

CANNINGTON 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.”

CANNINGTON COLLEGE

A NATIONALLY RENOWNED LAND-BASED COLLEGE

“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 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 the UK's leading provider 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

By 2035 we will scale industry-aligned programmes, apprenticeships and applied research to meet clean energy, infrastructure and sustainable land management needs, 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.



OUR STORIES



ANDY BREWER

Specialist Trainer Assessor

"It's wonderful to support apprentices in a real-life environment, ensuring they have the skills and confidence for careers in the clean energy sector."



KIRSTY SLOCOMBE

**EA and Landbased
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."



DEBBIE BALL

**Deputy Head Animal
Management and Equine**

"I love seeing students grow in confidence and resilience as they develop their practical skills preparing for rewarding careers across the sector."



ZEDRICK GENE

Nuclear

I enjoy learning about the role nuclear energy plays in creating a cleaner future. It's exciting to be part of an industry tackling global challenges.



ERIN

Countryside Management

I want to work for a charity like the Wildlife Trust, and this course is perfect preparation. For my work experience at Mapperton Estate, I'm helping with their rewilding project to bring back native species.



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