

## HOW TO FIND US

From the town centre, go south on the Wilderspool Causeway along the A49 toward Stockton Heath. Turn left at the traffic lights by Greenalls, onto Loushers Lane. The College is 200 metres up on the left. Pedestrian access is also possible via Menin Avenue.

We suggest that you use services such as Multimap and The AA Route Planner to plan a journey to Priestley if you haven't visited us before. The postcode you will need for both of these systems is WA4 6RD. When using the AA system or other route planners please be advised that you should continue your journey along the A49 and access the College via its main entrance on Loushers Lane as there is no access to the campus via car on Menin Avenue.



**PRIESTLEY**  
◆◆◆ COLLEGE ◆◆◆

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◆◆◆ COLLEGE ◆◆◆



## ABOUT PRIESTLEY COLLEGE

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

PRIESTLEY COLLEGE

LOUSHERS LANE

WARRINGTON

CHESHIRE WA4 6RD

01925 624460

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The College's mission is to realise potential through inspirational teaching and learning in a wholly supportive and caring environment.

Priestley College is situated to the south of Warrington near Stockton Heath. It was established as a Sixth Form College in 1979 following a reorganisation of local school provision in partnership with local 11-16 schools.

The College has a successful track record of meeting its targets for growth and currently has some 2300 sixth form students. The College is the leading provider of post 16 opportunities in Warrington and recruits students from 11-16 and 11-18 schools in Warrington and increasingly from beyond.

Priestley College has also developed a niche Adult Programme that runs in community outreach centres in Warrington during the day, at the main site on one evening a week, and at a local school on another.

We currently have approximately 300 staff on pay roll. These include full and part time teachers, business support and casual hourly paid staff.

The College has grade A financial status.

The College Vision is **“To be recognised as an outstanding College striving for excellence.”**

Our mission is to realise potential through inspirational teaching and learning in a wholly supportive and caring environment.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students and to sustaining an open and supportive culture where students can thrive and achieve, staff, governors, volunteers and visitors feel secure and where everyone is assured that their welfare is high priority.

CURRICULUM PROVISION

The Sixth Form College offers an inclusive provision with programmes at Levels 1, 2 and 3. We offer an extensive range of AS/A2 and BTEC programmes at Level 3 which are followed by over 95% of students. At level 1 and 2 there is a more limited range of BTEC programmes on offer alongside GCSE English, Maths and Science.

The College is the nominated provider for the International Baccalaureate for Warrington and became an official IB World School in January 2010. Our first cohort of IB students completed the programme in June 2012.

The Adult Programme is based around Skills for Life and Family Learning in outreach and First Step provision in the evening.

Sixth Form College students also benefit from an extensive Enrichment programme which includes options such as the **Duke of Edinburgh Award, Driving Theory, Aromatherapy, History Society and Priestley’s Got Talent.**

Students are also encouraged to develop and take part in a range of curriculum related enrichment activities. These include countless visits in the UK and numerous overseas study visits ranging from Berlin to New York, and Paris to Iceland. We are very keen to broaden the student experience both locally, nationally and internationally to ensure that they are prepared to be active citizens when they move on from Priestley.

QUALITY

The College was inspected by a team of OFSTED Inspectors in March 2007 with the final report being published in May. The College was judged to be outstanding with the following grades being awarded:

Effectiveness of Provision	Grade 1: Outstanding
Capacity to Improve	Grade 1: Outstanding
Achievements and Standards	Grade 1: Outstanding
Quality of Provision	Grade 1: Outstanding
Leadership and Management	Grade 1: Outstanding

We believe the opening sentences of the overall judgement give an excellent overview of the College **“Priestley**

WHAT OUR STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY

We used an independent research company to find out why our students came to Priestley rather than stay in a school sixth form. The reasons they gave included:

- The College teachers and resources focus on young adults
- Its an adult environment and I am treated like an adult
- The facilities are better than at other options
- The quality of learning and recreational facilities
- More enrichment (extra curricular) opportunities
- It is close to the town centre
- Flexibility of travel using regular bus and train services
- Guaranteed subject progression from AS to A Level when offered
- Extensive choice of subjects
- A good step to University
- To meet new people



All the students surveyed said they would recommend Priestley and were pleased they had chosen us for Sixth Form Study.

WHAT OUR PARENTS HAVE TO SAY

We also conduct online surveys to collect the views and opinions from parents and carers. Here are a few of their comments:

- Can’t speak highly enough of Priestley, both my son and daughter have received completely effective and yet individual teaching, support and guidance. Policy and practice really are the same.
- My son is enjoying his time here at Priestley. He enjoys his course that he is studying and is very happy. Priestley has helped him to mature into a lovely hardworking young man and this is all down to the hard work and dedication of his tutors. I would highly recommend Priestley College to everyone who wants a great place to study.
- My son has progressed very strongly during his time at Priestley College, from just scraping into his course to being one of the highest achievers. He has worked extremely hard and applied himself to a subject he enjoys. He has received excellent mentoring from his personal tutors and has now received achievable conditional offers from his chosen Universities.
- I am absolutely delighted with the care and consideration that has been given to my daughter. She has had a very difficult year but the support has been brilliant. Thank you very much.
- Any student who has special needs is also well supportive and monitored.
- I am impressed by the feedback Simon gets regarding his work, he seems to know exactly which areas he needs to work on and what he needs to do to improve his marks in all his subjects. He is happy, settled and made friends quickly.
- My son could not have been supported any better anywhere else. Communication between home and college is first class.
- Fantastic start to college. Great correspondence throughout application process and registration. College is very organised and appears to be an excellent TEAM!



Senior Tutor – Dan Martin

Priestley is in many ways like a small university.

The purposeful way students move around the building and the incredible range of extra curricular activities on offer are just some of the things that struck me from day one.

Having worked for 10 years in an 11-18 school as a Head of Year, I was looking for a role that would allow me to combine my pastoral responsibilities with my desire to work in a sixth form setting.

The role I now have at Priestley of Senior Tutor is incredibly

demanding but also immensely rewarding.

It is a great privilege to be able to support students through this key stage of their education and secure opportunities at university or employment when they leave.



Study Support – David Turner



As a member of the Study Support team, and I can describe Priestley as very friendly, enthusiastic and ‘with it.’

I am impressed at how much Priestley has to offer students in terms of facilities, activities and support.

I can honestly say I have been rewarded in ways I never thought possible.

I was made to feel at home from day–1 and given help and advice from fellow members of the team who all do a great job.

Helping students is amazing, just to see the smile on their face when they pass an assignment or have the confidence to stand up in class and deliver a speech and knowing you have helped is very rewarding.

I like the versatility of the role too, as you never know what you might be asked to do next.

Working in Study Support is a great experience where you know you are making a difference.

LEARNER VOICE

We place a great emphasis on the learner voice at Priestley. Each tutor group elects a representative who joins the Student Council. The Student Council in turn elects the College Council that meets regularly with the Principal and other Senior Managers. The President and Vice President of the College Council serve as members of the Governing Body.

The College Council and its officers organise a number of events for students throughout the year and also lead on major fundraising projects such as Children in Need and Comic Relief. Moreover, and very importantly, the Council adopt a high profile role in developing the whole student experience at Priestley.

Each Curriculum Area holds regular student focus groups and students also serve on the Equality and Diversity and Learning Resources Committees. In addition the Principal and Deputy Principal hold focus group with new students annually. The Governing Body also meet annually with a representative group of students at their training seminar and students regularly present feedback to Governors on a range of issues.

Student feedback is also gathered through online questionnaires using Survey Monkey. The results of the questionnaires are used to inform college development on a number of levels and are regularly incorporated in development plans and feature prominently in Self Assessment Reports.



College is an outstanding college where every learner really does matter. It does everything in its power to maximise the life chances of its learners in a friendly, caring learning environment that encourages and enables them to do their best and achieve their potential.”

We were also inspected in September 2011 as part of the new pilot inspection process. This confirmed our self-assessment grades at the time.

The 2012 Self Assessment Report awarded the following grades to our Curriculum Areas for overall effectiveness:

Art and Design	Grade 1: Outstanding
Professional Studies	Grade 3: Requires Improvement
Health and Education	Grade 1: Outstanding
English and Modern Foreign Languages	Grade 2: Good
Humanities	Grade 3: Requires Improvement
ICT/Computing	Grade 2: Good
Media and Performing Arts	Grade 1: Outstanding
Science and Mathematics	Grade 2: Good
Sport and PE	Grade 2: Good
Adult Skills for Life	Grade 2: Good

Following the 2007 Outstanding Inspection Report, the College was awarded Learning and Skills Beacon College status by Ministers in May 2007.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Sixth Form student results are excellent. The College has had an A-Level pass rate of over 99% for the last eight years, and in 2012 there was a 99% pass rate at A-Level with 72.6% at A to C grade.

The College achieved a 100% pass rate in Extended Diploma and Diploma, and BTEC Level 1 and Level 3 programmes in 2012, and also achieved an A\* to C GCSE pass rate of 59%.

Progression to Higher Education and employment is excellent with over 549 students progressing to university programmes, including Oxbridge in 2012.

The College has a good track record in terms of Value Added and has been the best Value Added performer in Warrington for a number of years. We are in the top 15% of colleges nationally when using the ALPS Value Added system.

CAMPUS INVESTMENT

In the last ten years, the College has invested over £12M in the campus. In particular, over the last three years, the following investments have taken place:

the addition of a full-size all-weather sports facility; an extension to the Learning Resource Centre; refurbishment of the Art and Design facilities across campus; the creation of three additional science laboratories; and a new six-classroom teaching centre.

We place a great emphasis on constantly striving to improve teaching and learning for all our students. In addition to capital investment, we have continued to invest in technologies which support this drive, such as a Virtual Learning Environment and a wireless network upgrade.





MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The Senior Management Team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal and Vice Principal Resources together with the Director of Finance and College Secretary. The Director of Student Services, Director of Quality Improvement and Professional Development and Director of Student Performance Management are associate members of the SMT.

There are ten Curriculum Managers who are supported by Assistant Curriculum Managers who are responsible for the day to day running of the College programmes.

Students’ learning is supported and managed by Personal Tutors working to a team of five Senior Tutors and the Director of Student Services. The Learning Support team also actively supports those students with specific learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The College has an annual review programme for all staff which considers performance and identifies development or training needs in line with the College’s professional development strategy.

The College runs a comprehensive induction programme for all new staff and works with Warrington Borough Council to support NQTs through their probationary year.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE / STAFF FACILITIES

The College is a member of the Sixth Form Colleges Forum and Association of Colleges. The Governing Body listens carefully to the views of such bodies and within its various committees, works with senior management to guide the College.

All teaching staff are based in curriculum clusters for staff room accommodation. Here staff will have easy access to computer-based resources, including a shared-drive housing key College documents, email to aid communication, and Moodle (our Virtual Learning Environment).

Competitive rates of pay are offered, based on the national pay scale for Staff in Sixth Form Colleges, which covers both Teaching and Business Support Staff. The Local Government Pension Scheme and the Teachers’ Pension Scheme, which are both final salary schemes, are available to staff. Salary Sacrifice schemes (i.e. the Busy Bees Childcare Voucher Scheme and the Cycle to Work Scheme) allow staff to take advantage of tax reductions.

The Staff Association has representatives on the Joint Consultative Committee, which is the College forum where pay and conditions for staff, and ideas to aid staff well-being, are discussed with Senior Management. The Staff Association also arrange social events for staff at various times throughout the year.

A wide range of central administration and technical services is provided to support teachers and business support staff in their work.

We have a recently refurbished staff relaxation room “Rendevouz” and two on-site catering areas. A no smoking policy operates throughout all buildings.

As a College we are committed to Safeguarding and Promoting the welfare of all our students and in sustaining an open and supportive culture where students can thrive and achieve, our staff, governors, volunteers and visitors can feel secure, and everyone is assured that their welfare is a high priority.



IS PRIESTLEY FOR YOU?

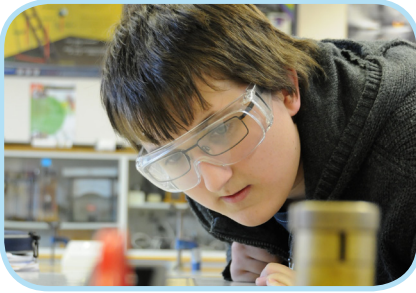
Further Education is without doubt a most challenging sector in the education world. Growth over the past few years has been in excess of national expectations and cost pressures are significant. However, Priestley College is a genuinely flexible and responsive organisation, one well-suited to meet the new challenges of the years ahead. A key emphasis will continue to be on the quality of teaching and learning.

We are keen to appoint outstanding managers and support staff, and teachers with a passion for their subject, and the highest expectations of students. The College is an equal opportunities employer keen to employ staff from a wide variety of backgrounds, whether working in FE sector colleges, in schools or the world of industry and commerce.

Priestley has a good deal to offer its employees and we are looking for staff who, in response, have a good deal to offer us.

If you:

- Have high expectations of self and others
- Recognise and aspire to outstanding standards and achievement
- Are committed to continuous improvement
- Are positive in outlook, with a “can-do” mentality
- Are a team player
- Genuinely like and care about students
- Are committed to social and educational inclusion
- Recognise and celebrate diversity
- Are energetic and hardworking
- Want to make a real difference to people’s lives



Then you sound like just what we are looking for! We very much look forward to hearing from you.

STAFF CASE STUDIES

Teacher of Psychology – Gemma Stephens

Starting at Priestley as an NQT was an exciting experience as I was drawn to the fantastic friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

I began teaching Psychology at AS level and on the International Baccalaureate new to the College.

I received appropriate external training and was supported through each stage of my development.

The programme in place for NQTs is supportive yet flexible where guidance is readily available when needed.

Staff in my department and across college were always more than willing to assist with any questions I had making me feel valued as a new member of staff. Bitesize sessions held by other members of staff

are valuable to sharing good practice and professional development.

I was also provided with my own opportunity to hold a short session.

In addition, being a personal tutor enabled me to gain a deeper insight into the pastoral responsibilities associated with young people providing me with a new challenge.

It’s a rewarding experience to see my first cohort of students off to university/first employment in my second year.

