



WATCH NOW ➔

Schools Senior Phase Programmes - S5 & S6

PAISLEY CAMPUS 2026-27



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West College Scotland

Schools Vocational Programmes

Would you love to try something new at college? Ready to get hands-on with your learning? Welcome to our Senior Phase Programme - unlocking a world of possibilities at West College Scotland!

Explore a range of exciting subjects with endless possible routes to further study and career choices which you may not have had the opportunity to study at school. From vocational subjects to Foundation Apprenticeships, our courses are designed to give you a whole new learning experience outside of the school classroom, giving you a taste of college life while gaining a new, industry recognised qualification.

You will learn in our modern college campuses where we have award-winning salons, state-of-the-art workshop facilities, sector leading laboratories and more!

Our highly experienced teaching staff will help you to not only master the skills relevant to the course area you choose but also to develop transferrable skills to help you in the future as you enter the world of work and give you the opportunity to progress to further or higher education, so that you can achieve your ambitions, whatever your goals.

What are you waiting for?
Start your future at West!

Check out
our Socials:



West College Scotland

Foundation Apprenticeships

Learn the skills you need for the future, while you're still at school

What is a Foundation Apprenticeship?

A Foundation Apprenticeship is an SCQF Level 6 qualification. You can sit a Foundation Apprenticeship over two years, starting in 5th year or a shorter duration course starting in 5th or 6th year alongside your Highers and National 5s.

The difference is, you spend time away from school, at college and with an employer. So you get real, practical work experience.

- Get a qualification that employers recognise and the skills you need to start a career in that industry
- Open up your options after school
- You get to work on real projects with an employer. Some of Scotland's biggest, best known organisations are involved, including Barclays, Network Rail and the NHS
- It's a chance to try a career out - so you can decide if it's right for you

Where could a Foundation Apprenticeship take you?

Straight to Work

An FA gives you skills employers want – like timekeeping, problem solving, communication and teamwork.

You'll have connections with employers, work experience and qualifications recognised by industry.

All this looks great on your CV.

A Modern Apprenticeship

In the same subject: You could complete your MA quicker because you'll have completed some elements of the MA during the FA.

In another subject: You'll already have the experience of learning on the job. That looks good to employers who are recruiting MAs.

A Graduate Level Apprenticeship

You'll have the experience of learning through work – so you're ready to do it at a higher level.

With a GLA, you can take your studies further, even up to Master's Degree level. All while you have a job.

College or University

Foundation Apprenticeships are recognised by most Scottish universities and colleges.

IMI AWARD INTRODUCTION TO MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGIES

Course Outline

Passionate about cars and the motor industry, this course is for you! Drive your ambition and get your hands dirty, with a practical approach to learning and assessment, including visual questioning techniques to stimulate your learning experience.

Learn in our state-of-the-art motor vehicle workshops and gain an industry recognised qualification which will allow you to progress to the IMI Diploma for the Introduction to Motor Vehicle Industry and Technologies or to full time college course with our award-winning Motor Vehicle department.

Entry Level Recommended

There are no formal entry requirements for this qualification. However, selection will consider each applicant's existing qualifications, experience, and interest in working in the sector.

Course Content

Get set to master a diverse range of fundamental skills to progress in the thriving motor industry. From essential units in Health and Safety to covering the range of careers in transportation, you'll gain the basic knowledge to kick start your automotive career. You'll also cover engaging topics in the workshop such as maintenance and repair, use of hand tools, workshop cleaning and maintenance and communication in the motor vehicle environment.

The assessment of this qualification is made up of 2 components: IMI Combined written and practical assessment IMI Online test.

Progression

This course is an excellent starting point if you are considering full time college, including a progression route with West to study the IMI Certificate in Transport Maintenance.

Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 3

Day

Wednesday and Friday

Time

1:45pm - 4:00pm

At West we are proud to have strong links with industry and have consistently linked many of our students to roles with local employers. Past students of the department have progressed to roles within Arnold Clark, Audi, Gormac UK, L&A Motors as well as many local garages.

ACCOUNTANCY FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP

Course Outline

Take your first step towards becoming a sought-after professional in the world of finance. The Foundation Apprenticeship in Accountancy is ideally for pupils in S6 and takes 1 year to complete. The aim of the Foundation Apprenticeship Accounting course is to help you understand and use financial and management information. You will learn how to record and analyse financial accounting and bookkeeping.

The Foundation Apprenticeship in Accountancy includes the professional qualification of Association of Accounting Technicians, a Level 2 Certificate in Bookkeeping. This qualification allows for easy transition onto the MA or the GA in Accountancy.

Previous successful learners have gone on to employment with organisations such as KPMG and Morgan Stanley, or continued to study progressing onto HNC Accounting or Finance Degree programmes.

Entry Level Recommended

Achieved National 5 Maths or Application of Maths and English at grade A or B. National 5 Business Studies will be advantageous. Working at Higher level. There may be an element of independent online learning required.

Course Content

- **Preparing Management Accounting Information**
- **Analysing Accounting Information**
- **Preparing Financial Accounting Information**
- **Recording Transactions in the Ledger OR**
- **Professional Ethics for Accountants**
- **AAT Exams: Introduction to Booking Keeping and Principles of Book-keeping**
- **Work Based Challenge Unit - previous partners have included Johnston Carmichael Accountants, River Clyde Homes and NHS**

Key Facts



Location

Paisley campus

Level

SCQF Level 6

Day

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday

Time

1.30pm - 4.00pm

Progression

After successfully completing this course, you can progress to further study at college, completing an HNC/D Accounting or a range of university accounting and finance degree programmes, you could pursue a Modern Apprenticeship in Accounting or move into the world of work.

An application and personal statement will be required.



HNC BUSINESS

Course Outline

This award is designed to offer candidates who have completed their Higher in Business (or related subject) or who have a general interest in Business, the opportunity to progress to the next academic level. You'll gain not just knowledge, but real-world digital skills and qualities that employers look for.

From marketing to management, finance to entrepreneurship, the HNC opens a spectrum of exciting career paths. Plus, with our strong industry links, you're not just studying; you'll be networking with potential future employers!

Entry Level Recommended

Achieved 1 relevant Higher at grade C or above in Business Management, Modern Studies, English or Maths or Achieved 5 National 5s (3 grade A's & 2 grade B's) which must include Maths & English.

Course Content

The completion of an HNC requires a total of 12 SQA credits. The mandatory units (9 credits), include these essential subjects:

Mandatory Units

- **Managing People & Organisations**
- **Marketing: An Introduction**
- **Economic Issues: An Introduction**
- **Business Accounting**
- **Business Communication**
- **IT in Business Spreadsheets**
- **IT Applicants Software**
- **Graded Unit**

Optional Credits (2 further credits)

Depending on numbers in class, a variety of options may be offered including Law, Marketing or Human Resources.

Progression

HNC Business allows you to develop a broad range of skills required for jobs in a variety of industries including accounting, economics, marketing and entrepreneurship. You could develop your skills further by studying on HND Business or progressing to a range of advanced university courses.

Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 7

Day

2 & 1/2 full days TBC

Time

9.00am – 4.00pm

Interview

A successful interview with college staff will be required before a place is offered on the course.

CYBER PATHWAYS

Course Outline

The CyberPathways course is a 120-hour School/College partnership programme consisting of six modules, combining theory, practical lab work, legal knowledge, and investigative skills.

Entry Level Recommended

Learners should be 16–17 years old and ideally studying at SCQF Level 5/6 within school. No prior cyber-security experience is required. Curiosity, problem-solving skills, and an interest in technology are beneficial.

The course is suitable for learners who may not have achieved Higher qualifications and provides an alternative route toward an HNC/HND and degree-level study. Learners should be willing to engage in both practical digital tasks and written activities.

Course Content

Modules:

- **1. Cyber Security & Legal Frameworks**
– Cyber fundamentals, GDPR, Computer Misuse Act, ethics.
- **2. Data Security & Protection** – Data breaches, threat mitigation, security controls.
- **3. Digital Forensics** – Evidence identification, forensic imaging, analysis using tools like FTK Imager.

- **4. Encryption & OSINT** – Symmetric/asymmetric encryption, open-source intelligence investigations.
- **5. Penetration Testing Fundamentals**
– Ethical hacking methods, reconnaissance and exploitation using Kali Linux, Metasploit and Burp Suite.
- **6. Final Project** – A simulated cyber-security investigation culminating in a professional written report.

Assessment includes written assignments, quizzes, lab exercises and a final investigative project.

Progression

Successful completion guarantees a place on the HNC Cyber Security at West College Scotland.

Progression Path:

CyberPathways (SCQF6) > HNC Cyber Security > HND Cyber Security > Direct entry to Year 3 of a university degree.

This gives learners a full pathway from school to an honours degree in four years, equivalent to direct university entry with Highers.

Learners may also progress into apprenticeships, IT roles, or further specialist training.

Interview

Instead of a traditional interview, learners will complete a Microsoft Forms pre-entry filter.

Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 6

Day

Tuesday and Thursday

Time

1:45pm - 4:00pm

This form assesses:

- **Motivation for studying cyber security**
- **Previous exposure to digital or computing subjects (not required)**
- **Confidence with digital tools**
- **Commitment to attend sessions and complete tasks**
- **Understanding of ethical and legal expectations**

This ensures the learner is motivated and ready for the programme, without requiring any technical knowledge.

INTRODUCTION TO MIDWIFERY AND CHILDREN'S NURSING

Course Outline

Would you love to work in the midwifery and children's nursing profession? This introductory course will allow you to explore a career in this rewarding industry. The course consists of theory and practical sessions within the college, carrying out basic nursing skills such as bathing and feeding babies, care planning and communication skills.

You will also explore how to care for infants and children and the responsibilities and values of a health care professional will be addressed.

Entry Level Recommended

Working towards National 5 units.

Course Content

Welcome to the fascinating world of midwifery and child nursing! In this course, you'll delve deep into the art of caring for both mothers and babies, learning the essential skills needed to provide compassionate support throughout childbirth.

From mastering the intricacies of child development to gaining expertise in the care and feeding of little ones. You'll be equipped with the knowledge and confidence to make a real difference in the lives of families. But it's not just about techniques – we'll also explore the values and principles that underpin the bond between caregiver and child. So, if you're ready to embark on a rewarding adventure filled with love, learning and life this course is for you!

Progression

You can progress at college on to Level 5 Child, Health and Social Care or Entry to Early Education and Childcare or pursue further study into Nursing and Midwifery at university. In the future you could pursue a range of exciting careers in the health profession from midwife to health visitor or paediatric nursing.

Interview

A Personal statement and informal interview are required, and entry levels require to be met.

Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 5

Day

Tuesday / Thursday

Time

1.45-4.00pm

SKILLS FOR WORK EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

Course Outline

Delve into the fascinating world of child development and children's health! Learn how to nurture young minds, mastering the art of caring for and feeding children, and discovering the power of play in their development.

So, if you're ready to start a journey filled with learning and laughter, choose childcare!

Entry Level Recommended

Achieved National 4s and working towards National 5s, including English at National 5. An informal interview with college staff will be required before a place is offered on the course.

Course Content

Covering the essential units of Development and Wellbeing of Children and Young People; Play in Early Learning and Childcare, Working in Early Learning and Childcare and Care and Feeding of Children and Young People.

The level 5 will give you all the important skills and knowledge to get started on your childcare journey.

Please note no placements are offered on this course and all demonstrations and interactions are simulated to create a realistic environment. However, there may be visits to local nurseries are part of your course.

Progression

You can progress to a range of exciting college courses such as NC Childhood Practice, NC Child Health and Social Care or NC Social Care. In the future you could be working in a childcare or social care setting on a variety of exciting career paths include as an Early Years Practitioner or Social Worker.

Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 5

Day

Wednesday/Friday

Time

1:45pm - 4:00pm

Interview

A Personal statement and informal interview are required, and entry levels require to be met.

HIGHER CHILDCARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Course Outline

Considering a career in Primary Teaching or Childhood Practice? This SQA Assessed course enables you to understand child development from pre-birth to 16 and the roles and responsibilities of those who contribute to the development of children and young people.

You will gain understanding of the skills and knowledge that help you to contribute to the development of children in personal and professional contexts which will in turn support applications to further study in Education, Childhood Practice or Nursing.

Develop awareness of initiatives and/or strategies used to inform current childhood practice and the current services available for children and young people. Increase your understanding of child development and the factors that influence it from pre-birth to 16 as well as the theories of development and the way these are applied to working with children and young people.

Understand the role and responsibilities of professionals and others in contributing to the development of children and young people and develop invaluable skills of investigating, analysing, evaluating and presenting information.

Entry Level Recommended

Must be working towards or have Higher English

Course Content

You will cover key aspects of child development and the associated theories as well as gain understanding of the services available for children and young People. The course also involves an SQA assessed external project and final exam.

Progression

On completion you may wish to pursue further study in Childhood Practice practitioner award or may also use this course to support an application for a primary school teaching qualification..

Key Facts



Location

Paisley

Level

SCQF Level 6

Day

Tuesday and Thursday

Time

1:45-4:00pm

Interview

A Personal statement and informal interview are required, and entry levels require to be met.

HIGHER PSYCHOLOGY

Course Outline

The study of psychology provides an insight into some of the ways that thoughts and emotions can affect how we feel and behave. The course covers a range of topics and approaches within psychology and will help develop an understanding of the psychological study of the human mind and behaviour in a range of contexts, enhancing your ability to use evidence to explain behaviour.

It will use appropriate psychological concepts, theories, research methods and evidence to investigate and analyse internal and external influences on human behaviour in a range of contexts so you will be expected to be able to remember, explain and analyse a range of theories and research.

Entry Level Recommended

Achieved Higher English.

Course Content

Key topics include:

- **Memory**
- **Aggression**
- **Stress**
- **Depression**
- **Sleep & dreams**
- **Conformity & obedience**

This higher offers an understanding of psychology as the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. Psychology is a research-based subject, and it provides the opportunity to conduct practical research, including working with human participants in accordance with ethical standards to carry out an independent research assignment.

Progression

You can progress to further study at college to continue on a Level 6 Social Sciences & Criminology or HNC Social Sciences. You may also consider university routes. Longer term, the learnings could support you in a range of careers from clinical psychologist, counsellor, social worker, teaching, nursing or business – the possibilities are endless!

Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 6

Day

Tuesday/Thursday or Wednesday/Friday

Time

1.45pm – 4.00pm

NPA CRIMINOLOGY

Course Outline

Criminology is the scientific study of crime, including its causes, responses by the criminal justice system, and methods of prevention. It is one of the fastest growing academic subjects in Scotland and the UK.

This National Progression Award (NPA) is designed to introduce you - at SCQF Level 5 - to a selection of topics and areas of debates that inform contemporary ideas of crime and justice.

Entry Level Recommended

You should have National 5 English and have a keen interest in the subject.

Course Content

Let's dive into some captivating subjects that unravel the mysteries of crime and society! Explore our essential unit of crime in the community, where we delve into real-life scenarios and discuss their impact. Investigate the fascinating world of criminology as we learn how to dissect crime scenes and piece together clues. Get involved in thought-provoking discussions about social issues in modern studies, shedding light on current challenges and debates. Get ready for an eye-opening journey into the heart of criminal justice and societal issues!

Progression

Advance to higher levels of education including an NPA at Level 6, PDAs at SCQF levels 7 and 8 or further study at college or university. Plus, gain practical skills sought after by employers, you could progress to roles in business, finance, public services, or law. Gain essential skills like communication and teamwork that will pave the way for diverse career paths in social work, teaching, policing, and more.

Your future starts here—explore the endless possibilities with Social Sciences!

Key Facts

Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 5

Day

Wednesday & Friday

Time

1:45pm - 4:00pm



HUMAN BODY STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

Course Outline

Extend your knowledge and understanding of selected body systems and how the human body works with this SCQF Level 8 course. Explore how the body co-ordinates its systems to maintain homeostasis and discover what happens when things go wrong!

From exploring diverse conditions like hyperthyroidism and gigantism to understanding the complexities of coronary heart disease, get ready to learn more about the mysteries of the human body!

Entry Level Recommended

Open to S6 pupils. You must have achieved Biology or Human Biology Higher or be working towards Advanced Higher. You should have a genuine interest in human anatomy & physiology.

Course Content

Explore the inner workings of the human body covering topics such as the intricate structure & function of the skeletal system; the essential function of the blood and heart; respiratory system; urinary system and digestive system and hormonal and electrical signalling.

Get hands-on in our state-of-the-art laboratories with practical laboratory experiments, bringing science to life!

*Please note you will be studying an SQA double credit unit at SCQF level 8, this is not a Group Award.

Progression

The unit is an ideal progression route to university programmes in medicine and dentistry, as well as to biology-based degrees. Data handling, problem solving, and experimental techniques are all developed alongside expanding knowledge on anatomy and physiology. The career pathways are endless and ultimately you could work as a doctor, dentist, biomedical scientist, research scientist and more!

Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 8

Day

Tuesday

Time

1:45pm - 4:00pm



SKILLS FOR WORK ENGINEERING

Course Outline

Scotland's engineering and advanced manufacturing sector contributes £9 billion a year to the nation's economy. Careers in Engineering are on the rise and these jobs represent an exciting opportunity for young people in Scotland.

Unlock your potential with this hands-on course which covers the processes, tools, technologies and skills, common to all engineering and manufacturing practices. From mechanical to maintenance and electrical to fabrication, this dynamic programme will give you all the basics to get started in the ever-growing engineering sector.

As a predominantly practical course, most assessment is practical with some written and there are no formal exams.

Entry Level Recommended

Achieved National 4 Maths, English at grade 'C' or above (not Life Skill Maths) and working towards National 5 Maths. Science subjects also favourable.

Course Content

The course is comprised of 4 Mandatory units, and they are designed to substantially improve your practical skills by manufacturing several different items from a series of engineering drawings to within a given tolerance.

- Engineering Skills: Mechanical and Fabrication
- Engineering Skills: Electrical and Electronic
- Engineering Skills: Maintenance
- Engineering Skills: Design and Manufacture

Progression

On successful completion, you will gain direct access to either FA Engineering (if you remain in school) or NC L5 (full time).

Interview

A personal Statement is required and entry levels require to be met

Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 5

Day

Wednesday & Friday

Time

1.45pm - 4.00pm

NPA ENGINEERING

(In partnership with BAE Systems)

Course Outline

This Pre-Apprenticeship programme in fabrication & welding will provide you with the opportunity to engage directly with BAE Systems who provide some of the world's most advanced, technology-led defence, aerospace and security solutions. There will be a particular focus on the BAE Systems Naval Ships business at the Scotstoun and Govan yards including the various Modern Apprenticeship opportunities available.

PLEASE NOTE - An interview with BAE Systems and college staff will be required for entry onto this course.

Entry Level Recommended

You must be in S5 or S6 in August 2026 and planning to leave in May 2027. You should have a keen interest in Fabrication & Welding. You must have achieved National 4 Maths and able to achieve Maths Craft 1 during this course.

Course Content

The programme will cover mandatory Units in Mathematics: Craft 1; Understanding Industry Engineering and a Work-based Challenge.

Optional Units of Metal Inert Gas/Metal Active Gas; Welding Skills; Fabrication Processes; Ship Construction Skills; Engineering Project and Health & Safety: Engineering will also be available.

Progression

On successful completion, you will have the opportunity to apply to the BAE Systems Naval Ships Modern Apprenticeship programmes. Join an inclusive team in a business that's ever evolving. Play your part in creating pioneering security products and services that can change the world we live in. With a workforce of over 93,000 people in over 40 countries around the world this is an exciting opportunity to start your career in Engineering with one of the industry's leading names. A number of pupils who have completed the course have secured places on BAE Systems highly competitive Modern Apprenticeship programme.

BAE SYSTEMS

Key Facts

Location

Clydebank Campus

Level

SCQF Level 5

Day

Tuesday/Thursday

Time

9.00am – 4.00pm



A Personal statement is required, and entry levels require to be met.

ENGINEERING SYSTEMS FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP

Course Outline

Take the first steps towards an exciting career in Engineering! Explore the world of innovation, design, and cutting-edge technology with a Foundation Apprenticeship (FA) in Engineering. This SCQF Level 6 qualification is designed to provide you with theory, practice and related work experience, aimed at pupils in S6 and will take 1 year to complete. Bridge the gap between classroom knowledge and real-world application and explore behind the scenes with exciting trips, expert sessions, and cutting-edge technologies.

Real-World Skills: Gain hands-on experience and knowledge that go beyond textbooks.

Build, Create, Innovate: From designing futuristic structures to mastering the latest manufacturing techniques, this programme is your launchpad for creativity and innovation.

Endless Possibilities: Open doors to a range of diverse industries, from renewable energy to space exploration.

Get Your Hands Dirty: Learn by doing through projects, labs, and workshops, bringing theory to life.

Entry Level Recommended

Achieved National 5 Maths. Working towards Higher Maths and another STEM based subject would be advantageous.

Course Content

You will complete an NC Engineering Systems (SCQF Level 6) covering a range of engaging units. The Performing Engineering Operations Units will cover a wide range of essential skills, from the fundamentals of mathematics and engineering principles to the intricate workings of electrical and mechanical systems. From exploring the principles of single-phase and three-phase systems and the dynamics of rotating electrical machines; every unit is designed to equip you with the knowledge and expertise needed to thrive in the engineering field.

Progression

Many of our FA's have progressed to a range of universities including University of Glasgow, University of Strathclyde, University of the West of Scotland and Edinburgh University. Of the students that complete the FA 93% have progressed their Engineering interests into either further or higher education, or

Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 6

Day

Tuesday/Thursday/Friday full day at College.

Block work placement May/June TBC

Time

9.30am - 4.00pm

Modern apprenticeships and 50% of the 92% are in Modern apprenticeships, with the others progressing to work or further study. Companies include:





CONSTRUCTION SKILLS FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP

Course Outline

The Foundation Apprenticeship in Construction Skills supports the commitment to provide relevant work-based vocational education and training as part of the senior phase curriculum. This will prepare you for direct entry into a career in the construction sector and other related occupations, by equipping you with the necessary skills and knowledge to work effectively. The overall purpose of the course is to ensure that you develop practical and technical skills, alongside the opportunity to develop your employability skills, supported through the delivery of project-based learning supported by industry, while still attending school.

Entry Level Recommended

Achieved National 4's

Working towards National 5 Maths/
Applications of Math and Technical based
subject.

Course Content

The Construction Skills framework includes two core elements:

1. National Progression Award in Construction Skills (SCQF Level 5) in which there are three units which must be completed to gain the Group Award.

You will develop bench joinery skills, manufacture joinery components, learn decorative treatments and complete a built environment design project.

In doing so you will learn efficient construction practices and grow your employability and behavioural skills preparing for the world of site work.

2. Work Based Challenge Unit has been designed to support the delivery of the National Progression Award. Supported by an employer this unit complements the learning outcomes within the NPA units. Previous industry partners on this unit have included Taylor Wimpey and Morrison Construction. The employers provided construction site visits and the opportunity to get hands on with a live work-based challenge project.

The WBCU has been designed to support the delivery of the National Progression Award. Through the project, you will be asked to reflect on your meta-skills development and record this alongside your evidence base. Reflective practice is therefore central to the development of meta-skills throughout the project.

Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 5

Day

Tuesday/Thursday

Time

1.30pm – 4.00pm

Progression

Following successful completion of the course you will be eligible to apply for full-time college courses in a range of construction trade disciplines. You could also consider a Modern Apprenticeship in the Construction and Building Services industry. Graduates from West have gone on to a range of trade roles including plumbers, electricians, joiners, painting, and decorators and more.

An application and personal statement may be required.



SKILLS FOR WORK CONSTRUCTION CRAFTS

Course Outline

Scotland's construction sector is so important to the nation's economy with jobs in the industry ever in demand, employing nearly a quarter of a million people in Scotland and contributing billions to its economy. The construction industry also plays a key role in achieving the Scottish Government's ambitious housing, energy, and climate change targets.

If you are interested in pursuing a trade as a career but not sure where to start, this is an ideal course for you! Allowing you to explore each of the main trade areas and get hands on with your learning, this is a very practical course where you have the opportunity to work in variety of workshops producing products and models that are accepted as being completed to industry standards.

Entry Level Recommended

Achieved National 4's

Working towards National 5 Maths/
Applications of Math and Technical based
subject.

Course Content

You will be covering the basics of the Construction Trades. You will also gain personal development skills and employability and behavioural skills which are necessary for the world of work.

Progression

Following successful completion of the course you will be eligible to apply for a range of full time college courses such as Pre-Apprenticeship in Construction or Pre-Apprenticeship in Built Environment or pursue an apprenticeship in the Construction industry. Graduates from West have gone on to a range of trade roles including plumbers, electricians, joiners, painting and decorators and more.

Interview

A personal Statement is required and entry levels require to be met

Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 5

Day

Wednesday/Friday

Time

1.45pm – 4.00pm

 I picked this course because I have always wanted to go into the Construction industry. Since doing this course I have now applied for an Apprenticeship in Joinery. This course was the reason why I chose to go down the Apprenticeship route as I got to see what the college environment was like.



Neil Cuthbertson -
Renfrewshire School pupil

SKILLS FOR WORK CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Course Outline

Get creative and explore a range of exciting sectors and career paths before choosing your focus. With the chance to get hands-on with a live project, you'll develop the skills and attitudes you need to excel in the creative industries sector.

No prior experience needed—just bring your passion and enthusiasm! There are lots of ways to contribute to projects that are not obviously 'creative' and you'll practise a wide range of skills to produce a portfolio and gain great experience taking part in practical activities. With a blend of technical skills and creativity, you'll discover endless possibilities and pave the way for a dynamic career in the arts.

Entry Level Recommended

A Personal statement is required. Entry is at the discretion of the College.

Course Content

You'll learn through experiences in creative contexts both in and out of college. You could be involved in various roles in productions from product/drama photography and videography to podcasts or

promotional websites. You could be providing scripting and/or illustration for a graphic novel, completing product design for a client or getting creative at an end of year showcase.

Alongside an introduction to the creative industries in Scotland, we will cover key topics including skills development and the creative process. You will work on a creative project as part of a team – planning, implementing and evaluating to reach a shared goal.

Progression

You could progress to further study at college within one of our many Creative Industries or Media courses. Future career opportunities are endless, you could become a graphic designer, a content creator, a digital marketer, a film director, event planner, web designer, social media manager, podcaster, music producer, or a visual effects artist to name just a few... let your imagination run wild and unleash your potential in this dynamic and ever-evolving field!

Check out our Instagram:



@wcs_media
@westcollegephoto



Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 5

Day

Tuesday/Thursday

Time

1.45pm – 4.00pm

 I feel College helps prepare you for your future. I would recommend the programme to anyone.



Sophie, Creative Industries Senior Phase Schools Programme 

HIGHER DANCE

Course Outline

Are you passionate about dance and excited to create something new and dynamic? This course is perfect for you! Dive into a variety of dance styles, including Jazz, Contemporary, and Commercial, while exploring how choreography brings creative ideas to life. Whether you already have some experience, or you're eager to learn, this course will help you develop your skills and confidence.

You'll work closely with others, especially on choreographic pieces, so full attendance and a commitment to teamwork are essential. Throughout the course, you'll receive guidance to plan, develop, and evaluate your performance while tracking your progress every step of the way.

As part of the experience, you'll enjoy exciting opportunities like attending theatre trips and workshops, including the renowned Scottish Ballet Highers' Day. This is your chance to express yourself, collaborate, and grow as a dancer!

Entry Level Recommended

Working towards Nat 5 English and Nat 5 subjects

Course Content

The course covers choreography, technical skills, and dance appreciation, helping you develop your creativity, performance, and analytical abilities.

Progression

Upon completion, you can progress to HNC Dance, then the HND Dance programme, further developing your technical and creative skills. From there, you may have the opportunity to advance to university, pursuing a degree in dance or related fields, and continuing your journey towards a professional career in dance.

Interview

Entry is by audition and interview only, this will involve: a practical dance class, a group presentation about the course and content, a written short answer paper. The practical class requires that appropriate dance

Check out our Instagram and watch video:



Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 6

Day

Wednesday/Friday

Time

1:45pm - 4:00pm

clothing should be worn.
You should be prepared to dance bare foot.
You may be introduced to dance styles
which you have not tried before.

If you are interested, you will be notified
through your school of an audition date.
Following auditions, places are offered to
those who demonstrate the greatest
potential to benefit from the course,
regardless of their previous experience or
dance education background.

NPA ACTING AND PERFORMANCE

Course Outline

If you have an interest in a theatre career, whether you have previous experience or not, this could be the course for you. Boost your confidence in performance while learning techniques that develop your acting, voice, and movement skills.

You will be supported by your tutors/directors in rehearsal and have an opportunity to perform in front of selected audiences.

You will be encouraged throughout to reflect on your development in a fun, energetic and supportive environment. You'll have the opportunity to view professional performances, developing your critical opinions on acting and theatre. Learn more about different roles and jobs available to you in the theatre. The skills developed will expand your knowledge of employment options within theatre arts and are an excellent foundation for anyone interested in a theatre career. The skills are also transferable and will help your employability in other sectors.

Entry Level Recommended

General interest in theatre studies considered.

Studying at Nat 5 level onward recommended.

Course Content

The course covers acting, voice and movement skills as well as theatre appreciation.

Progression

Upon completion, you have the opportunity to audition for our HNC Acting and Performance programme, further developing your technical and creative skills.

On successful completion of the HNC/D programme you may have the opportunity to advance on to our Hons Degree programme delivered on campus in partnership with Queen Margaret University.

Interview

Entry is by audition and interview only.

Check out our Instagram and watch video:



@wcs_dance



Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 6

Day

Tuesday/Thursday

Time

1:45pm - 4:00pm

This will involve learning a short speech from a published play which you will perform to staff and other applicants. After this you will take part in a short interview about your theatre experience and interests.

It is not essential that you have had previous experience. If we feel you have the potential to be developed, you could be offered a place even if you haven't performed before.

NPA BEAUTY AND HAIRSTYLING

Course Outline

Get ready to get glam at West! Our exciting curriculum offers the perfect introduction to this fast-paced creative industry with a blend of practical hands-on experience and in-depth theory, ensuring you develop both the skills, and the understanding needed to excel in the beauty world.

From mastering the art of skin cleansing to creating stunning every day and fantasy make up looks, you'll learn a wide range of techniques to unleash your creativity. Plus, get ready to showcase your talents through written projects, portfolio production, and home study, all geared towards preparing you for success in the workplace.

We are a Dermalogica Centre of Excellence, and you will be learning in sector leading facilities from our highly experience lecturing team. So, whether you're dreaming of becoming the next big makeup artist or a beauty consultant at a leading salon or brand, we'll give you the tools and confidence to shine bright in the beauty industry!

Entry Level Recommended

Have a keen interest in hairdressing, beauty & make-up. Enjoy working as part of a team and have a creative flair. In line with the guidelines for successful completion - you must adhere to all requirements which includes working on each other and being prepared to participate in skin care, remove make up to have make up reapplied.

Course Content

This exciting course covers a wide range of skills including skin cleansing routines, make-up application, manicure skills, including polish application and creative nail finishes as well as hairstyling using thermal styling equipment, plaiting, braiding and twisting. To achieve the NPA Group Award you must successfully complete the three mandatory units.

Progression

After, you can stay on at college to complete your NC L5 Beauty Therapy or NC L5 Fast Track Fashion Make Up and Hairstyling.

In the future you could work in a range of exciting careers from being on-set at film and television productions to working with

Check out our Instagram:



@wcspaisley_hairandmua



Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 4

Day

Tuesday/Thursday

Time

1.45pm - 4.00pm

leading makeup brands and salons. Our past alumni have gone on to work for a wide range of famous brands, in bridal hair and makeup, as fashion influencers and working on commercial productions across the world with Netflix, BBC, Sky and more.

Interview

An informal interview with college staff will be required before a place is offered on the course.

For more on what our alumni have achieved: <https://www.westcollegescotland.ac.uk/business/creative-connection/>

BEGIN MAKE-UP ARTISTRY

Course Outline

Get started in the wonderful world of makeup artistry! You'll cover an exciting range of units from practical make-up skills to product awareness and career pathways. Learn essential health and safety practices and grow your customer service skills in our state-of-the-art salons.

This course is the perfect pathway to further study on our Level 5 Fast Track Fashion Make Up and Hairstyling short full-time course. Essential written work and research add an extra layer to your learning experience, ensuring you're well-equipped for success in this exciting field.

Entry Level Recommended

There are no formal entry requirements; entry is at the discretion of the college. Please note, this is Make-up Artistry not Fashion Make-up. In line with the guidelines for successful completion - you must adhere to all requirements which includes working on each other and being prepared to participate in the removal and putting on of makeup on themselves and others.

Course Content

Our National Progression Award in Cosmetology Make Up Artistry is 4 credits leading to a group award (NPA). You will cover key units including Make-up Artistry Practical skills including TV & Film Make-up, Special Effects Make-up & Face Painting. You'll learn more about product awareness and we'll prepare you for the next step with career option & pathways.

You'll also gain all the essential health & safety knowledge and skills necessary to prepare and assist in the workplace environment as well as working with customers & colleagues.

Progression

The next step at college would be progression to NC Make-up but the career possibilities are endless.

Our past students in the department have gone on to work across the world with leading TV & film production companies from Netflix to the BBC. Alumni have also gone on to have amazing careers in theatre working on productions in the West End.

Check out our Instagram:



@wcspaisley_hairandmua



Key Facts

Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 4

Day

Wednesday/Friday

Time

1.45pm - 4.00pm



Interview

An informal interview with college staff will be required before a place is offered on the course.

For more on what our alumni have achieved: <https://www.westcollegescotland.ac.uk/business/creative-connection/>



SKILLS FOR WORK HAIRDRESSING

Course Outline

Prepare for the professional world of hairdressing by growing your skills in our cutting-edge salon facilities. Our expert lecturers collaborate with industry leaders, including Wella and other top brands, ensuring we always stay up to date with the latest industry trends and techniques. We have been recognised as a Wella Centre of Excellence and you will be learning in state-of-the-art salons.

The main aim of the course is to provide you with the opportunity to gain the theoretical and practical skills to excel in a career in hairdressing. All units contain written work in the form of a portfolio of evidence.

Entry Level Recommended

There are no formal entry requirements pupils must have a keen interest in the Hairdressing industry.

Course Content

Get started with the skills essential for excelling in a salon environment! From mastering the basics of hair to staying up to date with the latest trends and getting creative, we've got you covered. The perfect pathway to an awesome career in hairdressing!

Progression

We have a range of fantastic hairdressing courses available at West to help you take the next step on your learning journey. Graduates from the department have successfully entered roles in leading salons and with renowned industry names as well as starting their own businesses.

Interview

An informal interview with college staff will be required before a place is offered on the course.

Check out our Instagram:



@wcspaisley_hairandmua



Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 5

Day

Wednesday/Friday

Time

1.45pm - 4.00pm

NPA PROFESSIONAL COOKERY

Course Outline

Mix up your catering career in the kitchen with our NPA. If you've got a passion for food, then this introductory course is perfect for you! Develop your cookery skills in our professional hospitality kitchens. From mastering essential techniques to plating up delicious dishes like a pro, you'll be immersed in a realistic working environment throughout the academic year.

This is not a leisure course, it is intended for pupils who wish to work in the industry and classes take place in a commercial kitchen in the college. It gives you the skills required for future employment within the bakery or catering industry or for progression to further academic qualifications.

Entry Level Recommended

No formal qualifications are required however experience of a hospitality or home economics related subject would be helpful.

Course Content

The core units will cover craft baking, an introduction to bread making, cake decoration and pastry progression. Get started with the basics of food preparation techniques and ensure your dishes are not only delicious but also safely prepared with a unit covering food hygiene for the hospitality industry, where you'll learn the ins and outs of maintaining impeccable cleanliness in the kitchen.

Progression

Choose from a range of hospitality college courses to further your studies. Ultimately you could pursue a fast-paced career in the culinary world, becoming a chef or baker! Many of our graduates have gone on to work for leading restaurants and hotels around the world with one of our past students even becoming a Masterchef: The Professionals finalist!

Key Facts



Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 4

Day

Wednesday/Friday

Time

1.45pm – 4.00pm

NPA BAKERY

Course Outline

If you dream of producing perfect pastries and getting creative with cakes, then our NPA Bakery is for you! The perfect introduction to the catering industry, with no prior experience needed. You'll learn the basics of bakery, whilst working in the professional training kitchens within the college's hospitality department. Bring your bakery creations to life throughout the academic year in a realistic working environment - turning your passion for baking into a sweet success story!

Entry Level Recommended

No formal qualifications are required however experience of a hospitality or home economics related subject would be helpful.

Course Content

Get hands-on in the kitchen covering engaging units with introductions to craft baking and cake decorating. Discover the basics to bread making and get a perfect introduction to pastry! Elevate your baking skills with this exciting course and create some delicious delights at West!

Progression

At college you can progress to an NC Professional Cookery or start on your employment journey in the culinary world, such as becoming a pastry chef, baker or cake decorator!

Key Facts

Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 4

Day

Wednesday/Friday

Time

1.45pm - 4.00pm



HNC TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Course Outline

This course will equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required for employment within the Travel and Tourism industry or for progression to further academic qualifications within the Travel and Tourism area. Employment areas cover organisations in the domestic, inbound tourism and outbound travel industry, for example, tour operations, visitor servicing, tourism development, marketing, customer service, guiding, conferencing, tourist and information services, retail and business travel agents, airlines, airports and cruise operators. This course can also provide a preparation for employment in the general field of business in areas such as administration, marketing and customer services.

Entry Level Recommended

S6 Pupils able to work independently and under pressure. Achieved 1 Higher or a pass at NC level in a related subject for example Administration or Business.

Course Content

Embark on an exciting journey into travel and tourism with this course! From understanding industry structures to mastering customer care, you'll be equipped for a dynamic career. Explore international destinations, dive into air travel, and enhance your communication skills. With optional units like tour guiding and Spanish communication, the opportunities are endless.

Progression

You can progress at college to your HND Travel and Tourism. In the future the career possibilities are endless, you can play a key role in showcasing Scotland to the world or work in a range of exciting roles overseas! From roles like Travel Agent, Cabin Crew, Event Manager, Tour Guide, Outdoor Activities Instructor and more, you can have a rewarding career helping tourists make memories to last a lifetime.

Key Facts

Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 7

Day

2 & 1/2 full days TBC

Time

9.00pm – 4.00pm



Interview

A successful interview with college staff will be required before a place is offered on the course.

NQ CABIN CREW & AIRPORT OPERATIONS

Course Outline

The tourism sector is one of the most important for the Scottish economy with around 14 million people visiting the country each year. There are currently around 40 airlines flying from Scotland to over 100 destinations worldwide.

Take your learning to new heights with our perfect introduction to this ever-growing sector! Whether you're dreaming of jet-setting around the globe or shaping the future of the industry at home, this course is your ticket to a career in Travel and Tourism.

Get real industry insights as you experience a range of work-related activities including safety demonstrations, announcements, trolley service, mock airport operations dealing with a variety of customer scenarios to build your confidence and develop skills for learning, life and work.

Entry Level Recommended

Entry to this course is at the discretion of the College.

Course Content

Our Working as Cabin Crew unit provides an ideal intro to what it takes to deliver top-notch service at 30,000 feet! Step behind the scenes with our unit on airport operations, as we unveil the inner workings of bustling airports and what keeps the travel industry moving. Master the art of customer care where you'll grow your communication, selling and hospitality skills to create unforgettable experiences for travellers worldwide. Plus, get ready to embark on exciting adventures with the travel products and services unit, where you'll unlock the secrets to crafting dream vacations and creating memories that last a lifetime!

Progression

Stay on at college with our NC Travel & Tourism. Future career paths are endless from travel agent to tour guide, or work for leading hotels, event venues and airlines. Graduates from the department have gone on to work for major airlines and travel providers all over the world.

Key Facts

Location

Paisley Campus

Level

SCQF Level 5

Day

Tuesday/Thursday

Time

1:45pm - 4:00pm

Interview

A successful interview with college staff will be required before a place is offered on the course.



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get there?

If transport is required, this is organised through your school and will take you back to the nearest point to your home at the end of the day. For Foundation Apprenticeships travel expenses will be provided for work placements located more than 2 miles from your home.

How are these programmes different from the subjects I take at school?

The main difference is that you will spend time at college while working towards qualifications at SCQF Level 4, 5, 6 or 7.

How will the courses be certified?

You will receive a certificate from the relevant awarding body (SQA, IMI etc.).

So what are the benefits?

Whether your next step is into the workplace, starting on your apprenticeship journey, or progressing to further study at college or university, this qualification will help you make that next big move. As well as your qualification, you'll gain essential skills like communication, teamwork, and problem-solving—tools that will set you apart and help you excel in the dynamic world

of work. You'll also get the chance to experience learning outside the school classroom, getting a taste for college life and a different style of learning from our award-winning lecturing team.

Who do I contact if I have a problem while at College?

Please contact the relevant person below:

Kelly Ewing

School Liaison Coordinator

t: 0141 581 2139

m: 07809 507 410

e: kelly.ewing@wcs.ac.uk

Katrina Maxwell

Foundation Apprenticeship School
Engagement Coordinator

t: 01475 554030

e: katrina.maxwell@wcs.ac.uk

It sounds great - how do I apply?

Places are limited, you should speak to your guidance teacher as soon as possible. You should also read the option details for your choice of course and discuss this with your parent or guardian. For Foundation Apprenticeships you must apply online through the West College Scotland website.

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ www.apprenticeships.scot
- ▶ [www.westcollegescotland.ac.uk/
foundation-apprenticeship](http://www.westcollegescotland.ac.uk/foundation-apprenticeship)
- ▶ [https://www.westcollegescotland.ac.uk/
courses/schools-vocational-programme/](https://www.westcollegescotland.ac.uk/courses/schools-vocational-programme/)



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