

STRATEGY 2026 – 2035



FROM THE CHAIR OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

"I am proud to support the strategic direction of UCS College Group. The Group is proactive and forward-thinking in addressing the challenges and opportunities facing businesses and communities today.

Our Vision, Purpose and Values underpin our strategic direction and purpose, which is to transform lives and communities through innovative learning and partnerships. Through investing strategically and nurturing deep-rooted, sustainable partnerships, UCS College Group has established itself, both regionally and nationally, operating at the forefront of several major infrastructure projects and linking in with government to deliver the industrial strategy.

This is just the beginning. The strong foundations that underpin UCS College Group are set to ensure it goes from strength to strength, creating an outstanding educational provision that ensures every individual in Somerset can participate and thrive."

Denys Rayner, Chair of UCS College Group Board of Governors



FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

"I am excited by our Strategy 2035. It is bold and ambitious, setting a clear course for the future.

Our vision is to pioneer, collaborate, inspire and transform – redefining how further education delivers for people, employers and place. We will inspire every student to realise their potential, strengthen communities and transform lives. I can't think of a better ambition than to inspire our students and transform our communities.

We need to celebrate everything about the places where we're based and do everything we can to enrich them by delivering exceptional education and training that creates opportunities for all.

I am proud of our Colleges and their place at the heart of their communities. We will build on all that we do well, embrace new challenges, and continue growing. That way, we can shape our future, together."

Andy Berry CBE, Chief Executive Officer, UCS College Group



OUR VISION

- **PIONEER**
- **COLLABORATE**
- **INSPIRE**
- **TRANSFORM**

Redefining Further Education to transform lives, power economic growth and lead system wide change through exceptional education and skills delivery.



OUR PURPOSE

**TO INSPIRE EVERY STUDENT
TO REALISE THEIR POTENTIAL,
STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES
AND TRANSFORM LIVES.**

By 2035, we will be:

- A national leader in technical and professional education
- A driver of economic growth and productivity
- A first-choice partner for employers and government
- A place where every learner thrives and progresses.

Achieving these goals involves every member of our team. Each of us has a vital role to play in supporting our students and serving our communities.

Louise Rowley MBE
Group Executive Principal



UCS College Group speaks with one voice and operates with a shared identity. But our ethos and culture are place-based, celebrating all that makes our colleges and local communities special.

BRIDGWATER COLLEGE

A national flagship for post-16 education, recognised for seamless pathways from entry to higher level and professional study.

CANNINGTON COLLEGE

A nationally renowned land-based college, specialising in sustainability and Clean Energy.

STRODE COLLEGE

One of the highest performing colleges in the country, delivering sixth-form provision and creating exceptional outcomes for all.

TAUNTON COLLEGE

A nationally recognised, award-winning leader in professional, technical and future-focused education.

UNIVERSITY CENTRE SOMERSET

A nationally recognised University Centre, known for pioneering higher technical education and sector leading partnerships.

OUR VALUES

The UCS College Group is founded on five values. Whatever we do, we are:

RESPONSIVE

We listen, adapt and act with purpose, responding to the needs of students, staff, employers and our local communities.



AMBITIOUS

We aim high, for our students, our people and our organisation. We make a lasting impact.



INCLUSIVE

Everyone is welcome, respected, and able to belong. We celebrate difference and help everyone to thrive.

SUPPORTIVE

We care for each other, work as a team, and encourage everyone to grow.



ETHICAL

We are honest, fair and accountable. We do the right thing.

UCS COLLEGE GROUP

UCS College Group is united around a common purpose, to inspire students to realise their potential, to strengthen communities and transform lives.

UCS College Group connects employers, students, universities and communities through education, training and partnerships that transform lives.

1,200

EMPLOYER
PARTNERS



5,200

16-18 YEAR OLD
STUDENTS

4

UNIVERSITY
PARTNERS



1,300

HIGHER EDUCATION
STUDENTS

£86M

TURNOVER



10,000

ADULT STUDENTS

1,739

STAFF



3,000

APPRENTICES



STAFF GROUP

STAFF NUMBERS

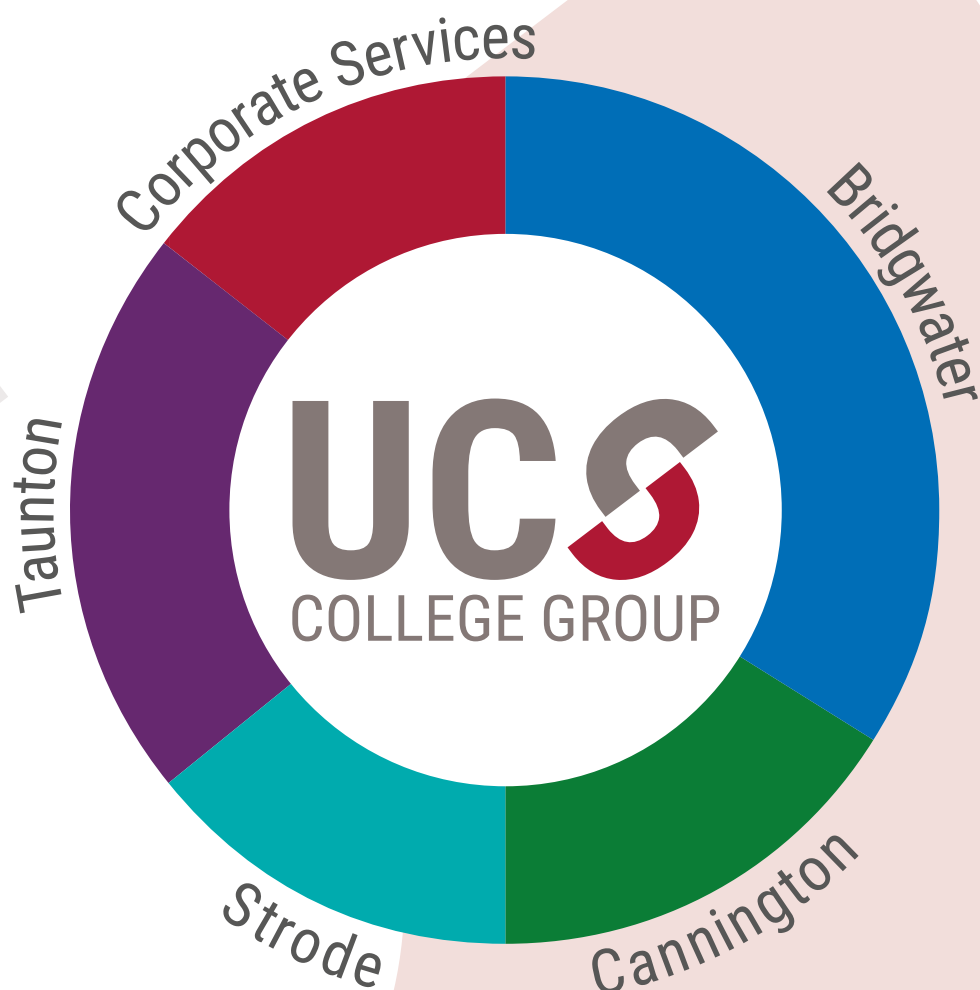
Our collaborative approach is integral to the success of UCS College Group. Spanning diverse curriculum areas, we support learners, employers and communities across Somerset and the UK.

Our staff foster a culture of pride, trust and open communication, ensuring everyone feels valued, heard and empowered to contribute to the Group's success.

STAFF SURVEY:

Staff Strongly Agreed / Agreed that:

- ✓ 95% Proud and happy to work for UCS College Group
- ✓ 93% Feel supported
- ✓ 92% Know they can talk to their line manager or People and Culture Team about concerns or issues.

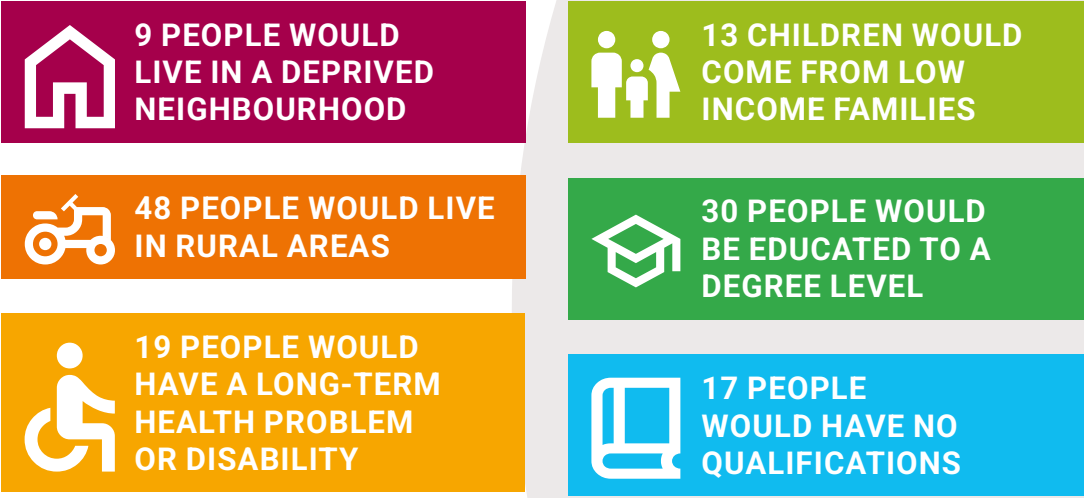
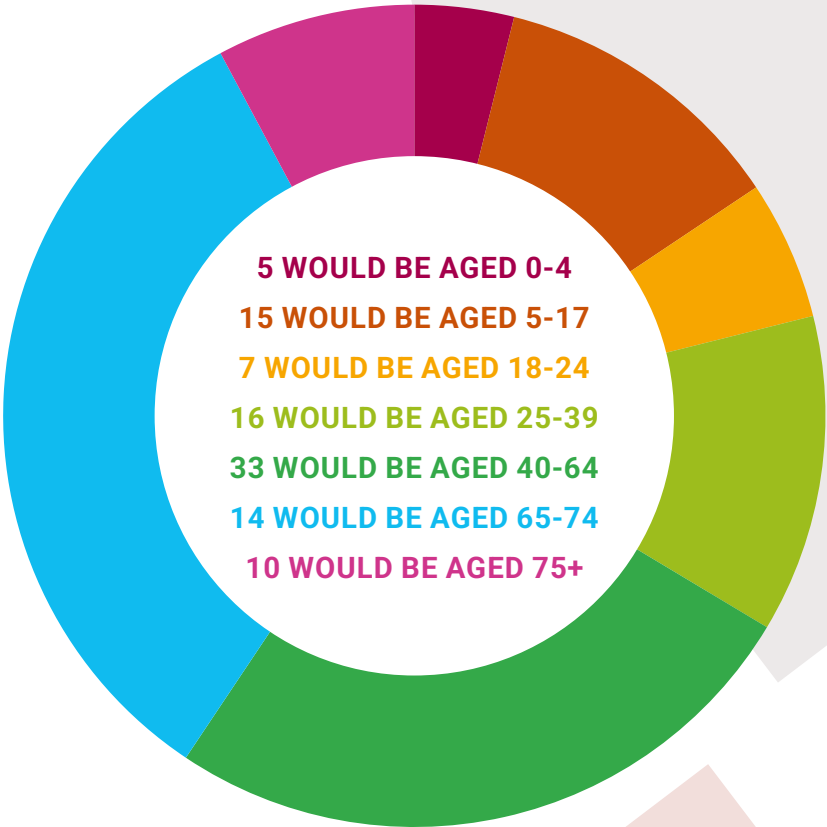


SOMERSET IN NUMBERS

Somerset is a wonderful county, but its communities face significant challenges. While 30 people in every 100 are educated to degree level, 17 have no formal qualifications. Many people also experience deprivation,

disability, rural isolation or low family incomes. These figures highlight both the inequalities that exist and the vital role education can play in creating greater life chances, strengthening communities and supporting Somerset's future prosperity.

IF SOMERSET WERE 100 PEOPLE...





LIZ NUTTAL

Vice Principal TLA, Curriculum and Quality

“Education has the power to transform lives and change the story behind these statistics. At UCS College Group, we are committed to ensuring that every student, whatever their background or circumstances, has access to high-quality teaching, an ambitious curriculum and the support they need to succeed.

By helping people gain skills, secure rewarding employment and improve their health and wellbeing, we can widen opportunity across Somerset, creating a healthier, more prosperous future for all.”



SECTOR PRIORITIES

At a national level, the UK’s priority sectors reflect the industries that will shape future prosperity, resilience and productivity. This can be distilled to key priorities for the South West and brought to life through a focus on a clean, smart and connected economy - supporting net zero, harnessing technology, strengthening infrastructure

and developing the green and blue economies. Further Education colleges are critical to delivering this ambition, providing the technical skills, retraining, apprenticeships, partnerships and innovation that enable people and businesses to respond to changing economic needs.

INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY PRIORITY SECTORS (IS8)

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING



CLEAN ENERGY



CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



DEFENCE



DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGIES



FINANCIAL SERVICES



LIFE SCIENCES



PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS



SOUTH WEST REGIONAL PRIORITIES



CLEAN

Clean Energy
 Natural Assets
 Clean Growth
 Energy Grids



SMART

Using Big Data
 Digital Technologies
 Autonomous Systems
 Remote Servers



CONNECTED

Digital Corridors
 Connected Infrastructure
 GIGA Core
 MaaS Points

NET ZERO TARGET

GREEN ECONOMY

FOCUS ON TECH

BLUE ECONOMY

BETTER NETWORKS

OUR RESPONSE

UCS College Group's sector priorities mirror the South West's. By aligning our initiatives with regional needs, we connect local talent to regional and national opportunities and support the green and blue economies.

By creating strategically aligned curriculum in sectors shown in the diagram below e.g. Advanced

Manufacturing, Clean Energy and Life Sciences, we help organisations develop the skilled workforce they need, enabling people in our communities to build rewarding careers. In doing so we strengthen Somerset's long-term prosperity, contribute to national sector priorities, and transform lives across the region.

OUR RESPONSE AND THE SECTORS WE ARE WORKING IN

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Battery Cell Manufacturing, Defence, Food and Drink



CLEAN ENERGY

Nuclear, Offshore Wind, Power Distribution, Solar, Carbon Capture



DEFENCE

Nuclear and Armed Forces



DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGIES

Agri-Tech, Apple Partner



LIFE SCIENCES

Nursing, Allied Health Professions, Social Care



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

INSPIRING STUDENTS:

WE WILL INSPIRE STUDENTS THROUGH AN EXCEPTIONAL AND AMBITIOUS, FUTURE-FOCUSED CURRICULUM.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Deliver exceptional learning experiences for all students, within and beyond the classroom. Through pioneering, high impact, pedagogical approaches that harness digital technologies.

SOCIAL MOBILITY

Develop high-quality collaborative partnerships that inform the development of a pioneering and inspiring curriculum offer that provides clear pathways into employment and further study.

OPPORTUNITY & PROGRESSION

Unlock the potential within every student through an inspiring, ambitious, safe and supportive learning experience that leads to meaningful progression.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES:

WE WILL TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES
BY WIDENING OPPORTUNITIES
AND DRIVING PROSPERITY.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Transforming communities and enhancing social mobility via powerful partnerships that attract inward investment and promote sustained economic growth.

SEETS

Creating resilient, productive and prosperous families and communities through clear, inclusive progression routes into education, employment, and training.

ADULTS

Expanding opportunities that enable adults – both those in work and those seeking employment – to acquire higher-level technical skills with a clear line of sight to high-value, rewarding jobs.



BETHAN FOWERAKER

Group Vice Principal,
Student Experience

"Every student deserves to thrive. We will provide an inspiring, supportive experience, delivering excellent teaching, innovative technology and strong partnerships. Clear pathways to employment and further study will unlock potential, build confidence and equip students to succeed in an ever changing world."



STRATEGIC ENABLERS

Our strategic priorities can only be achieved by creating the right conditions for people and innovation to thrive. We have identified four strategic enablers that will help us develop a future-ready workforce, embrace new ways of working, invest sustainably and maintain high standards of performance.

Just as importantly, they will strengthen a culture that is inclusive, ambitious and focused on continuous improvement. By working together with our staff, students, employers and partners, we can turn our vision into lasting impact for Somerset and the wider region.



MARCUS HOLDER

Chief Finance and Operating Officer, UCS College Group

"Careful investment in staff, facilities, curriculum and digital tools (including AI), together with financial discipline, an inclusive culture, innovation and group-wide collaboration, builds the resilience and capacity to deliver an excellent student experience and outcomes, transform lives and communities, and support regional prosperity."



DIGITAL AND AI

TECHNOLOGY

Invest in digital technologies to facilitate cutting-edge pedagogical experiences and working practices.

SYSTEMS

Create seamless, accessible, and integrated digital systems to enhance the user experience, reduce workloads and drive business efficiencies and effectiveness.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Harness safe, ethical and innovative AI to enhance learning, reduce workload, streamline operations and create measurable value.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION & CPD

Attract, develop and retain a future-ready workforce.

CULTURE

Empower a healthy, inclusive and innovative culture that inspires us to be our best.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Embed continuous professional development programmes, ensuring adaptability, resilience, and high-performing leadership as well as impactful governance.

GROWTH AND PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE

Optimise operational performance and effectiveness to support and maintain our financial resilience.

GROWTH

Pursue strategic growth through securing investment, strengthening partnerships, and expanding priority sectors.

INVESTMENTS

Invest in our inspirational, sustainable and safe working environments, where staff and students thrive.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

CURRICULUM PARTNERS

Partner with regulators, professional bodies and education providers to innovate curriculum.

INDUSTRY

Enhance our strategic partnerships with employers and industry to deliver opportunities, drive innovation and create economic impact.

GOVERNMENT

Engage with local and national government, industry and community stakeholders to influence policy, secure strategic investment and co-deliver initiatives.



BRIDGWATER COLLEGE

A NATIONAL FLAGSHIP FOR POST-16 EDUCATION

“I have a life-long connection with Bridgewater College, so I am especially excited by the UCS College Group strategy, which builds on all we’ve achieved over several decades.

A Bridgewater College education is life-changing, as I know from my own experience. As a national flagship for post-16 education, preparing our students for entry to higher-level and professional study, we continue to serve Bridgewater in the way we have for generations.

Talk to our students past and present and they’ll tell you the difference Bridgewater College has made to them. We raise aspiration, help students fulfil their potential and inspire them for the future.

That is the core of our mission and I remain as committed to it today as I have always been. I look forward to working with you in the years ahead as we continue to inspire students and transform lives in Bridgewater and beyond.”

Jason Gunningham
Principal, Bridgewater College



OUR STORY

At Bridgwater College, we can trace our origins back to the Victorian era when we began as Bridgwater School of Art in 1860. Over time, we became Bridgwater Technical College; then, in 1973, Bridgwater College was formed with a mission to deliver high-quality post-16 and Adult Education and training to the people of Bridgwater.

Through many iterations, the College has remained at the heart of our community, serving as an anchor to shape the skills agenda and help students prepare for advanced study and a rewarding career. We aim to raise aspiration and increase opportunities across our community.

Academic excellence is at our core, along with a commitment to professional training

that forms the workforce of the future. We are proud of our origins in Bridgwater, with its vibrant carnival culture, ambitious sporting community, and manufacturing heritage contributing to our institutional identity. We continue working with employers and stakeholders to shape the town's destiny and ours.

Bridgwater is our home. Its people are our people. We're making the future together.



OUR PRIORITIES

Bridgwater College will be recognised nationally as a centre of excellence in A Levels, Advanced Manufacturing, Performing Arts and Sport, while continuing to provide a broad-based curriculum. Our focus amplifies strengths, such as our Sport department's Silver Pearson National Teaching Award, without narrowing opportunity. Building on award-winning practice, we will scale-up industry aligned programmes and apprenticeships that feed regional green manufacturing and the creative economy.

This includes targeted funding to support our partnership with Agratas who are building the UK's first gigafactory, just outside Bridgwater.

We'll continue delivering rigorous, employer-co-designed qualifications and micro-credentials that fast-track careers and innovation across sectors.

As a driver of economic prosperity, the College will supply skilled talent, stimulate local supply chains and host employer testbeds, positioning Bridgwater as a talent and investment magnet.

Our campus will be a first-choice partner for industry and community, and somewhere everyone thrives: inclusive, aspirational, and committed to delivering measurable outcomes for students, employers, and the region.



OUR FUTURE

We commit to ensuring all our programmes combine academic rigour with industry insight, giving students the opportunity to progress to professional careers and higher study.

Our A Level provision will be intellectually ambitious and accessible, with strong pastoral support and clear progression routes that connect academic study to technical and vocational outcomes.

We will create elite pathways in Performing Arts and Sport that combine high-quality teaching, first-class performance infrastructure, and employer partnerships, ensuring students have a wide range of options.

We will expand specialist facilities and co-deliver training with partners such as Agratas to create a skilled pipeline of talent into battery, EV and low carbon industries, providing opportunities for our communities.

Across every programme we will champion technical and professional excellence, embed digital and green skills, and measure impact through KPIs such as employment rates, progression to further study, and employer satisfaction.

We will remain an open, collaborative college where students, staff, and partners flourish together.





CANNINGTON COLLEGE

**A NATIONALLY RENOWNED LAND-BASED COLLEGE,
SPECIALISING IN SUSTAINABILITY AND CLEAN ENERGY.**

“Cannington College is a special place. While the rolling Somerset fields provide a beautiful backdrop for our working lives, the core of our identity is the transformational education we provide. Combining our status as one of the country’s leading land-based colleges with our nationally recognised leadership in the clean energy space, we have a unique offering.

Our vision will ensure that we continue to deliver education that raises aspiration

and changes lives. We’ll continue inspiring students to realise their potential and pursue rewarding careers in emerging industries, and we’ll also continue to pursue opportunities to enliven our local community and shape the skills agenda for the future.

That is the core of our mission, and I look forward to working with you as we deliver it together”

Jason Kilduff
Principal, Cannington College



OUR STORY

When the tenth Lord Clifford leased land and buildings to Somerset Council in 1919 for the delivery of rural education, few could have predicted what the resulting college would grow into.

Opening in 1921 as the Somerset Farm Institute and expanding in the 1960s, Cannington College - as it became - was soon one of the UK's most important land-based colleges.

Nowadays we have another identity, too: we are one of the UK's leading providers of education in clean energy and are home to the National College for Nuclear and Clean Energy.

The green fields of Somerset provide a backdrop for generation-making education in an array of subject areas at FE and

HE level. These programmes enable students to pursue further study and fulfilling careers in essential industries.

That is the heartbeat of our College: to equip people with the skills and knowledge to thrive in the world around them. In the 1920s, that meant training people in the latest agricultural techniques. Now it means working with students to embrace the future, whatever industry they choose to enter.

For all our openness to the future, we remain proud of our past - Cannington really does inhabit many worlds. We are united by our vision to prepare students for tomorrow's world, today.



OUR PRIORITIES

By 2035, Cannington College will be the UK's leading specialist land-based and clean energy college, recognised for excellence in technical and professional education.

Building on decades of agricultural heritage, we will lead skills delivery for the green economy and major infrastructure projects across the Southwest and nationally.

Our award-winning track record, including initiatives such as the National College for Nuclear and Clean Energy and our recent Clean Energy Technical Excellence College (CETEC) status, underpins our ambition and credibility.

Cannington College will be a national hub for innovation in environmental, land-based and clean energy practice, ensuring we are a first-choice partner for industry, government and communities, delivering talented technicians, engineers and land managers who drive regional and national prosperity.

Cannington College will remain a broad, inclusive college where every learner and staff member thrives, ensuring this focus strengthens rather than narrows our curriculum offer.



OUR FUTURE

We will scale industry-aligned programmes, apprenticeships and applied research to meet clean energy, infrastructure and sustainable land management needs, with precision agriculture supporting sustainable food production and food security, while conservation protects the environment and wildlife, delivering the technical and professional skills required for the green economy.

We will expand specialist facilities and employer partnerships, using CETEC and National College for Nuclear and Clean Energy and alliances to fast-track cutting edge training, certification and innovation.

Our curriculum will integrate green technologies across UCS College Group, embedding our philosophy and shaping every aspect of our community. We will drive economic prosperity through workforce development, supply chain collaboration and community initiatives that secure jobs and investment across the region.

Measured, inclusive growth will make Cannington College a national exemplar in technical education: a trusted partner where ambition, skills and wellbeing combine for shared success.





STRODE COLLEGE

ONE OF THE UK’S HIGHEST-PERFORMING COLLEGES

“Our place at the heart of Street makes me enormously proud. We serve our community in numerous ways, delivering inspirational education that changes lives and shapes the town and surrounding area.

I see the UCS College Group strategy as an invitation to continue doing what we’ve always done so well. It encourages us to be an anchor organisation in our community, working with local employers and stakeholders to ensure we maintain our

status as one of the UK’s leading education providers for sixth form. Whether our students want to pursue high-quality academic study that leads them to top-flight universities or engage in technical and professional training, our provision inspires, stretches and motivates them to achieve their potential. It is our privilege to deliver this life-changing education. I’m excited to achieve our goals together.”

Sam Reilly
Principal, Strode College



OUR STORY

Like the other colleges in UCS College Group, Strode traces its history back for more than a century. We were founded in 1899 to deliver technical training to the people of Street and its surrounding villages. Over time, we increased our provision and expanded into arts-based education.

By 1973, we were a widely respected FE college, delivering academic excellence, professional and technical education, and training in the arts. That has remained our mission ever since – which means the UCS College Group strategy is hardwired into our DNA.

We exist to raise aspiration among our local community. We equip students with the skills needed to progress to the next stage in their lives, which could be further study, the workplace, or ongoing professional training.

We are proud of our status as one of the best-performing providers in the country because it means we are helping local people realise their potential. To continue achieving our ambitions, we will partner with local employers and stakeholders to ensure our offer is fit for the future.

Since our earliest days, Strode College has been a beacon of excellence in academic and vocational learning. As we enter a new phase in our journey, we build on that heritage of high achievement to ensure we deliver transformational education in Street and beyond.



Artist Impression

OUR PRIORITIES

By 2035, Strode College will be the highest-performing college in the country for sixth-form education.

We will be recognised as a beacon of academic excellence, empowering every student to aim high, thrive and shape their future.

We will deliver exceptional outcomes, strengthen recruitment and aspiration, and prepare students for university, apprenticeships or skilled employment.

Our expanded apprenticeship and higher education offers will respond to employer demand, create clear career pathways and be co-designed with industry. We will lead nationally in technical and professional education, setting high standards

for teaching, assessment and industry alignment.

Building on our strong heritage in the creative and arts disciplines, we will enhance these programmes to strengthen the region's higher-level skills base and broaden opportunity. Targeted Level 1 and Level 2 provision will support participation and progression, helping reduce regional SEET levels.

These priorities will be delivered through a broad, high-quality curriculum, specialist expertise, excellent pastoral support, inclusive teaching, modern facilities and strong partnerships with schools, employers and the community - creating measurable social and economic impact across the region.



OUR FUTURE

We will be a national leader in technical and professional education, setting standards for teaching, assessment and industry alignment.

As a driver of local and regional economic prosperity, we'll co-design provision with employers and grow employer-funded training, apprenticeships and bespoke workforce development.

We will be the first-choice partner for schools and businesses, delivering responsive, impactful collaboration and shared pathways.

Our campus - including a new, purpose-built facility due for completion in 2030 - will be a place where every student and staff member thrives, supported by inclusive pastoral care, outstanding facilities, industry-standard equipment and continuous professional development.

By 2035, Strode College will be synonymous with opportunity, excellence, sustainability and measurable social and economic impact across the region.





TAUNTON COLLEGE

FUTURE-FOCUSED PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

“I am proud to lead Taunton College as we bring the UCS College Group strategy to life in our local community.

We have a long history of delivering transformational education to people in and around Taunton, with expertise in professional and technical training that equips students for the future.

We'll build on our legacy and work with local employers to deliver education and training that changes lives and shapes the future of employment.

As an anchor for our community, we provide a place of growth, opportunity and fulfilment. Each of us has an important role to play in delivering an exceptional student experience and contributing to the vibrancy of our College and the wider town.

Please join me as we make the UCS College Group strategy a living mission for Taunton College, inspiring students and changing lives.”

Adam Sturt
Principal, Taunton College



OUR STORY

If you've ever enjoyed a meal or drink at the Cosy Club in Taunton, you've visited the home of Taunton College – perhaps without even realising.

Our College began life there in 1856, as the Somerset College of Art, after its founders drew inspiration from the Great Exhibition of 1851. This event democratised art and helped enshrine its value to society – two principles that remain at the heart of our ethos today.

The other historical component of Taunton College, Taunton Technical College, also has roots that go back more than a century, opening in 1900.

The two colleges came together in 1974 and gradually consolidated on the Wellington Road site that continues to be our home.

The College at Taunton, regardless of its name, has always had a clear mission to raise aspiration among Taunton's residents and equip them for a fulfilling future. That's the ambition driving us to serve as an anchor for our local community and shape the education and skills agenda across the region. Arts education remains at the core of our identity, aligned with our commitment to delivering professional and technical training such as healthcare in the region's key industries.

As Taunton's employment landscape has expanded, so has our provision, ensuring our curriculum offer is fit for the future. Thanks to extensive investment and the growth of our HE offer through the University Centre Somerset, Taunton College is stronger than ever – and set to write the next chapter in our story.



OUR PRIORITIES

Through ambitious partnerships, investment and inclusive teaching, students will gain confidence, skills and opportunities to thrive locally, nationally and globally.

Taunton College will be recognised nationally as the leading centre for Health, Professional and Digital education.

Building on award-winning work – including the Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Nursing – we will deepen industry-relevant curricula and cutting-edge practice.

Taunton College will develop as a health hub, collaborating with our NHS partners to deliver social prescribing and community health initiatives aligned with NHS strategy. Together, we

will transform communities by improving health and wellbeing while strengthening and developing the local workforce.

Building on our Apple Centre status, our digital programmes will prepare students for evolving technology-driven economies, including digitally enabled healthcare. They will also enhance the wider curriculum, with all subject areas benefiting from shared resources, cross-disciplinary projects and strengthened progression routes.

With University Centre Somerset as our Higher Education hub, students will access seamless pathways from apprenticeships to degrees, ensuring Taunton remains a beacon of innovation, opportunity and community wellbeing.



OUR FUTURE

Over the next decade Taunton College will be a national leader in technical and professional education.

As a first-choice partner for employers in fields such as health, social care, digital and sports, we will co-design curricula, embed industry placements and drive applied research.

Building on our digital first approach, we will embed digital innovation across education, healthcare and prevention, ensuring learners develop the skills to support a digitally enabled future.

We will transform the lives of those in our community through education that leads to outstanding careers, with graduates employed locally. As Taunton develops as a health hub, social prescribing and NHS-aligned interventions will strengthen community health and wellbeing for all.

Our commitment to economic prosperity will deliver clear local impact: stronger businesses, better jobs and resilient communities.

Above all, Taunton College will be a place where everyone thrives: ambitious, supported and prepared to shape the future.



**Authorised
Training Centre**
Education





UNIVERSITY CENTRE SOMERSET

A REGIONAL LEADER IN HIGHER TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

“I am enormously proud of University Centre Somerset and everything it represents.

We are committed to delivering ‘Degrees for Real Life’, designed with employers and focused on meaningful outcomes.

More than just a provider of higher education, we create opportunities that connect learning with rewarding careers and lifelong progression.

With a Higher Education offer across all Colleges within the Group, we ensure university-level study is accessible, flexible and responsive to local needs. That mission remains at the heart of everything we do, and I am excited by the lasting impact we can achieve by transforming lives, raising aspirations and strengthening our communities.”

Dr Ashley Kempson
Dean of UCS



OUR STORY

Our story is one of transformation, opportunity and ambition. We have built a strong and distinctive Higher Education offer that opens doors to exciting professional careers.

Our graduates are helping power the nation's future through nuclear engineering, working trackside in Formula 1, contributing to world-renowned creative productions, and improving lives through healthcare and nursing.

Academic excellence sits at the heart of everything we do, supported by strong employer partnerships that ensure students graduate ready to succeed.

Building on this foundation, we continue to expand high-quality degree programmes, professional qualifications and applied research that deliver real-world impact.

Somerset is our home and its future shapes our ambition. Together, we are creating opportunity, supporting progression and developing the talent our region needs to thrive.

Ask our graduates about their experience and they will tell you the difference UCS has made to their lives. We unlock potential, nurture talent and inspire success.



OUR PRIORITIES

University Centre Somerset will be recognised as a regional leader in Higher Education across Clean Energy, Engineering, Land Management, Conservation, Health & Social Care and Digital Technologies.

We will build on our distinctive strengths to create flexible pathways into high-value careers.

Rooted in academic excellence, we will expand degree apprenticeships, professional programmes and higher technical education that support the green economy, advanced industries and creative sectors.

Through strategic partnerships with employers and investors, we will shape Somerset's future workforce.

We will deliver high-quality qualifications and agile professional learning that accelerate progression, boost productivity and drive innovation.

As a catalyst for regional growth, UCS will develop skilled talent, support applied research and knowledge exchange, and position Somerset as a destination for opportunity and investment.

Our approach will ensure higher education is delivered across all our Colleges, delivering parity of opportunity, an inclusive, ambitious and focused culture delivering meaningful outcomes for students, employers and communities.



OUR FUTURE

Our Higher Education provision will be ambitious, inclusive and accessible, delivering an exceptional student experience through outstanding support, flexible pathways and clear progression opportunities.

Programmes will be shaped by employer and learner demand, combining academic excellence with practical application to prepare students for professional careers, leadership and further study.

We will foster a collaborative Higher Education ecosystem, working with employers, universities, civic partners and communities to co-design

provision, widen participation and deliver lasting regional impact.

Through applied scholarship, innovation and industry-informed research, we will address real-world challenges, support economic growth and create opportunities for students to contribute to meaningful projects.

Across all provision, we will champion technical, professional and academic excellence, embed digital capability and future-focused skills, and measure success through student outcomes, graduate progression, partner engagement and community impact.





CLEAN ENERGY TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE COLLEGE (CETEC)

**ACCELERATING THE DELIVERY OF CLEAN
ENERGY SKILLS ACROSS THE UK**

“CETEC status recognises our experience developing and delivering the skills required across clean energy.

Clean energy skills are in short supply across the UK. Meeting demand requires more than specialist engineers; we also need welders, electricians, fabricators, technicians and construction professionals in sectors such as nuclear, hydrogen, offshore wind and other clean technologies.

CETEC will expand access, strengthen employer collaboration and create pathways into rewarding careers.

It will share expertise gained from projects such as HPC, invest in facilities and inspire people to build the skills needed for a secure, net-zero energy future.”

Simon Brewer
Group Director,
CETEC and Partnerships



A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

The Clean Energy Technical Excellence College (CETEC), led by UCS College Group, is a shared programme connecting colleges across the South West.

It will contribute to and draw from a national network while responding to the distinctive opportunities presented by the region's strong blue-green economy. Capital funding will enable investment in specialist facilities across the network, creating a coordinated regional offer for employers and students. CETEC will build an ecosystem linking colleges, employers, universities, awarding organisations, sector bodies and the other CETECs.

Partners will co-design and test curricula, share specialist expertise, extend access to new labour markets and connect provision to emerging industry needs.

The collaboration will share knowledge and support employer brokerage, placements, specialist CPD, secondments, train-the-trainer activity, labour market intelligence and quality assurance. Together, these activities will support collaboration and continuous improvement, strengthen the South West's clean energy capability and ensure that regional expertise contributes to national priorities.



OUR STORIES



KIRSTIE SLOCOMBE

EA and Land-based
Commercial Coordinator

"I've seen Cannington transform over the years and enjoyed every moment; I take great pride in supporting students and seeing them achieve their potential."



ALEX LEACH

Deputy Head of Sport
and Public Services

"I'm so proud to be part of this team. It's such a supportive environment, which shines through in the student experience and their amazing achievements."



JENNY BOWLEY

Assistant Principal A
Levels and Creative Arts

"We stretch and challenge our students. This year's show would not look out of place on a West End stage. It's wonderful to see their progression and know they have the skills to succeed."



KEELY RICHARDSON

Course Leader

"The PGCE enabled me to develop my knowledge and skills and take a more active role in teaching. Applying the theory helped me build confidence and grow as a teacher."



DARREN WINN

Course Leader

"The automotive industry remains male dominated, inspiring me to create "Girls in Gear." The overwhelming response shows what's possible with the right environment and support."



LOUISE HANNON

Course Leader

"Receiving a grant for my PhD lets me share research showing how strong tutor-student relationships build academic resilience and drive student success."

**BRIDGWATER COLLEGE**

Bath Road, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4PZ

01278 455464 | bridgwatercollege.ac.uk

**CANNINGTON COLLEGE**

Rodway, Cannington, Somerset, TA5 2LS

01278 455464 | canningtoncollege.ac.uk

**STRODE COLLEGE**

Church Road, Street, Somerset, BA16 0AB

01458 844400 | strodecollege.ac.uk

**TAUNTON COLLEGE**

Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 5AX

01823 366366 | tauntoncollege.ac.uk

**UNIVERSITY CENTRE SOMERSET**

Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 5AX

01823 366366 | someset.ac.uk

**UCS COLLEGE GROUP**

Bath Road, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4PZ

01278 455464 | ucscollegegroup.ac.uk

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