



## **Barnet and Southgate College**

# **Higher Level Learning and Skills Strategy for Higher Education**

**2016-2020**

Approved 14 July 2016

## Introduction

The Higher Level Skills provision currently spans nine curriculum areas in the College including Computing, Sport, Business, Early Years, Healthcare, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Hair and Beauty, Motorsport and Engineering. It covers levels 4-6 and includes full and part time Certificates, Diplomas, Foundation and Honours degrees. This three year strategy is being developed in line with the College's vision, mission and values alongside the proposed changes by the Government to higher level skills and learning in England as outlined in its White Paper 'Success as a Knowledge Economy'. These changes will include implementing the Operating Model for Quality in Higher Education, Teaching Excellence Framework and Higher Level Apprenticeships/Degree Apprenticeships. It is planned by 2018 to have begun the substantial expansion of current Higher Education provision to provide a distinctive offer of higher level courses to meet local, regional needs. The strategy embraces the Government's goal to double the participation rate of students from disadvantaged backgrounds, notably young men, increase by 20% the number of students from ethnic minority groups in Higher Education by 2020 and address the current participation gap between men and women in HE. Greater London includes 372,855 15 year olds who have the potential to progress into higher level education with 10,740 amongst the most disadvantaged cohort. We propose the development and validation of our own degree programmes through meeting the procedures and expectations indicated in the White Paper. We propose adopting the terminology of Higher Level Skills for our Higher Education provision to reflect the broader range of opportunities that will be required to meet developing skills needs across Greater London and the surrounding regions. The key purpose being for our Higher Education students to gain sustainable employment and progression within their job roles into the foreseeable future.

## **The College's vision is:**

'To be the most innovative, inspirational and employment focused learning organisation in the education sector.'

## **The College's mission is to:**

'Provide outstanding learning and employment related opportunities within every market we operate and to offer the highest level of expertise and knowledge which will enrich the personal and professional lives of our customers.'

## **The College values are:**

Putting the student at the centre of everything we do.  
Continually learning and improving ourselves.  
Being professional and setting a great example to others.  
Promoting equality and inclusiveness.  
Working as part of one college team.  
Challenging the norm

Our values provide a reference for everything we do. We have developed this H.E. strategy reinforcing the importance of the H.E. student at the centre.

## **Our core strategic aims are explained in six words:**

Quality and Standards  
Jobs and Progression  
Innovation and Inspiration

## **Our Higher Level Skills strategic aims**

### **Putting the student at the centre of everything we do**

Plan distinctive, high quality, flexible, innovative and accessible higher level skills courses and Degree Apprenticeships that provide choice for our students enabling progression opportunities to employment and promoted positions throughout their lives.

Gain and maintain full degree awarding powers to design and provide responsive, employment focused higher level skills provision to meet the needs of local, regional and international employers and students. In the interim normally working with no more than two HEI partners.

### **Continually learning and improving ourselves**

Provide and enhance high quality and aspirational higher level learning with high quality study environments at college and in the workplace to develop higher level skills and facilitate student success

Empower our higher level skills students by listening to and acting on their views to develop our provision delivering high quality relevant opportunities that make a positive difference to their lives

Develop, establish and rigorously apply discrete higher level quality systems which exceed the expectations of students and the demands of HEFCE's quality assessment model

Be an outstanding and innovative provider of higher level learning and skills including Degree Apprenticeships which support, challenges and inspires staff, students and employers

Gain 'Excellent' or 'Outstanding' rating using the Teaching Excellence Framework to provide a clear signal to students and other stakeholders about the quality of our teaching, learning and assessment by 2020

### **Being professional and setting a great example to others**

Develop teaching staff, including recognition through the Higher Education Academy National Teaching Fellowship Scheme, to enhance excellence in teaching, learning and assessment by 2020.

### **Promoting equality and inclusiveness**

Widen participation and aid social mobility for all students and access for those in work from a range of different backgrounds including international higher level students.

Provide clear information to higher level skills applicants on opportunities, choice and progression including through Degree Apprenticeships

**Working as part of one college team**

Recognise and celebrate achievements of higher level skills students and staff

**Challenging the norm**

Plan a distinctive higher level learning and skills curriculum including flexible part time higher level courses and degree apprenticeships that meet the needs of local and regional strategic economic plans and are customised to the needs of employers and the communities we serve

Innovate and lead on developments in higher level teaching, learning and assessment including on-line resources that respond to current higher level academic pedagogy and professional practice

## Our vision for higher level learning and skills 2016-2020

Our aim is to establish an outstanding higher level learning experience that meets the expectations of our higher level learning and skills students and other stakeholders. Provide a clear focus on students who wish to establish their career and progress further in their employment path including through Degree Apprenticeships.

The College has a key role in working with our students, employers, partners and local communities. Identifying their needs and developing a higher level skills curriculum delivered in work and in college that delivers a responsive, flexible, innovative lifetime learning experience at a competitive price.

Alongside, we will develop with partners a distinctive higher level skills curriculum, including Degree Apprenticeships, in priority areas including Telehealth, Dentistry, Motor Sport Engineering, Sciences and Digital Technologies/Social Media. During the period of this strategy we will continue to embrace innovation, explore further distinctive and high quality curriculum opportunities with continuous enhancement and excellence at its heart.

The College will deliver an outstanding, aspirational higher level skills curriculum including Degree Apprenticeships with excellent support for our students, staffed by experts, excellent teachers ensuring all our students and other stakeholders can realise their full potential throughout their lifetime.

### Measuring our success

Strategic Objective	How we will know when we've got there
Quality and Standards	95% of all students will achieve their Higher Level Skills learning aim 95% of students will rate us as excellent for Higher Level Skills 95% of employers will rate us as outstanding for Higher Level Skills 95% of teaching grades are good or outstanding for Higher Level Skills
Jobs and Progression	100% of college Higher Level Skills curriculum refreshed according to local, regional, national and international need 100% of Higher Level Skills students have meaningful and realistic work experience where applicable to their Higher Level Skills course or are in work % increase in the number of students from level 4 -6.
Innovation and Inspiration	The volume, range, nature and success of collaborative Higher Level Skills partnerships Annual number of new schemes and bids achieved from external sources for Higher Level Skills Annual percentage increase in the use of digital media for all our student services for Higher Level Skills % of college Higher Level Skills curriculum refreshed to offer distinctive and inspirational courses