

# Access and Widening Participation Statement 2017-2021

Runshaw College has a reputation for and is committed to widening participation of all learners across the Chorley and South Ribble community. The college highly values the range of experience and diversity of all its applicants and students across the full range of courses on offer including Higher Education students.

The college provides an extensive range of services that enables learners at all stages of education and career development to progress their learning and career opportunities. The supportive culture across the college ensures a learning environment that is rich on encouragement and opportunity for all learners to be successful. Facilities are of an exceptionally high standard ensuring the needs of all learners are met. Local businesses and employers speak very highly of the learning opportunities provided for their employees and the bespoke nature of courses that ensure students benefit from current action research relevant to the industry sector.

Friendly and respectful relationships exist between staff and students, creating a college community where each person is valued and can flourish. The college values every individual learner and aims to provide;

- the very best teaching
- exceptional pastoral care provided through the programme office
- a wide range of opportunities and experiences that will help you to develop skills that will prepare you fully for higher education and employment
- a very wide range of extra-curricular activities to ensure that you all receive a rich and broad education during your time with us
- outstanding additional learning support for students who require extra help with their studies
- access to advice and support through student services
- extensive library resources
- a very friendly, caring and safe environment, with high expectations at all times

The College works with partners to raise participation and success in Higher Education across Chorley, South Ribble and the surrounding area by;

- Developing and delivering university level courses in a supportive yet challenging environment that is rich with opportunity and enrichment.
- Delivering a range of courses that makes further study accessible to those learners who do not naturally aspire to study at a Higher Level, and actively engaging with schools and employers to encourage learners from all backgrounds and abilities to consider these courses as viable progression pathways.
- A range of vocational degrees that explicitly focus on the needs of local employers. For example, organisations from across the science sector attended a specialist Employer Breakfast at Runshaw College.
- Provide high quality teaching, learning and assessment that develops a community of socially responsible young people and graduates with the breadth of experience, knowledge and skills required to be successful in modern Britain.

The College provides information and promotes its Higher Education opportunities to potential students in the workplace, through open events, through progression talks to its

internal student population, the College website and other forms of social media. The College has developed its work with employers to actively engage with their workforce in the Chorley and South Ribble area and promote its Higher Education provision.

Examples of activities that take place to widen participation include;

- Visiting Schools - Taking assemblies, classes, motivation sessions, careers lessons and providing subject specific support to all our partner schools. The visits ensure the full range of courses is covered and promotes the success of all learners from a wide range of starting points including those who started on a level 1 course and have continued studying at the college right through to degree level along-side those who have progressed to Oxbridge.
- Open evenings and employer engagement activities to promote the wide range of courses and support available to all learners. These events also promote taster events where prospective learners can experience the fully inclusive nature of study at Runshaw College.
- Careers fair in conjunction with the North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce
- Every applicant to Runshaw receives a 20-minute interview with one of our experienced admissions interviewers to ensure enrolment to the right level and subject area of study. The interviewers are trained and well versed in the wide range of courses available, all conversations are mapped to the learners intended destination.
- The college is currently working with The Lancashire Colleges and UCLan with a view to involvement in the NCOP Future U project. NCOP aims to support the most disadvantaged young people in England to progress into HE and the Future U project aims to support the governments goals to:
  - Double the proportion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in HE by 2020;
  - Increase by 20% the number of students in HE from ethnic minority groups;
  - Address the under-representation of young men from disadvantaged backgrounds in HE.

There are well designed transition arrangements for all courses and learners that ensure all support needs are identified with appropriate arrangements in place before the course starts. When learners arrive in college there is a robust induction programme to ensure all learners are equipped with the knowledge, support and guidance needed to make them successful and enjoy their time at college.

The College operates a fair admissions policy with clear entry criteria for its programmes/courses. The College will ensure that students are not discriminated against during the admissions process or during their time at the College. Where students do not meet the entry criteria, the College supports the learner in identifying a suitable alternative programme of study that will enable access to Higher Education in the future.