about their experiences within the industry they have chosen.

SUPPORT FOR LEARNERS WITH AN EDUCATION HEALTH & CARE PLAN

GATSBY BENCHMARK: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 7

DURATION: 1 - 2 YEARS

Any transition for a learner with an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) will be informed by the individual's needs as identified and agreed in the plan. The transition will be bespoke to each individual, with a programme developed through close liaison between the current and receiving setting. Transition for learners with EHCPs may take longer than other learners and will be planned over a length of time and at a pace determined by the pupil and informed by both settings, the local authority and parents/carers.

SCHOOL CAREERS

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Our flexible team are happy to support your school's career programme in anyway you need.

SUPPORTING SCHOOL EVENTS

GATSBY BENCHMARK: 1, 2, 3 & 7

**SESSION LENGTH:
VARIES DEPENDING ON SCHOOL'S
NEEDS**

The post-16 education landscape is constantly evolving and it's important to keep parents and carers informed on all available options. Whether you are hosting a career's fair, parent's evening or options evening, we can support by providing careers advice and information to both students and their guardians about pathways at Wirral Met.

MOCK INTERVIEWS

**GATSBY BENCHMARK:
4 & 5**

**SESSION LENGTH:
VARIES DEPENDING ON
SCHOOL'S NEEDS**

Mock interviews give pupils the opportunity to practice answering questions, rehearse their interview conduct, and receive useful feedback, increasing their employability in the future. We can come into your school and assist you with mock interviews for any number of students at a time that suits you.

SCHOOL DROP IN SESSIONS

GATSBY BENCHMARK: 1 & 7

SESSION LENGTH: 30 MINS - 1 HOUR

Drop-in sessions offer pupils a relaxed, informal environment to chat and learn more about options available to them post-16. Often hosted during break or lunchtime in your school, the sessions provide the opportunity for pupils to meet our liaison team and explore course and career opportunities. The pupils will be able to take home resources to inspire them and support their decision-making.



WORKSHOPS

Our team can also deliver informative workshops to groups of students around the subject areas of Further Education and employability. If you have a topic in mind that you'd like us to cover let us know and we can tailor the session to the needs of the group.

CV AND APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

GATSBY BENCHMARK: 4

**SESSION LENGTH:
1 HOUR**

It's never too early for students to start getting ready for the world of work. Our expert careers advisors prepare students to secure work placements and paid employment and can help your students to get a head start. This interactive workshop covers the production of quality CVs and job applications that will impress employers and help students stand out in the job market.

CHOOSING THE INDUSTRY FOR YOU

**GATSBY BENCHMARK:
2 & 4**

**SESSION LENGTH:
1 HOUR**

When students are unsure about their career aspirations, it can often help to offer them guidance based on statistics. This interactive session uses labour market information to help them make an informed decision based on information about job market demand and associated salaries. We can then provide guidance on the next steps they need to take to start their journey into a specific career path.



OPEN EVENT

WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2024 4:30pm-7pm

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024 4:30pm-7pm

WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2024 4:30pm-7pm

REGISTER ONLINE NOW WMC.AC.UK/EVENTS



FEEDBACK

"Thank you so much for showing ___ round today. He was very taken with the college and is keen to get his application done."

**SUE PELTER,
KILGARTH SCHOOL
| CAMPUS TOUR**

"Thank you again for yesterday, our students came back absolutely buzzing!! With so many asking why they can't join the college for Year 9!! Our staff complimented your team for being patient and caring to our most vulnerable students. As always, the hospitality was much appreciated. The plan for the day worked really well and all of the feedback was really positive. Thanks again for all of the planning you did and I already can't wait for the next one!"

**JON DUCKER,
RIDGWAY HIGH SCHOOL
| COLLEGE DISCOVERY DAY**

"I write to thank you for your excellent contribution to our recent Careers Convention held in school on 18th October. The event simply could not have happened without your invaluable expertise, support and commitment; for that we are extremely grateful... Feedback from the school's staff and pupils has been superb and it is clear how very valuable your contributions were."

**REBEKAH PHILLIPS,
WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL
| CAREERS FAIR**



“Thank you so much for today - I really do believe it will make a difference to _____. Please thank your colleague too, _____ was just so positive when I spoke with her.”

**LEONE HEPKE,
PRENTON HIGH SCHOOL
| PERSONAL GUIDANCE SESSION**

“Just want to say another HUGE thank you for giving your time yesterday to provide such an enriching experience for our students. The feedback you gave for all students will impact significantly on their confidence and motivation and help them in finding the most suitable destination.”

**DAVE BELL,
SOUTH WIRRAL HIGH SCHOOL
| MOCK INTERVIEWS**

“I liked the session and really enjoyed learning about what engineers are and why they are important. It definitely made me think this could be an option.”

“Thank you very much for coming in this morning to talk to our Yr11 cohort about the vast array of opportunities at Wirral Met. It was a great opportunity for them to hear about the alternative qualifications which may suit some of our pupils rather than taking A levels.”

**KATE DOUGLAS,
UPTON HALL SCHOOL
| INTRODUCTION TO
COLLEGE LIFE ASSEMBLY**

**PUPIL,
ST JOHN PLESSINGTON CATHOLIC COLLEGE
| INCREASING DIVERSITY WITHIN INDUSTRY**



**SIGN UP TO OUR SCHOOL LIAISON NEWSLETTER
OR EMAIL PAULMARTIN@WMC.AC.UK**