

2011/12

**WEST  
LOTHIAN  
COLLEGE  
COLLEGE/SCHOOLS  
PROSPECTUS**

SCHOOL PUPILS S3-S6

  
West Lothian College

# WELCOME TO WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE

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# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



I am delighted that you are considering joining us at West Lothian College for part of your studies.

West Lothian College is committed to the Curriculum For Excellence and develops the four capacities for all of our learners to become - Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Effective Contributors, Responsible Citizens.

The College offers a wide range of vocational courses as well as excellent articulation routes to University all related to employment and practical skills development. The College puts its learners at the heart of everything and our aim is to ensure that you have a positive and worthwhile experience that helps you on your chosen career path.

Within this prospectus you will find all the information you need to help you make important decisions about coming to College and the course to study. The prospectus will give you a feel for college life, however the best way to find out more is to talk to our staff and students or by paying us a visit.

I hope you will see the qualities that make West Lothian College an excellent choice. If you need any further advice in relation to coming to College as part of the College Schools Partnership.

**Please contact the College Schools Development Officer, Margaret Forisky on 01506 427611** and she will be only too happy to talk you through the options available.

I hope you decide to join us at West Lothian College and look forward to welcoming you in the new term.

**Mhairi Laughlin**  
Principal & Chief Executive

**CREATIVE**

**ACCESS**

**SKILLS**

**WELLBEING**



# WHY CHOOSE A COLLEGE COURSE

If you are still at school and unsure of what to do when you leave, why not experience further education at West Lothian College?

The College Schools Partnership offers opportunities for students between S3 and S6 to come to college one or two afternoons per week, depending on your year in school. On applying you may be invited to attend an interview at the College to assess your suitability for the course. A keen interest in the subject area is essential.

Your Guidance Teacher will be notified of the outcome of your interview.

## **On completion of a course you will:**

- › Receive a certificate from the Scottish Qualifications Authority or other awarding body
- › Have a greater understanding of the subject area taught by a subject specialist
- › Have experienced learning and teaching within a further education learning environment
- › Have suitable qualifications to apply for progression to a further or higher education course
- › Be equipped to progress to employment with enhanced employability skills

In addition to the part time courses on offer at West Lothian College, there is a range of full-time courses plus a wide choice of Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND) courses suitable for students who have successfully completed S5 or S6. Completing an HN college course can be an alternative route into a degree, often gaining entry directly into year two or three at university. You will find a chart of our links with universities on page 13.

If you are interested in any of these courses please speak to your school Guidance Teacher or Year Head in the first instance.



## Engineering – Industrial Environmental Awareness

### Level 2 Vocationally Related Qualification (VRQ)

Based around an engineering team project, this course will assist you in understanding the safety requirements; personal skills and knowledge required should you decide to work within an industrial environment. SQA units embedded within the course will support you in developing team working and problem solving skills.

#### Possible Progression

##### Part time course:

- Skills for Work Energy

##### Full time course:

- Level 2 Performing Engineering Operations\*
- Level 2 Performing Manufacturing Operations\*
- Apprenticeships in Industrial Applications
- NC Engineering

\* Part of a Modern Apprenticeship (MA) programme



## Skills for Work – Health Sector

### Intermediate 1

If you are interested in working in the health sector, this two year course provides the opportunity to acquire relevant skills that are valued by employers. The course is designed as an introduction to the health sector and gives you the opportunity to investigate a range of job roles and career prospects.

#### Possible Progression:

##### Part time course:

- Intermediate 2 Skills for Work – Health Sector
- Intermediate 2 Early Education and Childcare
- Higher Early Education and Childcare

##### Full time course:

- Intermediate 2 Health Care
- Intermediate 2 Social Care
- Intermediate 2 Social Science
- Intermediate 2 Early Education and Childcare
- Higher Health Care
- Higher Social Care
- Higher Early Education and Childcare

## Skills for Work – Education and Childcare

### Intermediate 2

By taking this course you will have the opportunity to gain the skills needed to teach and care for children from an early age. The units in this course include: child development, parenting and working in early education and childcare. It is particularly suitable for those who are studying at Intermediate 1 level in the majority of their school work.

#### Possible Progression:

##### Part time course:

- Higher Early Education and Childcare  
(on completion of Standard Grade English at Credit level in school)

##### Full time course:

- Intermediate 2 Early Education and Childcare
- Higher Early Education and Childcare  
(on completion of Standard Grade English at Credit level in school)

## Beauty Therapy

### Intermediate 2

This course is ideal if you are considering a career in Beauty Therapy. You will undertake a basic introduction to personal presentation and working safely within a salon environment. The course is a combination of theory and practical sessions that prepare you for further study within the Beauty Therapy sector. Successful completion of this course will be looked upon favourably if applying for further study in this area.

#### Possible Progression:

##### Full time course:

- NC Beauty Care

## Skills for Work – Hairdressing

### Intermediate 1

The opportunity to acquire skills in Hairdressing is offered on this course. The units will allow you to decide if you're interested in following a career within this industry. This is a new qualification that provides you with the opportunity to gain an SQA qualification at Intermediate 1 level. You will be required to complete four units over two years in order to gain this qualification. A high standard of personal presentation is essential.

#### Possible Progression:

##### Full time course:

- SVQ level 2 Hairdressing

## Introduction to Photography

### Intermediate 2

Over a two year period you will gain an understanding of basic camera techniques using film technology. You will be introduced to darkroom practice and prints produced will form part of your portfolio, including, portraiture and location photography.

#### Possible Progression:

##### Part time course:

- Higher Photography

##### Full time course:

- NQ Photography

## English for Speakers of Other Languages – ESOL

### Intermediate 2

Running over one year, this course supports the development of your written and spoken English to complement and enhance your studies at school. At interview you will be assessed and offered a place suitable for your individual level of study. During the course there will be the opportunities for you to progress onto the next level.

# S3/S4

School pupils in S3/S4 can choose to come to College on a Friday afternoon from 1.15 to 3.15pm

### The following courses are available:

- › Engineering
- › Health Sector – available to students in S3-S6
- › Early Education and Childcare
- › Beauty Therapy
- › Hairdressing
- › Photography
- › ESOL (S1-S6)



## Community Sports Leader Award

### Intermediate 2

The Community Sports Leader Award is a popular course appealing to students wishing to gain a basic qualification in leading groups in practical sporting activities.

The Community Sports Leader Award is recognised across the UK and provides you with the skills to lead groups in sports and game activities. There will be the opportunity to work with different client groups with the emphasis on practical participation.

As part of this award you are required to complete a First Aid Certificate. Application for an Individual Learning Account (ILA) is recommended to fund this. You will be supported by lecturing staff with this process.

Successful completion of this Award guarantees an interview for any of the courses listed below.

### Possible Progression

Full time course:

- Intermediate 2 Sport and Fitness
- Higher Sport and Fitness
- HNC Fitness Health and Exercise
- HNC Sports Coaching with Development of Sport



## Photography

### Higher

The skills you learn on this course will lay the foundations required to pursue a career in professional photography. You will learn professional camera and developing techniques plus how to research and create an individual photographic project. This course gives you a firm grounding in the skills, techniques and applications required in image-making using digital techniques.

You will be introduced to image formation and exposure using the basic features of a Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera.

Although not a mandatory requirement, you should ideally have completed the unit Photography: An Introduction Intermediate 2.

### Possible Progression:

Full time course:

- NQ Photography

School pupils in S5/S6 can choose to come to College on **Tuesday and Thursday** afternoons from **1.15 - 3.15pm**

## The following courses are available:

- › Community Sports Leader Award
- › Photography
- › Early Education and Childcare
- › Drawing Skills: Figure/Life Drawing
- › Computer Hardware Installation and Maintenance
- › Energy
- › Health Sector Intermediate 2\*

\*Offered to S5/S6 pupils on a Friday afternoon

## Early Education and Childcare

### Intermediate 2

This course offers you the opportunity to gain the skills needed to teach and care for children from an early age. The units in the course include: child development, parenting and working in early education and childcare.

#### Possible Progression:

Full time course:

- Higher Early Education and Childcare.  
(on completion of Standard Grade English at Credit level in school)

## Early Education and Childcare

### Higher

If you are interested in a career in the field of Early Education and Childcare, this Higher, will provide you with the skills to pursue this. The Higher qualification consists of three internally assessed units in child development, theoretical approaches and health related to the early years. A final exam completes the award. Standard Grade English at Credit level is an entry requirement.

#### Possible Progression:

Full time course:

- HNC Early Education and Childcare

## Drawing Skills: Figure/Life Drawing

### Higher National Unit

This course will run for 24 weeks and is designed to assist S5 & S6 students who intend applying to Art College. You will develop a range of Life Drawings, building your Portfolio in preparation for interview. This course will enhance the range of work presented in your Portfolio and the opportunity to work directly from the Life Model. You will develop a series of analytical and expressive responses to the human form, both nude and draped, and will utilise a wide range of drawing media.

Emphasis will be placed on accurate observation of proportion and visual experimentation. This class demands a mature and responsible attitude.

## Computer Hardware Installation and Maintenance

### Higher National Unit

This is a nationally recognised double credit unit at Higher National level focusing on the practical skills required when servicing computers and associated networks. This course is ideal if you are studying related higher computing subjects at school, as it forms part of the HNC Award, which can allow entry onto year two of a degree qualification. Employers recognise the value of the practical skills developed in this course if you are seeking employment in a computing support, service or engineering role.

#### Possible Progression:

Full time course:

- NQ/HNC Computing
- NQ Digital Media Computing
- HNC Interactive Media
- HNC Information Technology

## Skills for Work – Energy

### Intermediate 2

The Energy Sector is changing dramatically as a result of regulation and legislation relating to energy, climate change and carbon reduction, with skills shortages driving a wide range of employment opportunities.

You will explore a variety of dynamic UK based Energy Industries and career opportunities within the Energy Sector. In addition, you will develop an awareness of the impact of the Energy Sector on the environment.

Personal development of employability skills, teamwork and practical skills will be the main focus of the course. The practical project includes carrying out test procedures and building a small scale solar hot water system and wind turbine.

The units in the course include domestic wind turbine systems, domestic solar hot water systems, employability and careers.

#### Possible Progression:

Full time course:

- NC Engineering
- HNC Engineering Systems
- National Progression Award Construction

# FULL TIME COURSES

## West Lothian Step Up

The Step Up Course is aimed at Winter Leavers from West Lothian. The course will run for 18 weeks from August 2011 until January 2012 and offers study in one of two subject areas, Care or Motor Vehicle. You will attend College full-time, rather than complete your education in school.

The Step Up course allows you to follow and achieve a full time vocational course, to enhance employment prospects, develop core skills, and improve confidence and motivation. Completion of the course provides enhanced opportunities when seeking employment or progressing onto a full-time college course commencing in 2012.

To apply for the 2011 West Lothian Step Up Course you must be a Winter Leaver, age 16 between September 2011 and February 2012, and feel that you would benefit more from a full time college course than you would by remaining in school. In the first instance, speak to your Guidance or Tracking and Monitoring Teacher in school and then submit an application form to West Lothian College. You will be invited to visit the College prior to your individual interview. Application forms are available on-line however, as a school leaver, you must have the reverse of your form completed by your guidance or tracking and monitoring teacher.

# SCHOOL LINK PROGRAMME

The aim of the School Link programme is to provide school pupils, who have had some support for learning, the opportunity to experience college life and discover more about full time courses.

The School Link programme runs for a six week period, over three days per week. Each student attends for one week only. During the Link programme, Access Centre staff will assess students to determine which further full time course may be suitable for them.

Following completion of the programme, pupils will be encouraged to apply for one of the College's full time courses. Entry onto any of the courses offered at College will be subject to interview.

**For further information please contact Donna Shields on 01506 427758**





# OPEN LEARNING COURSES

Open Learning Courses can be used to support access to higher education either at a university or onto a College HNC/HND course. You will be provided with paper-based distance learning materials and tutorial support as well as feedback on your progress. These courses require an element of self-study and self-management of learning.

You will need to enrol by September 2011 in order to sit the exam the following year. With courses containing optional units, studies can be tailored to meet individual needs. Highers currently available include:

- › Higher Philosophy
- › Higher Psychology
- › Higher Sociology
- › Higher Early Education and Childcare
- › Higher English\*

\*Higher English is a taught class on Monday evenings. Courses are assessed through College based assessments and a final external exam. The courses are not funded as part of the College/School Partnership. You may apply for an ILA to fund/part fund your course.

**For further information on Open Learning courses please contact, Christine Boyd or Shelagh Fraser 01506 427602 / 427547**



# HIGHER EDUCATION AT WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE

Achievement of Highers in school may provide you with the entry requirements to go directly into a Higher National course. Increasingly, Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND) courses are being used as an alternative route onto degree courses at university.

The Edinburgh, Lothians, Fife and Borders Regional Articulation Hub (ELRAH) supports development of articulation routes; enabling college students to use HNCs and HNDs to progress into years two or three of a university degree.

For example, Edinburgh Napier's BA in Business Management is taught on-site at West Lothian College. It is possible to gain entry directly into year three of the degree following successful completion of the HND Business course.

Attending college before starting university can help build your confidence and it may be practically and financially beneficial for you to study closer to home. If you would like more information on this route to university speak to your guidance or monitoring and tracking teacher in school.

**At West Lothian College, Mairi Taggart, Articulation Support Advisor, can also answer any questions on articulation routes. Alternatively, visit the Student Zone at [www.elrah.ac.uk](http://www.elrah.ac.uk)**

West Lothian College has excellent agreements in place with many universities and other Higher Education Institutions.

The table here provides an example of some of these agreements:

College Course	University	Degree	Direct Entry
HNC Engineering Systems	Edinburgh Napier University	<b>The following BEng (Hons):</b> Electrical Engineering Electronic & Communication Engineering Energy & Environmental Engineering Mechanical Engineering Mechatronics	Year 2
HND Computing	Edinburgh Napier University	BSc (Hons) Network Computing	Year 3
HNC Computing	Heriot Watt University	BSc (Hons) Information Systems	Year 2
HND Computing	Heriot Watt University	BSc (Hons) Information Systems	Year 3
HNC Information Technology	Heriot Watt University	BSc (Hons) Information Systems	Year 3
HND Beauty Therapy	Edinburgh Napier University	BA (Hons) Complementary Healthcare	Year 3
HND Business	Edinburgh Napier University*	BA (Hons) Business Management	Year 3*
HND Fitness Health and Exercise	Edinburgh Napier University	BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science routes	Year 3
HND Sports Coaching with Development of Sport	Edinburgh Napier University	BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science routes	Year 3

\*Taught at West Lothian College





# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

West Lothian College Schools Partnership provides young people between S3 and S6 with the opportunity to sample further education; helping them make informed choices about their future. The College is a modern, dynamic learning environment benefitting from strong partnerships with universities and employers. The College is committed to investing in learners and has recently completed a total refurbishment of the Creative Centre providing high tech, realistic working environments for our learners.

All courses in this prospectus are leveled against the SCQF Framework. Each level should assist you in understanding the choices your young person is making.

All qualifications offered through the College Schools Partnership are recognised nationally by universities and employers.

SCQF LEVELS	SQA Qualifications			Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Scottish Vocational Qualifications
12				Doctoral Degree	
11				Integrated Masters/Masters Degree Post Graduate Diploma Post Graduate Certificate	SVQ5
10				Honours Degree Graduate Diploma Graduate Certificate	
9			Professional Development Awards	Bachelors/Ordinary Degree Graduate Diploma Graduate Certificate	SVQ4
8		Higher National Diploma		Diploma of Higher Education	
7	Advanced Higher Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate		Certificate of Higher Education	
6	Higher				SVQ3
5	Intermediate 2 Credit Standard Grade				SVQ2
4	Intermediate 1 General Standard Grade	National Certificate	National Progression Awards		SVQ1
3	Access 3 Foundation Standard Grade				
2	Access 2				
1	Access 1				

If you are a parent or carer and would like more information about anything in this prospectus please call the College Schools Development Officer, Margaret Forisky, on 01506 427611 or email [mforisky@west-lothian.ac.uk](mailto:mforisky@west-lothian.ac.uk)

In school, students aged 16+ who continue in full time education **may** be entitled to an Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA). This payment is also available to eligible full time students studying at College. **For further information please contact the Bursary Team on 01506 418181.**



# West Lothian College

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Board of Management

