

Committed to excellence

O F S T E D S U M M A R Y



NSCG

NEWCASTLE
AND STAFFORD
COLLEGES GROUP

Committed to excellence

Welcome to our world

The Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (NSCG) was formed in November 2016, following the merger of Newcastle-under-Lyme College and Stafford College. Today, the Group is a national force to be reckoned with, Staffordshire's largest and most successful further education provider and one of the most successful in the country. Our two college sites provide a friendly welcome, with first class facilities and a dedicated staff team who put student success at the heart of everything they do.



We're officially an 'Outstanding' college

"At the point of merger between Newcastle College and Stafford College, our ambition was to make Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (NSCG) one of the top colleges in the country and ultimately a great place to work and study. Now, only three years since the merger, **Ofsted has recognised us as an 'Outstanding' college** in all areas which is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the hard work, talent and total commitment of our staff team.

The inspection itself was an intensive week for everyone who works at the College, but we wouldn't have been able to achieve what we did without our students, apprentices, governors and employer partners who gave us their total support throughout, each of them playing an important part in this successful outcome.

Being the first college, and the first FE and Skills Provider of any type, nationally to achieve 'Outstanding' in all areas of Ofsted's new Education Inspection Framework (EIF) is absolutely brilliant. We hope everyone connected with NSCG will join us in celebrating this success. However, we can never stand still and at NSCG we are always looking to do better and to be better.

NSCG has an exciting future ahead and we can reassure our current and future students that we will always remain 'committed to excellence'."



KG Dobson

Karen Dobson OBE | Principal and Chief Executive





Overall, NSCG is rated as ‘Outstanding’

Out of 9 areas of study inspected, all 9 were awarded ‘Outstanding’...

• Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
• The quality of education	Outstanding
• Behaviour and attitude	Outstanding
• Personal development	Outstanding
• Leadership and management	Outstanding
• Education programmes for young people	Outstanding
• Adult learning programmes	Outstanding
• Apprenticeships	Outstanding
• Provision for learners with high needs	Outstanding



As part of their visit a team of Ofsted inspectors spent time with, and spoke to, a variety of NSCG’s stakeholders, including staff, governors, students, apprentices, parents and partner employers, to rigorously scrutinise all aspects of college life.

Here are some of the many ‘Outstanding’ features Ofsted commented on...



Our students and apprentices

“Student behaviour is exemplary at both sites, students are ready to learn, in class early, they have a positive attitude and they have excellent attendance.”

- **Learners on vocational courses develop high-quality technical and practical skills to enable them to move into further learning or employment.**
- **A Level learners develop thoroughly the knowledge to be successful in their examinations.**
- **The standard of learners’ and apprentices’ work is high.**
- Learners enjoy their time at college very much. They rate highly the excellent facilities and the experienced and welcoming staff.
- Learners and apprentices – including those who have high needs – make very good and sustained progress from their starting points.
- Learners work collaboratively with teachers and are keen to show their best and achieve the challenging targets set for them.
- They attend lessons on time and their attendance at lessons is high.
- ‘Honours Programme’ students realise their ambition to achieve a place at high performing universities.

Our teaching staff

“Learners feel that staff care about their futures and provide them with the support and motivation to succeed.”



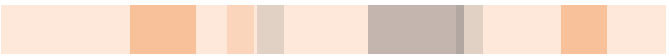
- With support from teaching staff, students develop the specific knowledge, skills and behaviours needed for them to move into their intended next steps.
- Teachers are highly qualified and use their expertise to inspire learners to think deeply about their subjects and to master complex skills.
- Teachers and trainers design their curriculum to help learners and apprentices to develop the specific knowledge and skills employers demand.
- Teachers of learners who have high needs, who are on foundation programmes, adapt the provision carefully into smaller, achievable chunks so learners develop – step by step – their knowledge and skills to live independent lives.
- Teachers skilfully increase the levels of complexity over time to ensure learners ‘get it’, they use questioning adeptly and a variety of revision activities to check and challenge learners’ understanding.
- They adapt lessons sensitively to ensure that all learners can make sense of challenging topics and situations.
- Teachers help learners to prepare and develop the confidence and techniques for successful interviews with both education institutions and employers.
- Teachers use information about learners’ starting points to support them to achieve their potential.

Our links with employers

“Employers value highly the way apprentices’ curriculum helps them to develop the exact knowledge, skills and behaviours they need for their current and future job roles.”



- Leaders have exceptional links with local employers and regional business groups.
- Employers and trainers set challenging distinction-level assignments and projects that require apprentices to recall, apply and synthesise previous learning.
- Learners take part in high-quality work experience and work-related activities designed by employers that help them to develop the skills employers value.
- Trainers work exceptionally well with employers and curriculum teams, so that their work roles match to apprentices’ studies.
- Leaders collaborate effectively with employers to create a challenging curriculum designed to help learners and apprentices achieve their career ambitions.
- Learners and apprentices develop consistently high-level practical and technical skills at college, during competitions, and during their work experience.
- Learners on Foundation Studies programmes participate in an extensive range of high-quality work placements. As a result, these learners gain the skills they need to live and work confidently in society and in future employment.



Our Support

“Learners and apprentices benefit greatly from the high-quality and unbiased careers information, advice and guidance they receive throughout their time at college.”



- Learners feel safe and supported at college.
- Learners develop very well their confidence, resilience and well-being. All learners undertake and value highly a programme that helps them to protect their mental health.
- They develop a strong understanding of life in modern Britain, their responsibilities at college and in their communities.
- Learners who have high needs receive highly effective specialist support – managers and teachers coordinate their transition and specialist support very well.
- Managers, teachers and support staff use learners’ education and health care plans to identify accurately the individual support necessary including transport, personal care, and a variety of adaptive equipment to support very well individuals’ learning needs.
- Learning support assistants liaise routinely with teachers, so that learners have individual targets and receive the help they need to access learning materials and activities effectively.
- Staff identify vulnerable learners quickly and ensure that they are protected from harm and supported to continue with their studies.
- Learners and apprentices have a good understanding of the potential threats posed from extremist groups and know who to contact if needed.
- Staff tackle immediately any signs of poor behaviour, and therefore learners flourish in a calm, orderly, positive and safe environment.

Our Leadership & Management

“Leaders and managers have very effectively brought about the merger of Newcastle College and Stafford College. They have integrated rapidly the two campuses, setting high expectations for both staff and learners.”



- Direction from senior leaders is clear, supportive and challenging. As a result, staff are highly motivated and feel able to provide learners with an outstanding learning experience.
- Leaders, managers and teachers have developed an extensive and high-quality enrichment offer at both campuses that enhances learners’ curriculum.
- Leaders ensure that teachers and trainers plan a coherent and challenging curriculum for all learners and apprentices.
- College Governors bring a wide range of skills and expertise to the board, including business, finance, and expertise from education.
- College Governors scrutinise closely the work of the College, including subcontracted provision. As a result, they have a clear understanding of its strengths and weaknesses and provide very effective support to leaders and managers in their drive for continuous quality improvement.



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