Childcare Apprentice Sophie Bland says the best thing about her apprenticeship at Bruche Primary School is how dynamic the role is. Sophie declared: “I absolutely love my apprenticeship! Every day is different. I’ve met lots of new people and have built wonderful relationships with the staff and children.”

Speaking on Sophie’s appointment, Deputy Head teacher of Bruche Primary School, Mrs Gemma Callaghan, said: “First-hand, practical experience is crucial in the education and childcare sector, and apprenticeships are an excellent way of training on the job. It ensures the correct balance of practice and theory, giving each student a holistic view.”

“We could not be happier with Sophie,” continued Mrs Callaghan. “She is an absolute credit to the school’s nursery setting and to Warrington & Vale Royal College.”

Sophie hopes to encourage other young people to consider an apprenticeship, as she believes they are a worthwhile alternative to university. Sophie explained: “Being an apprentice allows you to have a full-time job whilst gaining a qualification at the same time. It puts you a step ahead of the rest.”

Assistant Accountant Apprenticeship Standard

Warrington & Vale Royal College is also celebrating the achievements of two apprentices, George Dean and Liam Castle, for becoming the first of our students to pass the Assistant Accountant apprenticeship standard.

George Dean works within Warrington & Vale Royal College’s Finance department and Liam Castle is employed by Kawneer, one of the UK’s leading manufacturers and suppliers of architectural aluminium systems.

The apprenticeship standard requires students to attend an End Point Assessment Interview with an assessor from the Association of Accounting Technicians, during which they must present their portfolio of work. They’re also required to take part in a synoptic exam.

George said: “I’m very proud to be one of the college’s first apprentices to pass the Assistant Accountant apprenticeship standard. The support I’ve received from the college has been fantastic and I’m looking forward to progressing on to my AAT Level 4.”
An apprenticeship helps you to become more independent.

Advanced Electrical Engineering Apprentice George Warner works as a Junior Project Manager for Heat Trace, one of the world’s leading suppliers of electric heat tracing equipment.

A previous Neston High School student, George finished school and immediately began an apprenticeship at Heat Trace in Helsby. As part of his apprenticeship, George completed his BTEC Level 3 in General Engineering and is now studying for a HNC in Electrical Engineering with our college. George said: “That’s one of the great things about working as an apprentice for Heat Trace, they’re very keen for me to continue my education and develop my skill set. As part of my role I use AutoCAD to design work for our electrical installation projects across the UK. My favourite part of the role is travelling around the country to meet our customers at their sites.”

Since working for Heat Trace, George’s highlight has been his involvement in designing a system for Cabot Carbon, a chemical plant in Wales. He said: “It was very interesting and great to be given the opportunity to become heavily involved in such a large-scale and valuable project for the company.”

George hopes to continue working for Heat Trace upon completing his apprenticeship and is considering pursuing a HND and a top-up year at university. “If you want to work in engineering, I’d definitely consider an apprenticeship,” says George. “You’re earning money and learning at the same time. At seventeen years of age I passed my driving test and could afford my own car. An apprenticeship certainly helps you to become more independent and develop important life skills.”

I feel very lucky to have been given the opportunity that I have.

Business Administration Apprentice Madison Evans says being an apprentice at specialist canine security company, Global Support Services, has turned her life around. After completing one year at another college, Madison knew continuing in full-time education just wasn’t for her. Madison said: “I found it too stressful trying to juggle full-time education, a job and a social life. An apprenticeship intrigued me as I thought by combining learning and working, it would alleviate some of the pressure. I now get paid a good wage and I am gaining a qualification at the same time.”

Speaking on Madison’s appointment, Matt Crofts from Global Support Services commented: “Maddie has come to us with a real eagerness to learn and do her very best. A number of years ago, university degrees were seen as the normal way to get a ‘good job’ and rewarding career. We don’t believe that route is always the most appropriate these days. Apprenticeships offer a fantastic balance of learning and training on both an academic and vocational level, which gives the apprentice earlier exposure to and experience of the professional workplace.”

Madison cannot praise apprenticeships highly enough and hopes that by sharing her story it will encourage other young people to explore apprenticeships. She said: “I feel very lucky to have been given the opportunity that I have at just eighteen years of age and feel very supported by my employer and Warrington & Vale Royal College.”

An apprenticeship helps you to become more independent.
“Everyone is understanding of my training and tries to help with my learning.”

Advanced Business Administration Apprentice Alyce Cross works as a Purchasing Administration Assistant at commercial wood flooring specialist Ted Todd. Alyce said: “I wanted to do an apprenticeship because I was keen to start from scratch in a job and work my way up.

“At Ted Todd, everyone is understanding of my training and tries to help with my learning. That’s one of the benefits of being an apprentice, there’s no pressure on me to understand things straight away.”

Jon Ashbrook at Ted Todd believes apprentices are a huge asset to the business, commenting: “Someone who has lots to learn is generally very keen and eager to understand everything, meaning they’re more driven in the role. We wanted someone fresh and enthusiastic to start from the beginning and truly understand the business. Our last apprentice has progressed into a junior management position, and we’ve high expectations for Alyce.”

Alyce considers getting paid to learn as just one of the many benefits to an apprenticeship. She said: “You’re earning a wage, learning valuable employability skills and achieving a qualification at the same time!”

“Everyone is understanding of my training and tries to help with my learning.”

“Everyone is understanding of my training and tries to help with my learning.”

“Alyce Cross
#NAW2019

“It’s a fantastic company to work for, they really invest in their staff.”

Business Administration Apprentice Jack Sherwood has been working at Today Team Courier Services for just over a year, after finishing college with three A Levels.

Jack said: “I wasn’t sure what career pathway to take but I knew I wanted to get some real work experience, start earning money and continue my education. I applied for an apprenticeship through Warrington & Vale Royal College and they secured me an interview with Today Team. It’s a fantastic company to work for, they really invest in their staff.”

Today Team’s Business & Finance Manager, Dawn Bostock, commented: “As a company we are very passionate about our company values and wanted to recruit an ambitious young person who embodied these values. Jack is a real asset to the team. His knowledge and confidence has significantly improved since he started with us.”

Since working as an apprentice for Today Team, Jack’s highlight has been his attendance at a Business Network International meeting with his Managing Director, and pitching to over 60 business owners.

“If you’re unsure about what to do when you finish school or college, do an apprenticeship,” said Jack. “Unlike university, you’re not becoming tied to student loans or narrowing your options. I’m currently studying for my Business Administration Level 3 but I’ve also been given the opportunity to work closely within Today Team’s accounts department, which has made me want to pursue my AAT accounting qualification at college. I hope that’ll be my next step.”
FREE* Distance Learning at Warrington & Vale Royal College

Our distance learning courses can give you and your employees the chance to expand your existing knowledge and develop your career.

Distance learning courses mean that you have the freedom to work at your own pace and in your own time, from the comfort of your own home. This provides a great balance between your studying and other commitments such as work. And the best thing? They are FREE of charge*!

How are they assessed?

Distance learning courses are assessed online through a series of short answer questions and learning through self-study from the workbooks provided.

You will complete the course using an interactive online learning platform.

*Upon successful completion you will be awarded a certificate of achievement by NCFE and you will hold a nationally recognised qualification. If you fail to complete your course you will need to pay £100.

What courses are available?

- Business Administration Principles
- Common Health Conditions
- Counselling Skills
- Customer Service for Health & Social Care Settings
- Customer Service Principles
- Dementia Care
- Equality & Diversity
- Falls Prevention Awareness
- Improving Personal Exercise, Health & Nutrition
- Information, Advice and Guidance
- Introducing Caring for Children and Young People
- Lean Organisation Management Techniques
- Mental Health Awareness
- Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care
- Principles of Care Planning
- Principles of End of Life Care
- Principles of the Prevention & Control of Infection
- Principles of Working with Individuals with Learning Disabilities
- Retail Operations
- Team Leading
- Understanding Autism
- Understanding Behaviour that Challenges
- Understanding Children & Young People's Mental Health
- Understanding Dignity & Safeguarding
- Understanding Excellence in Customer Service for Hospitality
- Understanding Nutrition & Health
- Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
- Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties
- Understanding the Care & Management of Diabetes
- Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
- Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties
- Understanding the Care & Management of Diabetes
- Understanding the Safe Handling of Medication in Health & Social Care
- Warehousing & Storage
- Working with People with Mental Health Needs

Looking to take on an apprentice?

Warrington & Vale Royal College can help!

Whether you’re looking for an additional apprentice, or are interested in taking part in the apprenticeship scheme for the first time, Warrington & Vale Royal College can help you to find the right apprentice for your business. We currently offer apprenticeships across a range of sectors, including:

Business & Finance
- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Leadership & Management
- Procurement

Child & Adult Care
- Childcare
- Adult Care Worker
- Supporting Teaching & Learning

Construction
- Bricklaying
- Site Joinery

Engineering & Electrical
- Engineering
- Electrical Installation

Hair & Beauty
- Hairdressing

Hospitality & Catering
- Commis Chef
- Hospitality Team Member

ICT
- Digital Marketeer
- IT Users
- IT Telecoms

Motor Vehicle
- Vehicle Maintenance & Repair
- Plumbing
- Plumbing

Warehousing
- Warehousing & Logistics

For more information on distance learning courses please email distancelearning@wvr.ac.uk or telephone 01925 494 637

For more information on anything apprenticeships related, contact us today:

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