
NEWCASTLE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE – ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT 2024/25

Newcastle Sixth Form College - Our Purpose

Newcastle Sixth Form College's purpose is to enable social mobility and economic prosperity through exceptional education with a curriculum that is academic, inclusive, aspirational, and adds value. Our vision is to ensure the young people who study at the college acquire the knowledge, skills and behaviours that enable them to progress successfully to the next level of education or training. NSFC's Strategy to 2030 has been structured in line with NCG's Strategic Pillars and has 5 strategic objectives:

1. Exceptional teaching, learner experience and outcomes

Our aim is to provide outstanding teaching and learner experience that leads to exceptional outcomes. Our ambitious curriculum will be skilfully delivered with a culture of high expectations embedded throughout. This will support students, including those from widening participation backgrounds to progress to university or alternative ambitious destinations.

2. Innovative, relevant courses and qualifications

Our curriculum is carefully planned to develop the whole learner, embedding the NCG guarantee and ensuring students are ready to thrive at university and beyond. This includes a comprehensive A Level offer that has clear pathways to enable positive progression, and a small access programme which provides opportunities to progress to A level to those with potential but who did not have them at Key Stage 4.

3. Ambitious and responsible educators and leaders

We will embed a professional development programme that supports colleagues to develop as exceptional A-Level teachers throughout their career. This will include a comprehensive programme and coaching for early careers teachers, and bespoke support for unqualified graduates to help develop the next generation of excellent A Level teachers and support staff.

4. Financial sustainability and powering reinvestment

The compelling educational offer will ensure that the college continues to attract students from across the city and region to study here. We will manage finances effectively to provide good value for money, powering reinvestment in facilities and resources.

5. Impactful external engagement and civic commitment

We will further develop strong relationships with local and national universities, and employers that ensure that staff and students have a clear understanding of the opportunities in the economy. We will continue to develop feeder partnerships with local schools that are mutually beneficial and will be recognised experts in academic post 16 education linking to other sixth forms nationally.

Newcastle Sixth Form College Context and Place

Newcastle Sixth Form College is the largest provider of A Levels in Newcastle and the only dedicated Sixth Form College in the city. It was set up in 2013 and has subsequently grown to over 1200 students with 95% enrolled on full A Level programmes, and the remainder on a Level 2 Access course made up of 4 GCSEs. All students are aged between 16 and 18 years old at enrolment, with nearly all progressing directly from Year 11. All teaching and learning takes place at the college's purpose-built single site.

Students join NSFC from over 100 different schools, travelling from as far as Berwick upon Tweed to attend. Students come from a range of local authorities including Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, and Northumberland. The largest group come from Newcastle upon Tyne, where the college is based. The Newcastle Local Authority is one of the most deprived districts in England as reported by the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), ranked 23 out of 317 based on the proportion of neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10 percent nationally.

Average achievement at GCSE is significantly below average (local school progress 8 score -0.4). This is reflected in the low percentage of young people in the region progressing to university (40% v 61% in London).

23.5% were eligible for pupil premium in year 11 and 38% of students were in receipt of the college bursary. 61% of students come from postcodes where participation to Higher Education is below average. The region also has the lowest rates of apprenticeship starts nationally.

The college is disproportionately female (64.3%), a split that is greater than national (+6%). The proportion of students from black and minority ethnic backgrounds was 21.5% compared with 4.6% in the North East population and 24% of Newcastle school children. 18% of students had a declared learning difficulty and / or disability.

The college's 2030 strategy is aligned to the priorities of the North East LEP which identifies four areas of strategic importance - Advanced Manufacturing, Health and Life Sciences, Energy and Digital, alongside four service sectors to support growth – Education, Financial, Professional and Business Services, Transport and Logistics, Construction. The North East LEP reports that 1/3 of the jobs in the region are currently professional and associate professional roles. Moreover, these are the 'better jobs' that the LEP are actively targeting for growth. In providing a curriculum that is preparing students for positive progression, NSFC is creating the pipeline to fill many of these roles in the region. It also reflects the findings of the NEECC LSIP report's focus on building softer skills such as communication and confidence, digital skills including generic skills, and developing strong partnerships between industry and the post-16 education sector to provide on-site experience and practical insights.

Newcastle Sixth Form College actions to engage with key stakeholders and providers

This plan has been developed with the Newcastle Sixth Form College Local Board which includes representatives from local businesses, and universities.

In developing this plan, the college has drawn upon its existing relationships with other stakeholders locally and nationally. This includes the Northern Sixth Form Colleges group and also the Sixth Form College Association. Given the key role of Newcastle Sixth Form College in preparing students to progress to university, the accountability plan was developed with reference to the closest universities, such as Northumbria University where the largest group of students progress to.

In meeting the accountability and skills agenda the college has also worked with employers such as Oliver Wyman, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, and also the college Enterprise Advisor Salvia Mirsa, from Resonant Consulting.

To ensure the college is successfully building upon the skills being developed in primary and secondary education, and complements school post 16 offers the college also works collaboratively with representatives from local providers including the Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust.

Newcastle Sixth Form College Strategic Aims and Targets

College Strategic Aims and Objectives	Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local Priorities for Learning and Skills
<p>Aim/Objective 1:</p> <p>Innovative, relevant courses and qualifications</p> <p>By August 2025, the curriculum will be further developed to support positive progression from underrepresented groups, specifically those from Polar 1 and 2 areas and students in receipt of Free College Meals in the North East, including in STEM subjects.</p>	<p>1) All subject areas will use employer and university links to inform curriculum planning and skills development, with a focus on ‘studentship’ including communication skills and confidence. Intensive IAG across the curriculum including LMI will result in strong ‘widening participation’ group progression to university with students from Polar 1 and 2 areas 10% more likely to progress to university based on starting points, including in STEM subjects.</p> <p>2) NSFC will work continue to work collaboratively with the Newcastle College University Centre to promote alternative progression pathways, particularly around areas of regional shortage including healthcare. Links with NHS to be developed to ensure fortnightly promotion of wider healthcare opportunities. Partnerships will be developed with 2 local universities and NSFC STEM subjects to promote skills development and progression.</p>
<p>Aim/Objective 2:</p> <p>Ambitious and responsible educators and leaders</p> <p>By August 2025, well embedded professional development programmes will be effectively developing the next</p>	<p>1) Ongoing use of the fully embedded Early Careers Framework will ensure that newly qualified teachers are developed and retained across their first two years of teaching. National Professional Qualifications, and NCG Leadership Hub, as well as NSFC Leadership Programme will ensure that these teachers are retained and continue to progress after the completion of ECT.</p>

<p>generation of excellent A Level teachers and support staff.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Best practice from within NSFC around excellent teaching and learning, and the development of teachers, will continue to be shared within NCG through Communities of Practice, and externally by hosting at least 2 sixth form provider visits annually, presenting at local and national conferences, and through the Sixth Form College Association Quality and Curriculum panel. 3) Develop a programme for teachers to stay professionally up to date through links to external universities, schools, employers, and civic institutions. This will include the use of non-teaching 'immersion' days at least every 2 years.
<p>Aim/Objective 3:</p> <p>Impactful external engagement and civic commitment</p> <p>By August 2025, external engagement will have expanded and deepened with stronger links to 4 civic organisations, alongside local universities, employers, and feeder schools.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The college enrichment programme will be further developed after the successful improvements secured through partnership work in 23-24. This will include more civic opportunities including with collaborative projects involving students working with 4 key local organisations (community groups, schools, charities and arts bodies). 2) Reformed College Board membership to be expanded to include representation from the healthcare sector to strengthen alignment. 3) NSFC to continue to contribute to key local and national steering groups including the Northumbria University strategic forum, North East LEP College Hub, Newcastle Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Sixth Form College Association Curriculum and Quality group, and Association of College's Academic steering group, and through NCG with the LSIP.

Newcastle Sixth Form College links to supporting documentation

[The North East Strategic Economic Plan](#) – North East LEP

[Universities and Social Mobility](#) – Sutton Trust

[Council & Committees](#) – Sixth Form College Association

[North of Tyne Local Skills Improvement Plan 2023](#) – North East Chamber of Commerce

Newcastle Sixth Form College Local Needs Duty

Newcastle Sixth Form College meets its local needs duty. We deliver on the NCG mission through a curriculum that is academic, inclusive, aspirational and adds value. We are focussed on, and committed to ensuring that learners have the skills needed for successful progression on to University, the workplace or training programmes in the North East or elsewhere. We work closely with educational partners, employers, and civic partners locally and nationally to ensure our curriculum is reviewed and developed, for example to support students from widening participation backgrounds to progress to university, including in STEM subjects. We recognise that there is more work to do, and we will continue to link with partners to ensure we promote alternative progression pathways, particularly around areas of regional shortage including healthcare. This will include developing subject level partnerships with local universities to promote skills development and progression and linking to a wider range of civic organisations to develop collaborative enrichment projects.