

**BRIDGWATER
COLLEGE
STRATEGY
2035**



FROM THE CEO

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 what 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 all 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. You, our staff team, are crucial to the impact we make. Let's 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

To pioneer, collaborate, inspire and transform – redefining what Further Education delivers for people and place. Our Colleges are central to delivering our vision:

BRIDGWATER COLLEGE: A national flagship for post-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: The HE provider of choice in our local communities, delivering in all four colleges.

OUR PURPOSE

Every part of the UCS College Group is united around a common purpose:

- We inspire every student to realise their potential
- We strengthen communities
- We transform lives.

Together, we strive every day to achieve these objectives. We leverage the distinctive identities of our remarkable colleges to shape local communities and lead the education and skills agenda regionally and nationally.

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.

We have firm roots and big ambitions. The Group's role is to nurture, scaffold and encourage, so we can grow together and achieve our goals.



OUR MISSION

We have bold ambitions for UCS College Group, these will drive everything we do.

By working together, we will consolidate our place at the heart of the communities we serve, inspiring students through our transformational education.

OUR AMBITION

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, across all of our colleges. Each of us has a vital role to play in supporting our students and serving our communities.

Matt Tudor
Chief Strategy Officer



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.

ENABLING CHANGE

At the heart of our success lie our strategic enablers – the Group-wide capabilities that enliven our culture and are underpinned by our values.

DIGITAL AND AI

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

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

- Attract, develop and retain a future-ready workforce
- Empower a healthy, inclusive and innovative culture that inspires us to be our best
- Embed continuous professional development programmes, ensuring adaptability, resilience, and high-performing leadership as well as impactful governance.

GROWTH AND PERFORMANCE

- Optimise operational performance and effectiveness to support and maintain our financial resilience
- Pursue strategic growth through securing investment, strengthening partnerships, and expanding priority sectors
- Invest in our inspirational, sustainable and safe working environments, where staff and students thrive.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Partner with regulators, professional bodies and education providers to innovate curriculum
- Enhance our strategic partnerships with employers and industry to deliver opportunities, drive innovation and create economic impact
- Engage with local and national government, industry and community stakeholders to influence policy, secure strategic investment and co-deliver initiatives.



LOUISE ROWLEY MBE

Group Executive Principal

“At the core of our mission to deliver transformational education is the student experience. Every member of our team at every college in UCS College Group is united around this objective: to ensure our students receive the highest-quality teaching and learning opportunities at every level of study, including FE, HE and professional accreditations. That’s how we’ll inspire them to build their future and pursue a rewarding career.

I see our strategy as a continuation of the excellent work already being delivered by every college in the group. Working closely with college principals and the dean of UCS, our task is to shape our curriculum offer so it serves the needs of our local communities, supports our students, and enlivens the whole region.”

BRIDGWATER COLLEGE

A NATIONAL FLAGSHIP FOR POST-16 EDUCATION

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

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

Talk to our students past and present and they’ll tell you the difference Bridgwater 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 Bridgwater and beyond.”

Jason Gunningham
Principal, Bridgwater 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, lively sporting traditions, and proud 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 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 learners 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.



OUR STORIES



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

**Deputy Head of
Performing 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."



ISSY PRIDDLE

Marketing Apprentice

"I started as an apprentice and am now undertaking a degree apprenticeship in marketing. The support and opportunities have accelerated my career progression and boosted my confidence."



JAYMI

Sports Coaching and Exercise

"Coaching children in South Africa was amazing. My confidence and organisational skills have improved massively. With limited equipment, we had to be creative and adaptable. Seeing how sport can bring people together was really inspiring."



ANNA

A Levels

"I've been able to specialise in subjects for my future aerospace career. Having an iPad along with practical workshop learning means I'm developing skills in an organised hands-on and future-focused way."





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