



Lancaster &
Morecambe
College

Parents' Guide



GOOD

Love Learning
@ LMC



#LMCollege



Hello

I'm delighted to introduce our new Parents' Guide, which is designed to provide you with a snapshot of what our extraordinary college has to offer.

As we look forward to the new academic year at LMC we all recognise that we are still living through very unusual and uncertain times, which we continue to adapt to. Over the summer we have been preparing the campus for the safe return of students in September, whilst continuing to innovate in the ways we deliver learning using a blend of face-to-face, online and distance learning packages for our students and apprentices.

Our first priority, as always, is to safeguard the health & wellbeing of our learners, apprentices and staff and we will continue to follow government guidance on how best to adapt the College's functions to suit the ever-changing response to Covid-19 both nationally and locally.

As the new term commences all teaching and learning will be tailored to meet the needs of individual groups and students, we will continue to offer fantastic support to help your son or daughter to achieve their qualifications over the coming year. Although our classrooms will be socially distanced and all of our facilities adapted to keep our college community safe, our expectations remain high and our staff teams will continue to stretch and challenge all students and apprentices to be the best they can be in their chosen subjects.

At LMC we are focused on preparing our students for real careers, independence and positive progression in the future with a set of skills and experience that sets them apart from the competition. We support our students to be self-directed and highly motivated and ready to progress onto higher study or employment. The College's well-established links with over 700 employers and work-related technical expertise means our curriculum is closely aligned with the needs of businesses, ensuring our students are well prepared for their future careers or continuing to study at university.

I'm proud to say that 9 out of 10 of our students achieve a positive career destination, with many choosing to stay at LMC to progress on to higher level apprenticeships and professional courses.

So, as we begin the first term of 2020/21, we want to ensure that you all of our students achieve their qualification and then progress on to rewarding careers and higher level studies. We know that the restrictions required to tackle Covid-19 will continue for an indefinite period, but LMC is fully committed to providing safe and high quality learning.

Wes Johnson

Principal/Chief Executive

Why Choose Us?

As a parent or guardian, you can trust Lancaster & Morecambe College to provide an excellent learning environment.

There are lots of reasons you should choose LMC, from our facilities to our teaching and support. We can guarantee your son/daughter will have everything they need to progress on their chosen career path.

1 OUR STUDENTS GO ON TO GREAT THINGS

We are proud that 9 out of 10 of our students go on to employment or further study. 95% of our Level 3 students progressed to higher education courses at College or university in 2018.

2 OUR COURSES OFFER A GREAT CHOICE OF OPTIONS

We offer a technical, professional and creative education equivalent to A-levels. On completion, students can progress to university or into employment. Through the development of skills and knowledge, we support a diverse range of career options.

3 WE SUPPORT OUR LEARNERS

We offer a wide range of support including help with travel and finance, as well as learning support, safeguarding and welfare officers and a personal tutor for every student. All students are offered work experience and career guidance.

4 OUR FANTASTIC FACILITIES PROVIDE INDUSTRY LEADING REAL WORK ENVIRONMENTS

We have spent over £15 million redeveloping our campus to include innovative learning and social spaces for our students.

5 WE OFFER MORE THAN JUST A COURSE

We have high expectations and focus on developing enterprise and employability skills. We continue to develop maths and English skills. We promote health, safety and wellbeing, provide employer encounters, support work experience and aim to create a sense of community.

For every **20** LMC students, **13** go on to further study and **5** take up employment.



Please be assured that the college has taken all the necessary precautions to protect their staff and students during the Covid-19 pandemic, including introducing 2m social distancing and adapting timetables.

All updates will be posted on our website here: www.lmc.ac.uk/coronavirus

1. Our students go on to great things



At LMC we are committed to providing our students with an excellent learning experience. Our vocational courses prepare students for careers, as well as progression into Higher Education. We work alongside local and national employers to ensure our learners develop essential employability skills and, as a strategic partner in the Eden Project North, we are driving a whole education system change across the Morecambe Bay area.

2. Our courses offer a great choice of options

Vocational Qualifications versus A-Levels?

One question we get asked a lot is 'what is the difference between doing A-Levels and doing a vocational qualification at college?' A vocational qualification, which is what we offer at LMC, is great for those learners who prefer 'hands-on' learning and coursework rather than exams; that's not to say there won't be exams, but there will be a mix of practical and written assessments.

All of our courses are led by qualified teaching professionals, with industry experience, ensuring that a balance of academic theory and practical work is achieved.

In contrast, A-Levels are theory-based and feature more exams. Whilst most believe they need to have A-Levels to gain a university education, this is not the case.

Both types of qualification are highly respected by employers and universities and equate to the relevant UCAS points required to apply to university.



We have excellent links with employers and are working in partnership with Eden Project Learning, EDF and Lancaster University to continue to develop an innovative and challenging curriculum, which will equip our learners with essential employability skills, alongside their qualifications.



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3. We support our learners

Coming to College is an exciting time; students will meet lots of new people as well as study a course that they are really interested in.



The team in The Hex is dedicated to helping your son/daughter make the most of their time at College including course and career advice, travel, study and financial help.

Learning Resources

We have a fully resourced Student & Learning Centre where our students have access to a range of resources to help them with assignment work. Knowledgeable staff available to help at all times.

Learning Support

The Learning Support Team is here to help too. Just let us know if you would like to talk by asking in The Hex, phone **01524 521245** or email **learningsupport@lmc.ac.uk**

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We work with students to identify how to support them best, and agree where reasonable

adjustments will help them to study and achieve. If they decide that they are ready to work independently, we will support them to do this. This doesn't mean that they cannot change their mind if things become too difficult – just get in touch.

Personal Tutors

Students have weekly tutorials with a personal tutor to make sure they are on track with their studies and are happy at College. They can contact their course tutor to discuss issues that may arise.

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Team, including Progress Mentors, work within The Hex to support welfare or safeguarding issues that may arise. The Safeguarding Team may work with appropriate external agencies to provide additional support, where appropriate.

Careers Guidance

We also provide careers guidance, including job search and applications, UCAS applications, CV writing, personal finance and budgeting plus a number of interactive workshops exploring university, employment and further training opportunities in conjunction with our Information, Advice and Guidance staff in The Hex.

Contact Student & Learning Services

In Person

Pop in to The Hexagon

Course Enquiries

0800 306 306 or 01524 521385

Money Enquiries

01524 521469

studentmoney@lmc.ac.uk

General Enquiries

01524 521385

info@lmc.ac.uk



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

As an equal opportunities college, we will endeavour to offer everyone the same high-quality service.

For full details, please refer to www.lmc.ac.uk and follow the links to equal opportunities.

If you are concerned about an incident you have seen or been involved in, you can use the "Report it" button on the hub. Your concern will go to the Manager for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion who may get in touch with you to make sure we

have the correct details and all the information and then investigate it.

At LMC, your son/daughter will work through an extensive tutorial programme covering issues such as equality, diversity and inclusion, Fundamental British Values, staying safe, sustainability and healthy living.

Tackling Inactivity

LMC has a unique offer on Tackling Inactivity to support our students' wellbeing, both physical and mental. 700 students have benefitted this year.

Transport

We offer a free bus service to students from Barrow, Ulverston, Kendal, Windermere, Kirkby Lonsdale, Milnthorpe, Grange over Sands, Garstang and many others. See page 16 for more details.

"Everyone respects each other, whether they're staff or students"

*End of course survey
2018/19*



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4. Our fantastic facilities provide industry leading real work environments

Over the last 12 years, we have redeveloped the entire College site, continuing to invest in new facilities for students, staff and the community. Our campus boasts fantastic, industry leading facilities, built with sustainability and innovation in mind. Current guidance relating to Covid-19 means that access to our facilities may be limited at short notice.

Please see our website for updates: www.lmc.ac.uk/facilities

The Lounge

A great selection of freshly cooked, high quality food is on offer every day, with a focus on local suppliers. We also offer a FREE breakfast for all students every day.

The Hexagon – Student & Learning Centre

‘The Hex’ is at the heart of LMC. Completely renovated and extended, it is home to the Student & Learning Services team (see page 6). At LMC, we offer a whole range of learning equipment and resources from tablets to PCs and laptops – we have it all. A learning resource centre wouldn’t be complete without books, newspapers, journals and magazines.

The Salon

Our hair and beauty salon is in the heart of the campus with easy access for clients. The Salon offers a full range of hairdressing and beauty therapy services and treatments by our enthusiastic students. We also stock a selection of professional retail products to purchase.

Coulson’s Restaurant

Our award-winning restaurant with its contemporary interior, first class service and mouth-watering menu is open to all. The Restaurant offers an outstanding real work environment for our Hospitality & Catering students, as well as being a fantastic place to eat out.

LMC Business & Conference Centre

We have a Business & Conference Centre, accessed via the Torrisholme Road entrance. All of our commercial courses are delivered in our LMC Business & Conference Centre, which is located just off the Bay Gateway with ample free parking. We have three business suites, which all benefit from 64 inch, touchscreen LED monitors, Wi-Fi, presentation facilities, air conditioning and scene setting lighting. We also have a relaxing lounge and can offer a varied menu of refreshments for all delegates.

Construction & Engineering

Our £7 million Construction Centre offers classroom and workshop space enabling even more disciplines to be taught through the department. Our Engineering department works in partnership with EDF Energy, which has ensured the facilities have been developed following the very latest industry specification requirements.

The Learning Den

Our children’s play, learning and assessment room offers a light and modern environment for our students to study in.

The Eden Learning Hub

We have the first tangible example of the Eden Project ‘hitting the ground’ in our district. This is a community venue, a space for early ‘Eden immersion’ in Lancaster & Morecambe and a place for conversations.



**"The
environment
itself is
amazing"**

*End of course survey
2018/19*

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5. We offer more than just a course

Welcome to the LMC community

The local community is vital to us and we want you to know how important your role is in keeping the College at the heart of Lancaster and Morecambe and the many partnerships we have with local employers and community groups.

Great courses, expert knowledge...

Our courses are led by qualified tutors with a wealth of industry knowledge and experience. Our teaching programme ensure our

students leave College with a nationally recognised qualification and all the skills required to enter the world of work

Industry Placements

Industry placements are designed to enhance learning through extensive work experience. The placement will develop practical and technical skills in a role relevant to the vocational course. They give employers the chance to ensure that our students are developing the skills and experience required for relevant jobs in that field.

The skills to succeed...

We expect our students to effectively plan and manage their timetable to attend lessons, meet deadlines and to accommodate research. These are all key skills which will be crucial when they move on into employment or higher education.



It's all about maths and English

If your son or daughter didn't manage to gain maths and English at grades A*-C or 9/4, they will work towards achieving these at LMC; ensuring that on completion of their qualification they have the necessary grades to progress

Be healthy, be happy!

Here at LMC, wellbeing is very important to us, which is why we have a range of support available, including our Tackling Inactivity programme.

Business matters!

Our partnerships with employers mean you gain real life understanding and experience in your chosen industry.

- Each course allows students to complete a work placement in their industry to gain experience.
- LMC delivers hundreds of Apprenticeships each year with many students progressing onto them from classroom courses.
- Our Traineeship provision offers less confident students the chance to complete a ten week work placement.
- Every subject area has links with industry to ensure their curriculum is relevant and best prepares students for a future career.

We ensure that all LMC students follow our 'Curriculum Model', designed to enhance 'career related learning' to provide more than a course.

Our students develop skills to complement their learning and prepare them to enter the world or work or further study to follow their chosen career.

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Taking our students further...



Lancaster & Morecambe College has a successful, long-standing history of working with educational and other partners across Europe. Although it takes significant advance planning, we sometimes offer short-term work experience placements, shadowing and other activities for students that align with their vocational routes. We have found that these unique opportunities often have a profound impact on the students who take part, helping them gain a foothold in their chosen careers as well as a better understanding of the wider world.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport running from 2014 to 2022. The main aim of Erasmus+ is to modernise education, training and youth work across Europe. We are often also invited to develop and contribute to innovative research projects that complement existing staff and student exchanges and to widen learners' opportunities and perspectives. We have a dedicated team to develop, support and sustain international opportunities

for students to study, work, volunteer, train and even teach abroad

Recent Student Work Experience Placements

We have been running European projects and student exchange programmes for over 20 years.

- Animal Studies students shadowing experts at the largest zoo in Poland.
- Health & Social Care and Childcare students working in Italy and The Netherlands.
- IT and Media students working with start-up IT companies in the Czech Republic.
- Sports and Public Services students leading children's outdoor activities in Bulgaria, Estonia and Slovakia.
- Business, Hospitality and Travel & Tourism students working in Italy.

These short-term placements offer a unique work experience, enabling students to put into practice what they have learnt in the classroom. They also benefit from an enriching cultural experience and are an excellent enhancement to a young person's CV in an increasingly competitive labour market.

Some of the opportunities coming up in 2020/21* for international placements are:

- Sports and Public Services placements in Slovakia.
- Sports and Public Services placements in Spain & Bulgaria.
- Animal Studies placements in Poland.
- Travel & Tourism and Business placements in Italy.
- Engineering and Construction placements in Denmark.

** Placements will be dependant upon current travel restrictions due to Covid-19*

You can read more about all our European Projects at
www.lmc.ac.uk/international

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"My Erasmus+ experience in Slovakia was the best thing I've ever done and it has opened so many doors, as well as my eyes!"

*Sport & Public Services
Student, Slovakia*



Student Hosting and Reciprocal Placements

Occasionally, we host groups of international students here at the College and these activities often result in a reciprocal visit for LMC students. These also offer great opportunities for our students to work alongside their peers from other countries and with students from often vastly different educational backgrounds.

Research Projects

As well as the numerous student based projects and exchanges, we are currently working on a variety of research and pilot projects with our international partners. These projects enable the College to take an active part in both the local and international community on exciting and innovative initiatives, and further foster the spirit of European cooperation. These projects also occasionally offer students the chance to travel if the project is linked to their studies, and to learn collaboratively alongside their peers abroad.

You can read more about all our European Projects at

www.lmc.ac.uk/international

FREE College bus services

People travel from all over the region to study at Lancaster & Morecambe College so, to make life easier, we offer full-time students daily return transport during term time on the routes shown below. **Anyone using the College bus service will be required to wear a face covering at all times, unless they have a medical exemption.** Details of routes, bus stops and timetables are available at: www.lmc.ac.uk/bus

Free Stagecoach termly bus passes

Full time students living over 2 miles from College, with a household income under £35k, who are not on a free bus route, will receive a free Stagecoach termly bus pass - students should ask in The Hex when they have enrolled.

Discounted Stagecoach termly bus passes

These are available to buy from The Hex, for all students not eligible for a bus pass through the Learner Support Fund. These passes are available for part time students too – ask in The Hex.



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LMC CELEBRATE LATEST OFSTED REPORT



Staff, students and governors at Lancaster and Morecambe College celebrated their [latest Ofsted inspection](#) which graded the College as **GOOD** and recognised the improvements which have been introduced since their previous visit in 2018.

A team of Inspectors spent 4 days on the campus in early March and undertook a comprehensive inspection of all aspects of College life, concluding that students were keen to learn, felt fully supported and were prepared to progress onto employment and higher education.

Inspectors applauded the College's [inclusive curriculum](#), which fully meets the needs of employers, learners and apprentices and incorporates sector-specific work placements and careers guidance. They noted the strong and sustainable relationships the College has developed with local community groups and businesses, highlighting LMC's central role as a strategic partner with [Eden Project North](#).

Staff were praised for helping to build confidence and motivate learners, fostering a calm, safe and respectful environment and providing effective and skilful support.

The inspection team met a wide range of students and apprentices during their 4-day visit, including a number of adult learners, and were impressed with their commitment and enthusiasm.

"Learners say that they have fallen in love with learning again and their programmes help them to achieve their full potential."

Principal, Wes Johnson: *"I am thrilled that the inspection team from Ofsted recognise that the College is delivering on the commitments made in our strategic plan – to be shaped by our employers, to be rooted in our community and to deliver positive outcomes for all."*

During my three years at the College I have really valued the fantastic commitment of our wonderful team in delivering the best outcomes for our College and community; great credit has to be paid to all staff, students and governors in achieving this outcome."

The glowing Ofsted report isn't the only recent success LMC have to shout about. Last month the latest national apprenticeship achievement data was released and it placed Lancaster & Morecambe College in the Top 20 FE Colleges in the country. Charlotte Rawes, Director or Apprentices and Employer Engagement, feels this success is down to the *"strong and sustainable relationships"* the college has built with local employers:

"Ofsted rightly recognised the excellent success and achievement of our apprenticeship provision and I am proud that we have increased our [apprenticeships provision](#) over the last 18 months by 22%, whilst

continuing to improve the quality and achievement rates.

The Ofsted "Good" judgement fully endorses our apprenticeship and employer led provision, and these are fantastic results which we will continue to build on, working closely with local businesses across all sectors."

Whilst the local and national landscape has very much shifted in the months since the Ofsted inspection was carried out, the college's commitment to its learners and the wider community remains as focused as ever. Wes Johnson feels that, despite the challenges the FE sector currently faces, the College is in a strong position to continue to build on its current success;

"The strength and commitment of the Lancaster & Morecambe College community continues to shine through since our inspection. I am proud that, during the Covid-19 lockdown, the College remained open every day to meet the needs of its most vulnerable students, manufactured masses of PPE for local health and social care providers and, in partnership with the Eggcup Food Poverty project, produced over 16,000 ready meals per production day for the most vulnerable in our community. We look forward to welcoming existing and new students back into college, as they continue progressing toward their chosen careers".

Frequently asked questions...

What measures are in place to protect my son/daughter from Covid-19?

We recognise that we are living through very unusual and uncertain times, which we continue to adapt to. Over the summer we have been preparing the campus for the safe return of students in September, whilst continuing to innovate in the ways we deliver learning using a blend of face-to-face, online and distance learning packages for our students and apprentices.

Our first priority, as always, is to safeguard the health & wellbeing of our learners, apprentices and staff and we will continue to follow government guidance on how best to adapt the College's functions to suit the ever-changing response to Covid-19 both nationally and locally.

Students will be required to wear a mask at all times when using the College buses, and in communal areas around the College campus, unless they have a medical exemption.

If my son/daughter completes a vocational qualification, can they still go to university?

Yes! Extended Diploma courses at LMC are equivalent to three A-Levels and provide all the theory and understanding required to get to university, as well as all the practical skills and experience needed to get into work. Around 200 of our Extended Diploma students choose to progress onto university locally, nationally and internationally.

My son/daughter is looking to achieve straight A's at GCSE; is there anything for them at College?

Yes, if your son/daughter knows what career path they want to follow or what subject they would like to study at university, College can offer them a work-based, career-led route to achieving their ambition.

Extended Diploma courses at LMC are equivalent to three A-Levels and provide all the theory and understanding required to get to university, as well as all the practical skills and experience needed to gain employment.

With opportunities for work experience in Europe and in the UK, additional qualifications and support for independent learning, full-time programmes at LMC provide a mature, responsible route to higher education or employment.

What happens if my son/daughter requires some additional learning support?

We provide a range of support for students and make every effort to meet their specific requirements. Support may include one-to-one support in the classroom, access to specialist equipment or learning materials provided in Braille, large print or audio files. It may also include help getting around or a sign language communicator.

You can let us know about any particular needs before your son/daughter starts College or at any time during their studies.

If you are able to make us aware of your son/daughter's needs before they start at College, we can arrange for any support or specialist equipment to be available from their first day with us.

Does the practical emphasis of College courses limit my son/daughter's future options?

Courses at LMC are designed to offer our students the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to begin a career in the area of their choice. Universities and employers often welcome the additional capability and skills gained on vocational courses, where students gain practical experience of the industry and workplace, not just an 'academic' understanding.

If your son/daughter has a clear idea of what they would like to achieve, be it university study, employment or learning particular skills, LMC can offer the course that's right for them.

All our students also have the opportunity to study Functional Skills; which includes English, maths and IT.

The College is so big – won't my son/daughter get lost in the crowd?

Although the College campus is large in comparison to many schools, your son/daughter won't be lost in the crowd. Each individual student has access to more help and support than in a traditional school environment. We offer a range of support outside the classroom, as well as in lessons.

I've heard that students take control of their own learning at College. How can I be sure my son/daughter is doing enough work to pass?

Each student has a personal tutor who meets with them every week to discuss their progress and any issues. Tutors will also stay in touch with you via regular progress reports and parents' evenings. If you would like to speak to a tutor, you can also contact them at any time during the year – contact details will be provided when your son/daughter starts at College.

How much does a College course cost?

Students aged 16-18 can study a full time programme at College FREE of charge. Students aged 19 and over may also be eligible in some cases to study for FREE; please contact our Student Services team for more information on **0800 306 306** or **info@lmc.ac.uk**

Can I get help with the cost of course expenses?

You will qualify for help with approved course expenses such as kit, uniform, and trips if your household income is below £35,000 or receives certain means-tested benefits AND your course is 3 hours or more each week.

You will receive an 80% refund on approved items purchased for your course and must submit receipts, signed by your tutor, with your form. Refunds will be paid at the end of the first term as long as you continue to attend your course.

Your opinion matters...

Every year, we ask you, as parents, what you think of Lancaster & Morecambe College and publish the results in our Parents' Survey. We know our students love College, but it is important to us that parents are just as impressed; we want to make sure we offer all the information and support you need during your son/daughter's progression through College.

In our last Parents' Survey you told us:

90%

found staff friendly and welcoming

97%

were satisfied that they chose this College

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www.lmc.ac.uk

info@lmc.ac.uk

0800 306 306 (Course Enquiries)

01524 66215 (General Enquiries)

Lancaster & Morecambe College,
Morecambe Road, Lancaster LA1 2TY

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Disclaimer

Lancaster & Morecambe College has published all information about the courses it intends to offer in good faith and warrants that classes will be delivered with reasonable care and skill. The College reserves the right to cancel any class and vary the time, location, direction and content of any class it provides and the associated fees. Lancaster & Morecambe College hereby expressly excludes liability for any indirect or consequential loss arising from its actions and limits compensation to a maximum of a full refund of any fees paid or the offer of a class of equivalent value.