

Applicant Handbook



Useful information
to support your
application for

**September
2025**



Welcome

Thank you for applying to Shrewsbury Colleges Group. We aim to give you the best possible experience so you can progress from college to higher education, an apprenticeship, or into employment.

Shrewsbury Colleges Group continues to provide the best facilities, teaching and resources for our students. The key to our success is our commitment to you as an individual student.

You will have a personal tutor who will act as an academic guide and mentor, helping solve any day to day problems. All subjects offer additional one to one and small group support for students who require extra help or who want to push themselves even further.

In addition, our Student Services team is here to offer advice and guidance on many aspects of student life. The team can help you with practical matters such as finance and transport, but they also can guide you to the wider support services that the college offers such as the emotional wellbeing practitioners that we have on each campus.

We want you to enjoy your time with us and achieve your potential. College life isn't just about studying though, and student life at SCG is brilliant. This is a place where you will make new friends and develop new interests. There are many activities taking place inside and outside college including sports, music, dance, drama, and much more.

This blend of excellent teaching, support and enrichment is why so many students travel to us from across Shropshire, Telford and Wales. The excellent transport links make it easy to get to any of our three campuses.

This booklet has lots of useful information plus important dates to help make sure you have a good start at college in September.

Please ask the Admissions team at college if you have any questions.

Best wishes,
James Staniforth, Principal

Contents

Key dates for your diary	4
A guide to starting a course with us	5
Why choose Shrewsbury Colleges Group?	6
Supporting your study	8
Helping your progression	10
Enrichment opportunities	11
Financial support	12
Travelling to college	16





Key dates for your diary

25 June 2025
(Academic & Vocational
Art Courses)

2 July 2025
(Vocational Courses)

Welcome Event

Come and experience a college day. Meet course teachers and other students, have lunch in The Hub, check out the Learning Resource Centre and get your bearings around the campus. We will send out details nearer the time so make sure you keep an eye on your emails.

Your future starts here!

**21 August -
29 August 2025**

Enrolment

You will be invited into college to inform us about your results and to enrol onto your course. You will receive further information about the next steps and pick up your ID card and any information relevant to your course.

Invites will be sent out in July. Enrolment is important so make sure you keep your appointment details somewhere safe.

21 August 2025

GCSE Results

If you didn't get what you were hoping for please don't panic, you can talk to our staff at your enrolment appointment who will advise you about your options.



A guide to starting a course with us

At the interview:

- You will have found out more about the college and discussed your reasons for your course choice. After looking at the predicted grade information or achieved grades, we may have offered you a place on the course or referred you for further information and guidance
- Hopefully you discussed any support requirements you may have and talked to Student Services about any financial or transport queries. If you didn't do this please contact us
- **We will email you an offer of a place which you must accept within two weeks of your interview.**

Keeping in touch

We will keep in touch by email, text and WhatsApp. You will be invited to attend a Welcome Event in the summer where you will meet other students and find out more about your course.

Please keep us informed of any changes to your mobile number or email address.

Ring **01743 653 111 for Admissions.**

Enrolment

We will email you to confirm arrangements for enrolling in August. You will get your student ID card and be told all you need to know about starting at the college.

Start your course

Your course will begin with a settling in week where your teachers and Student Support Tutor will identify your aims and goals to put on your Individual Learning Plan. If you require support to get settled into college, this will be agreed and reviewed throughout the year.

Join the success story!

We place emphasis on supporting you to achieve your true potential and in helping you progress to your preferred destination, whether that's a job or a place at university. With our support, we'll help make whatever you want to achieve happen.

Why choose Shrewsbury Colleges Group?

Widest range of course choices

Shrewsbury Colleges Group offers the widest choice of both A Level and Vocational courses in Shropshire. We can offer any A Level combination, unlike some colleges and sixth forms.

Experienced teachers

Many of our teachers have published books on their area of expertise or work with exam boards and awarding bodies, either setting and marking papers or acting as external examiners. Others are external quality assurers and represent on national industry forums. Many vocational teachers are still working in their specialist subject whilst teaching, meaning they are keeping their skills up-to-date.

Outstanding progression to university

Former SCG students who have graduated from university in 2023 have excelled. 85% gained first class or upper second class honours compared with the national average for schools and colleges of 80%.

Links with local employers

We have excellent links and partnerships with local, regional and national companies as well as international organisations, providing opportunities for work experience such as virtual and in-person placements, apprenticeships and employment. These include the Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust who can provide a range of activities during your time at college to equip you for a career within the NHS.

Broad range of enrichment opportunities

Including competitive sports teams, volunteering, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, sports activities, clubs (including Debating Club, Model United Nations and PRIDE) and Student Council.

Academic Excellence Programme

Many opportunities exist to help you prepare for competitive entry programmes such as medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry and midwifery. There are also programmes to help with applying to Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Study in an inspiring location

Shrewsbury is an exciting and vibrant town in which to study. The town centre combines historic landmarks with modern cafés, restaurants and shops. The Quarry Park, home to the rowing club, is the ideal place to meet friends, enjoy a variety of sports and take a relaxing walk.

Great preparation for university or the world of work

You will have a personalised timetable with time assigned to study and complete homework, seek study support, and work with fellow students on assignments and activities. You will develop independence and time management skills that will make the transition to university, an apprenticeship or employment much easier, particularly if you plan to move away from the area for the next stage of your learning.

You will meet new people, make new friends, and take part in a wide range of activities that provide you with great experiences to enhance your application to university or for employment.

Campus facilities

We have subject specific facilities across the campuses. English Bridge Campus has been developed to accommodate all the creative arts courses, Welsh Bridge Campus has specialist classrooms for science subjects and at London Road Campus there is a range of specialist workshops with up-to-date equipment. All three campuses use a variety of new technologies in the classroom including apps, tablets and augmented reality with free Wi-Fi as well as the ability to bring your own device.



Supporting your study

The Student Services team are here to help with any queries about college life.

We can help you with finance, health and wellbeing, travel, support with your studies, counselling, accommodation, applications, and any general enquiries.

How we can help you

We want you to get the most from your student experience so that you're ready to take on your next challenge after college, whether that is higher education, an apprenticeship, employment, or starting your own business. We have received the Matrix accreditation for our information, advice and guidance service to students.

We can offer support with:

- Settling into college
- Talking through any issues that are affecting your learning
- Making adjustments so that a disability does not hold you back
- Understanding and using assistive technology
- Essay planning, assignment writing, revision skills and exam techniques
- Access arrangements.

You can talk to us about any support needs you may have on the application form, at interview, enrolment or any time during your course by talking to your teacher or Additional Learning Support. The sooner you tell us, the quicker we can help you.

Learning Resource Centres

There is a Learning Resource Centre (LRC) on each campus which offers a range of both print and online resources and are supported by experienced staff to deal with your enquiries. Each LRC is equipped with computers to access the internet for research, Moodle for your course materials, Office 365 for Microsoft Office applications and cloud storage. Free Wi-Fi is available if using your own device. Each centre is open daily during term time with varied opening times during holidays.

There are also quiet study areas available at all campuses.

Support workshops

Your Progression Specialist/Student Support Tutor will refer you for further support if required.

Access arrangements

If you've previously received access arrangements for exams, or feel you will need support, please tell your Student Support Tutor or Progression Specialist so that we can arrange this for you.

Personal Tutors

Every student has a Personal Tutor to offer support, monitor progress and help with progression at college and into work or higher education.

We also have a dedicated Careers and Progression Adviser and 'Targeted Progression' programmes for help in accessing the most competitive career paths such as medicine, teaching and midwifery as well as programmes for those students looking to study at Oxford or Cambridge universities. Support is given for applying to specialist summer schools and programmes to enhance career and study opportunities.

Safeguarding

It is important that young people receive the right help at the right time so we have a dedicated and trained Safeguarding Team at each campus to listen, advise and take prompt action should they feel you or others are at risk of harm. We work alongside local agencies such as the Shropshire Family Information Service and the Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board. If you are a young person who is looked after, a young adult carer or a young parent, please let us know as you might benefit from extra support that we can put in place for you.

We want to continue to be proud of the fact that students feel safe at college and we take our safeguarding role very seriously.

You can email Additional Learning Support anytime at: als@scg.ac.uk

Helping your progression

The Agency

A team of staff providing students with a varied programme of activities to help you prepare for your future career, whether you have a firm destination in mind or are looking for career inspiration.

We can offer information, advice and guidance on:

- Careers, education and training
- Job search and job applications
- CVs and interview techniques including the use of mock assessment centres
- Higher education/university applications, including support with Oxford and Cambridge university applications
- Part-time and full-time employment
- Apprenticeships and higher level degree apprenticeships
- Sponsored degree programmes
- Competitive entry careers e.g. veterinary science, medicine and dentistry.

National Careers Service

We work with the National Careers Service as part of our all-age Matrix accredited careers service.

Work Experience

All students have access to work experience and placements. Getting experience really helps with job and university applications.

Employability

We are part of the National Association of Student Employment Services (NASES) and are the only college in the county that is a NASES member. We work closely with employers on a local and national level to deliver workshops which support our students in making competitive applications and understanding exactly what employers are looking for.

Jobshop

The Jobshop has local, seasonal, part-time, and full-time vacancies and can also provide expert advice on applying for jobs, writing CVs, and interview skills to maximise your chances of success. Our Job Fairs give you direct access to recruiters.



Enrichment opportunities

We offer a flexible enrichment programme throughout the college week at all campuses, which has been developed in conjunction with students and is based on eight key themes:

- Sport and wellbeing
- Employability and careers
- Enterprise, including Young Enterprise Challenge
- 21st Century technologies
- Leadership including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Volunteering
- Academic enrichment including Oxbridge and Medical Societies
- Music and Drama.

To provide career inspiration, various events are scheduled throughout the year including Careers Week, Job Fairs, Higher Education events, and an annual visit to the Skills Show at Birmingham NEC, as well as visits to universities.

Many of our students take up volunteering opportunities to gain experience and some have gained nationally recognised awards. We work closely with students to develop new enrichment activities. These include Model United Nations, Debating Club, Cultural Society, PRIDE, crafting, and many more.

Team Sports

We have sports teams in:

- Rugby (Male and Female)
- Football (Male and Female)
- Hockey (Male and Female)
- Volleyball (Mixed)
- Netball.

Multiple teams compete in the Association of Colleges Leagues and Shropshire College Leagues.

Anyone wanting to play football at a higher level can trial for the AOC league. Please ask for further information.



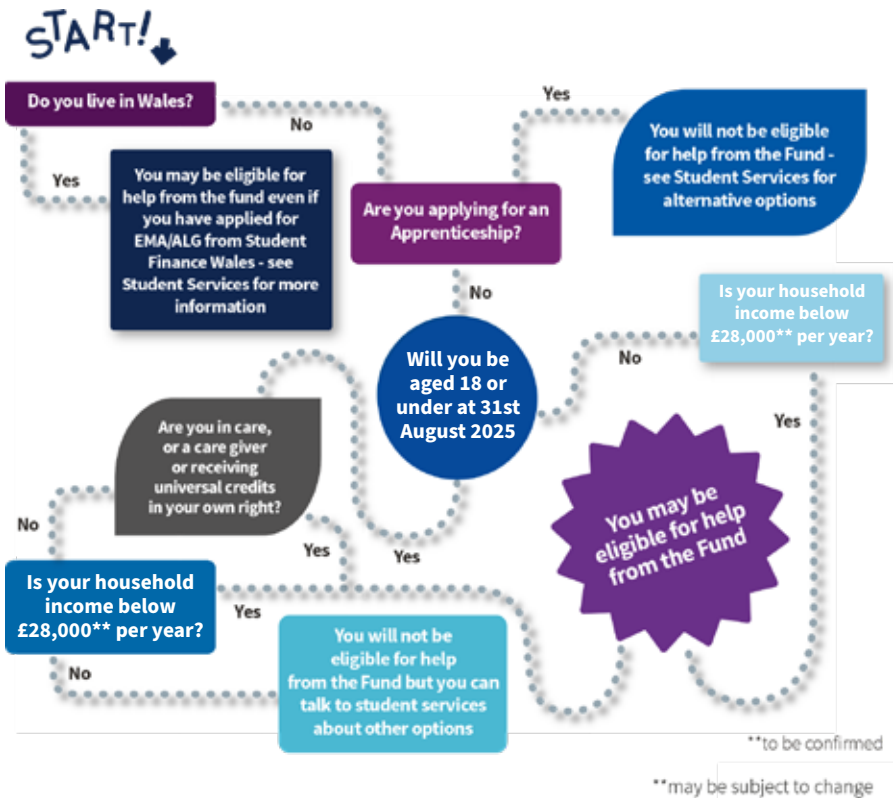
Financial support

Find out whether you're eligible to apply for help with travel, free meals and essential course-related costs. We can provide details of the help that you can expect to receive as well as guidance on the application process and timeframes.

The distribution of these funds is subject to guidelines issued by the awarding governing agencies. Therefore, the guidelines on awarding funds as well as the amount of funds available varies each year. The type and level of help available for 2025/26 is subject to change.

Please check www.scg.ac.uk for further updates.

Find out if you may be eligible for help by following the chart below.



**to be confirmed

**may be subject to change

Student Bursary and Hardship Fund

If your household income is **up to a maximum of £28,000** (to be confirmed) you may be entitled to help from the fund. If you are living independently then the following applies to your own income, otherwise this applies to your parents'/guardians' income. Please note the following is based on the funding allocation that was made to the college for 2024/2025 and is subject to review once our allocation for 2025/2026 is received.

If you are 18 or under on 31st August 2025

and are either in care, a care leaver, on Income Support in your own right (not your parents/guardians) or in receipt of Universal Credit, PIP, or Employment Support Allowance, you could be entitled to a Vulnerable Bursary .

- Where you can access a college bus route, the bursary fund will provide transport free of charge (if eligible).

- The bursary fund will also often meet the full cost of a Shropshire Council travel pass,

Arriva Student Saver and student rail pass. Please ask for further details.

- Some or all of your materials, equipment and visits that are essential to the course may be paid for.

- You can have a daily allowance of £3.60 uploaded to your student ID card to use at the Bridges Café.

If you are a student aged 19 or over (by 31st August 2025 and your income is less than £22,000 per year), you may get help towards:

- Travel - where possible, college bus passes are issued

- Childcare (students aged 20 or under will need to apply to Care to Learn for childcare costs).

- If you are 16 - 24 and have an ECHP, please speak to student services:

bursaryhelp@scg.ac.uk

Applications open in April 2025 for September 2025 and early application is encouraged.

Application process

If you have been offered a place on a course then you should complete a bursary application. Applications can be made online via www.scg.ac.uk/students/financial-support

Printed versions of the forms are available upon request at bursaryhelp@scg.ac.uk or by calling **01743 653 200**.

Your application will be assessed over the summer and we will let you know the outcome as soon as possible.

If you do not apply online for the bursary, then please bring the form along with the required evidence of income to the college and drop it with reception at any campus or post it to us using the addresses below. The forms and evidence need to be submitted to the Student Services team.

If you can't attend one of the events, then please post the completed form and copies of your income evidence to Students Services c/o London Road Campus, London Road, Shrewsbury, SY2 6PR or Student Services c/o Welsh Bridge Campus, Priory Road, Shrewsbury, SY1 1RX.

Please note that the college cannot be held responsible for the loss of any original documents.

Required documentation

You will be asked to provide documents as evidence of your income. If your parents or guardians (or yourself if you are living independently) are in receipt of tax credits, you will need to bring in your Tax Credit Award Notice (all pages) for 2024/25.

Alternatively, if your parents or guardians (or yourself if you are living independently) are in receipt of Universal Credit, then please provide the most recent three month's statements. We will need the breakdown of each statement.

Student Services are here to help!

If you are unsure about the financial help available, or need help completing any forms, please call **01743 653 200** or email studentservices@shrewsbury.ac.uk

Other financial help

Other financial help may be available to you, including help from the Radbrook Foundation. The foundation is an educational charity which supports our students with travel to college, uniforms, trips, IT equipment and more course related expenses. Applications are not means tested but are assessed on a needs basis.

You can apply to the Foundation for help, but you will have had to apply for a bursary first. Please contact Student Services at **bursaryhelp@scg.ac.uk** or call **01743 653 200** to get an application form.

Care to Learn

Care to Learn provides childcare to young learners. You must be over 16 but under 20 at the beginning of the course and studying full or part-time and you must use an Ofsted registered childcare provider.

Check out www.dfes.gov.uk/caretolearn and the Shropshire Youth Adviser website for more information.

Mature students

There are a variety of organisations available if you're a mature student and you need to apply for financial help.

Walker Trust is the largest educational charity in the county. Hardship applications can be obtained via Student Services.

John Allatts Educational Foundation may help fund a gap year activity; apply via Student Services for the January and July meetings.

Turn2us.org.uk matches individual applications to charitable trusts.

Educational Grants Advisory Service (www.egas-online.org.uk) helps students who are over 16 that cannot receive statutory funding.

Student Finance UK is available for higher education courses.

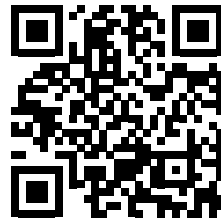
Please note, if you're a student who lives in Wales but studies in Shrewsbury, different arrangements for some of the above schemes will operate.

Travelling to college

Getting to Shrewsbury Colleges Group is easy, as all three of our campuses have great transport links across the region, including Wales and the West Midlands.

The easiest way to find out how to travel to college from where you live is to use our online route checker at scg.ac.uk/travel. The webpage also includes up-to-date timetables and discounted travel options.

This leaflet gives an overview of a number of different transport options available depending on where you live.



Online Route Planner

College Bus

The college offers seven subsidised bus routes from Whitchurch, Telford (Madeley route), Telford (Priorslee route), Oswestry, Powys, Ludlow and Bridgnorth.

The cost is £695 for the academic year or £245 per term.

The bus routes operate at set times, arriving at the start of the college day and departing after the last lesson of the day.

Payment plan available - contact student services for further information.

Transport Assistance

Shropshire Council

If you are aged under 19, live in Shropshire and your household is in receipt of certain benefits, you may be entitled to a discounted cost of a travel pass from Shropshire Council.

Shrewsbury Colleges Group must be the designated post 16 provider for where you live, and you must live at least 3 miles away to be eligible. Please note, Shropshire Council assess eligibility, not the college.

If you are eligible for assistance from Shropshire Council, you will be asked to make

an annual contribution of £305* (Subject to change)*Please note, if you have a bursary from the college, you do not need to make the payment as the college will pay Shropshire Council on your behalf.

You must apply online using the 'Post 16 Transport' page on their website: www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport

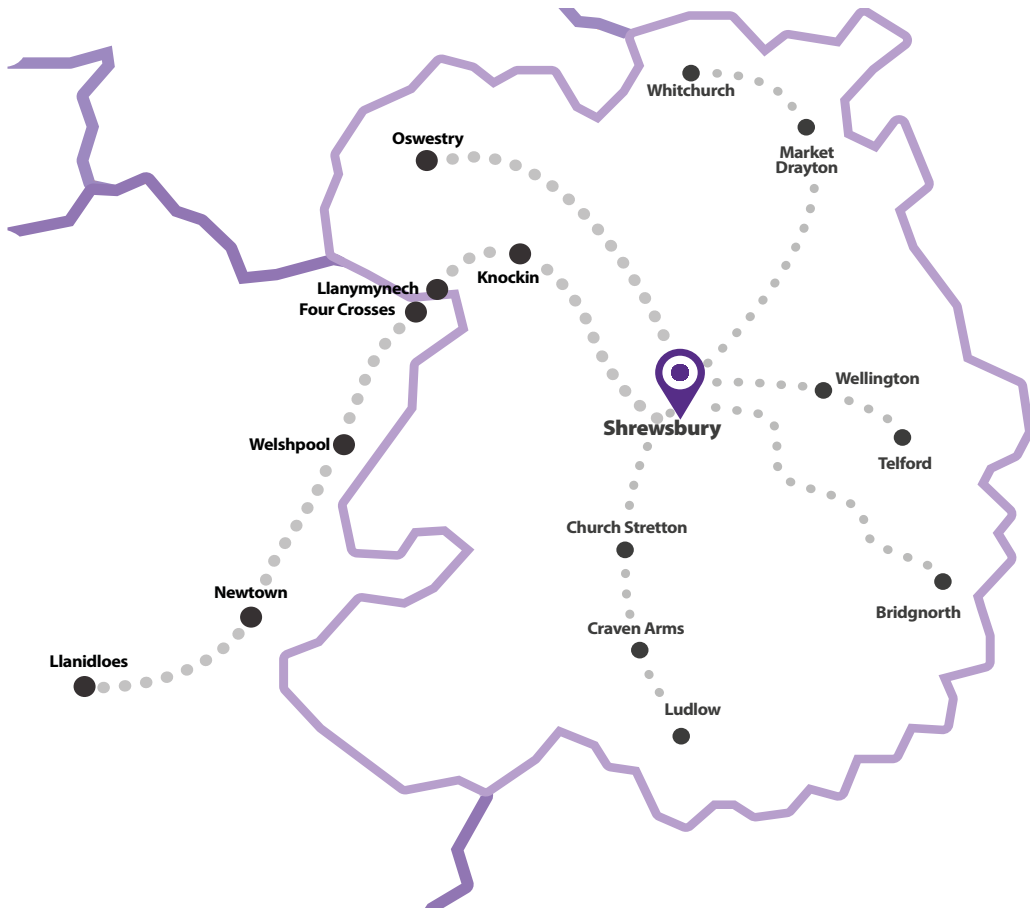
More information and application forms are available from Student Services and scg.ac.uk/travel

Telford & Wrekin Council/Powys Council

If you live in a neighbouring authority, such as Telford and Wrekin, or Powys council you will need to apply directly to them for a travel pass, even if the student will be attending a college in Shropshire. Applications should be made to the authority to whom you pay your council tax.

Students can apply for a bursary regardless of whether they are approved for a council travel pass to support travel costs (if your gross household income is below £28,000).

Bus routes



All subsidised college bus routes are reviewed annually.
To check that routes have not changed for 2025/2026, please contact student services.

College Bus is £245 per term for 2025/2026 term.

Other ways to travel

Transport for Wales

Rail Services

Transport for Wales offers two types of discounted train passes for students.

Annual train passes – Under 18s can purchase an annual train pass with a 75% discount off full adult price. Students aged 18 and over and can purchase an annual train pass with a 25% discount off full adult price. The annual train pass gives you unlimited travel on the route specified, seven days a week, including evenings, weekends, and college holidays.

Termly train passes - Under 18s can purchase a termly train pass with a 55% discount off full adult price. Students aged 18 and over can purchase a termly train pass with a 5% discount off full adult price. A termly train pass gives you unlimited travel on the route specified, seven days a week, including evenings and weekends (during term time and half terms only).

If you are aged 18 or over it may be better value to purchase a 16- 25 Railcard, which gives you up to 1/3 off rail travel*.

For more information about railcards, visit:
www.16-25railcard.co.uk/

Travelling by car

On campus parking is only available for the London Road Campus. Students using their cars to come to college will be required to purchase a car parking permit at £38 per year. The college encourages car sharing amongst students. Students who are able to prove they car share will be able to park at the college for free.

Saver Schemes

The following offer discounted travel for students:

Boultons: www.boultonsofshropshire.co.uk

Tanat Valley: www.tanat.co.uk

Celtic Travel: www.celtictravel.wales

Minsterley Motors: www.minsterleymotors.co.uk

Lakeside Coaches: www.lakesidecoaches.co.uk

Select Buses: www.selectbusservices.com

Arriva Bus Midlands

Student Saver Scheme

Students can buy a Student Saver ticket lasting for a term or full academic year. This allows unlimited bus travel across the Telford & Shropshire seven days a week, during the day and evening.

The annual cost is currently £750 (subject to change).

For timetables and to apply visit
www.arrivabus.co.uk/student-travel

Shrewsbury

Park and Ride Services

Park and Ride in Shrewsbury operates from Oxon (Bicton Heath, near Co-Op), Meole Brace Retail Park and Harlescott (near Tesco).

Shrewsbury Colleges Group students are eligible for a 50% discount Monday to Friday during term time on the production of a valid student identification card. You don't need to have a car to qualify for the Park and Ride Services.

For more information, please visit:
www.shropshire.gov.uk/public-transport/park-and-ride

Travel by Bike

Shrewsbury Colleges Group is very well served by cycle routes from many parts of the town and there are many off-road and quiet residential road routes.

Visit Shropshire's Great Outdoors website for details of cycle routes in the area.
www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk

There is storage for bikes at all campuses, although they should be securely padlocked and brought to college at your own risk. We suggest they are insured under your household policy.



SHREWSBURY COLLEGES GROUP

Welsh Bridge Campus

Priory Road, Shrewsbury
Shropshire, SY1 1RX

English Bridge Campus

Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury
Shropshire, SY2 6AA

London Road Campus

London Road, Shrewsbury
Shropshire, SY2 6PR

If you want to book any of our courses, you can do so by going on to our website or calling our admissions team on **01743 653 111** and speaking to our experts.



@ShrewsColGroup

Visit: [scg.ac.uk](https://www.scg.ac.uk)

Email: info@scg.ac.uk