Innovation, exploiting new technologies and the deployment of technical skills are at the heart of WMG’s mission and at the heart of the WMG Academy’s vision for our future engineers.

By ensuring our students have both the academic knowledge and practical skills required to enter employment, we are preparing them not just for their careers, but also to help change the world.

Professor Lord Bhattacharyya, Chairman and Founder, WMG

We are proud to be university sponsor of the WMG Academy; engineering and digital technologies are central to the region and country’s growth.

We have invested both resource and expertise to ensure the quality of education matches that of the high-standards expected at the University of Warwick.

Professor Sir Nigel Thrift, Vice Chancellor and President, University of Warwick
Welcome from the Executive Principal

The WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Solihull, will be the second academy within the WMG Academy Trust. It will work closely with its sister academy in Coventry (opened in 2014) and together they will bring benefits to all learners within the WMG Trust.

As the Executive Principal for the WMG Academy Trust, and on behalf of the Trust, I am delighted to be leading both academies. Stewart Tait, Associate Principal Designate for Solihull, will lead on the day to day operation of the academy and, together, we will work closely to ensure that the academy provides an outstanding education for its students.

From the very start we have had a clear mission and vision for the WMG Academy, developed in partnership with leading employers, WMG and the University of Warwick; to be “business-like and business-led”.

We want to create an environment where young people, with a passion for creating, doing and designing can acquire technical and business skills. With a technical specialism of engineering, the academy will have a strong focus on all STEM (science, engineering, technology and maths) subjects and through these we will foster the skills, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit that will create sought after employees of the future.

I hope by reading this prospectus you will see how our vision is translated into reality and look forward to welcoming you to our growing community. Please feel free to contact myself or Stewart if you would like more information or to visit the WMG Academy.

Kate Tague
Executive Principal
Welcome from the Associate Principal

Our students will have the opportunity to access unrivalled industry standard resources, expertise and digital technology today that will provide the most sought after employees of tomorrow.

I feel immensely privileged to have been appointed as Associate Principal of Solihull’s first engineering specialist University Technical College, sponsored by employers and the University of Warwick.

Our aim is to achieve outstanding outcomes for young people through a relentless focus on high quality teaching and learning, delivered by expert practitioners, as well as providing a broad and balanced curriculum for all. Flexible pathways at Post 16 signpost to university courses or quality apprenticeships, whilst Key Stage 4 allows option subjects and a modern foreign language to access the much sought after EBAC qualification.

Our “business-like, business-led” vision drives everything we do. Working with a range of local, national and international companies, our students complete the engineering projects, set by these companies, which form the basis of their assessment and curriculum. Through these projects we bring to life the core subjects of Mathematics, Science and English, to support student’s achievement and attainment.

Alongside an innovative approach to teaching and state of the art facilities, I hold in extremely high regard the traditional values of creating a learning community where the environment is calm, supportive and encourages curiosity in young people.

The WMG Academy Solihull aims to bring out the best in young people and give them the leadership opportunities to develop themselves and others whilst securing the knowledge, technical skills and business behaviour we know employers value.

Stewart Tait
Associate Principal, Solihull
Introducing the WMG Academy for Young Engineers

The WMG Academy will be characterised by the use of ‘real life’ project based delivery which has been co-developed by our employer partners and designed and delivered to meet the current and emerging needs of the engineering sector.

Our students will experience new ways of learning. They will learn in applied and practical ways, integrating and contextualising academic and technical elements through the project based curriculum.

Students will work closely with our industrial and university sponsors, in an innovative and future-focused learning environment, to develop outstanding knowledge and skills within the academy’s specialism of engineering and applied science. A broad, balanced and rich general curriculum will also allow our students to develop the business behaviours, skills and competencies that employer’s value.

Learning will be different as students will work flexibly in groups of varying sizes within the academy.

The ethos of “business like and business led” will permeate throughout the academy in the way students work, behave, dress and study. Every aspect of the academy, including the brand new building and its ethos and culture, will reflect best practice in the modern workplace.

At the heart of our ethos is the promotion of every learner’s own personal and future professional development. Students who graduate from the academy will be confident and extremely well prepared to enter either the world of work, further or higher education, or an apprenticeship. They will help to address the engineering skills gaps as we create the next generation of engineers and scientists who will work on exciting and challenging projects, innovating and creating the new products and processes that will influence the way we live in the future.

“Arup are pleased to be a part of such an exciting venture as the WMG Academy. We are already actively involved in developing this unique way of learning and believe it will help shape local students into young engineers for the future.”

Kim Blackmore, Associate, Arup
Engineering is delivered differently at the WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Solihull. Working with our employer partners to develop the engineering curriculum, students study live company-set projects.

Students take the learning from their engineering teaching and apply it to employer driven scenarios to develop solutions. These projects form part of their final assessment for their engineering qualifications. Through these projects, students develop their employability skills of team working, leadership, communication, independent learning and self-reliance.

Their final task will be to present their work back to the relevant employer; having the opportunity to explain their ideas and getting feedback from the experts on their solutions.

We are currently working with the following employer partners: Jaguar Land Rover, Controls and Data Services, ARUP, Automotive Insulations, Prodrive, Dassault Systemes and National Grid to develop our curriculum and extended student experience.

“Jaguar Land Rover are extremely excited about the imminent opening of the WMG Academy for Young Engineers and what it will mean for the support of engineering skills in the region.

The close collaboration between the academy, university and local industry will make for a truly unique learning environment.”

Jo Lopes,
Head of Technical Excellence, Jaguar Land Rover
Our Curriculum
Curriculum: Years 10 and 11

In Key Stage 4, our curriculum is built around a core programme of learning with a focus on STEM subjects. Students will build a solid foundation of knowledge and skills leading to GCSE qualifications and, where appropriate, the English Baccalaureate.

The curriculum will be designed to ensure that the majority of students take at least 8 qualifications, with exceptions made for those students for whom a smaller number is more appropriate.

The core education programme will be delivered through themes, linked to the technical specialisms and to employer set challenge projects. ICT will be integrated throughout all learning within the Academy.

The core curriculum is:
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE English
- GCSE Core and Additional Science (triple GCSE available)
- GCSE Computer Science
- PE, PSHE and RE are all non-examined

Our specialist engineering qualifications are delivered through employer-led projects to ensure they experience a real-world challenge, develop their engineering knowledge and practice their employability skills.

In addition students are able to choose either 2 or 3 choices such as:
- Triple Science (converting Double Science to the three separate Sciences)
- A Humanities Subject
- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Product Design
- Modern Foreign Languages
Our Curriculum
Curriculum: Years 12 and 13

At Post 16 we will offer students a choice of flexible pathways. The Academy will work with students to select the most appropriate pathway for them, based on their performance at GCSE and their career aspirations.

The Level 3 Programme
The majority of post 16 students at the Academy will follow a Level 3 programme, which means they will have passed a minimum of 5 GCSEs, including English and Maths, at grades A* to C.

The 3 pathways below are indicative of our flexible approach to meeting the needs and aspirations of students.

Pathway A: For students wishing to study engineering at university or pursue an advanced apprenticeship. All students will study a Level 3 engineering qualification and up to 3 A-levels.

Pathway B: For learners wishing to study engineering combined with another subject at university, pursue an apprenticeship or go into Further Education. On this pathway the students will combine a smaller Level 3 engineering qualification with A-level subjects.

WMG Academy will offer the following A-level subjects:
- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Further Maths
- Geography
- Maths
- Physics
- Product Design

Pathway C: This route is for students who want to follow an A-Level only programme, with a focus on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

NB: Any student who does not have a minimum of a grade C in GCSE English or Maths will have to retake this as part of their Sixth Form programme.

The Level 2 Programme
For students who are looking to consolidate their learning from Key Stage 4 and who have not yet achieved the equivalent of 5 grade A* to C GCSE qualifications. Those students following this programme will study:
- Maths and Science at Level 2
- Appropriate units of Level 2 qualifications in engineering and the built environment

Students on this programme will experience the WMG Academy’s unique approach to learning, centred upon employer led projects.
Facilities and Location

Our ‘business-like and business-led’ vision is reflected in our bespoke new building, an innovative learning environment which is unique.

Located on Chelmsley Wood Road, our flexibly sized and varied learning bases can accommodate up to 60 students and allow for individual learning, team work or whole group teaching.

The Engineering Hall follows the process of ‘design, create, do’ with students able to design on the CAD mezzanine and then create using our industrial standard equipment of mills, lathes, Computer Numerically Controlled machines, fabrication, welding and bench fitting to gain the engineering skills they need. Electronics and science facilities will be of the highest standard to allow outstanding delivery.

There is a learning resource centre for students to independently study with support and guidance, break out spaces on each floor for group work and an atrium for assemblies, showcasing of work and exhibitions. There are dining facilities which will be flexible to allow students to work and meet during study periods in addition to serving hot food for all. The activity studio, sports hall and outside multiple use games area provide recreational and PE facilities.

The WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Solihull will be IT rich with laptops, standard PCs and CAD machines throughout the building. Students can bring their own devices and use our secure wireless system. Our learners will work in a business-like environment very much like any professional engineer and our purpose-built learning environment reflects this.

Artist’s impression of the new academy
Joining the WMG Academy

We are a state-funded academy and there are no selection criteria for entry into the WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Solihull. We must emphasise that this academy is for students with an interest in creating, doing and designing things.

There will be an engineering-based focus with specialist attention being given to the areas which are applicable to local employers in the automotive, aerospace and high-value manufacturing sectors.

Applying to join in Year 10

Year 10 Admissions will open on 1 August 2015, will be processed by the WMG Academy for Young Engineers and coordinated by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

Application forms will be available to download on the admissions page of our website as from 1 August 2015. Alternatively you can call or email us and request an application form by post.

Once your application has been seen by us it will be passed to Solihull MBC for processing. We hold regular drop-in surgeries throughout the year for learners interested in studying with us and you are welcome to contact us and arrange to come in and discuss joining the WMG Academy at any time.

Our admissions policy is available on our website and includes the processes in the event of being oversubscribed.
Applying to join in Year 12

Year 12 Admissions will open on 1 August 2015 and will be processed by the WMG Academy. Application forms will be available to download on the admissions page of our website as from 1 August 2015.

Alternatively you can call or email us and request an application form by post. We hold regular drop-in surgeries throughout the year for learners interested in studying with us and you are welcome to contact us and arrange to come in and discuss joining the WMG Academy at any time.

Students who wish to study Post 16 will need to meet our minimum entry requirements and any additional requirements for specific courses.
Student Life

We believe that education should be “business-like and business led”. Our curriculum covers all core subjects at Key Stage 4 and is structured around projects which use real-world business projects, set by our employer partners, at the core of all learning.

At Key Stage 5 students can follow traditional A-level subjects, enhanced by employer projects for the core engineering entitlement, or opt for a pathway based on a larger Level 3 qualification.

The WMG Academy Day
Our day is slightly longer than the standard academy day, allowing time for individual learning, catch up sessions, mentoring and enrichment activities alongside the project work which forms the heart of our curriculum.

We cater for students to be on site between 07.30 and 18.00 (16:30 on a Monday and Friday) but the core hours we expect all students to be on site are 08.30 until 16.30. Students will be expected to partake in a minimum of four hours of enrichment activity a week.

Due to the extended academy day we do not set additional homework as we expect all the work and study is to be completed during academy time. There will of course be exceptions to this around revision for exams or any other extra projects the students may wish to take on board, or where work has not been completed during academy time.

The ethos of the WMG Academy is business-like and we draw on business practice for both our student and staff assessment, monitoring the development of employability and life skills such as team-working, leadership and problem-solving

Enrichment Activities
All students are expected to participate in an agreed programme of tailored enrichment activities. Each student’s programme will be agreed with their tutor and regularly reviewed.

Activities to be offered may include:
- Sport and fitness;
- STEM focussed activities such as F1 in Schools, Greenpower racing;
- Project-based activities such as national competitions and engineering challenges;
- National Award schemes such as Duke of Edinburgh Award and Young Enterprise.

Student Leadership
In-keeping with the business-like ethos and culture of support and success, students at the WMG Academy are given opportunities to undertake leadership roles. The Student Learner Forum enables learners to be able to contribute to the strategic direction of the academy and be a sounding board and student voice forum between staff and employer partners.
Pastoral Care and Support

Our pastoral care is led by our Director of Pastoral and Additional Educational Needs. All learners have an individual learning plan with academic, personal development and skills targets. These are negotiated between learners and their personal tutor which are reviewed twice termly.

There are high expectations for standards of behaviour and personal conduct reflecting the professional environment of the WMG Academy for Young Engineers. This includes a dress code in line with the professional appearance that students would be expected to have.

Pastoral care is organised ‘vertically’ at the WMG Academy, across the year groups. All students and staff are placed into one of four ‘Companies’ at the beginning of their career at the WMG Academy and then in tutor groups within these companies. Each day has dedicated timetabled pastoral time which includes: PSHE/citizenship sessions, company competitions, mentoring, assemblies and time available for self-supported study.

Additional Educational Needs
The WMG Academy is committed to providing for the learning needs of all of our students. Additional support for learners is provided by the Learning Support Team under the leadership of the Academy SENCO and overseen by the Director of Pastoral and Additional Educational Needs. Students with additional learning needs, and their parents, are fully involved in all decisions about what and how additional support will be provided.

Beyond the Academy
From the first day at the WMG Academy to the last, we will be working with our learners to help them prepare for their future careers. From technical skills through to communication and business skills, we’ll do everything we can to help plan for future careers, whether that’s as an apprentice, via university or straight into employment and further training.

Working in Partnership

Students
Our learners’ journey with us starts as soon as they are offered a place. They will be invited to a guidance interview to discuss their current progress, their future career plans and to decide together on their curriculum in Y10 and Y12. They will have a personal tutor within the WMG Academy who will be their mentor and key point of contact.

Employers
The WMG Academy has a wealth of partners who support our curriculum, provide mentoring, inspire our strategic direction and support our careers guidance. With their support and expertise they ensure that the WMG Academy curriculum meets the needs of industry and is current practice.

Parents
At the WMG Academy we strongly believe that the support of parents is a key element of the success of their child. Parents will receive regular progress reports and are invited to attend consultation evenings with staff. The personal tutor will be the key point of contact for parents who will be able to discuss the student’s individual personal learning plan and their targets. There will be a Parents’ Forum which is held once every half term, to discuss parental views.

Governance
The WMG Academy for Young Engineers Trust oversees both of our Academies in Solihull and Coventry. Each Academy has its own Governing Body with membership drawn from WMG, The University of Warwick, employer partners, educationalists, staff and parent governors.