

FE Week

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Department for Business Innovation & Skills

OFSTED INVESTIGATE OUTSPOKEN INSPECTOR

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REVEALED: APPRENTICESHIP LEVY OPERATING MODEL

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- > System won't be fully operational until 2020, with delay described by sector leaders as 'pragmatic' and 'reducing risk'
- > Mandatory cash fees for over 98 per cent of employers to proceed, leaving sector leaders fearful 'we will lose them'

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FIRST 16-18 SCHOOL JOINS AREA REVIEW



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NEWS

Leaked report warns BIS move to London could increase costs

PAUL OFFORD
@PAULOFFORD

A leaked government report has warned that plans to close the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' (BIS) office in Sheffield and move it to London could cost rather than save money.

The document marked "official sensitive", which has been shown to FE Week, stated that while potential savings through rent, rates and maintenance, rail travel, and hotel stays stood at £1.5m, the additional London salary costs could run to £1.6m per annum.

This means that the plans, which sector leaders say would cause an "FE brain drain" if up to 240 people with specialist knowledge of skills training lose their jobs, would result in a net loss of £100,000 for the department.

It comes after the chairs of the BIS and Public Accounts Committees (PAC) urged Martin Donnelly, Permanent Secretary at BIS, to provide proof of government claims that the Sheffield closure would result in savings.

Iain Wright, chair of the BIS Committee, and Meg Hillier, who leads the PAC, asked for information on the department's estimate of the costs of closure in Sheffield and transfer of posts to London.

Their letter sent on April 20 also stated that information previously provided by Mr Donnelly, relating



Martin Donnelly

to the reorganisation of the department, had been "wholly unsatisfactory" with answers in oral evidence "obfuscatory, if not misleading".

Mr Donnelly responded with a letter of his own that explained: "The proposal to move policy roles to London forms part of a wider strategic case to enable us to deliver £350m of savings and be more effective in delivering ministerial priorities.

"They were not formed on the basis of any individual business case for a single location and our consultation is continuing."

Lois Austin, the PCS full-time official for BIS covering the Sheffield office, told FE Week in March that widespread opposition to the plans had forced BIS to delay its consultation on them by two months.

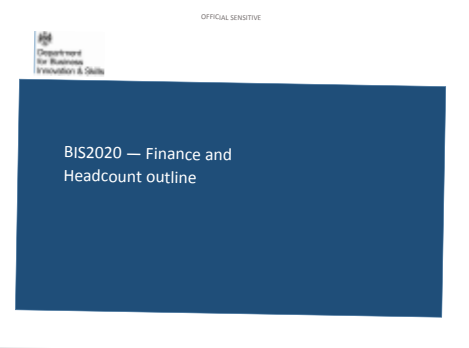
She said: "They told us back when all this was first announced [in January] that the consultation should be completed by the start of March.

"But we've now been told that it will be May 2, which shows how shaken up they are by the scale of opposition to this."

Sheffield Central MP Paul Blomfield lodged a parliamentary question to BIS requesting information on the annual cost per employee of rent, rates and maintenance for its office at St Paul's Place, Sheffield, and Victoria Street, London.



Iain Wright MP



The response, which he shared with FE Week and we asked BIS to comment on, indicated the London office was far more expensive.

It stated: "The annual cost per employee at St Paul's Place is £3,190 and at Victoria Street is £9,750."

A BIS spokesperson told FE Week: "We do not comment on leaked documents.

"We have a responsibility to the taxpayer to ensure as much of the department's funding as possible is focused on front line services.

"We have deliberately set ourselves challenging savings targets

consistent with the spending review and we will continue to explore options in detail before making decisions."



Meg Hillier MP

PROVIDERS TAKE OVER AS SOMERSET CHARITY GOES BUST

ALIX ROBERTSON
@ALIXROBERTSON4

Two providers have been forced to step in to support students after a training and education charity went into administration due to funding difficulties.

Learning South West, which worked with leaders and practitioners in both youth and education and training organisations, was based in Taunton, Somerset.

A spokesperson for accountancy firm Mazars said Tim Ball, partner at its Bristol office, had been appointed joint administrator for the charity on April 11.

He added the charity, which had an annual income of around £2.5m, had 10 employees of which "the majority have been made redundant".

But there was hope for some of the learners, after Wiltshire-based charity The Learning Curve and National Star College, in Cheltenham, confirmed they were making alternative arrangements.

The Learning Curve, which provides training and development to the voluntary sector and wider community, secured Learning South West as a subcontractor for 2015/2016 to deliver level three apprenticeships in youth work.

But a spokesperson told FE Week on April 20: "We have two apprentices who were supported by Learning South West and we are making alternative arrangements which will allow them to finish their qualifications without being affected.

"Our contract with them [Learning South West] had only been in place for a couple of years".

National Star College, a specialist FE college for people with physical disabilities and learning difficulties, also intervened to ensure more learners could complete their training.

The college had been involved in running level five specialist diplomas for nine existing teachers on behalf of Learning South West.

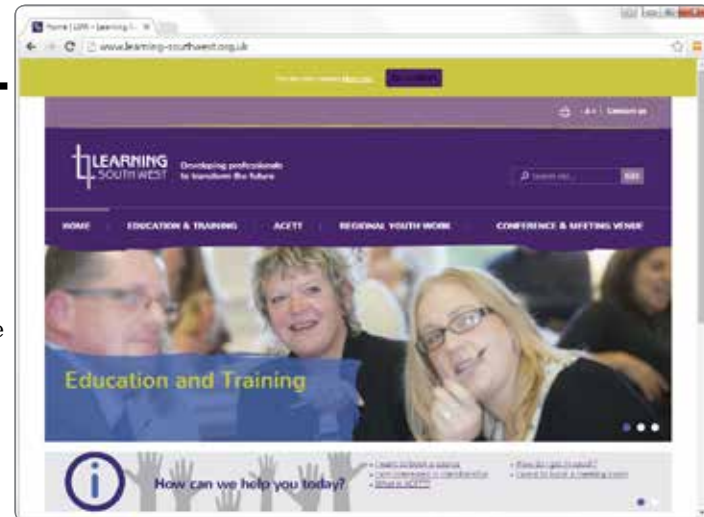
After learning of its demise, National Star announced it would continue teaching the diploma to the learners affected and had arranged an alternative venue at its own site for training.

"We received no advanced notice that this was going to happen," said David Finch, National Star director.

"The course is on teaching learners with disabilities and we felt it was important for these teachers to complete the training.

"National Star took the decision that it would continue to run the diploma at our own cost." Learning South West had previously contacted the nine learners to tell them that the diploma would be stopped.

One of the students, Angela Braysher, who teaches at Kingston Maurward College in Dorset, spoke of her relief that National Star had stepped in.



"I was disappointed I was when I heard the news as I had just completed my first assignment and thought it was going to have been a waste of time," she said.

Kate Howard, chair of trustees at Learning South West, made a statement on its closure.

She said: "Our unhappiness is compounded as young people and adult learners are the ultimate beneficiaries of our work.

"We are aware this is a major loss to the FE and skills sector and vital youth support services."

Mr Ball, from Mazars, said: "The charity, which operated in partnership with various government and national agencies, has faced significant uncertainty with its future funding, leading to the board of trustees reaching this very difficult decision."

The SFA declined to comment on the demise of Learning South West.

However, a spokesperson confirmed that it had not been a lead provider with an SFA contract since 2010/2011.

NEWS

Wilshaw FE furore continues as Ofsted inspector investigated

PAUL OFFORD
@PAULOFFORD

The fallout is continuing over Sir Michael Wilshaw's much-criticised comments about FE — as FE Week has discovered that one of the Ofsted chief's own inspectors is under investigation after calling for him to go.

The chief inspector provoked a huge backlash when he laid into the FE sector during an appearance before the Commons Education Select Committee on March 2 — claiming it was “in a mess” and 16 to 19-year-olds should be taught in schools, not colleges.

It provoked Ofsted inspector Tony Davis into delivering a passionate speech at a recent NewBubbles Leading Aspiration FE Conference, in Heathrow (pictured), criticising Mr Wilshaw's comments and calling for him to be removed from the post before his planned retirement in December.

Ofsted has now told FE Week that it is investigating whether Mr Davis, who

delivered a presentation with the title “elephant in the room”, had breached his contract as a result of his comments.

A spokesperson said: “Our contract with Ofsted inspectors (OIs) sets out clearly our policies and expectations on matters such as conduct, use of the OI title and conflicts of interest.

“We will always investigate when allegations are made to establish if any policy has been breached.”

When told about this, Mr Davis told FE Week: “I have in no way contravened my Ofsted contract or the ‘OI Engagement Guidance’, which says we ‘should not damage the reputation of Ofsted’.

“On the contrary, it is because I value Ofsted's reputation so highly that I am asking for the Ofsted leadership to stand down the chief inspector.”

Tricia Hartley, the former chief executive of the Campaign for Learning, heard his speech at the conference.



Reflecting on this, she said: “Tony stole the show, with a vigorous, well-evidenced refutation of Wilshaw's highly publicised recent comments on FE.

“He suggested that Sir Michael's immediate departure on gardening leave for the remainder of his tenure could not come soon enough, in order to stem the damage done to the sector's reputation by his hostile statements.”

The government distanced itself from Mr Wilshaw's comments two days after he appeared before MPs.

“We are very supportive of the work done by colleges and distance ourselves from Sir Michael's comments,” a source close to

Education Secretary Nicky Morgan told FE Week.

Martin Doel, chief executive of the Association of Colleges, also challenged Sir Michael to justify his opinions — which he said had caused “a good deal of consternation and anger” — in a letter shared with the paper.

He wrote: “Quite apart from the conflict inherent in her Majesty's chief inspector being called to give evidence in his official capacity and then providing a personal opinion, even personal opinions require justification if they are not to be regarded as mere prejudice or an unreliable anecdotal judgement.”

LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDING MEANS CONFLICT OF INTEREST, NATSPEC WARNS

ALIX ROBERTSON
@ALIXROBERTSON4

A group of specialist colleges say there is a conflict of interest over devolving high needs funding to “compromised” local authorities and are calling on the government to step in.

Members of the Association of National Specialist Colleges (Natspec), at their annual conference in Birmingham this week, said the conflict of interest had arisen because under devolution deals, local authorities are likely to take on responsibility for funding the provision.

Dr Tina Pagett, principal of Fairfield Farm College said: “There is a conflict of interest as a result of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the devolution of high needs funding to local authorities.

“Local authorities across the country are compromised, they have a statutory duty to write Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people with special needs and then commission provision from a limited pot of funding which will inevitably influence and limit options presented to young people.”

Angela North, principal of Henshaws Specialist College, also expressed concern that local authority decisions now included deciding whether to pay themselves to deliver the provision.

She said: “I know of at least one local authority with their own training provision, including a contract for high needs learners.

“It is increasingly difficult for potential students and their families to see impartiality of advice and guidance when this provision is named by the local authority in EHCP plans; as a consequence there is a loss of trust.”

A spokesperson for Natspec also said most of the conference delegates stated that they had seen a significant increase in the number of learners going to tribunals to access the training and education of their choice.

Ofsted released a report into high needs learners on March 22, calling for more to be done to ensure young people with disabilities can access the most appropriate education.

The report recommended local authorities provide “consistently fair commissioning of FE places” and regularly review their offer to ensure it reflects the full range of support and opportunities available.

Between March 7 and April 17, the Department for Education (DfE) also held a consultation on improvements to the distribution of high needs funding.

In response, Natspec wrote to the DfE to call for high needs funding to be nationally managed.

“We are sympathetic to local authorities, who are in an incredibly difficult position and under huge pressure to make budgets work,” said Clare Howard, Natspec chief executive.

“As the Ofsted report highlights, there are many inconsistencies in the ways local authorities are allocating funding, leading to big variations in provision, and we believe the focus on short-term savings are leading to higher costs in the long-term.”

A DfE spokesperson told FE Week: “The [high needs funding] consultation has closed and we're considering all responses carefully. We will be publishing the outcome and second stage of the consultation later in the year.”

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NEWS

Struggling Sussex college to close campuses

JUDE BURKE
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A debt-laden college will close two campuses, including a former sixth form college (SFC), and stop providing A-levels.

Central Sussex College announced on April 15 it would be closing its Haywards Heath campus, formerly Haywards Heath SFC, in 2017 due to “too high” debt and falling student numbers.

It will also move a “small number” of adult education courses to its Crawley base from its East Grinstead campus, which it will be closing later this year.

The college is £25m in the red, according to a statement on the college’s website, of which £21.4m is a mortgage taken out to cover the campus redevelopment between 2008 and 2011.

College principal Sarah Wright said: “The brutal truth is that our debts are too high and in order to protect the majority of students and staff, and the wider community, we have to substantially reduce our costs.”

Central Sussex College was formed in August 2005 through the merger of Crawley College and Haywards Heath SFC.

Ms Wright, who took over at the college in 2013, told FE Week that the college received £6.8m in government funding to support the early phases of the Haywards Heath campus redevelopment.

When funding from this programme was withdrawn, the college took out £22.5m in mortgages between 2008 and 2012 to cover the remaining cost, Ms Wright said.



The Haywards Heath campus will close in 2017

She told FE Week that the college had breached its loan covenants in 2013/14 and was forecast to do so again in 2015/16, but this had not led to an increase in the interest rate it was paying.

A statement on the college’s website said the number of A-level students at the college had fallen by 60 per cent over the past three years, which was due to an “over-supply” of A-level provision in the area.

There were about 1,000 current students at the Haywards Heath campus, and between 200 and 300 at the East Grinstead campus, it said.

The closure means that the college will end its A-level provision in 2017.

Students currently enrolled will complete their courses, while those who were due to start in September will be supported to find alternative places, the college said.

Sir Nicholas Soames, MP for Mid Sussex, which includes the college, said he was “appalled and deeply saddened” by the closure.

“I have today written to the Secretary of State for Education to ask her to examine what has happened and to see whether or not

the Government can assist in dealing with this self-inflicted wound by an earlier and very reckless management,” he said.

A spokesperson for the Department for Education said: “We are in discussions with other nearby sixth form colleges to ensure students have a place elsewhere.

“Additionally as part of the area review programme we are supporting colleges to put plans in place that will enable them to secure a strong and sustainable future.”

The closure comes at the same time as more than 15 college mergers are expected in 2016.

Shakira Martin re-elected as NUS vice-president

ALIX ROBERTSON
@ALIXROBERTSON4

The National Union of Students has voted to keep its vice-president for FE for a second term.

Shakira Martin (pictured), the NUS’ outspoken vice-president for FE, will keep her role after winning the election at the NUS national conference 2016 in Brighton.

She was uncontested for the post and was elected outright with 152 votes, compared to only 11 votes to re-open nominations.

Speaking to the conference floor during her election speech, Ms Martin said: “FE stands for free education, further education, for everyone.”

This year she has been the champion of a new campaign to force the government to recognise the impact that post-16 area reviews are having on learners.

The #FEunplugged campaign was officially launched in January, with the aim of raising “the profile of area reviews and making sure the student voice is not ignored during the process”.

It led to Ms Martin appearing in the cartoon (pictured top right) for edition 162 of FE Week.

The NUS also elected a new president, Malia Bouattia (pictured bottom right).

Previously the NUS black students’ officer, Ms Bouattia was elected in stage one of the



count, by 372 votes to 328 for previous national president Megan Dunn.

She is the first black and minority ethnic (BME) woman to hold the role.

Ms Bouattia has recently caused controversy over her religious and political views.

An open letter was reportedly sent to the

new president last week from protesters and heads of student Jewish societies asking: “Why do you see a large Jewish society as a problem?”

The letter was said to be a response to an article co-authored by Ms Bouattia in 2011, in which she said the University of

Birmingham was “something of a Zionist outpost in British higher education”.

Ms Bouattia responded to the letter by saying that she was “deeply concerned” that her views had been misconstrued, and added that she is dedicated to “liberation, equality and inclusion”.

NEWS

Barnfield College welcomes improved Ofsted rating



JUDE BURKE
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The principal of Barnfield College has vowed it will be 'outstanding' within two years — after its Ofsted rating improved one grade from its previous 'inadequate' report.

Tim Eyton-Jones described the new report out this month as fair and accurate.

But he told FE Week the grade three across-the-board verdict would be treated as a springboard for further improvements.

"When Ofsted come again — if they come in two years' time our target is for them to see an outstanding college," he said.

It comes a little over two years after the college received a notice of concern from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) over its finances, and 17 months after Ofsted branded it inadequate across the board with no key strengths.

The latest Ofsted report praised the leadership team for "decisive action" taken to turn around its fortunes, but recognised there was still work to be done.

It said college leaders had "developed a detailed development plan that defines precisely the expectations for all staff to provide high-quality education provision and improve outcomes for all students and

apprentices".

"They have secured financial stability and placed the college on a firm footing from which to improve outcomes for all students and apprentices," the report added.

It recognised that the college had invested "significantly in the recruitment of experienced managers and teachers".

However, as many of these were recent appointments, inspectors found that "planned actions to improve teachers' and assessors practice have yet to ensure that students and apprentices make the swift progress of which they are capable".

While it was found that "the proportion of teaching, learning and assessment that is good or better has increased since the previous inspection", these were among key areas identified as needing improvement, along with maths and English provision.

The Ofsted verdict comes six months after the FE Commissioner, Dr David Collins, ended his involvement at Barnfield, after his adviser

concluded the college had addressed all Dr Collins' recommendations.

Mr Eyton-Jones told FE Week that he'd had to make "some really tough decisions" following his appointment in February 2015, with a key focus on improving the college's finances.

"It's essential that colleges have a sound financial basis to work from, and I am so proud of colleagues that have worked tirelessly to ensure that," he said.

"I expect our improvements to accelerate, because clearly we are not happy with requires improvement.

"What's really good about this report is that it clearly picks up the areas that we have got to work on still further and that's something we are all focused on."

The college was rated outstanding by Ofsted in 2007, but fell to satisfactory (grade three overall) in 2012.

The SFA declined to comment on Barnfield's latest Ofsted report.



REVEALED: APPRENTICESHIP LEVY OPERATING MODEL

PAUL OFFORD
@PAULOFFORD

FROM FRONT

The government has kept its promise to publish more details of the apprenticeship levy operating model — but sector leaders warned it raised "more questions than it answers".

The online document was criticised for lacking detail by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and Association of Colleges (AoC).

The guidance published on April 21, which had been promised in last month's budget, also revealed the levy system due for introduction in April 2017 would not be fully operational until 2020.

And a confirmation that 98 per cent of employers would pay mandatory cash fees, caused Association of Employment and Learning Providers chief executive Mark Dawe to warn the government needed "to think very carefully" about its impact on smaller employers.

He said: "If the financial contribution they have to make is too high and the payment system is too complex, we will lose them."

Neil Carberry, CBI director for Employment and Skills, thought the guidance showed the government was "now engaging with employers".

But he said: "We think it still raises more questions than it answers."

AoC chief executive Martin Doel agreed, telling FE Week there was "still much that needs to be clarified".

The operating model also warned that the Digital Apprenticeship System would not be fully operational for all small employers until 2020.

Mr Doel said phased introduction for smaller employers "seems pragmatic", considering "the obvious risks associated with introducing complex IT systems that will underwrite the digital apprenticeship service."

Mr Dawe responded: "If delay means that the system will work, we would rather have that. But there is no doubt that providers with both levy paying and non-levy paying employers will be managing potentially very complex arrangements for the next two or three years and the road to delivering 3 million apprenticeships will not be a straightforward one."

And David Hughes, who used to be responsible for funding and contracting of all apprenticeship programmes at the Skills Funding Agency and now leads the Learning and Work Institute, agreed.

He told FE Week: "It's good the government has realised it needs to phase implementation. The current system will be thrown out and current employers will be disaffected by all of this. So in some ways it's a good realisation of potential risk."

But Shadow Skills Minister Gordon Marsden warned "even a three year phased launch sounds ambitious to say the least".

The levy, first announced by the government in July, is set at 0.5 per cent of an employer's paybill.

As outlined in the new guidance, all employers will receive a £15,000 allowance to offset against the levy. This means only businesses with a paybill of more than £3m will pay.

The money raised will be ring-fenced, so it can only be spent on training apprentices and all levy-paying companies will receive a 10 per cent top up on monthly levy contributions.

The new guidance promised further information in June, for example on the provisional level of government support for non-levy payers' training costs.

It added "full, draft funding and eligibility rules" would be published in October, with "final detailed funding and eligibility rules" and guidance on "how to calculate and pay" the levy due in December.



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NEWS

First sixth form school to opt in to post-16 area review

JUDE BURKE
@JUDEBURKE77

A sixth form in Liverpool has become the first school to opt in to a post-16 area review, and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) says it hopes others will be encouraged to do the same.

South Sefton College, a sixth form school, will be joining seven FE colleges and three sixth form colleges (SFCs) in the Liverpool City Region area review, BIS revealed on April 20.

The news comes after shadow education minister Nic Dakin called it “nonsense” that schools and academies were not included in the area reviews.

When asked by FE Week why it had joined the local area review, Frank McCann (pictured), principal of South Sefton College said: “Rather than have the area review be ‘done onto us’, we have been working with a number of local colleges to identify opportunities for future developments that would emphasise the distinctiveness of our individual offer and avoid duplication of new provision.”

A BIS spokesperson told FE Week that the department welcomed South Sefton College’s decision to opt in to the review, and hoped that others would be encouraged to consider whether it would be right for them to opt in.

South Sefton College is about three miles from Hugh Baird College and about six miles from City of Liverpool College, both of which are FE colleges.

The sixth form school, which has an Education Funding Agency allocation of £2.6m for 2015/16, was established in 2009 in partnership with Sefton local authority and seven local secondary schools, according to its website.

Department for Education (DfE) figures show there are 19 such ‘state-funded secondary’ schools that only cater for 16 to 18-year-olds, 12 of which are free schools.

Guidance published by BIS last September, and updated in March, stated that the “core scope” of the area reviews would “normally” only be general FE colleges and SFCs.

Other providers “can seek to opt in to the review process if they wish”, it added.

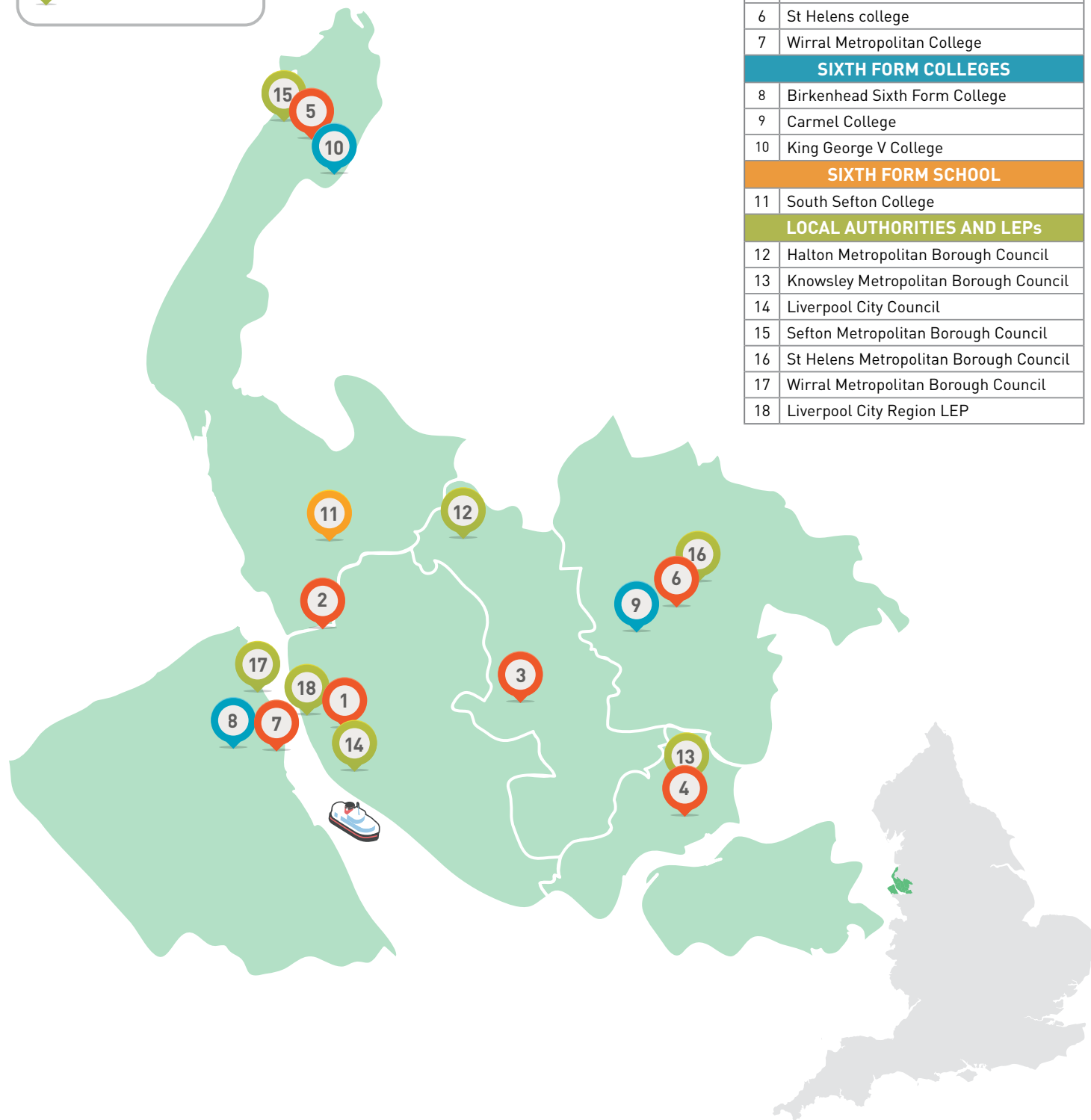
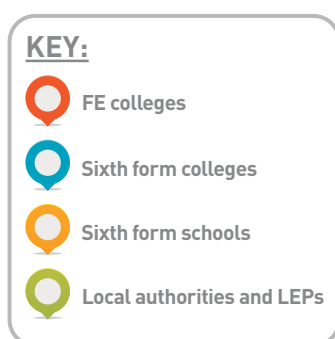
A BIS spokesperson confirmed that South Sefton College was the first 16-18 school to have opted in to date.

No university technical colleges (UTCs) or studio schools, for 14 to 19-year-olds, have yet opted in.

James Kewin, deputy chief executive of the Sixth Form Colleges’ Association (SFCA) said it was positive that South Sefton College had chosen to take part in the review, but reiterated the SFCA’s long-standing call for all school sixth forms to be included.

“Colleges have been forced to participate in area reviews while school and academies have the luxury of opting in to the process,” he said.

“Ministers should have the courage to tackle underperformance and inefficiency wherever it exists and insist that all sixth form providers participate in the area



LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COLLEGES IN SCOPE OF THE REVIEW:

FE COLLEGES	
1	City of Liverpool College
2	Hugh Baird College
3	Knowsley Community College
4	Riverside College
5	Southport College
6	St Helens college
7	Wirral Metropolitan College
SIXTH FORM COLLEGES	
8	Birkenhead Sixth Form College
9	Carmel College
10	King George V College
SIXTH FORM SCHOOL	
11	South Sefton College
LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND LEAs	
12	Halton Metropolitan Borough Council
13	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
14	Liverpool City Council
15	Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
16	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
17	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
18	Liverpool City Region LEP

reviews on exactly the same terms.”

As reported by FE Week, Brighton and Hove City Council voted last October to carry out its own post-16 education review to ensure that school sixth forms and independent training providers were included.

Tom Bewick, chair of the council’s children, young people and skills committee, told FE Week: “It’s good to see other areas are now following our lead.”



“You can’t have a genuine strategic area review without looking at all post-16 school, sixth-form and college provision.”

Peter Dowd, MP for Bootle, which includes South Sefton College, told FE Week he was “all for” schools and colleges working closely together.

However, he added: “I’m a firm believer in leaving the school or the organisation to make the decision itself if they think it

appropriate — for whatever reason — to take part.”

Malcolm Trobe, the interim general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders said: “Whether or not to opt in is a matter for headteachers and governors as they are best placed to make this decision.”

Liverpool City Region is part of wave three of the area reviews, along with Cumbria, London South, London East, Black Country, Coventry and Warwickshire, and Hampshire.

A DfE spokesperson said that the BIS statement reflected its own view.

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FE WEEK COMMENT

Pushing for a pilot



The latest apprenticeship levy operational guidance is almost totally geared at explaining how it will work for the employers forced to pay it.

This is welcome, although 5,000 words on a single government web page seems a little rushed and half-hearted.

But colleges and independent training providers remain largely in the dark about how it will affect their funding from April next year.

There is promise of 'provisional' detail next month, but this is a poor state of affairs when you consider the change kicks in for all new apprenticeship starts four months before the end of the 2016/17 academic year.

Despite the admission there will be a phased implementation it strikes me that everyone, civil servants included, will wonder whether switching to the levy from April 2017 is over ambitious.

Few large scale government IT projects involving multiple departments start with a national roll-out, for good reason.

So let's hope there is a plan B, which (whisper it) might even include the not so radical idea of undertaking a pilot...

Nick Linford
news@feweek.co.uk



DfE accounts late and lack 'truth and fairness'

BILLY CAMDEN
@BILLYCAMDEN

The government's audit watchdog has delivered a scathing report on the Department for Education's (DfE) financial statements saying they lack "truth and fairness".

The National Audit Office (NAO) hit out at the department after it finally published its accounts for 2014/15 this week, four months later than usual, having used a statutory instrument to delay publication.

It comes after the NAO last year issued a rare "adverse opinion" on the department's 2013/14 accounts after it discovered a £166m overspend.

The issues stemmed from the department having to combine the accounts of more than 2,500 organisations — most of them academy trusts — across different accounting periods.

Among the latest accounts were losses that have ballooned to nearly £10m — nearly five times as much as the £2m loss recorded the previous year.

This was largely because of the department's expansion of technical schools, free schools and academies.

Sir Amyas Morse, the comptroller and auditor general, branded the level of error and uncertainty in the accounts as "material and pervasive".

His probe into the department's finances revealed it had exceeded three expenditure limits set by parliament.

Sir Amyas, who is head of the NAO, said: "Providing Parliament with a clear view of academy trusts' spending is a vital part of the DfE's work — yet it is failing to do this.

"The department will have to work hard in the coming months, if it is to present Parliament with a better picture of academy trusts' spending through the planned new Sector Account in 2017."

To tackle this, the DfE is now planning to publish a separate report with accounts for academies, on an academic year basis.

The 240-page document had little to say about FE, but did expose the costs incurred after Liverpool-based provider Scientiam folded in February 2013, as reported at the time in FE Week.

The DfE reported in their accounts they had "no choice but to write off the debt" of £318,175 after the firm went into administration owing £328,789.

The accounts also showed that nearly £1.5m was lost on two technical schools for 14 to 19-year-olds, one of which never opened.

The Liverpool Low Carbon and SuperPort university technical college incurred "unrecoverable" costs of more than £850,000 to

the DfE, the accounts stated, which included property agent fees, fees for technical and legal advice and initial works on a site.

But the site was later deemed unviable when one leaseholder pulled out of the sale.

Manchester Studio School, which spent almost £500,000, closed in August 2014 because of low pupil numbers, according to the accounts.

The NAO's verdict comes as the department announced this week that Jonathan Slater would take over from Chris Wormald as permanent secretary.

Mr Wormald was among the department's representatives when it was questioned by the Education Select Committee in March following the delay of its accounts.

Neil Carmichael, the chair of the committee, said of the DfE's latest accounts: "At a time of continued pressure on public spending, it is vital government departments file their accounts on time to enable proper, effective public scrutiny."

A DfE spokesperson said: "Academies are subject to a rigorous system of accountability and oversight, tougher and more transparent than maintained schools.

"However, the consolidation of thousands of those accounts into the format required by parliament is one of the largest and most complex procedures of its kind."

COMMENTS

Area review completion delays drag on as new six month target missed

This is a huge piece of work, with many stakeholders within each area. I think we'll see a further delay or two as some of the more complex and geographically dispersed (travel to learn) areas come into scope.

The story doesn't end with final meeting though, those local leaders and organisations that remain then have to lead and manage the implementation of the recommendations — something which will take more time than the review — and whilst we predict 'bigger is better' we don't yet know this is true.

Anyone remember how K College was formed?

Mark Corden

It isn't just about the money

It would be interesting to hear from Carolyn Woolley (or anyone in a similar or otherwise relevant position/context, for that matter) about the DIS incentives connected with teaching English

and Maths... and hence, the recruitment issues associated with such a mixture of plusses and minuses.

Mike Cooper

The multi-million-pound 'cowboy' trade in subcontracting

Fantastic investigation. I can only see the market forces driving more of this behaviour as we move towards a potentially higher rewards scenario with Trail blazers/Levy. BIS needs to think carefully about the management controls and structure needed within the SFA and OFSTED to ensure funding is spent on quality provision, not intermediaries.

Andy Cheshire

No easy answers for volunteers in apprenticeship levy, Boles says

There would appear to be a number of sectors that would be unfairly affected by the implementation

of the Levy. Charities and Recruitment to name a couple. At this late stage it would seem unlikely that any special dispensations could be made by those affected.

David R

First college outstanding Ofsted rating awarded under CIF

Well done Truro and Penwith College on your achievement. Having gone through the same process (Oldham Lifelong Learning Service — Nov 15) and gained Outstanding across all areas I can fully appreciate how your staff and learners must be feeling.

Simon Bennett

Congratulations to Truro and Penwith College staff, students, managers and governors. You should all be very proud of your achievement.

Peter Mccann

#AOCCHAMP TWEETS

See pages 10-17

Millie Constable @ConstableMillie Apr 18
So good to go to @AoC_SportComps and come back with woman's gold and boys bronze!!! #siblingsday #AoCChamps #gold

Tyne & Wear Sport @tynewearsport Apr 18
The buzz is still there! We can't believe it's over! Congrats to the South West on retaining the sword! #AoCChamps

Sandwell College @sandwellcollege Apr 18
Absolutely brilliant weekend #AoCChamps!! Gold swimmer Joe, silver Roisin & Jade in table tennis, bronze LD Football

NSC Sports Maker @AskBenjiEvans Apr 18
A huge well done to all involved in the #AoCChamps!! @ns_college staff & @NscSport students had a great time representing @AoCWM. #Memories

East Norfolk @EastNorfolk Apr 18
What a fantastic weekend @AoC_SportComps. An immense effort from our students - so proud @enorfolkspport @AoC_Sport #AoCChamps

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FE Week



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AOC SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

COLLEGES COMPETE FOR SPORTING SUPREMACY



BILLY CAMDEN
@BILLYCAMDEN

Last weekend saw more than 1,800 athletes from 137 different colleges travel to Tyne and Wear for the 38th AoC Sport National Championships. The pinnacle event in the sporting calendar for AoC Sport member colleges inspired many passionate and high quality performances at first-rate venues, as FE Week reporter and football and golf fanatic Billy Camden found

Making my way up to Newcastle on Friday, I pondered how I could possibly get around to see everything that the AoC Sport National Championships had on show.

Spread across Tyne and Wear this year's national championships featured 15 different sports, and being a keen sports fan myself I wanted to see them all.

To cater for the breadth of games, they were spread across 10 venues, with some nearly 25 miles apart from each other.

Nevertheless, with a hire car at hand I hit the road.

First up was the cricket — the first time in the national championships history



that the sport had been included.

The first thing that hit me was the impressiveness of the venue.

With a first-class clubhouse and beautifully cut pitch, the college competitors were certainly being spoiled at the South Northumberland Cricket Club.

The games themselves were however being played on the equally impressive facilities inside — just as well with the cold, wet and sometimes snowy weather we experienced over the weekend.

I watched a handful of games and got talking with some of the events partners, who told me that this ground was not a one-off and I would continually be impressed with all of the venues across the weekend. They weren't wrong.

After a quick stop at the volleyball, I was looking forward to the much talked about opening ceremony at Northumbria University.

After arriving at the venue, I was met with a sea of college students and staff who had

travelled from all over England, Scotland and Wales.

As I entered the hall, I was taken aback by the sheer noise and electric atmosphere bouncing from wall to wall.

With huge inflatable balls bobbing around and spectators banging their hand clappers, this was definitely something special.

The evening's compere, Great British gymnast Craig Heap, got proceedings underway.

Among a selfie and then flag design competition — won by the east — were inspiring speeches from England international footballer, Jill Scott, and Great British long jumper, Chris Tomlinson.

They drove home messages of team work, determination and competitiveness that struck a chord with the aspiring athletes.

After emulating the Olympics with the reading of the AoC Sport oaths, Richard Atkins, chair of AoC Sport, declared the event open.

Over the course of Saturday, we got to cover nine different sports including golf, cross country, basketball, netball, squash, swimming, badminton, table tennis and trampolining.

The spectacular venues continued, with my particular favourite being the Close House golf course, where students spotted football legend Alan Shearer the day before (I wasn't jealous, promise).

What also struck me after watching each sport was the high level of quality on show.

The competitors qualified for the National Championships through regional tournaments, so these players were the best the country's colleges has to offer.

The whole spirit of the event was brilliant to not only witness, but be a part of.

The banter, competitiveness, sighs of despair, and cheers of victory showed just how much of an impact this competition has on students.

Sunday promised to be another day of sporting brilliance, but with a lot of tension. It was the final day where most gold, silver and bronze medals would be decided.

We got round to the last four sports — football, hockey, rugby and tennis — before heading to the closing ceremony where the last medals were handed out, including the prestigious Wilkinson Sword trophy.

As well as competing in their chosen sport, students battled for points for their region.

The region whose teams and individuals accumulated the most points won the Trophy.

In third place was the West Midlands, in second was the South East, and for the third year in a row the South West were crowned champions.

Thunderous cheers and applause were a fitting way to end a great weekend.

AOC SPORT OPENING CEREMONY



1. Richard Atkins, chair of AoC Sport kicks off the opening ceremony 2. England international footballer, Jill Scott, talks to the competitors about the importance of teamwork 3. Break dancers provide entertainment 4. All smiles from competitors with their hand clappers 5. Inflatable balls bounce around the opening ceremony 6. Competitors get a selfie with England international footballer Jill Scott 7. London's entry to the AoC Sport regional flag competition 8. Great British long jumper, Chris Tomlinson, speaks to competitors about what it takes to become an athlete

RESULTS

BADMINTON

WOMEN'S BADMINTON SINGLES		
POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Emma Cook - Agrshire College	S
2	Rosemary Allen - Havering College of Further and Higher Ed	L
3	Grace Taylor - North Warwickshire & Hinckley College	M

MEN'S BADMINTON SINGLES		
POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Ryan Quek - Birmingham Metropolitan College	WM
2	Milo Semonin - Truro & Penwith College	SW
3	Bradley Okopskji - Franklin College	Y&H

MIXED BADMINTON DOUBLES		
POS	NAMES & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Thomas Boardman & Lucy Jarvis - East Norfolk Sixth Form	E
2	Chris Millen & Vickey Prouse - Exeter College	SW
3	Josh Wilkie & Jenny McVey - Runshaw College	NW

WOMEN'S BADMINTON DOUBLES		
POS	NAMES & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Amy Polglase & Kellen Moore - Truro & Penwith College	SW
2	Megan Quek & Chloe Harne - King Edward VI College	WM
3	Katie Walker & Caitlin - Greenhead College	Y&H

MEN'S BADMINTON DOUBLES		
POS	NAMES & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Andrew Ferris & Andrew Jones - Cirencester College	WM
2	Alec Scott & Max Noble - King George V College	NW
3	Zarek Khan & Touyab Sultan - Newham Sixth Form College	L

BASKETBALL

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL		
POS	COLLEGE	REGION
1	Bourneville College	WM
2	Leyton Sixth Form College	L
3	Itchen Sixth Form College	SE

MEN'S BASKETBALL		
POS	COLLEGE	REGION
1	Preston College	NW
2	Hackney Community College	L
3	Gateway College	EM



CRICKET

CRICKET		
POS	COLLEGE	REGION
1	Newham College	L
2	Joseph Chamberlain College	WM
3	New College Pontefract	Y&H



GOLF

WOMEN'S GOLF	
POS	REGION
1	South West
2	West Midlands
3	East Midlands

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL GOLF		
POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Megan Miles - Cornwall College	SW
2	Louisa Brunt - Holy Cross Sixth Form College	NW
3	Victoria Pawley - Truro & Penwith College	SW

MEN'S GOLF	
POS	REGION
1	Eastern
2	North East
3	South West

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL GOLF		
POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION
1	George Bryant - Hartpury College	WM
2	Callum Brookes - Cambridge Regional College	E
3	Adam Harris - Yeovil College	SW



HOCKEY

WOMEN'S HOCKEY		
POS	COLLEGE	REGION
1	Peter Symonds College	SE
2	Gower College Swansea	W
3	Greenhead College	Y&H

MEN'S HOCKEY		
POS	COLLEGE	REGION
1	Peter Symonds College	SE
2	Richard Huish College	SW
3	Worcester Sixth Form College	WM



CROSS COUNTRY

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY INDIVIDUAL		
POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Lucy Holt - Newcastle-under-Lyme College	WM
2	Zoe Wassall - Cirencester College	WM
3	Helen Thornbull - Aquinas College	NW

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY INDIVIDUAL		
POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Mahmed Abraham - Itchen Sixth Form College	SE
2	Shaun Evans - Birmingham Metropolitan College	WM
3	Jack Boswell - The Sixth Form College Farnborough	SE

CROSS COUNTRY - WOMEN'S REGION	
POS	REGION
1	West Midlands
2	Yorkshire & Humber
3	South East

CROSS COUNTRY - MEN'S REGION	
POS	REGION
1	South East
2	North West
3	West Midlands



REGIONAL KEY					
E	East	EM	East Midlands	L	London
NE	North East	NW	North West	S	Scotland
SE	South East	SW	South West	W	Wales
WM	West Midlands	Y&H	Yorkshire & Humberside		

1. Preston College (orange and blue) battle against Worthing College in the men's basketball semi-final 2. Preston College basketball player goes for the layup 3. Newham College of Further Education cricket captain, Fasil, goes for six 4. Moulton College takes on Richard Hush College in a hockey match 5. SPLASH - cross country runner sprints through puddles to the finish line 6. AoC president John Widdowson presents Itchen Sixth Form College's Mahmed with his winning cross country medal 7. FORE: Tee off at the Close House golf course
*AoC Sport policy does not permit putting the full names and ages of students

AOC SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016



AoC SPORT CHAMP

RUGBY SEVENS



WOMEN'S RUGBY SEVENS			MEN'S RUGBY SEVENS		
POS	REGION		POS	COLLEGE	REGION
1	Wales		1	Hartlepool Sixth Form College	NE
2	South East		2	Seevic College	E
3	Yorkshire & Humber		3	Exeter College	SW



NETBALL



WOMEN'S NETBALL		
POS	COLLEGE	REGION
1	Gower College Swansea	W
2	Hartpury College	WM
3	Peter Symonds College	SE



SQUASH

WOMEN'S SQUASH			MEN'S SQUASH		
POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION	POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Emma Campion - New College Pontefract	Y&H	1	Jared London - Truro & Penwith College	SW
2	Emily Fuller - Hills Road Sixth Form College	E	2	Oliver Walls - Queen Elizabeth College	NE
3	Kate Lockyer - Richard Huish College	SW	3	Peter Berkley - Chichester College	SE

TABLE TENNIS



WOMEN'S TABLE TENNIS SINGLES			MEN'S TABLE TENNIS SINGLES		
POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION	POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Abigail Griffin - Xavarian College	NW	1	Christopher Zirkert - South Gloucestershire & Stroud College	SW
2	Lauren Evans - Birmingham Metropolitan College	WM	2	Joshua Harland - Middlesbrough College	NE
3	Katie Barlow - Stockton Riverside College	NE	3	Ben Cawston - Peter Symonds College	SE

WOMEN'S TABLE TENNIS DOUBLES			MEN'S TABLE TENNIS DOUBLES		
POS	NAMES & COLLEGE	REGION	POS	NAMES & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Bethany Weston & Sandra Soinska - Bexhill College	SE	1	Joseph Goss & Jacob Goss - East Norfolk Sixth Form College	E
2	Jack Ballantyne & Roisin Brown - Sandwell College	WM	2	Luke Bradburn & Nuradin Muktar - Middlesbrough College	NE
3	Harriet Vassali Collard & Alisha Gardener - Bridgwater College	SW	3	Thomas Lewis & Ben Glover - South Glos & Stroud College	SW

MIXED TABLE TENNIS DOUBLES		
POS	NAMES & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Amy Webster & Jack Cope - Hartlepool Sixth Form College	NE
2	Lucie Hancock & Connor Smith - Newcastle-under-Lyme College	WM
3	Latifah Salawu & Thibaud Metral - South Glos & Stroud College	SW



5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL



WOMEN'S 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL			MEN'S 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL		
POS	COLLEGE	REGION	POS	COLLEGE	REGION
1	Middlesbrough College	NE	1	Runshaw College	NW
2	Worthing College	SE	2	Exeter College	SW
3	Newcastle-under-Lyme College	WM	3	Grimsby Institute	Y&H

FOOTBALL FOR STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY		
POS	COLLEGE	REGION
1	Moulton College	EM
2	ShIPLEY College	Y&H
3	Sandwell College	WM



1. Rugby gold medal winners from Hartlepool Sixth Form College 2. Exeter College (blue kit) take on Hartlepool Sixth Form College during a netball match 3. Exeter College (blue kit) vs Seevic College in netball 4. Coleg Y Cymoedd (red) go head-to-head with Loughborough College in women's football 5. Shipley College (blue kit) vs Burnley College during a learners' with learning difficulties football match 6. Huddersfield New College (blue kit) vs Newcastle under Lyme College 7. Table tennis mixed doubles champions Amy and Jack from Hartlepool Sixth Form College with their gold medals 8. South West vs West Midlands in the men's football 9. Moulton College footballers with learning difficulties presented with their gold medals
*AoC Sport policy does not permit putting the full names and ages of students

CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

MEDIA PARTNER



TENNIS

WOMEN'S TENNIS SINGLES		
POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Georgia Lawson - Bilborough Sixth Form College	EM
2	Lucy Gill - Petroc College	SW
3	Erica Izatt - Havering Sixth Form College	L
WOMEN'S TENNIS DOUBLES		
POS	NAMES & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Holly Horsfall & Emily Young - Huddersfield New College	Y&H
2	Amber Lowe & Bethany Nash - Petroc College	SW
3	Charlotte Clarke & Christina Pozerskwis - Wigggeston & QEI	EM
MIXED TENNIS DOUBLES		
POS	NAMES & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Steph Carter & Tom Hogg - Greenhead College	Y&H
2	Kelsey Mosquera & Luke Watts - Queen Mary's College	SE
3	Ryan Masterton & Molly Wiltshire - Exeter College	SW
MEN'S TENNIS SINGLES		
POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Charlie Hutchings - St Mary's College	NW
2	Liam Seagar - Peter Symonds College	SE
3	Kiri Psaras - Dudley College	WM
MEN'S TENNIS DOUBLES		
POS	NAMES & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Josh Wilson & John Taylor - Hills Road Sixth Form College	E
2	Thomas Poole & Lewie Parker - Petroc College	SW
3	Luke Tattam & Martin Ngo - Wigggeston & QEI College	EM



TRAMPOLINING



WOMEN'S TRAMPOLINING INDIVIDUAL			MEN'S TRAMPOLINING INDIVIDUAL		
POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION	POS	NAME & COLLEGE	REGION
1	Georgia Thomasson - Reaseheath College	NW	1	Josh Pimm - Strades's College	SW
2	Zara Munday - Reigate College	SE	2	Cameron Thompson - Birmingham Metropolitan College	WM
3	Megan Davies - Runshaw College	NW	3	Lewys Southwell - Richard Taunton Sixth Form College	SE
WOMEN'S TRAMPOLINING REGIONAL			WOMEN'S TRAMPOLINING REGIONAL		
POS	REGION		POS	REGION	
1	South East		1	South East	
2	Eastern		2	South West	
3	South West		3	West Midlands	



SWIMMING

WOMEN'S SWIMMING		MEN'S SWIMMING	
POS	REGION	POS	REGION
1	South East	1	West Midlands
2	North West	2	North West
3	Eastern	3	North East

VOLLEYBALL

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL			MEN'S VOLLEYBALL		
POS	COLLEGE	REGION	POS	COLLEGE	REGION
1	Petroc College	SW	1	Newcastle-under-Lyme College	WM
2	Newcastle-under-Lyme College	WM	2	Middlesbrough College	NE
3	Loughborough College	EM	3	Petroc College	SW



1. SMASH: Thomas from Petroc College serves in a men's double tennis match 2. AoC managing director Marcus Kingwell presents Georgia from Bilborough Sixth Form College with her gold medal in the women's tennis singles 3. Winners of the men's and women swimming competitions 4. DIVE: swimmers make a splash as they go for gold 5. Peter Symonds College in the men's volleyball 6. The AoC Sport National Championships golf leaderboard 7. Staff lay out the cross country gold, silver and bronze medals 8. The prestigious Wilkinson Sword Trophy
*AoC Sport policy does not permit putting the full names and ages of students

AOC SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

A 'PHENOMENAL AND INSPIRING' EVENT



BILLY CAMDEN
@BILLYCAMDEN

College leaders have spoken of the wider benefits to students' health and aspirations as a result of investing in sport.

John Evans, principal of Yeovil College, said he believed the wellbeing of learners improved as they engaged in more sport and healthy activities, which also help break down social barriers that can sometimes separate students.

He was speaking to FE Week at the 38th AoC Sport national championships in Tyne and Wear, which students qualified for through regional qualifiers in the autumn term.

Mr Evans, who attended the national championships for the first time this year, said: "It was certainly an eye opener for me to see the sheer scale of it all.

"Seeing students meeting each other from all across the country and competing against the best in the country, I thought was phenomenal and inspiring."

AoC Sport is a membership organisation

launched 18 months ago which campaigns for every college student to participate regularly in sport or physical activity.

Mr Evans said that sport was the single biggest influencer in creating a "well-rounded" student.

"Sport is a big driver in engaging with learning," he said. "I think that competitiveness and team bonding is extremely strong at my college and nothing has built that better than the sport curriculum.

"It engages people in learning, sets standards and gives them excellent employability skills. The whole thing comes together for me in sport."

He also said that sporting tournaments, such as this flagship event, are a great way to encourage "all inclusion".

Richard Atkins, chair of AoC Sport and former principal of Exeter College, said he had students competing in the national championships who had never left their own cities or regions before, "which illustrated the wider social benefits of the sport offer in



Team South West celebrate winning the Wilkinson Sword

REGIONAL LEADERBOARD



THE WILKINSON'S SWORD TROPHY STANDINGS

REGION	WOMEN'S POINTS	POSITION	MEN'S POINTS	POSITION	TOTAL POINTS	FINAL POSITION
South West	143	1st	166	1st	309	1st
South East	138	2nd	141	3rd	279	2nd
West Midlands	125	3rd	147	2nd	272	3rd
North West	98	6th	131	4th	229	4th
East	109	4th	117	5th	226	5th
Yorkshire & Humberside	104	5th	111	7th	215	6th
East Midlands	91	7th	95	8th	186	7th
London	76	8th	83	9th	159	8th <small>EQUAL</small>
North East	46	10th	113	6th	159	8th <small>EQUAL</small>
Wales	62	9th	55	10th	117	10th
Scotland	13	11th	11	11th	24	11th



MEDIA PARTNER
FE Week

colleges”.

Mr Evans added: “One of the great things about the FE sector is that we are great for all-inclusion, and I think tournaments like this breaks social barriers.

“I was watching the cross country and you would not know who was coming from what social class.

“Everybody was in it together. The camaraderie between the students was brilliant and the atmosphere was fantastic.

“It gives the students high aspirations and the chance to travel and experience new things.”

Emma Seawood-Adams, team leader for sport at Truro and Penwith College, which recently celebrated after it was the first to be rated ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted since the introduction of the Common Inspection Framework, agreed with Mr Evans that sport was an effective tool in developing students.

“Career-wise for the students, for them looking outside, it is really important to share and meet new people, so it is the extra skills

they get from it to come away for a weekend like this,” she said.

Ms Seawood-Adams also said the national championships covered a breadth of sports that are not typically on offer at every college.

“Locally, where we come from in Cornwall, there is good sporting performance, but not necessarily in every sport. AoC Sport gives us the chance for the golfers, the swimmers, the cross country runners to compete like for like.”

Lynne Gardner, head of college sport and enrichment at Peter Symonds College, Winchester, added that investing in sport, and being a member of AoC Sport, had enabled the college to “raise our participation levels brilliantly”.

“We have a college sports maker through being a member and they get everyone involved. We’ve got our top teams and then our development or recreational squads,” she said.

“We’re a college of 4,000 people, and last year actively involved with recreational physical activity we had 951 students participating on an ongoing basis, which is really great.”



RICHARD ATKINS
Chair of AoC Sport

WINNING COLLEGES TAKING SPORT MORE SERIOUSLY

Last weekend’s national colleges sports championships, held in Newcastle, Sunderland and Gateshead, were a huge success, judging by feedback from the students, staff and stakeholders who took part.

More than 1,800 students from 137 different colleges representing 11 regional/ national teams descended on Tyne and Wear for a three-day festival of sporting competitions.

These championships are an annual showcase for sporting competition in colleges, but they are only the tip of the iceberg.

Most of the work of the AoC Sport organisation is directed towards developing competitions within and/or between colleges in England and, most importantly, encouraging more college students aged 16 to 23 to take part in regular physical activity.

More than 250 colleges have now joined AoC Sport, which was created in August 2014, by bringing together several different college sports groups.

The reasons for joining vary from college to college, but there is no doubt that sport is an increasingly important part of the offer that colleges are making to their learners.

There are many reasons why colleges are investing time and money in sport and physical activity for students, even a time of financial austerity in the sector.

Firstly, there are important social, moral and educational reasons for offering sport in colleges.

This country is facing a growing challenge with obesity and poor health, especially among lower socio-economic groups.

Research has shown that the most important points in a person’s life to take up regular physical activity are when they start and finish school, and the biggest drop-off point is at ages 16 to 23.

Colleges are very well placed to introduce young people to regular, enjoyable physical exercise, in part because of the important employability agenda within the sector.

Sport, post-16, does not need to look like a compulsory PE lesson.

More than 140 institutions now have college sportmakers, who were initially funded by SportEngland to lead on this work.

And, of course, all this helps colleges deliver programmes of study to their 16 to 18 year old students.

At last weekend’s championships, we had some student participants who had never left their own cities and regions before, which again illustrated the wider social benefits of the sport

offer in colleges.

Secondly, employment in the sport and leisure industry across Europe is forecast to increase significantly by 2025, and most colleges now offer a range of technical and professional courses at levels one to five related to this growing industry sector, as well as an increasing number of apprenticeships with employers.

Thirdly, competitive sport in colleges can be offered on a regional and national basis at a level beyond that of the schools and training organisations which compete with colleges for 16 to 23 year olds.

The range of sports, the regional leagues and cup competitions and the national championships enable individual sporting students to compete at appropriate levels and the numbers of learners in colleges allow for competitive teams in many different sports.

There is little doubt that sport helps with student recruitment.

For many colleges, sport has also enabled them to enhance their community leadership role, developing partnerships and branding with local professional and amateur clubs, sharing facilities and building local networks.

Sport, post-16, does not need to look like a compulsory PE lesson

Sports academies exist in many colleges and in many sports, from archery to table tennis, which enhance the offer to potential students and enrich the college.

At AoC Sport we have found that even colleges with few or very restricted facilities can make an interesting and engaging sport offer to students and our regional staff can advise on some of the ways to do this.

Networks of heads of sport and operational staff now exist in all regions and are supported by AoC Sport colleagues.

Having missed out previously, we are beginning to see a greater understanding of how FE can help the government to address its sport and health priorities. I hope that before long all colleges will be engaged in the world of colleges sport.



Presenting of the Wilkinson Sword. From left: male captain of the South West region Jared from Truro and Penwith College, AoC Sport managing director Marcus Kingwell, AoC president John Widdowson, female captain of the South West Vicky from Exeter College, and Great British gymnast Craig Heap



1ST

SOUTH WEST
309

WM

3RD

WEST MIDLANDS
272

SE

2ND

SOUTH EAST
279

PROFILE

NO DRAMAS FOR CAROLINE

ALIX ROBERTSON
@ALIXROBERTSON4

Despite being principal of Orchard Hill College for 21 years, Dr Caroline Allen does not have an office of her own — she is out and about too often.

“It would be such a waste of a room,” she says.

“I’m never in one place. My colleagues always joke that they need to put a tracker on me and see where I go.”

Orchard Hill, a specialist college for students with learning difficulties, is spread across five different sites in London, and will take on a sixth in Hillingdon in September.

Allen is also director of the Orchard Hill Academy Trust, which includes six schools.

She believes that maintaining strong links between these different institutions and their communities is vital — and she is encouraging more collaboration with local employers, mayors, health teams and housing associations.

“Wherever possible we try really hard to build strong relationships and partnerships with our local communities, and one of my key messages that I’m trying to get out at the minute is ‘we’re here with you’,” she says.

Allen was born on Christmas day 1963 in Guildford, not far from Orchard Hill’s main site, where we meet.

She was the youngest of three girls and her sisters Cheryl and Wendy gave their names to the family home ‘Cherwen’. “I was a bit of an afterthought,” she laughs.

Her father, Graham, worked for a merchant bank and her mother, Maureen, was a dressmaker. They still live in the same home and Allen describes her childhood as “really lovely”.

“When I was little I used to have parties in the summer, because of course you couldn’t really have a party at Christmas,” Allen says.

“My mum used to say it’s an official birthday — like the Queen.”

Allen’s education began at local primary school The Raleigh School in Horsley, and then Tormead, a selective independent girls’ school in Guildford.

The school gave her “a lot of understanding about how the world works”.

She remembers her headteacher, Ms Shackleton: “She was about my height, she was tiny, but she had a big personality.

“She would say every day, every assembly: ‘Hold your heads up high girls.’”

Allen says she still heeds this advice today.

“When I’m walking through the college now, I might have all these things going on in my head, but I think of that. If I went round as a nervous wreck everyone else would be too — it catches.”

She studied music, English and French at A-level, and as the only person in the year doing music she was taught one-to-one.

She sang and played piano and even managed full marks in her theory exam — despite her teacher “tearing his hair out” while she was learning.

She then went on to attend the Central School of Speech and Drama at Swiss Cottage, and did her teaching degree there in speech and drama.

“It’s paid off enormously with what I do, because I’m talking to people all the time, I’m talking to big groups.

“I think all teachers should get drama trained, it’s really good for interaction and communicating in different ways. A lot of the staff here are into some form of creative hobby.”

She says this really helps in working with young people with special needs.

“A lot of vocational, professional learning is playing to people’s talent or creativity and I think that we need to not lose that as we go forward,” she adds.

Allen’s next step was a big one — she wanted to see the world, so bought a one way ticket to Hong Kong.

She stayed there for two years and during this time gained her first experience of teaching.

“I taught everybody from age two to age 64. I taught English as a foreign language, business English, kindergarten, and I taught people with special needs as well,” she says.

“One of the people I worked with was quite severely autistic, he was quite challenging in his behaviour so I was working a lot on communication with him — I enjoyed that.”

By the time she returned to the UK, Allen had decided that special needs was the field for her.

“I found the job here as a teacher and immediately knew this is it, that’s the one,” she says.

It is 29 years since she first joined Orchard Hill and she jokes: “It’s like the Bermuda Triangle here — you’ll never escape.”

Allen now lives in Cheam, Sutton, with her son Kieran, who is 18.

He is studying Visual Effects and Games Design at North East Surrey College of Technology (Nescot).

They are close and recently travelled to Paris for an Easter holiday together.

“He’s lovely, I’m very lucky. He’s such a nice person, very supportive,” she says.

Kieran is volunteering with the Orchard Hill digital learning department once a week, helping with a project that Allen is particularly proud of because it has been partly created by the students.

They have worked on a digital portfolio tool that profiles a learner’s journey electronically, and Allen says it has been really important in helping them to convey their successes to others.

The college also offers traineeships and Allen has cultivated a partnership with Guy’s and St Thomas’ hospitals in London to deliver these, which has presented a great range of learning opportunities for Orchard Hill learners.

“With the two hospitals and also the community teams, there is virtually every job in the world in that little area,” she says.

“Within the hospitals, they’ve got Costa Coffee and that sort of thing, so it’s not just the hospital jobs there are other franchises as well.”

Allen says that some of the students at Orchard Hill find communication very difficult, but she adds that with a bit of patience opportunities can be found for everyone.

“It’s very challenging, but once you get through all of that and teach them how to communicate well, they can find their niche — the thing that they’re really good at.

“I always say we’ve all got a slot, and if you’re in the wrong slot that’s when things can go wrong. It takes a bit of trial and error.”

She gives that example of one student with particularly challenging behaviour who eventually found a job in a training centre for boxing. “They love him,” she says with a grin.

Outside of Orchard Hill, Allen sits on the Education Funding Agency Advisory Board and the London Young People Education and Skills Board. She is also a member of the Association of Colleges London Regional Committee and a governor at Croydon College and St Dominic’s School, in Surrey.

These additional roles help her to maintain an understanding of the sector as a whole and how its different parts are connected.

She says that seeing things from a range of perspectives is important in helping students with special needs to progress through education and into employment.

“In education, people are under pressure to show results and attainment, and that doesn’t always help with inclusion. It’s the value added that I think we should be focusing more on, rather than very simplistic qualification outcomes.

“Our students should be appreciated for what they can offer, as opposed to being thought of as recipients of care.”

She adds that communicating clearly and building strong connections with the local community is part of driving this forward.

“It’s about having a lot of really enthusiastic support both ways and trying to work together so that our students can get good outcomes from those relationships,” she says.

“You always learn from everybody else — it might be a problem fitting it all in my diary, but I think it is a good way of working.”

c1970

Caroline as a child



2015

COSLP (Committee of South London Principals) Best Learner Awards at the House of Commons



A traineeship student was nominated to receive the award after excelling on her course and achieving a full time paid job after college

2015

Leavers Awards ceremony – A traineeship student receiving his award after completing his course and securing a paid job



Caroline with her son Kieran at the CN Tower in Toronto, Canada last summer



2016

Caroline visiting students in Carshalton



A student at the Vocational Progression Centre in Carshalton showing Caroline his communication book and showing what he had been doing in the morning session

2016

Caroline showing her support during the students’ sponsored Cycleathon



At the Cycleathon event during Fundraising Week – the students were sponsored to cycle the equivalent of London to Calais distance around a track. The students worked as a team and managed to cycle further than they had planned!

ROLINE



A lot of vocational, professional learning is playing to people's talent or creativity

It's a personal thing

What's your favourite book?

Emma by Jane Austen

What do you do to switch off from work?

I do Qi Gung and Tai Chi. I've been doing that for about 30 years and I reckon it's the only way I can survive. I also do swimming and golf. I go walking with my son in National Trust places and we like that because he is a brilliant creative storyteller and he makes up stories as we go. We do a lot of travelling

What's your pet hate?

I don't like people being rude. I think it's unnecessary

If you could invite anyone to a dinner party, living or dead, who would it be?

The Dalai Lama

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

I wanted to be a teacher. My drama teacher when I was little, probably about nine or 10, was just fabulous. Her name was Felicity Blackstone. She really helped me and talked to me as an equal. She gave me a love of Shakespeare too. She inspired me

Curriculum vitae

Born:

1963 Born in Guildford, Surrey

Education & Career:

1968 – Joined The Raleigh School

1975 – Joined Tormead School

1982 – Began studies for a B.Ed (Hons) degree in Speech, Drama & English at Central School of Speech and Drama

1985 – Completed an MBA at University of Keele

1986 – Moved to Hong Kong, taught English as a Foreign Language/Business English/Special Needs

1987 – Move back to the UK and started teaching at Orchard Hill College

1995 – Made principal of Orchard Hill College

1997 – Son Kieran born

2000 – Appointed chair of Learning & Skills Council London South

2006 – Awarded OBE for services to FE in Queen's Birthday Honours list

2008 – Member of the London Region Learning & Skills Council for one year

2009 – Completed a PhD in organisational management and business excellence at Birmingham University

2011 – Became Vice Chair of Croydon College Corporation

2012 – Member of London Region Young People Education & Skills Board, London Councils

2013 – Made chief executive officer of Orchard Hill College Academy Trust

EXPERTS



THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Graham Taylor is principal and chief executive at New College Swindon. He has more than 25 years' experience in further and higher education across six colleges and writes exclusively for *FE Week* on the last Monday of every month.

Fed up with unnecessary and disruptive data changes

Graham Taylor explains why he was less than impressed with the recent qualification and achievement report.

Let's move on from my last article on apprenticeships — the consensus feedback to that was 'kick the reforms into the long grass' as we believe we can meet Dave's target without the unnecessary, complicated and costly wiring of the proposed changes.

I would like to focus now on the fiasco that is the qualification and achievement report (QAR) received after an interminable delay on April 5, and well documented in *FE Week*.

It's full of unnecessary terminology changes.

Success rates (SR) no longer exist. They are now achievement rates (AR) and the old achievement rates are now called pass rates (PR).

Search me why they needed to change the system and terminology — can someone explain please?

Another key difference is that we no longer have an overall college AR, only 16-18 and 19+ breakdowns.

While we are able to calculate our overall figure, the QAR doesn't contain the data that would allow us to work out the national overall AR.

For some reason, they've chosen to omit the national cohort figures from the data.

As a key quality measure, we need to assess success rates (old terminology) at course level and build to department/ sector skills area and college, and compare with national averages for what we do. By the way, using weighted averages at SSA level is a concept that some Ofsted inspectors we know and love struggle with.

They are the best objective measures of quality available.

We await the national averages file so that it can be imported.

The report as a whole was littered with mistakes and didn't show you what the old one did — which also had better terminology.

You need national rates at course level upwards to make meaningful quality judgments. We await them with bated breath.

And even after the long delay in publishing the data, the dashboard is slow, unreliable, lacks key information and is set up in a way that will cause further delays in producing information that was previously readily available.

For example, the in-built function to export and produce hard copy is time-consuming and produces poorly-formatted, often unusable

PDFs.

We'll have to resort to screen printing for this.

I encourage all MIS managers to feedback to the powers that be.

We use ProAchieve (other systems are available) and our view of the latest ProAchieve update is that it will become the 'go to' source for data.

The interface is much improved on the QAR and will be easily accessible by all staff.

How can informed decisions on quality be made both internally and by Ofsted when the national averages were almost two years out of date?

I encourage all MIS managers to feedback to the powers that be

How could any college in this year's Ofsted round (61 and counting) be reasonably assessed without 2014/15 benchmarks?

No wonder reports are bland. Here's one comment: "This college's performance is in line with the rates for colleges nationally." That must be referring back to 2013/14 presumably?

Reports used to be informative and give ideas on how to improve. Not now.

But we have the headline success rates for apprenticeships, at 71.7 per cent overall; 79.8 per cent for 16 to 18-year-olds; and 87 per cent for 19+ (adult qualifications too easy Mr Wilshaw?).

In absolute terms, apprenticeships outcomes look low — not helped by stretching course lengths going back to (former Skills Minister) John Hayes' 12 and 18 month rule, and the concomitant increase in drop-out rates and higher labour turnover in a dynamic jobs market.

Overall GCSE English A* to C success rates for 16-18-year-olds and 19+ learners were 31.1 per cent and 50.2 per cent.

The figure stood at just 27.8 per cent and 52.3 per cent respectively for maths.

It is arguably a minor miracle that about 30 per cent of youngsters get through this in one year, after years of struggling at school.

Well done everyone. Keep fighting the good fight. We're not finished yet.



LAURA-JANE RAWLINGS

Chief executive officer at Youth Employment UK

Don't rely on volunteers to improve careers advice

Laura-Jane Rawlings raises concern about the reliance on employer volunteers to make the government's careers advice strategy work.

We are gearing up to a very important period for young people as many are about to start sitting exams but also taking their next steps.

In these key transitions, we need to support them to effectively navigate education, employment or training choices ahead of them.

Young people and employers have cited that poor quality careers education and information in schools is contributing to the issues of youth unemployment.

In 2014, I took a number of young people to meet with colleagues from the Department for Education (DfE) to discuss what they felt the barriers were to employment.

They spoke of their desire to have a better understanding of all their career options, time with a qualified adviser and time to develop the skills and experience that employers want.

Some spoke with real passion about the struggles they have faced making the transition without good guidance.

The DfE introduced the Careers & Enterprise Company has to ensure young people are prepared for life beyond education.

With a £20m investment in spring 2015, the company focused on encouraging greater collaboration between schools, colleges and employers.

Many of the principles for the company's 'toolkit' come from the findings of a report from the Gatsby Foundation.

What is lost from the report is the cost to a school of £54,000 to implement the Gatsby strategy — an equivalent of about 1 per cent of a school's budget.

It seems that DfE has replaced a well-funded careers strategy with the idea that the business community can fill the gap.

Employers are a large part of the equation when it comes to frameworks for good careers work, such as The Careers and Development Institute framework and London Ambitions.

Many employers are engaged with schools; significant numbers of organisations (the Education and Employers Taskforce, Team London etc) benefit from exceptional volunteer support from employers.

Our Young Members tell us that they value this contact with employers.

However, there are other important ingredients including a stable career education programme in schools and the provision of high quality, face to face career guidance provided by a qualified practitioner.

We must acknowledge that not all employers want or have the capacity to engage.

UKCES research highlights that 66 per cent

of employer's value work experience, but only 38 per cent of employer's offer support.

The Government is looking to employers to volunteer for a new mentoring initiative, as well as the array of initiatives from DWP.

I fear we could exhaust the grace of the business community. Can we really build a sustainable solution that is solely reliant on volunteers who receive minimal training?

From my experience, as a school governor and head of an organisation with many volunteers, I know it is a risky business to rely on volunteers alone.

By the nature of business, employers are busy and with the best will in the world volunteering is dropped when other pressures take hold.

It seems that DfE has replaced a well-funded careers strategy with the idea that the business community can fill the gap

One school told me the enterprise adviser they have been assigned is too busy to do any real work with them, and the school is too busy to engage with a service that is not.

While a member of school staff has the role of 'careers lead' tacked on to their day job, and a member of the local business community is volunteering in the adviser capacity, can the big change we need to see in careers education really happen?

Some 853,000 young people aged from 16 to 24 in the UK were not in education, employment or training at the end of 2015.

The issue of careers education, the role of employers, and the commitment from government needs to be ironed out fast before more young people are failed by us.

We know good careers education and employer engagement can do amazing things.

But we must start with mandating and real monitoring from government — what gets measured in our schools gets done.

To see the £20m investment in the company pay-off, to ensure young people get the service they need to secure full employment and for employers to benefit from a skilled, productive workforce, we must see a genuine, properly-funded, commitment to careers education from this government.

EXPERTS

Mark Dawe explains warns against hasty decisions being made over subcontracting because of a new Skills Funding Agency (SFA) review on brokering.

The SFA review of the use of brokers in relation to subcontracted skills provision should not be a reason in itself to add further weight to calls for an outright ban in subcontracting.

At AELP, we are under no illusions that the future of subcontracting as a whole is under the spotlight.

The SFA has decided to ban subcontracting for all loans funded provision from 2017-18, while at the same time the total loans facility being offered to colleges and providers is being increased by 29 per cent.

It will be interesting to see if the larger facility can be exhausted without subcontractors in the market, even with the agency actively approaching current subcontractors to see if they want direct access to it.

The other shift in policy is that under the levy system for apprenticeships, subcontractors will be able to redeem their employers' digital vouchers directly with the SFA, if they are on the Register of Training Organisations (ROTO).

Given the implications of a large number of providers possibly taking advantage, this has necessitated an agency review of the capacity and capability tests that need to be satisfied before a provider is admitted.

We have always said that a key tenet of the apprenticeship reforms should be the upholding of employer choice, which actually



MARK DAWE

Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP) chief executive

Hold fire over outright subcontracting ban

exists under the current system.

But the reform process needs to be managed, so as not to cause unreasonable disruption to customer relationships that have worked well and delivered successful results.

It is arguably the scale of subcontracting and the associated payment of management fees that have prompted this policy response.

Yet the AELP case is that this could have been avoided if the current funding system worked better.

Growth of good performing independent training providers through a direct contract has often been restricted, even though new employer demand has been clearly evidenced.

So it is hardly a surprise that as entrepreneurial businesses, they have gone looking for it from other sources, particularly from institutions that either don't have a work based learning capability or a strong employer engagement strategy.

The biggest frustration of the handling of providers' growth requests over the last year or so has been that committed employers

willing to offer apprenticeships have had to be turned away, because there was no guarantee that funding would be forthcoming.

But it is also an indictment of the current system that the opportunities to pursue subcontracted business are now so numerous that brokers are able to flourish as part of the market.

On the issue of subcontracting best practice and the question of justifiable management fees, AELP alongside the Association of Colleges made a major effort to bring about improvements three years ago in the form of the Common Accord.

And although the accord has a reference within the funding rules, its voluntary status could have arguably been bolstered by more forceful backing from the authorities.

The case for allowing subcontracting to continue to be part of publicly funded employment and skills provision has been persuasively set out elsewhere, such as providing employers access to specialist providers in complex areas such as construction projects.

The largest levy paying employers are likely to want to do deal with only one provider, but it shouldn't be expected that a single provider can deliver everything the employer needs.

For example, how often will a level two apprenticeship provider in call centre operations be able to also offer a level seven in management?

It is an indictment of the current system that the opportunities to pursue subcontracted business are now so numerous

Therefore, it would seem appropriate to encourage strong partnerships of providers to ensure employers get outstanding provision across all their requirements and not prevent such practice through artificial restrictions.

Before any further policy decisions are made, it would certainly be very helpful for the SFA to publish a clear statement of what the Agency deems as subcontracting.



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CAMPUS ROUND-UP *with Billy Camden*



First prize for funky bunch

A pair of enterprising students from Bedford College were triumphant in the 157 Group 'Going Further' Digital Skills competition last week.

Ben Dixon, aged 18 and Kylan McCaffrey, 20, who called themselves Benny Ben and the Funky Bunch, competed against five other finalists at Google headquarters.

The competition challenged students to test their digital and design skills by redesigning the 157 Group website.

During the final each group pitched their design to a panel of experts, who quizzed them on their work in a Dragons Den style format.

The judging panel included Ian Pretty, 157

Group chief executive, TV presenter Maggie Philbin, Nigel Sale, senior manager at Google, and Sophie Devonshire, chief executive of The Caffeine Partnership.

Ben and Kylan, who study a level three BTEC diploma in IT, bagged an HP Chromebook and an HP Officejet Pro printer each for winning as well as an ingenious HP Sprout Pro for their college.

Skills Minister Nick Boles said: "157 Group's competition is an excellent way to help students gain the skills needed in our increasingly digital world. The participants will take away a wealth of experience to use in their future careers."



From left: Ben Dixon and Kylan McCaffrey at the 157 Group 'Going Further' Digital Skills competition

Rare restored car goes under the hammer



Technical academy centre manager Rob Hutchinson with the BMW 850csi buyer Panos Roulias

A rare car that was restored by East Durham College students has been sold for a whopping £17,500.

The car, a BMW 850csi, was donated to the college's technical academy's motor vehicle department last summer.

The extremely rare vehicle was the first to ever be fitted with a V12 engine and manual six

condition.

"We were hoping to get a decent value back from the car, as we knew it was an extremely rare vehicle, but none of us were expecting the final total we received."

The money from the auction will now go back into the motor vehicle department to fund further student projects.

speed gearbox — one of only 160 produced to this specification.

Twelve students and three staff members carried out restoration work, including replacing its hydraulic pipes, fitting new ABS speed sensors and giving the car a full service, before putting it up for auction.

The auctioneers, Tennants of Yorkshire, valued the BMW at between £8,000 and £12,000, but the highest bidder eventually paid much more.

Rob Hutchinson, centre manager at the technical academy, said: "The motor vehicle department had done a great job to make sure the car is back to its original standard, making sure it was in a great

Coast to coast challenge



From left: Ainsley Allan, aged 19, and sports tutor Chris Wilde cycle and row during the 'coast-to-coast' challenge

Sport students from Salford City College pushed themselves to the limit in a 'coast-to-coast' challenge to raise money for Sport Relief.

The event, which formed part of the second year BTEC sport unit, challenged students to cycle across the narrowest part of England, from Workington in Cumbria, to the coast near Newcastle.

In total the students covered 140 miles in just six hours, using equipment from the college gym.

They used two rowing machines, an exercise bike, and a treadmill, working in a

relay along with various staff members.

The students, who raised almost £150, had already found sponsors for their participation, and took it in turns to measure the number kilometres covered.

Sport lecturer Richard Lee said: "Not only did we raise a lot of money for this worthy charity, the teams who ran the event did themselves proud."

"In particular, students Ainsley Allen and Nikita Stirrup, who were there from the very start to the very end counting the kilometres and tracking the progress of those taking part."

Theatrical make-up winner



Lydia Noble's make-up design on model Lauren Colledge

An artistic Rugby College learner has picked up more than £1,500 worth of prizes after winning a student theatrical make-up competition.

Lydia Noble, who studies a level three extended diploma in production arts, travelled to the professional make-up academy in Birmingham for the national Student Artist competition.

The 20-year-old, who beat 10 others in the event, said: "It was my first competition so I really didn't think I'd win. When I heard my name called it was so exciting, especially as all the other competitors were so good."

"I definitely want to go into film and TV make-



Lydia Noble (right) and her make-up model, Lauren Colledge, aged 17

up, so this is great for my CV."

Lydia's prizes included a range of special effects make-up and brushes as well as a trip to London for a professional photoshoot.

Kelly Taylor, lecturer in theatrical make-up at Rugby College said: "For Lydia to win in her first competition is fantastic, and the prizes she has won, as well as the experience, will set her up really well for her future career."

Piece of wedding cake for Quirky Quafts

FEATURED
CAMPUS
ROUND-UP

Young entrepreneurs who suffer from a range of learning disabilities used their new enterprising skills to make the wedding centrepiece for the bride and groom of their tutor's daughter, writes Billy Camden.

A bride and groom were given a sweet treat for their wedding day from young entrepreneurs who suffer from a range of learning disabilities at Darlington College. The students, who study a Next Steps course, designed and built a mobile sweet trolley for Jo Wright and Elliott Biddle.

They were commissioned to make the wedding centrepiece by bride Jo's mum Ali, a learning with difficulties co-ordinator at the college.

"Every year within Next Steps we run an enterprise programme to enable our young people to gain the skills needed to run their own small businesses," said Ali.

"This year the students, who call themselves Quirky Quafts, decided to create a business designing products to sell to make money for their end of year trip and to donate to various charities.

"I thought it would be a lovely idea to have a sweet trolley at Jo and Elliott's wedding so I asked Quirky Quafts if they could help and I couldn't be happier with what they have done."

With a budget of £150, the team of 10 students divided into groups to research, plan, design, build and stock their first large-scale enterprise.

Project manager Shaun Moore, aged 19, said: "We created a mood board with ideas that we showed to Ali before asking the college's



Next Steps students at Darlington College with their wedding day sweet treat

construction department for some spare wood.

"We then got the motor vehicle body shop students to spray an old metal video cabinet pink before attaching the wooden backboard to make it looked like a sweet trolley.

"The team made all of the decorations for the trolley and even created paper sweet bags with a picture of the bride and groom."

After researching all of the bride's favourite sweets the Quirky Quafts then stocked the trolley with bowls of love hearts, assorted jellies, boxes of Smarties, candy false teeth, fizzy cola bottles and dozens of lollipop bouquets.

Student Josh Bridge, 18, said: "The best bit of the project was finding out the prices for the sweets and decorating the trolley with them.

"It was quite hard at times but we learned a lot and even managed to resist eating the sweets — even the coal bottles which are my favourites."

The project took four and a half weeks from start to finish and was ready in time for the wedding on April 1.

The bride and groom were so pleased with the end result that they sent a note to the Quirky Quafts team thanking them for their

"spectacular" sweet trolley.

Bride Jo said: "The



The bride and groom enjoy the sweet trolley at their wedding

team worked so hard and the trolley looked amazing. I can't thank them enough."

Assistant project manager Josh Cheney, 17, said: "It felt very good to get a thank you card from Jo and Elliott.

"It was a lot of hard work and I'm very relieved that it

was a success."

The trolley is now back at Darlington College and Quirky Quafts are using it to start up their next enterprise scheme selling sweets to students and staff.

DO YOU WANT TO BE IN CAMPUS ROUND-UP?

Send your stories with pictures to campus@feweek.co.uk including names, ages and course details of students where applicable

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Your weekly guide to who's new and who's leaving

George Trow has announced his retirement as principal of Doncaster College after more than six years at the helm.

He will leave at the end of the summer term. Mr Trow moved to Doncaster College in May 2010 during a time of trouble.

The college had been rated 'inadequate' by Ofsted in 2008 and was on the brink of financial failure.

In its most recent Ofsted report Doncaster College was rated 'good'.

Chair of the corporation, Paul Pascoe, said: "George is an inspirational leader who has led the college from a position of difficulty to one where the college has real belief in itself, able to deliver the very highest quality to its students who are always at the very heart of all the college does.

"The college is now in a much improved and strong position in the business and local community and is seen as a key player in Doncaster's economic future."

Mr Trow joined Doncaster

College from his position as principal of Rotherham College of Arts and Technology.

He has worked in a range of colleges for more than 30 years.

Meanwhile, Ioan Morgan CBE has joined Farnborough College of Technology as interim principal following the retirement of Christine Slaymaker CBE.

Mr Morgan has been a principal for 25 years in a number of different colleges, latterly at the Warwickshire College Group.

He said: "I am very proud and excited to have this opportunity to lead Farnborough which has a fine national reputation for high

quality and financial strength.

"Challenges for all colleges lie ahead, but I am confident Farnborough will be ahead of the game and will, as always, have learners at the heart of all it does."

Ms Slaymaker retired after working at the college for nearly 15 years.

She said she had "enjoyed" all of her time at Farnborough and paid tribute to the "hard working, diligent and professional staff who have achieved so much in terms of national accolades and plaudits but also for each and every individual learner who studies with us."

And the Association of Colleges (AoC) has announced Ian Ashman, principal of Hackney Community College, as its president-elect.

Mr Ashman will take over from current president John Widdowson on August 1.

Having begun his career in FE in 1993, Mr Ashman has held a range of college posts across London, and has been a principal for more than 13 years.

He has been chair of the AoC London region

since 2010 and is also a member of the London Enterprise Panel – Skills and Employment Working Group.

Commenting on his new position, Mr Ashman said: "I want to help the AoC continue to make the strongest case for the sector during a period of change.

"We need to ensure that colleges have a powerful voice in the coming year, particularly given area reviews, delegation of skills funding and financial pressures, alongside the transition to a new chief executive.

"I am looking forward to travelling around the country to visit colleges while working closely with the AoC team, to influence decision makers, to secure the best outcomes for our students, communities and colleges."

The Department for Education (DfE) also announced this week that Jonathan Slater would take over from Chris Wormald as the head of civil servant.

Mr Slater, currently director general and head of the economic and domestic affairs secretariat at the Cabinet Office, will take up the role of permanent secretary at the DfE on May 3.

The news follows the announcement in January that Mr Wormald, who has been the DfE's permanent secretary since March 2012, would be moving to the same position at the Department of Health.



GEORGE TROW



IOAN MORGAN



CHRISTINE SLAYMAKER



IAN ASHMAN



JONATHAN SLATER

If you want to let us know of any new faces at the top of your college, training provider or awarding organisation please let us know by emailing news@feweek.co.uk



Curriculum Manager – Maths

0.4 fte (14.4 hours per week)

£26,270 - £ 28,580 pro rata (£10,508 for this post)

Directly responsible to: Assistant Principal Adult Skills

We are looking for an outstanding, dynamic individual to manage our Maths provision. You will be responsible for planning the Maths provision to meet local skills needs and national priorities. High achievement rates and learner satisfaction and progression are key responsibilities of the post. You will be able to inspire innovation and excellence in teaching, learning and assessment in our team of Maths specialists who are highly motivated to achieve outstanding results. You will be the lead on Maths across our adult learning provision and will be expected to champion Maths in innovative ways. You will work 14 hours flexibly across the week. There is potential to combine this role with a teaching commitment. The salary is £10,508 per annum.

Maths Tutor

0.6 fte (21.6 hours per week)

£24,060 pro rata (£14,435 for this post)

Directly responsible to: Assistant Principal Adult Skills

We are seeking a dynamic, self-motivated and experienced Maths specialist to work as part of our dedicated Maths team. The successful candidate will be involved in delivering, developing and preparing Functional Skills, 'stepping stone' qualifications and Maths GCSE. You will be creative, innovative and adaptable in your approach, differentiating for groups of learners within your courses. You will use ICT and other learning technology creating high quality learning resources.

In addition to teaching, you will work closely with the curriculum manager to support vocational staff needing assistance with embedding Maths into their vocational courses. For the right candidate there is potential to combine this role with the curriculum manager post. The salary for this post is £14,435 per annum.

For further information and an application form please visit our website www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk
Applications must be emailed to staffing@redbridge-iae.ac.uk or posted to be received by **5.00pm Friday 13th May 2016**.
We welcome applicants who are interested in applying for both posts.

www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk



Plumpton College

Following the recent Sussex Area Based Review supporting the college's strategy to remain an independent and specialist land based provider of FE and HE, Plumpton College is beginning its next phase of ambitious growth and quality enhancement. With a new Principal, sound finances and a commitment to achieve excellence in all areas, we are significantly investing in the development of our management capacity.

We are therefore seeking to appoint dedicated and hardworking individuals who can thrive in a competitive sector and deliver ambitious targets for growth and quality in the following areas:

HEADS OF FACULTY – Salary within the range: £42,173 - £50,685

The post of Head of Faculty is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the future strategic development of the College. We have the following four Head of Faculty vacancies:

- Animal Management, Vet Nursing, Equine & Adventurous Activities,
- Forestry, Horticulture & Foundation Learning,
- English, Maths and Learning Support; and
- Quality and Registry

CURRICULUM MANAGERS – Salary within the range: £35,301 - £39,774

Curriculum Managers have operational responsibility for ensuring the best use of resources to deliver high quality outcomes for all provision types within their curriculum divisions. We have vacancies in Agriculture & Food, Countryside & Environment, Adventurous Activities, and Forestry & Arboriculture.

LEARNING SUPPORT MANAGER –

Salary within range: £35,301 - £39,774

This role will lead on all aspects of the College's learning support provision to maximise student success.

LEARNING, TEACHING AND STANDARDS MANAGER –

Salary within range: £35,301 - £39,774

This exciting new role will work with staff across the College in achieving consistently high standards of learning assessment.

MARKETING MANAGER –

Salary within the range: £32,103 - £35,301

This new role will have responsibility for developing the College brand and implementing appropriate strategies in line with the College's growth plan.

If you believe you have a significant contribution to make to our future and are looking for your next career opportunity, we would like to hear from you.

For an application pack and further details, please contact:

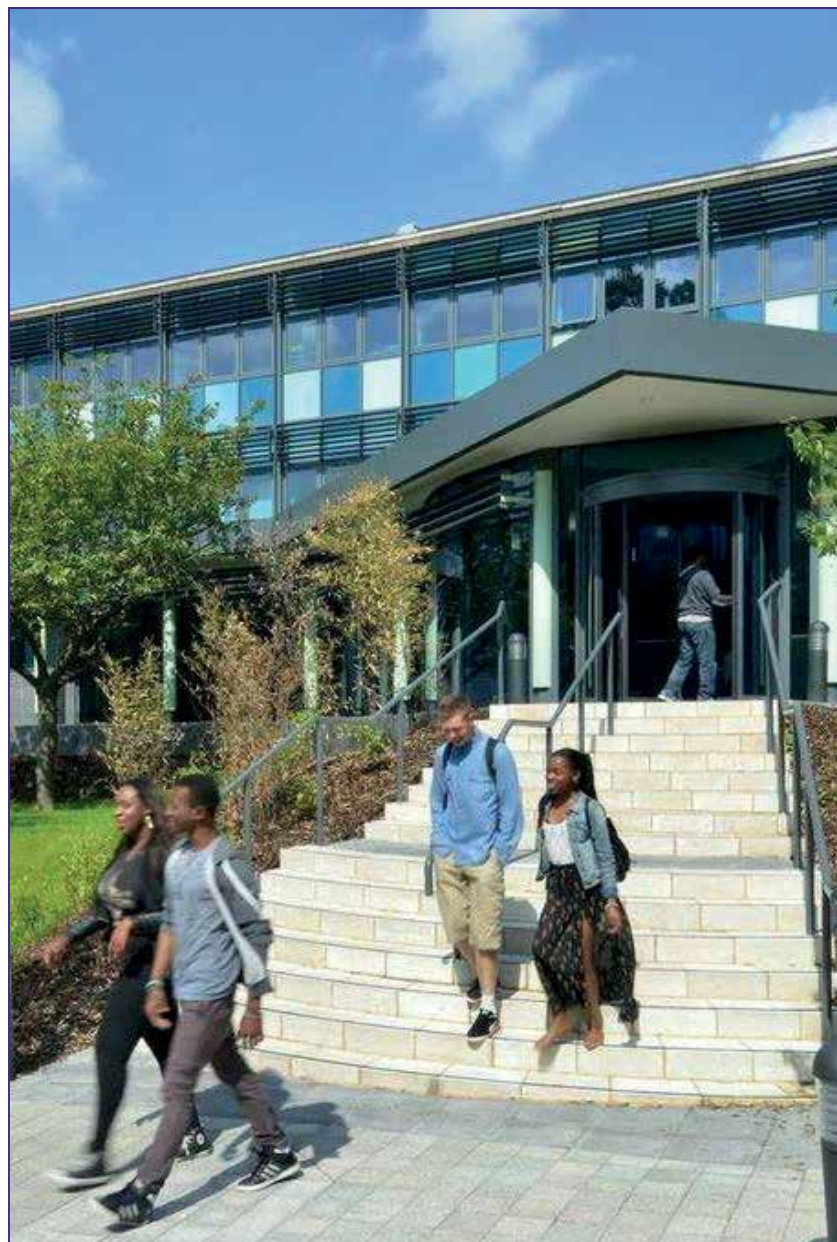
HR at Plumpton College, Ditchling Road, Plumpton, East Sussex, BN7 3AE

tel: 01273 890454, email: hr@plumpton.ac.uk

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: MONDAY 9TH MAY 2016

INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD: 17TH, 18TH AND 19TH MAY 2016

JOBS



CHRIST THE KING

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Christ the King is a highly successful and heavily oversubscribed Catholic Sixth Form College located on three sites in south east London. We specialise in meeting the needs of sixth form students and have an established track record of excellent examinations success. We have Category A financial status and have been recognised by Ofsted as delivering outstanding quality of provision.

HEAD OF ENGINEERING AND DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Available Autumn 2016. Permanent, full-time. Salary £40,074 - £45,363

The College is seeking an outstanding practitioner of Engineering and Design & Technology to lead the Engineering Department at our Lewisham site.

The successful candidate will be expected to provide specialist subject leadership, ensuring high quality teaching and learning is delivered consistently across the provision; to inspire, motivate and manage their department; and to commit to the ethos and wider life of the College.

Please see the vacancies section of the college website, www.ctksfc.ac.uk, for full details, including a job description and application forms.

Closing Date: 5pm Thursday 28th April 2016.



Tel: 020 8297 9433

Email: recruitment@ctksfc.ac.uk



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONAL STUDIES

Up to £55k

Located on a modern and well-resourced campus in Street, Somerset, Strode College is a tertiary college serving a number of small towns and dispersed rural community in the Mendip District of Somerset, an area of outstanding natural beauty. With a significant majority of students in the 16-18 age group, the college is the largest provider of further education in the area and has a small but growing Higher Education offering. We also have an expanding number of apprenticeships and provide education and training for businesses.

Judged outstanding by Ofsted in October 2014, vocational students make outstanding progress on BTEC L3 courses and NVQ/VRQ students are highly successful in winning places at university or securing appropriate employment. We are not complacent, however, and are determined to build on this platform to provide an even better service to our local communities.

This is one of three Assistant Principal posts reporting directly to the Principal. Whilst a relentless commitment to excellence is a central feature of the role, sharing our values, particularly in terms of treating all our students as individual, is equally important.



Strode College, Church Road, Street, BA16 0AB

You'll play a key part in ensuring that our reputation with partners, especially our partner schools, remains strong and that our curriculum continues to adapt and respond.

This is a significant career development opportunity for an ambitious education leader looking to expand their responsibilities and join a successful and highly-motivated senior team in a College that won't settle for second best. If you are an outstanding teacher with a track record of successful leadership of a curriculum area and the ambition and drive to match that of the college – we would like to hear from you.

Closing date: Friday 6th May 2016 12.00 midday

Shortlisting: Will take place on the afternoon of 6th May 2016

Interviews: Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th May 2016

**For more information please see our website
or follow the link below:**

www.strode-college.ac.uk/recruitment_/v/205/p/531





Protocol Excellence in FE

Prif Weithredwr Grŵp Llandrillo Menai

Cyflog - £150k ynghyd â buddiannau

Dyma gyfle gwirioneddol ragorol i arwain Sefydliad Addysg Bellach mwyaf Cymru ac un o grwpiau colegau mwyaf y DU.

Sefydlwyd Grŵp Llandrillo Menai yn 2012 yn sgil proses uno rhwng Coleg Llandrillo, Coleg Menai a Choleg Meirion-Dwyfor. Mae'r coleg yn cyflogi 2,000 aelod o staff ar hyn o bryd, ac yn darparu cyrsiau i tua 27,000 o fyfyrwyr ar draws Ynys Môn, Conwy, Sir Ddinbych a Gwynedd.

Gan fod ein Prif Weithredwr presennol ar fin ymdeol, mae'r coleg yn chwilio am arweinydd brwdfrydig a strategol gyda'i ffocws ar fusnes i fwrw ymlaen â Chynllun Strategol y coleg. Bydd deiliad y swydd yn gyfrifol am wireddu cenhadaeth ac amcanion y coleg drwy feithrin diwylliant o ansawdd, gwella parhaus, arloesi, entrepreneuriaeth a sefydlogrwydd ariannol.

Bydd gan yr ymgeisydd delfrydol brofiad o arwain sefydliad aml-safle cymhleth, enw da am ddarparu, gwybodaeth ardderchog am agenda addysg bellach a bydd yn deall agweddau diwyllianol ac ieithyddol ein cymunedau lleol. Bydd y coleg yn sicrhau cefnogaeth ac ymrwymiad llywodraethwyr a staff arbennig a thalentog, a'r cyfle i ennill gwobrau proffesiynol sylweddol.

Gan fod y Grŵp yn arwain ym maes addysg ddwyieithog, byddai'n ddymunol pe bai'r Prif Weithredwr newydd yn siarad Cymraeg ac yn/neu'n meddu ar ymrwymiad cadarn i'r Gymraeg a diwylliant Cymru.

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth a phhecyn ymgeisio, ewch i www.protocol.co.uk/gllm

Y dyddiad cau yw 16eg Mai, bydd y cyfweiliadau rhestr hir yn cael eu cynnal yn ystod yr wythnos sy'n dechrau 23ain Mai a'r cyfweiliadau terfynol ar 16eg a 17eg Mehefin.

Group Chief Executive Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai

Salary - £150k plus benefits

This is a truly exceptional opportunity to lead the largest Further Education Institution in Wales and one of the largest groups of colleges in the UK.

Grŵp Llandrillo Menai was established in 2012 as a result of mergers between Coleg Llandrillo, Coleg Menai and Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor. The college employs 2,000 staff and delivers courses to around 27,000 students across Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire and Gwynedd.

Due to the imminent retirement of the current CEO the college is looking for a passionate, strategic and business focused leader to drive the college through its Strategic Plan. The post holder will be responsible for achieving the college's mission and objectives through instilling a culture of quality, continuous improvement, innovation, entrepreneurship and financial stability.

The ideal candidate will have proven experience of leadership in a complex multi-site organisation, a reputation for delivery, an excellent knowledge of the FE agenda and sensitivity to the cultural and linguistic dimensions of our local communities. In return the college offers the support and commitment of outstanding and talented staff and governors and the opportunity for significant professional rewards.

Grŵp Llandrillo Menai is a leading provider of bilingual education, it is desirable therefore, that the new Grŵp Chief Executive is a Welsh speaker and / or has a strong commitment to the Welsh language and culture.

For further information and an application pack visit protocol.co.uk/gllm

Closing date 16th May, long listing interviews w/c 23rd May and final interviews will be held 16th and 17th June.

www.protocol.co.uk/gllm | gllm@protocol.co.uk | David Beynon: 07970 042 334 | Ian Sackree: 07795 271 559

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Being employed at Kendal College, the only Ofsted 'Outstanding College' in Cumbria and North Lancashire, offers more than just a career. Our stunning location, on the edge of the Lake District National Park, offers plenty of work/life balance and our generous benefits package - including pension scheme, health plan, training and staff discounts - places the College at the forefront of the industry in looking after its employees.

Lecturer Animal Care, 0.8 fte maternity cover
£23,881 to £30,256 pro rata

Lecturer Applied Sciences, 0.5 to Full time
£23,881 to £30,256 pro rata

Lecturer Health & Social Care, 0.5 to Full time
£23,881 to £30,256 pro rata

Lecturer Maths, 0.5 to Full time
£23,881 to £30,256 pro rata

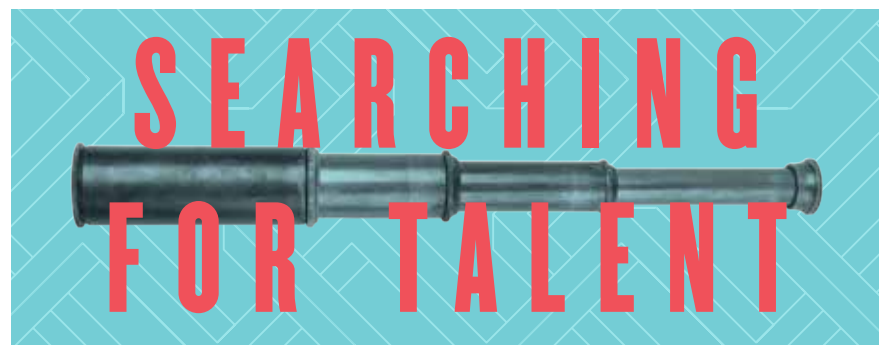
Lecturer Mechanical Engineering, 0.5 fte
£23,881 to £34,056 pro rata

Lecturer Music & Music Technology, Full time
£23,881 to £30,256

Assessor Mechanical Engineering, 0.5 fte
£24,595 to £26,878 pro rata

Assessor Hospitality & Catering, Full time maternity cover
£24,595 to £26,878

Visit our website for full details. Closing date: Friday 29 April 2016



OPERATIONS MANAGER - QUALITY

FEA | up to £60k + benefits

FEA is the recently introduced new brand for FE Associates and BW Consultants. Since 2004 we have maintained a strong reputation and track record in the provision of interim managers and senior leaders to the FE and Skills sector. Our quality improvement services have supported providers in raising standards and driving through change, and we also offer a range of project management services on behalf of colleges and training providers.

A new and exciting opportunity has been created for a highly motivated and experienced manager to support the expansion of our quality improvement services to the post 16 sector. We are looking to recruit a full time manager to lead and manage the quality improvement operations of FEA as it expands its client base and bespoke solutions for the sector.

For more information please visit <http://www.fea.co.uk/jobs>. Applicants should forward a CV to executivesearch@fea.co.uk by Friday 6th May.

For an informal discussion about the role with the Managing Director, David Sykes, please contact Alison Edwards on 01454 617707 ext 118.

FEA

SEEKING OUT THE TALENT OF THE SECTOR

DIVISIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

FEA | circa £80k plus bonus and attractive benefits package

Location | flexible, national travel required

THE COMPANY

FEA are market leaders in the provision of interim managers and post holders to the FE and Skills sector. Our quality improvement services bring about transformational change and raise standards, and we provide a range of project management services for both colleges and the private training market. Our recently introduced executive search division demonstrates our ambition, and we intend to remain at the forefront of services to FE and Skills throughout and beyond the national reshaping currently taking place.

THE ROLE

This is an outstanding opportunity to play a significant leadership role. Working with the Managing Director, the successful candidate will be responsible for growing our financial services offer to the sector. They will also work with the wider leadership team to develop and implement a strategy for growth, positioning the company in the future to be responsive and dynamic to the changing requirements of our customers.

THE CANDIDATE

You will be ambitious and commercially minded. With significant senior experience of FE and Skills, preferably with a finance related background, you will be at the top of your career and ready for the next challenge. You will be well connected in your field and able to communicate confidently at a senior level.

If you believe you are the right person for this role please send your CV in the strictest confidence to the Managing Director, David Sykes, at david.sykes@fea.co.uk by the closing date of Friday 6th May.

If you would like any further information prior to submitting your CV please contact Alison Edwards on 01454 617707 ext 118 or visit <http://www.fea.co.uk/jobs>.

FEA

BRINGING TOGETHER FE ASSOCIATES & BW CONSULTANTS

FEA.CO.UK | 01454 617 707

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE WITH AN EXCITING NEW COMPANY? WE NEED INTERIM MANAGERS & CONSULTANTS

Morgan Vincent Associates is a new company created by two successful college Principals. As FE insiders we understand what the sector needs and have developed a unique proposition for colleges. We are growing quickly and now need to add interim managers and consultants to our specialist teams in the following areas:



HOW TO APPLY

In the first instance please send a CV with a brief covering letter to Lawrence@morganvincent.co.uk

Interviews will be held in London, Birmingham & Leeds.

INTERIM MANAGERS

Across all management levels, expertise & areas of curriculum:

- Principal & Vice Principal
- Quality Improvement
- Finance
- Estates
- Human Resources
- Curriculum Management
- Management Information

CONSULTANTS

To join us as associates working on our many projects. We need specialists in:

- Leadership Development
- Coaching
- Governance
- Teaching & Learning / Curriculum
- Finance
- Estates
- Human Resources
- Management Information
- Apprenticeships
- Employer Engagement
- Merger Implementation

LECTURER MATHS



0.5 TO FULL-TIME
SALARY £23,881 – £30,256 PRO RATA

Being employed at Kendal College, the only Ofsted 'Outstanding College' in Cumbria and North Lancashire, offers more than just a career. Our stunning location, on the edge of the Lake District National Park, offers plenty of work/life balance and our generous benefits package - including pension scheme, health plan, training and staff discounts - places the College at the forefront of the industry in looking after its employees.

It's testament to our highly skilled employees that we are consistently ranked in the top five per cent of UK Colleges for student success rates (16-18yr). And, thanks to an ongoing investment programme, we have an outstanding and unrivalled range of modern facilities and resources.

If you are an outstanding classroom practitioner with a passion for the subject that will inspire our learners, we want to hear from you.

Closing date: Friday 29th April 2016.

 01539 814742

 personnel@kendal.ac.uk

 www.kendal.ac.uk/careers



Main Grade Lecturer - English Functional Skills and GCSE

Salary: £23,985 - £30,309

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a dedicated and committed Main Grade Lecturer - English (Functional Skills and GCSE) in one of the country's largest colleges. With a turnover of £65m annually, the College Group services c.22,000 learners each year from a diverse variety of backgrounds. With state-of-the-art facilities, Beacon status, Gold Investors in People status and an excellent purpose-built estate across the city, the College is home to ground breaking innovation and involved in a wide variety of exciting new developments across the city and the wider educational landscape.

Functional Skills is an integral part of a student's study programme. Each student must be qualified to a prescribed level of English and maths to progress on their chosen programme. The purpose of this role is:

- To teach English at a range of levels from, Entry 1 to GCSE.
- To create effective and stimulating opportunities for all students through high quality teaching, learning and assessment that enables progression and development.

- Demonstrate the effective use of a range of best fit models to best meet the needs of the College's learners. To demonstrate differentiation in all lessons and to stretch and challenge the most able students.
- To understand the learning needs of the student population and be able to deliver challenging and exciting learning sessions.

The successful candidate will possess a degree or equivalent in relevant subject coupled with a recognised teaching qualification. You will have experience of curriculum planning and delivery and be committed to continued professional development.

The City of Liverpool College is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, sex, gender, gender reassignment, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and adhering to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Further details and an application pack can be accessed under 'The College' 'College Jobs' at: www.liv-coll.ac.uk where you can complete your application online.

Closing Date: 3rd May 2016



JOBS

**MATHS AND ENGLISH
LECTURERS****OPPORTUNITIES AT NHC**

At North Hertfordshire College (NHC) we think it's our job to help students get where they want to be in life. That means equipping them with the specialist skills they need to progress in their chosen occupation – and it means making sure they have a great grounding in maths and English.

To realise our high ambition for NHC and our students we need the best people. We're looking for highly skilled and enthusiastic maths and English lecturers to join our team for 16/17. You'll be joining a progressive, ambitious institution with a hugely talented, vibrant team.

You'll be required to teach a combination of GCSE and Functional Skills to students on full and part-time programmes. We're looking for people who already hold a teaching qualification and / or have a degree level qualification in maths or English.

PACKAGE

- Welcome payment of £3,000
- Basic salary £25k - £36k
- 42 days holiday, plus public holidays
- Teacher's Pension

For further information or to apply, please visit www.nhc.ac.uk or telephone 01462 424332.

FE Week

ENGLISH AND MATHS JOBS

WE ARE CONTINUING TO OFFER FREE RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING FOR ALL ENGLISH AND MATHS TEACHING ROLES. GET IN TOUCH WITH HANNAH BELOW FOR MORE INFO

TO ADVERTISE WITH US CALL
HANNAH SMITH ON 020 81234 778 OR
HANNAH.SMITH@FEWEEK.CO.UK

TRINITY | Secure English Language Tests
COLLEGE LONDON



Secure English Language Tests (SELTs) approved for British Citizenship, Settlement and visa applications

Expand your business by becoming a Listed SELT Course Provider offering preparation courses for Trinity English language tests approved by UKVI for visa applications.

Citizenship, Settlement and Spouse/Partner visas (A1-B1)

- GESE: Graded Examinations in Spoken English**
- ▶ A speaking and listening qualification
 - ▶ A one-to-one conversation with a Trinity examiner
 - ▶ New SELT available to fulfil UKVI A2 requirement

Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 4 visas (A1-C1)

- ISE: Integrated Skills in English**
- ▶ A contemporary four-skills qualification
 - ▶ A reading, writing, speaking and listening exam
 - ▶ Widely recognised by UK universities

Why Trinity?

- ▶ Teacher training and test preparation materials to provide continuous support for Listed SELT Course Providers
- ▶ Exclusive discounts on candidate Study Packs
- ▶ Keep you updated on relevant UKVI changes
- ▶ Frequent test availability in our 10 SELT centres located around the UK up to 7 days per week



Apply to become a Listed SELT Course Provider with Trinity at trinitycollege.com/SELTcourseprovider

0333 358 3183

trinitycollege.com/SELT

FE Week Sudoku challenge

How to play: Fill in all blank squares making sure that each row, column and 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9

4								8
		5	8		6	1		
	8							3
	1		3	4	8			6
	9		2	7	1			4
	7							9
		1	6		5	7		
2								1

Difficulty: **EASY**

		4		8				2
	3	6	2					
	1		4			8		
1	5					2		
				4				
		2					8	7
		3			4		1	
				7	9	2		
6				3		5		

Difficulty: **MEDIUM**

Solutions: Next edition

Last Week's solutions

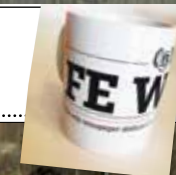
9	2	5	1	7	8	4	6	3
3	4	8	2	9	6	1	5	7
6	1	7	5	4	3	8	2	9
5	7	1	4	2	9	3	8	6
8	3	2	6	5	1	9	7	4
4	9	6	3	8	7	2	1	5
2	8	3	9	6	5	7	4	1
1	6	4	7	3	2	5	9	8
7	5	9	8	1	4	6	3	2

Difficulty: **EASY**

1	9	8	7	4	2	5	6	3
6	3	4	5	1	9	7	8	2
2	7	5	3	8	6	9	4	1
9	2	3	8	6	7	4	1	5
8	1	6	4	2	5	3	7	9
4	5	7	9	3	1	6	2	8
3	6	2	1	9	4	8	5	7
7	4	9	2	5	8	1	3	6
5	8	1	6	7	3	2	9	4

Difficulty: **MEDIUM**

Spot the difference to WIN an FE Week mug



Spot five differences. First correct entry wins an FE Week mug. Email your name and picture of your completed spot the difference to: news@feweek.co.uk.

Last Edition's winner was Liz Brant, Computing Lecturer at Hull College.