

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

## FURTHER EDUCATION AFTER GCSEs

Taking the next  
steps with your  
young learner



**College of  
West Anglia**

Deciding what to do after GCSEs can be a little overwhelming. There are many options to consider. Here, we provide some key information about what to expect this year and how to help your son or daughter make an informed choice.

Consider:

- What type of learner are they: academic, practical or technical?
- What career ambitions or aspirations do they have?
- What qualifications do they need to get there? (If there is a specific degree your young learner is interested in, look at what the entry requirements are and explore the different ways this can be achieved.)
- If they are not yet ready to make that decision, which subjects do they enjoy or excel in the most?



## WHAT TYPE OF COURSE IS RIGHT FOR MY YOUNG LEARNER?

### VOCATIONAL COURSES

My young learner studies best with a hands-on approach and they enjoy a mixture of theory and practical work. They would either like to start work after their course, go on to an apprenticeship or go to university.

### APPRENTICESHIPS

My young learner has chosen their career and wants to start work right away, completing their training and qualification whilst in employment.

### T-LEVEL

My young learner wants to specialise in their subject through classroom study and industry placement. They will go on to take a higher apprenticeship, go straight into employment or go to university.

### A-LEVELS

My young learner is academic and would like to keep their options open by studying a range of subjects, before going to university or finding employment.





## DID YOU KNOW?

### WANT TO GO TO UNIVERSITY?

Studying a T-level or most level 3 vocational courses<sup>†</sup> are the equivalent of studying three A-levels? All three qualifications can achieve up to 168 UCAS points:

UCAS Points	Level 3 Diploma	T-level	A-level
168	D* D* D*	D*	A* A* A*
144	D D D	D	A A A
128	D D M	M (120)	B B A
96	M M M	Pass C+	C C C

<sup>†</sup> Refer to [cwa.ac.uk/courses](http://cwa.ac.uk/courses) for the UCAS points for each course.

## YOUR YOUNG LEARNER'S STUDY PROGRAMME

Their course will combine:

- Their main qualification
- Maths and English if they haven't already achieved GCSE grade 4 or higher
- Work experience, related to their course.

### Maths and English

Maths and English are essential for future employment. If your son or daughter doesn't achieve grade 4 or higher in these subjects, it is a government requirement that they continue to study them as part of their timetabled further education.



Find out more here:

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience is a key component of our full-time students' learning programmes and **most students will complete a minimum of 60 hours per academic year**, dependent on the type of course they are studying. **CWA has a dedicated team of work placement co-ordinators** to support our students with this.

Work placements need to be relevant to your son or daughter's programme of study, and a meaningful and challenging placement will enable them to develop vital skills, known as "soft skills", in readiness for employment. These include teamwork, communication, using their initiative and being adaptable. This will also enable your young learner to get a sense of whether they are making the right career choice for them.

# COLLEGE OR SIXTH FORM?

## NEED SOME HELP?

Independent careers information, advice and guidance (IAG) is available for everyone.

Contact [careerteam@cwa.ac.uk](mailto:careerteam@cwa.ac.uk) for impartial assistance.

## AT SIXTH FORM

- Students can study A-levels and some vocational courses.
- If your young learner has progressed through the same school, the environment and teachers will already be familiar to them.
- The formality of school tends to continue, especially as younger pupils still attend the same school. Some students prefer a learning environment which is more regulated in this way.
- The academic transition to A-levels can still be a challenging step.

## AT COLLEGE

- Students are treated more independently and have the freedom to manage their own learning – a great stepping stone for university and working life.
- The college day will be longer, typically 8:45am to 4:30pm, and students will be on site for three or four days (depending on their study programme) each week – although they will need to plan their individual study in their free time.
- Courses will include practical work experience, providing preparation for employment in your son or daughter's chosen sector.
- There is an extensive range of course subjects and types to choose from, taught by industry-trained staff in specialist facilities.



# WHY CWA?

- We have been awarded the national Quality in Careers Standard for our careers education, information, advice and guidance provision.
- We prioritise **careers not courses** – our focus is on getting your young learner ready for work or higher education.
- Our college values are **centred around the learner**.

**I**NCLUSIVENESS  
**R**ESPECT  
**A**SPIRATION  
**I**NTEGRITY  
**I**NSPIRATION  
**E**NTERPRISE  
**C**OLLABORATION

- Our campuses are equipped with modern facilities, enabling **study in industry-standard settings**.
- We have a **dedicated team of work placement co-ordinators** with excellent links with employers, offering real-life work experience.
- Drop-in sessions, events and activities are available for all students with the **CWA Support & Enrichment Programme**.
- Our **learners can share their views and make suggestions** through Student Voice, and can themselves become Student Ambassadors, sit on the Student Council or stand for Student Governor.
- **We are here for the wellbeing of our students** and provide a wide range of support, both personal/pastoral and with their learning, depending on their needs.
- We are **rated good by Ofsted**.

**COMPLETE**  
**CAREERS**





# LEARNING SUPPORT

Our programmes are designed to support your young learner and our experienced and dedicated staff are always on hand to offer advice and help.

- Each full-time student will be allocated a **course/personal tutor**, who will monitor your young learner's progress, providing guidance for developing their skills.
- **Subject tutors** will provide prompt feedback on learning progress.
- The **course director** is responsible for the overall management of the course.
- **Learners studying an apprenticeship are allocated an apprenticeship advisor** instead, who will support your young learner through their programme, monitor their working conditions to ensure they are working safely, review their progress at regular interviews (through visits to their workplace and at college, if necessary) and maintain regular contact with their course tutor/assessors and employer.



## SAFEGUARDING, WELFARE AND WELLBEING

The student welfare team offers a confidential service that provides advice and support to help students with any worries or concerns that they may have about themselves or others. This includes safeguarding concerns, mental health issues and worries about their course/starting college. They work closely with students, parents/carers and external agencies to ensure that the right support is in place to help the student settle into studying at CWA, enjoy their course and reach their full potential. For more information about the support available at CWA, please contact the student welfare team at [welfare@cwa.ac.uk](mailto:welfare@cwa.ac.uk)



## TRAVELLING TO COLLEGE

It's easy to get to and from college, as all of our campuses are well-served by local bus services. We also have bicycle shelters and limited car parking on each site. King's Lynn campus is a short walk from the train station, while a shuttle bus, free for Norfolk students, runs from Waterbeach station to our Cambridge campus.

You can find out what transport options are available to your young learner with the transport calculator at [cwa.ac.uk/transport](http://cwa.ac.uk/transport). It is subject to change. Costs and further details on how to apply may not be confirmed until the end of June.

## SUPPORT FOR YOUNG LEARNERS: LOOKED AFTER / IN CARE / CARE LEAVERS

Our student mentor team offers a range of support for looked after young learners/young learners in care and care leavers to help them with any concerns that they have about college or their course. They work closely with social workers, personal advisors and course teams to ensure that the student has the right support in place to meet their full potential and achieve on their course. For more information, please contact our student mentor team at [mentors@cwa.ac.uk](mailto:mentors@cwa.ac.uk)

## FINANCIAL HELP

The college operates a financial support scheme which can help students whose financial circumstances make it difficult for them to meet the costs associated with study. If your household income is less than £45,000pa, you are likely to be eligible to receive help with costs such as essential uniform, kit and equipment, transport and compulsory trips.

## SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CARERS

CWA is committed to ensuring that young carers and young adult carers have the right support in place to help them succeed at college and reach their full potential. Our student mentor team offers a range of support to help young carers and young adult carers. For more information, please contact our student mentor team at [mentors@cwa.ac.uk](mailto:mentors@cwa.ac.uk)





## ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT

**CWA welcomes applications from learners with a wide range of disabilities and learning difficulties and is committed to providing a productive and supportive environment to help your son or daughter reach their potential and fulfil their ambitions.**

The **Additional Learning Support (ALS)** team are responsible for assessing any additional needs to ensure the right support is in place for your young learner when they start college. They work closely with teaching staff and, where relevant, parents and external professionals to develop a suitable support programme to meet the needs of students.

Typical areas of support include:

- Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- Emotional and behavioural needs
- ADHD/ADD
- Learning difficulties
- Mental health difficulties
- Physical and mobility difficulties
- Hearing/visual impairments
- Dyslexia
- Literacy/numeracy difficulties.

If you feel your young learner needs support, please discuss their needs with our ALS team as early as possible, so that we can plan effectively and ensure a successful college experience for them.

If an area of support is not listed here, don't worry, we may still be able to support you. Ask for our **Inclusive Learning** guide, which will help to answer your questions and provide details of more opportunities for your young person. We also have a specialist campus at our Engagement Centre, which supports young learners with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

For more information, please contact our Additional Learning Support team on **01553 815 500** or by email at **senco@cwa.ac.uk**.



# MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

There is a lot of information and support available to help your son or daughter decide on their next steps:

- **Research** courses and providers online – find out what current students think.
- **Go** along to school careers events.
- **Seek** independent careers advice.
- **Attend** open days – see the facilities, speak to tutors and students, find out about learning support, finance and travel.

Once your young learner is clearer on the route they wish to take, they will be able to apply to CWA directly via [cwa.ac.uk/apply](https://cwa.ac.uk/apply). They can also apply through their school applications service – speak to your school for advice.



Following their application, they will manage everything on our student portal via our website, including:

1. Booking their interview(s)
2. Reviewing and accepting their offer(s)
3. Following GCSE results day, uploading their results and confirming their chosen place.



# APPLICANT EXPERIENCE DAYS

Experience days will be held for applicants in Summer 2024. The exact day will depend on the course your young learner has applied for. The dates will be confirmed to the email address on the application.

## REMEMBER!

Your young learner can apply for more than one course at more than one provider. If they are not quite sure, their final decision does not have to be made until GCSE results have been released.

# SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO

VISIT OUR OPEN EVENTS

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

[cwa.ac.uk/openday](http://cwa.ac.uk/openday)



## CAMBRIDGE campus

*Animal and Landbased courses only*

- **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023**  
Evening places available
- **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
Morning places available
- **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024**  
Evening places available



## Special Educational Needs (SEN) Learners

We have SEN quiet time slots available for SEN learners at most of our open events. These slots are the first slots of the events, before general admission starts. Select the SEN Quiet Time ticket to book your place.

## WISBECH campus

- **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
Morning places available
- **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
Morning places available

## A-LEVELS courses only

*King's Lynn campus*

- **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Sep 2023**  
Evening places available

## KING'S LYNN & SPORTS campus

- **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023**  
Morning places available
- **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
Morning places available
- **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
Morning places available





# OUR CAMPUSES

## Cambridge Campus

Landbeach Road, Milton,  
Cambridgeshire, CB24 6DB

Tel: 01223 860 701

## Sports Campus

Lynnsport, Greenpark  
Avenue, King's Lynn,  
Norfolk, PE30 2NB

Tel: 01553 815 506

## Email

[admissions@cwa.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@cwa.ac.uk)

## Wisbech Campus

Ramnoth Road, Wisbech,  
Cambridgeshire, PE13 2JE

Tel: 01945 582 561

## King's Lynn Campus

Tennyson Avenue,  
King's Lynn, Norfolk,  
PE30 2QW

Tel: 01553 761 144

## Website

[cwa.ac.uk](http://cwa.ac.uk)

