

School of Foundation Studies

(Discrete provision for students with SEND)

Riverside College is highly popular and successful Further Education college located in Widnes. It is situated at the hub of the Mersey Gateway, within easy reach of Liverpool, Manchester and Chester. We currently cater for over 3,900 16-18 students, over 2,000 adults, 350 Higher Education Students and over 500 Apprentices. We also won the Employer of the Year Category at the Halton Business Awards June 2025.

Following an Ofsted inspection in April 2024, the College has been given the highest possible rating of **OUTSTANDING** by Ofsted for a second time. After a meticulous review of the College, inspectors made the following judgements:

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS	OUTSTANDING
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Education programmes for young people	Outstanding
Provision for learners with high needs	Good
Adult learning programmes	Outstanding
Apprenticeships	Outstanding



What is it like to work at Riverside College?

Inspectors said:

"Senior leaders and managers have a very clear rationale for their aspirational curriculums. "

"Leaders carefully consider the courses they provide for students, apprentices and those who have high needs."

"They have a strong sense of community and are passionate to provide life-changing opportunities for young people and adults, many from disadvantaged backgrounds, to achieve their personal and career goals."

"Staff feel appreciated for the contribution they make to the college."

"Students and apprentices enjoy their learning at Riverside. They display extremely positive attitudes and would recommend the college to friends, family and peers."

Riverside College is committed to:

- Providing learning experiences of outstanding quality
- Investing in teaching, learning and assessment
- Offering students distinctive and valuable opportunities to develop personally and professionally and academically
- Supporting every individual student to reach their full potential
- Over recent years, significant investments have been made in teaching and learning and support for students at Riverside College, which we believe are key to our success.

Outstanding Results 2026:

99% Level 3 BTEC pass rate with 79% Distinction*/Distinction grades

100% in T Level pass rate with 95% high grades

As a growing, ambitious oversubscribed provision we are looking for additional teachers to join our very experienced, talented and supportive team and play a pivotal role in providing high-quality education and an outstanding learning experience to our students. Teachers will be based in the discrete Foundation Studies campus, supporting the delivery of our exciting, personalised curriculum designed for young people with learning difficulties, disabilities, or those who need extra support to transition into college. These roles have come about after another year of growth and a carefully planned and very positive enrolment process. The Foundation Studies curriculum offers the following three pathways:

- Pathway to Independence
- Pathway to Progression
- Pathway to Vocational

The Foundation Studies department provides a safe, nurturing, supportive and ambitious environment whereby students can prepare for further study, adult life and employment, with a strong emphasis on community inclusion and living a fulfilled independent life. All pathways have an element of maths and English education intertwined with a wide curriculum and work experience. Many students undertake externally verified, industry recognised vocational qualifications as part of their programme of study and have the opportunity to achieve functional skills or GCSE maths and English depending on their starting points. Work experience and community engagement are also integrated into every programme and students may have the opportunity to work off site at our externally based community café The Catering Cup, run a stall at a local market or attend one of our many work experience placements or undertake an official Duke of Edinburgh Award which combines skill building, volunteering and expeditions; an opportunity to learn new skills, contribute to the community and enhance their CV. A wide range of enrichment is available to every student in order that they can practice their communication and social skills whilst learning something new or taking part in sport, games, music or art and crafts.

Over recent years, significant investments have been made in teaching, learning and support for students, which we believe are the key to our success. The wellbeing of students is at the heart of the college and the teaching roles are key to continuing this ethos

Riverside College is committed to:

- Providing learning experiences of outstanding quality
- Investing in teaching and learning facilities, £25m invested since 2021
- Offering students distinctive and valuable opportunities to develop personally, professionally and academically
- Celebrating student success
- Supporting every individual student to reach their full potential
- Seeking opportunities for growth

Thank you for your interest in Riverside College, if you would like further information or an informal discussion please contact Jo Martin Head of Foundation Studies 0151 257 2022 or email joanne.martin@riversidecollege.ac.uk.

