

**STRODE  
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.”

## 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 sixth-form providers. 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 sixth-form 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.



# OUR PRIORITIES

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

We will deliver exceptional outcomes that drive sustained growth in student recruitment and aspiration and prepare students for the next step in their educational journey, whether that is university, apprenticeships or skilled employment.

Our expanded apprenticeship and strengthened higher education offer will meet employer demand, open clear career pathways and be co-designed with industry to ensure relevance and progression.

Ambitious digital and arts programmes, plus targeted level 1 and 2 provision, will reduce regional NEETs while widening opportunity for students from all backgrounds.

These priorities sit within a broad, high-quality curriculum, using specialist areas and outstanding practice to enhance excellence across the College. Underpinning everything will be excellent pastoral support, inclusive teaching, modern facilities and strong partnerships with schools, employers and the community, ensuring 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 2027 - 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.



# OUR STORIES



**ALFIE PERRY**

Course Leader

"Students get an exceptional experience - professional facilities, industry expertise and performance opportunities combine to ensure they gain the skills needed to progress."



**BETHANY HUBBLE**

Course Leader

"Students build confidence and analytical skills by evaluating diverse philosophical and religious perspectives, strengths that shone through in their A Level results."



**DAVE MERRITT-JOHNS**

Course Manager

"We are so proud of all of our students, it is the variety and breadth of skill and opportunity that makes Strode College so special."



**EMILIA**

A Levels

Seeing my brothers achieve great results at Strode College gave me confidence I'd be supported and challenged to achieve my own academic goals.



**FREDDIE**

Engineering

Engineering has shown me how innovative solutions can improve communities and the environment. I enjoy learning how engineering can help shape a sustainable future.



**STRODE COLLEGE**

Church Road, Street  
Somerset BA16 0AB  
01458 844400  
[strodecollege.ac.uk](http://strodecollege.ac.uk)

**UCS COLLEGE GROUP**

Bath Road, Bridgwater  
Somerset TA6 4PZ  
01278 655111  
[ucscollegegroup.ac.uk](http://ucscollegegroup.ac.uk)

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