

LEWISHAM
COLLEGE



OUR STRATEGY TOWARDS 2030

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WELCOME



Lewisham College is an anchor institution for our communities and employers across the borough, South London and beyond.

The college is embedded in the local community to ensure individuals have the best opportunities to gain essential skills to build community cohesion and promote social mobility within a diverse borough of sanctuary.

We continue to develop partnerships with employers and industry to support them with recruitment, hard to fill vacancies, succession planning, along with developing their existing staff to ensure economic prosperity and opportunities for all.

Jamie Stevenson
Principal,
Lewisham College

Lewisham College puts the learner in the heart of everything it does and strives to provide high-quality education and training in its local community.

Further Education has never been needed more or been better placed to answer the needs of our emerging workforce. Part of NCG Group, Lewisham College unlocks potential through learning and ensures best practice leadership development and teaching across the sector so it can provide a beacon of opportunity for all our students.

Liz Bromley
Chief Executive Officer,
NCG

This strategic plan for Lewisham College sets out an ambitious vision for a modern thriving centre of vocational learning.

The College Board welcomes it and endorses the aspiration it sets out for its students and the community it is rooted in.

Patrick Hughes
Chair,
Lewisham College Board

Lewisham College is a real jewel in our community's crown. It has a great track record of welcoming students of all ages and backgrounds and is particularly supportive of those who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

It offers a fantastic range of courses and its dedicated staff are excellent at preparing students for their next step, whether that is into work, volunteering, caring or further learning.

Over the last 10 years I have built a close working relationship with the college and I look forward to working with the Principal and staff to deliver the strategic priorities for the benefit of Lewisham residents and employers.

Vicky Foxcroft
Member of Parliament for
Lewisham Deptford

LOCAL BUSINESS PARTNERS



“As a small social enterprise working in Lewisham, we are delighted to be a partner with Lewisham College by both referring the Sanctuary Seekers we work with to their high quality ESOL courses and providing some work experience sessions for ESOL students here at Facework.

The work the College does with both local students and those from overseas is so important and their commitment to engage with local employers - both large and small - is exemplary. Being a member of the College's Employer Advisory Board gives us the opportunity to give feedback and identify new shallow-entry points into the changing world of work.”

Stephen Carrick-Davies
Director of the Facework Group CIC



“ISS have worked very successfully with Lewisham College over several years developing Sector-based Work Academy Programmes and have recruited some great people as a result - we are also supporting the Health and Social Care Employer Advisory Board which provides a great insight into the workings of the College and more recently we are hosting several work experience placements in our hospital sites.

All in all, a great and productive relationship.”
Guy Bertram
Health Project Manager ISS



“Bubble Food puts great value on our partnership with Lewisham College. We see it as both an honour and a responsibility to help develop the next generation of catering professionals and give back to our local community.

We've had some really good work experience students and many of them have carried on to paid work on our events as well. Some are still working with us years later.

Sitting on the Employer Advisory Board gives us the opportunity to shape future skillsets and feedback on any gaps in the syllabus that we see. Our team is proud to be involved, and our clients and venue partners also appreciate our work with the college.

Over the years, our collaboration has benefited both the team and the community, and it fits perfectly with our long-term social goals.”

Jens Nissen
Director and Executive Head Chef
Bubble Food



“We love working with Lewisham College. From our long running Progression Agreement, which sees Lewisham College students get bespoke offers on a range of Goldsmiths degrees, to our Civic University Agreement, which links our two institutions as part of a wider network of anchor institutions in Lewisham and Southeast London, we are working together to enhance the learning environment for people in our local area.

We are part of several Employer Advisory Boards for Lewisham College and host work placements for students every year. We always benefit from the fresh perspectives, new ideas and energy these students bring to our organisation.”

Dr Michael Eades
Head of Civic Engagement
Goldsmiths, University of London



“Over the last year we have strengthened our relationship with Lewisham College through attending various events and meetings such as the Employer Advisory Board for Sport.

Building on this relationship we have been able to support residents into gaining meaningful employment with us.

Which delivers against one of our objectives of getting local people into local jobs. By continuing to work with the College to help shape their sports curriculum, we hope this will allow us to further strengthen our relationship and will get more of their pupils into local employment.”

Matthew Houghton
Community Sports Manager
Better brought to you by GLL



“As a small social enterprise which offers employment to adults with learning disabilities, making sure the right people join our team is crucial.

Lewisham College work closely with us to understand what pre-requisite skills we need so that new employees have the best chance of success with us.

They take the time to get to know us and we've been impressed by the quality of candidates that they've short-listed.

Being so involved with the staff at the College means that we've been able to tailor our on-the-job training to compliment what they've already been learning. We're proud to work with Lewisham College to support more disabled adults into employment.”

Dave King
Director
Ignition Brewery

LEWISHAM COLLEGE IS PART OF NCG

NCG's Strategy Towards 2030 sets out our ambitions for the next five years and the underpinning objectives and values that will get us there.

NCG exists to create life-changing opportunities for individuals that strengthen the prosperity of their local communities. We are committed to creating inclusive communities of excellent learning and teaching which benefit from sharing best practice developed across the seven learning organisations which are NCG.

Together, our colleges and partners are creating the workforce of the future by enabling all people, regardless of their background, to develop the skills that our local communities need to be successful and sustained.

Our mission to **'enable social mobility and economic prosperity through exceptional education'** is supported by our values, which underpin the culture and beliefs of our organisation.

Our values are not just about what we do, but also how we do things. Shaped by our colleagues, customers and students, they set the standard of how we should behave, how we work together and give us the opportunity to make the right decisions based on the values we all share.

- » **Being both inclusive and diverse**
- » **Trusting and respecting our communities**
- » **Taking ownership whilst working collaboratively**
- » **Inspiring excellence and curiosity**



LEWISHAM COLLEGE

OUR PURPOSE

Lewisham College's purpose is to ensure the best life chances for every student we support.

By delivering the mission and strategy of NCG appropriately tailored to our local context.

We are firmly embedded in our local community with excellent partnerships to improve the economic, social, health and wellbeing of the communities we serve.

Together we use our shared knowledge, expertise and resources to benefit students and solve key issues affecting our local and business communities.



“

I feel like my experiences have offered me a background to help others, and my course and the College have given me the skills to work in something I'm passionate about. I have my own flat in Balham and I'm in a much happier place now that I'm making my own way in the world.”

Henrietta Imoreh
Performing Arts and
English Student,
Lewisham College

LEWISHAM COLLEGE CONTEXT AND PLACE

Lewisham College resides within the London Borough of Lewisham, which in most comparators, shows slight variation from the average for London boroughs.

1. Only 61% of state-educated students achieved grades 9-4 in GCSE English & Maths in 2022/2023, the lowest of all London boroughs, and in stark comparison with neighbouring boroughs of Bromley and Southwark at 73%.
2. The proportion of 19-year-olds without a level 2 or level 3 qualification in 2022/23 was 35.2%, lower than the average London Borough.



In the borough of Lewisham, the most significant skills gaps are in hospitality, healthcare, construction and green skills, impacting operational efficiency, business resilience, and overall GDP growth.

The Mayor of Lewisham's Corporate Strategy 2022-2026 prioritises several key areas for improving the borough's quality of life. This includes initiatives to promote cleaner and greener spaces, revitalising high streets, and supporting business start-ups and local businesses through campaigns like Lewisham's Shop Local Campaign.

Aligned with both governmental and mayoral strategies, Lewisham College's inclusive curriculum and employer-driven vocational programmes are geared towards empowering Londoners to access education, skills and training necessary for societal participation and career advancement.

Our curriculum is tailored to address the specific skill demands outlined in London's Local Skills Improvement Plan and local workforce development challenges, particularly in areas such as hospitality, healthcare, construction and green industries. Recognising the evolving landscape of London's economy, our college is dedicated to preparing students for the dynamic job market, including life sciences, financial services, and the cultural and creative industries.

A significant portion of our curriculum is geared towards adult students striving to enhance their social and employment prospects, aligning with initiatives such as the London Living Wage and Good Jobs for All. Our curriculum design places particular emphasis on the LSIP cross-cutting themes of digital skills, green skills, transferable skills, and labour market inclusion.

Our employer responsive sector-based work academy programmes are designed to fill specific skills gaps whilst targeting individuals who are furthest removed from the labour market and promoting access to jobs and progression to better paid careers.

Our inclusive Study Programmes for students aged 14-18 and those with special educational needs are designed with the overarching ambition of unlocking every individual's full potential. T Levels will provide high-quality skills and industry training needed for students to pursue careers in priority sectors such as digital support, early years education, health care, finance, business administration and building services.

In essence, Lewisham College serves as a vital educational hub deeply rooted in our community's needs and aspirations, while simultaneously contributing to the broader economic and social fabric of our region. By delivering the mission and strategy of NCG appropriately tailored to our local context.

We are firmly embedded in our local community with excellent partnerships to improve the economic, social, health and wellbeing of the communities we serve. Together we use our shared knowledge, expertise and resources to benefit students and solve key issues affecting our local and business communities.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

WHAT ARE WE INTENDING TO DO BY 2030?

1

We will ensure financial viability to support long-term growth, ensuring we continue to provide high-quality education and training for Lewisham and South London's diverse local and business communities.

2

We will continue to prioritise essential and transferable skills throughout all aspects of our curriculum, i.e. English, maths, digital, resilience, teamwork, oracy, etc., prioritise improving literacy, numeracy, and digital skills.

Along with closing attainment gaps and improving outcomes for underrepresented groups.

3

We will develop recruitment initiatives to ensure our staff profile is reflective of the rich diversity within Lewisham.

4

We will strengthen outreach with local schools, employers, and community groups to increase access to education.

We will ensure our courses align with employment opportunities within Lewisham and across London.

“

My time at Lewisham College was very important. It gave me the set of skills I needed to develop into the chef I am today. I'd like to say a big thanks to all of my college lecturers.”

Mark Morris
Unit Manager, Compass
and Alumni Student.



5

We will grow our apprenticeship provision by 5% annually, working closely with Lewisham and South London based businesses.

6

We will increase our full-time 16-19 student numbers by 3% annually, expanding vocational, academic and T Level offer, to grow to 2030 students by 2030.

7

We will ensure transparency, accountability, and strong student and community representation in decision-making, whilst maintaining the highest levels of educational oversight and strategic leaderships.

Our local board will be representative of our local community and members have expertise in the world of work, education and the local community.

Lewisham College is committed to delivering an inclusive, high-quality education that empowers our students and strengthens our community.

Through innovation, collaboration, and a relentless focus on ambitious for outstanding, we will continue to shape futures, bridge skills gaps, and drive economic prosperity in Lewisham, London and beyond.

This strategic plan outlines our roadmap for growth and impact, ensuring we continue to be an anchor institution for the communities we serve, ensure the best life chances for all.



“

I have gained an in-depth understanding of child development and a different perspective. The teachers are fair and understanding. They expect a lot of you but that means you get to study in well-organised classes with really motivated students.”

Marta Weremkowicz-Wlosinska

Early Years Student,
Lewisham College.

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