



The Isle of Wight College

Strategic Aims 2017-20

Introduction

Welcome to the strategic plan for the Isle of Wight College. The college is a further education college, based in Newport the county town of the Isle of Wight. Recognising its role as the only provider of general further education on the island, the college offers a broad curriculum from foundation level to higher education, to meet the needs of employers and the local community. In the national context the college is considered to be 'medium' size with, at the time of writing, approximately 1,600 students aged 16-19, 6,000 adults and just under 400 apprentices. The college is proud of its work with students with disabilities or complex needs and has recently opened the 'Pathways' building which provides specialist facilities for these students. Recent developments in the college's estate reflect the economic priorities of the island. The new Centre of Excellence in Composites, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine (CECMM), funded by the Solent local enterprise partnership (LEP) and built in collaboration with local employers will help to meet emerging local skills needs.

Colleges face a period of unprecedented change with reforms to qualifications, apprenticeships and the overall approach to post-16 technical education. The college recognises its responsibility to embrace these changes and to continue to develop its services to meet the needs of its stakeholders, within what is likely to continue to be a challenging funding and financial climate.

Having consulted widely, this plan sets out the college's aims and priorities for the next three years to meet these challenges. It includes details of how we will work towards these objectives and includes milestones. Where appropriate, these draw on existing key performance indicators (KPIs) which include targets set and reviewed annually by the college Corporation. The annual review of the KPIs by the Corporation will be aligned with the review of progress towards the strategic aims and objectives set out in this plan.

Mission

The mission of the Isle of Wight College is:

To deliver outstanding education and training driven by:

- Putting students first
- Working with employers
- Supporting our community

Educational character

The college:

1. has high aspirations for all its students and supports and challenges each to learn, develop, progress and succeed
2. expects and supports its staff to provide teaching and learning to the highest standard, creating a positive, inspiring and enjoyable experience for students
3. offers a range of programmes to meet student ambitions and workforce needs, from foundation to degree level and across a wide range of employment sectors
4. works with employers to design and provide training programmes for their current and future workforces, including apprenticeships
5. works in partnership and collaboration with businesses and other organisations to enhance opportunities and quality
6. embraces equality and diversity and recognises that some students and employers may benefit from a bespoke approach to learning.

College values

The college values embrace the spirit of the Nolan Principles which govern standards in public life. The values are based on the collective views of staff and governors and inform how they do things.

1. Leadership – displayed by everyone and characterised by honesty, impartiality, objectivity, and recognising the contribution of others
2. Learning – taking every opportunity to grow and develop
3. Empowerment – supporting personal responsibility and accountability
4. Diversity – being respectful, tolerant, inclusive and acting with integrity
5. Innovation – encouraging creativity, enterprise, entrepreneurship and the use of technology
6. Caring – promoting individual and shared responsibility for each other's well-being.

These values help develop a culture characterised by dedication, commitment and motivation enabled through clear and effective communication.

Strategic Aims 2017 – 2020

Strategic aim 1 (Quality)

To provide excellent education and training

Strategic aim 2 (Curriculum)

To offer a wide range of learning opportunities, which are responsive to student, apprentice and employer needs and which enable sustainable organisational growth

Strategic aim 3 (Resources)

To provide first class resources and ensure their efficient and effective use to support learning

Strategic aim 4 (Staff)

To recruit, develop and retain a highly skilled and motivated staff and governing body.

Key strategic objectives

There are a number of themes which are fundamental to the success of this plan. These key strategic objectives respond to the national, regional and local context and hence appear in each of the strategic aims.

1. **Apprenticeships** – implementing the new apprenticeship standards, the levy and securing growth to meet the government target of creating 3 million apprenticeships by 2020
2. **Inclusion** - responding to the needs of students who may face barriers to their learning. For example, those with special educational needs (SEN), equality and diversity protected characteristics and those with emotional, behavioural or social issues.
3. **English and maths** – supporting students to develop their skills in these fundamental subjects
4. **Higher education** – developing higher education programmes, including higher and degree level apprenticeships, to build students' knowledge and skills and help address local skills shortages
5. **Teaching and learning** – innovating to ensure students are challenged and enjoy learning.