

**TAUNTON
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.”

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 a 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.

Our Creative Arts and Digital programmes will fuse imagination with technical rigour, preparing students for evolving creative and tech economies. This will enhance, not diminish, our wider curriculum: all subject areas will benefit 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 and opportunity.



OUR FUTURE

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

We will align training with regional and national skills needs, producing work ready graduates and trailblazing apprentices.

As a first-choice partner for employers, health providers and cultural organisations, we will co-design curricula, embed industry placements and drive applied research.

As demonstrated by our Healthcare provision, we will transform community

lives through education that leads to outstanding careers, with graduates employed locally - strengthening communities for everyone.

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.



OUR STORIES



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."



ADAM SNOW

IT Asset Co-ordinator

"I started as an apprentice in HR. I've been given lots of opportunities and am now in IT. One of my roles is to support the iPad rollout – it's great to support students' learning and success."



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."



RUBY

Media Make-Up

"The facilities have been invaluable, and the course has expanded my knowledge and creativity. Visiting Los Angeles was an incredible experience that broadened my horizons."



OLEKSANDER

ESOL

"Learning English has challenged me to step outside my comfort zone. I've grown in confidence, improved my communication skills, and achieved more than I expected."



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