

# SEMLEP

South East Midlands  
Local Enterprise Partnership



## COLLEGES MEAN BUSINESS

Delivering Skills for Business Growth  
across the South East Midlands

**SEMLEP**, the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership, is at the heart of a national growth region, which is home to almost 1.8 million people and 78,000 businesses, collectively delivering a £39 billion economy.

SEMLEP's role is to unlock the future growth potential of this remarkable area, which is already the second largest area for sustainable housing growth outside London.

Working with our local authority and private sector partners, we are primed to deliver the strategic infrastructure and skills projects that are essential for continued economic growth. We have been awarded £79 million investment through a Local Growth Deal for 2015/16. This includes two college infrastructure projects: a new Daventry Campus for Northampton College and an Engineering and Construction Skills Centre at Leighton Buzzard for Central Bedfordshire College. A further £46 million is expected in 2016/17, which will include support for a new Advanced Electrical Design and Electronics Centre at Bedford College.

Velocity is SEMLEP's business support service, which provides free business support for small to medium sized companies across Aylesbury, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire,

Cherwell, Corby, Daventry, Kettering, Luton, Milton Keynes, Northampton and South Northamptonshire.

In the past 12 months alone, Velocity has allocated more than 100 grants worth £540,000 to companies across the South East Midlands, contributing to projects worth £2 million and creating hundreds of new jobs.

Velocity advisers work with all our Further Education Colleges and can assist you with initial advice on all aspects of the benefits of upskilling your workforce.

Keeping up to date with the latest techniques, technologies and skills will ensure that your business remains on track to be as effective and efficient as possible.



For businesses that want to go further...

[enquiries@velocitybusinesssupport.com](mailto:enquiries@velocitybusinesssupport.com)

**0300 01234 35**

[www.VelocityBusinessSupport.com](http://www.VelocityBusinessSupport.com)

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this glimpse into the diverse range of activities and capacities of our local Further Education Colleges. The real case studies provide an insight into some of the comprehensive and dynamic range of further education and skills development programmes that are available across the South East Midlands. Engaging with a local college will benefit all growing local businesses by assisting with finding new talent, upskilling staff, recruitment of apprentices, product research and marketing, service development and access to some fantastic facilities.







## WHAT DO COLLEGES OFFER BUSINESS?

### 1. CONTRIBUTION TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

The FUSE (Further Education South East Midlands) group of colleges provide a significant proportion of the local skills education and training for the South East Midlands. In excess of 30,000 full time students and around 4,500 apprentices will be in training by 2017.

Our colleges already support the training needs of around 6,000 companies from micro-businesses right through to the majority of large regional organisations.

Being business and customer focused ensures that not only are their courses, including apprenticeships, ideal to meet the needs of local employers, but they provide their graduating students with the very best prospects for gaining quality employment locally.

### 2. NEW TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Inspiring young people is at the heart of our college programmes and, particularly through the wide range of apprenticeships, they are leading the way in building a new, highly skilled workforce.

With expert knowledge of professional trades and vocational careers, our college provision includes advice on routes into self-employment and enterprise, motivating and equipping students to become entrepreneurial and self-reliant.

Their students are likely to become the new talent that your business has been longing for.

### 3. UPSKILLING YOUR WORKFORCE

Making the most of the potential of your existing staff through staff development programmes is investing in talent that you already know and trust. The colleges will deliver quality-assessed training and apprenticeships, both in the college and often also in the workplace, which will lead to a whole spectrum of qualifications including GCSEs, NVQs, Certificates, Diplomas, Foundation and Higher Degrees.

Our colleges are also major providers of Higher Education and Higher Level Apprenticeships, typically in partnership with one of the SEMLEP based Universities.

### 4. LOCAL SUPPLY OPPORTUNITIES

The colleges are major employers in their own right and have purchasing requirements for a complex array of goods and services. These can range from meeting the day to day needs of their staff and students through to procuring multi-million pound contracts for major capital build projects.

### 5. PRODUCT AND SERVICE RESEARCH

Product and service development expertise is available that can lead to improving business processes or assist with new product testing and development. Our colleges are also able to provide market research, internships and student placements and work with your business on bespoke projects.

### 6. FACILITIES FOR BUSINESS

Our colleges have fantastic facilities, many of which are available to local businesses. These include: major event and conference venues, exhibition galleries, libraries, training and interview rooms, cafés, restaurants, childcare, beauty therapy and hairdressing salons, spas, gyms and sports facilities, equestrian and animal welfare centres, vehicle repairs and even a garden centre.





## FOCUS ON THE SEMLEP SHOWCASE SECTORS

### LOGISTICS & SUPPLY CHAIN

Around 85,000 people in the South East Midlands are employed in logistics and supply chain activities and this sector has both existing importance and massive potential for the local economy as part of a £93 billion total UK value. Our colleges are now supporting local employers to provide a professional development gateway to encourage, support and train talent to progress their careers within the sector. SEMLEP is focusing on the challenges faced by this sector, identifying critical gaps in skills and infrastructure and then implementing interventions to overcome them.

### CULTURAL & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

With around 5,000 enterprises producing a £4.1 billion turnover and supporting 8% of all jobs – including around 59,000 in the visitor economy, this sector encompasses arts, heritage, sports, tourism, cultural and creative industries. Additionally our thriving cultural sector is an important factor in enhancing all aspects of quality of life, so encouraging our businesses and skilled workforce to remain and become settled within the area.

### HIGH PERFORMANCE TECHNOLOGY

Growing jobs and encouraging more investment in the high performance technology sector, particularly motorsport, automotive engineering and aerospace, is a key priority across the South East Midlands. Silverstone has been an important catalyst for the development of a world class motorsport industry and is well supported by specialist facilities including the National College for Motorsport, which is part of Tresham College. This sectorial expertise has propagated further diversification into other areas of advanced technology, including marine engineering, defence, aerospace, medical and other engineering disciplines. These cutting edge sectors have massive potential to create many more technical jobs and provide numerous local spin out benefits.



### MANUFACTURING & ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

Within the South East Midlands there are already more than 15,000 manufacturing and advanced technology businesses - including food and drink, so this is a key showcase sector for local job growth. SEMLEP works closely with colleges, universities, business groups and local authorities to support and stimulate the sector by growing existing businesses, enabling start-ups and encouraging inward investment from the rest of the UK and abroad.

## REAL EXPERIENCES OF STUDENTS AND BUSINESSES

### WORKING WITH BUSINESS

Interaction with all types and sizes of local businesses and organisations are at the heart of our colleges' skills development activities. There are many inspiring examples of how such projects, placements and apprenticeships are mutually helping businesses find and develop new talent, whilst providing students with motivational real work-place environments as well as routes to work, self-employment or onward to further skills training and development. The following snap shots are typical of how some of our students and local businesses are gaining real benefit from being engaged with their local college.



## CATERING FOR CONFERENCES

18-year-old Eloise Chatwin has successfully completed an 18 month Level 2 and Level 3 Apprenticeship in Catering qualification with Aylesbury College while working at Missenden Abbey, which is owned by Buckinghamshire New University and is now employed there as a Food and Beverage Assistant.

Eloise said: "I feel very excited that I managed to achieve a level in my apprenticeship that made my employers want to keep me on and extend my role to a full-time position. I feel that without my apprenticeship, this opportunity would not have been possible. My apprenticeship prepared me for my full-time position because if I were to make a mistake, I was able to learn from it and develop my skills with support from my team members. My apprenticeship has made me feel confident to succeed in my full-time role thanks to the experience I have gained."

Annette Gimbert, People Engagement Director at Bucks New University, said the apprenticeship scheme was a good opportunity to tie up on-the-job experience at Missenden Abbey Conference Centre with a qualification from Aylesbury College. She said: "It is fantastic for Missenden Abbey Conference Centre, Aylesbury College and Bucks New University, to be able to benefit these young people by developing and challenging them in the workplace."

Tim Keighley, Executive Director Engagement and Business Development at Aylesbury College, said "The apprenticeship programme has been hugely successful and I am particularly proud of the work we have done with Bucks New University and the team at Missenden Abbey, where the young people have worked hard and deserve their success. We are now looking for more young people to take advantage of the apprenticeship programme."

## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS PLACEMENTS

Luke Goyen completed a tourism course at Aylesbury College that provided him with a valuable skill set that aided him in gaining a place at Bournemouth University and led to a placement at the Centreboard Inn in Nantucket, USA.

Luke said that: "The skills I gained from completing the course included organisation skills, being able to manage my time effectively and the ability to prioritise my workload as I had to complete assignments by set deadlines. I enjoyed improving my teamwork and communication skills and this also improved my social skills which led to an increase in my confidence. Specific units such as the customer service and work experience units provided me with more transferable skills that have helped me to gain my placement in America."



## KEEPING THE SUPPLY CHAIN MOVING

Thomas Knight began his apprenticeship with John Hackling Transport in March 2013. As part of his training, Tom successfully gained his Category C rigid vehicle licence, C+E licence and ADR vocational licence and now delivers goods across the UK.

Ian Beasley, Training and Compliance Manager said: "Tom is a well-mannered young man with a very good work ethic and is a valued member of staff. Tom used his own initiative well, is willing to learn and to listen to others to improve in his role. Tom would be an asset to any company and we're really pleased that he is one of our employees."

Banbury and Bicester College – in partnership with Activate Enterprise - works with JLD Driver Training Ltd to deliver logistics and supply chain apprenticeships, where apprentices undergo intensive training allowing them to gain the licences they need to be able to be on the road within four months of the apprenticeship starting. Since 2012, more than 20 successful apprenticeships have been delivered with John Hackling Transport.

## RESTORING CLASSIC AND HISTORIC VEHICLES

The classic and historic vehicle industry is worth around £4.3 billion a year and is made up of around 3,800 businesses employing some 22,000 people. Research has identified a need for around a further 1,000 apprentices to meet the needs of the industry over the next five years.

In response, the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs developed an apprenticeship framework that was launched in summer 2014. The apprenticeship is delivered in partnership with Banbury and Bicester College, part of Activate Learning, and backed by Bicester Heritage, McGrath Maserati and The MG Car Club.

The apprenticeship develops a broad base of knowledge and experience to prepare apprentices for working within the industry and focuses on developing the particular skills and knowledge required for older 'classic' vehicles.

A total of eight apprentices are currently completing their first year of the two-year apprenticeship, working with seven small local businesses. In addition, a Level 2 full-time diploma in classic and historic vehicle restoration is now available with the first three full-time students nearing the end of their studies.



**"The apprenticeship programme has been hugely successful and I am particularly proud of the work we have done with Bucks New University and the team at Missenden Abbey"**

Tim Keighley, Executive Director Engagement and Business Development at Aylesbury College

**"Tom is a well-mannered young man with a very good work ethic and is a valued member of staff. Tom used his own initiative well, is willing to learn and to listen to others to improve in his role"**

Ian Beasley, Training and Compliance Manager



## BARNFIELD COLLEGE

### HERITAGE CONSERVATION SKILLS

Jamie Harper-Ptolomey has been nominated as a finalist for the English Heritage Angel Award – Apprentice of the Year. Presented by Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber in London, and drawn from projects across England, Jamie is one of four apprentices representing all aspects of the construction sector. By working within a plastering team that has received many recommendations and awards for conservation work, Jamie has demonstrated excellence in ‘hands on’ skills and innovation by recycling the original daub from 1470 and using lime plaster sourced locally from a sustainable resource.

His attention to detail, in particular in his pargetting skills, has been highly commended. Having the highest level of conservation awareness and craftsmanship, Jamie accompanies the college’s Plastering Manager on historic building surveys. This has given him great awareness of conservation issues. He knows how to look for signs of failing plasterwork and then to complete the detailed restoration process.

Willingness to share skills, promote his craft and inspire other younger apprentices are hallmarks of Jamie’s work. The challenges are much greater with historic buildings, which means that Jamie is completing work above the level expected for his NVQ Level 3.

### AWARD WINNING HAIRDRESSING

Alice Norton - Winner of Barnfield College Hairdressing Apprentice of the Year 2014 is employed by Steve Hilliard Hairdressing. Alice has always wanted to be a hairdresser and eventually would like to teach or do film and photographic hair. Alice already has an offer of a full time post once she completes her L3 apprenticeship stage.

Alice said “Barnfield is really good, really organised. I love all the staff. I just enjoy everything. It’s like working and learning at the same time. I get to meet new people and I get on well with my classmates who are all apprentices”.



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Alice Norton - Winner of Barnfield College Hairdressing Apprentice of the Year 2014



## BEDFORD COLLEGE

### ENVIRONMENTAL APPRENTICESHIPS

Local land management company, Maydencroft, provides a wide range of services including consultancy, contracting, farming, estate restoration, ecology and tree surgery. The company has rapidly expanded and now employs over 40 people. Managing Director, Tom Williams, is clear that investment in staff training is at the heart of his business growth plan and is one of the main reasons why his company is so successful at retaining staff.

In September 2012, the company working with Shuttleworth College recruited two apprentices; one specialising in Conservation and Environment and another in Trees and Timber, and these apprentices have proved so successful that the company has recruited two more.

Tom said: “We like working with Shuttleworth College and they are experts in land-based training, which is a perfect fit for my business. The assessors have been very good at providing three month reviews so we can keep on top of how the apprentices are performing against their learning objectives. We also get on very well with the lecturers from the other short courses our staff regularly undertake. I would definitely recommend Shuttleworth College to other companies in land based industries.”

### EXPERIENCE IN ENGINEERING

The Automated Technology Group (ATG), based in Silsoe, Bedfordshire, is the preferred controls supplier to many leading brands across a wide range of industries from automotive to beverage production. They work with some of the world’s leading companies including BMW, Coca-Cola, Ford, Kimberly-Clark, Nissan and UPS to name just a few.

Training Manager, Andy Osborn, is responsible for the training and development of over 400 staff and has a particular focus on apprenticeships, including running the ATG Academy which currently works with Bedford College to train over 30 apprentices.

Andy is already starting to see a number of Academy apprentices he can fast track into key positions and ATG has completely bought into the apprenticeship ethos. “This is a long term investment and, moving forward, we know that working with Bedford College to train young people from scratch will give us more flexibility in the future as well as a competitive edge, as we will have multi-skilled engineers with experience and understanding of the whole business.”



**“We like working with Shuttleworth College and they are experts in land-based training, which is a perfect fit for my business”**

Tom Williams, Managing Director at Maydencroft

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COLLEGE



### FUNDAMENTALS FOR ENGINEERING

The college offers a wide range of training including aspects of engineering fundamentals, health and safety, organisational efficiency and improvement, electrical engineering, digital electronics, analogue electronics, electrical panel wiring, electrical power and electrical testing. Engineering students undertake many live engineering projects from local organisations and employers; these include examples such as making prototypes, improving extraction systems or even redesigning coat hangers for a local school!

One employer that Central Bedfordshire College has been working with recently is RWDI, an international specialty consulting engineering firm that helps to design high performance buildings and structures.

"Peter does very well at managing his projects and time. He also puts in so much effort (more than his share). His hard work and attitude to his work and peers is wonderful!! Sam is now able to complete any models that are required for the target boards. Tasks are completed efficiently and to a good standard, he also maintains his area well, together with workshop equipment. Many aspects of his work have improved dramatically."

Apprentice employer, RWDI

### REAL LIFE MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINEERING

Central Bedfordshire College has converted a former car show room into a fully functioning garage and valeting centre which is open to the public so that the students can learn by working in a real-life environment. Local businesses donate cars for students to renovate and rebuild; with a current project to build and race a rally car from scratch.

Learners gain practical knowledge in aspects of motor vehicle engineering ranging from fuel injection technology, to steering and suspension systems.

"Tutors have vast knowledge and experience in various engineering fields and they are always more than happy to share their insights and knowledge with us"

#### Engineering students at Central Bedfordshire College

"Employers tell us about the need to ensure that young people are trained, not just with the right skills but also with the right attitude to work, including the ability to work in a team, communicate well and deal with customers. We want our students to be among the most employable in the country."

Ali Hadawi, CBE, Principal of Central Bedfordshire College



"Tutors have vast knowledge and experience in various engineering fields and they are always more than happy to share their insights and knowledge with us"

Engineering students at Central Bedfordshire College

## LUTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



### CAREER ACADEMY PROGRAMME

Transforming lives and improving the future prospects of young people. That, in a nutshell, sums up Luton Sixth Form College's Career Academy\* programme. Its two CAUK academies in Finance and STEM grow from strength to strength. They are recognised nationally as exemplary models, helping dozens of students every year.

The programme gives young people the best possible start to their adult working lives, helping them gain the necessary skills to take forward.

Students source their own internships from reputable local, national and global companies, while a network of more than 100 mentors work closely with them to help prepare them for the world of work. It also organises regular visits to businesses and arranges lectures and seminars delivered by key industry figures.

Networking is also an important aspect and, among other sessions, a large end-of-year showcase helps to facilitate these links.

The Career Academy programme makes a huge difference to the lives of students, for whom prospects have never been brighter.

\* Career Academies UK is due to rebrand as Career Ready in summer 2015

### BEDFORDSHIRE ENGINEERING PATHWAY

This year, Luton Sixth Form College and Central Bedfordshire College are working in partnership to launch the Bedfordshire Engineering Pathway.

This unique project will increase the range of options available to students and help tackle the reported national shortage of engineers.

The programme is being developed in conjunction with employers, such as Luton-based Selex ES, MTL and Hayward Tyler. Students will study A Levels in maths and physics at Luton Sixth Form College and a BTEC engineering diploma at Central Bedfordshire College.

They will also benefit from being members of Luton Sixth Form College's STEM Career Academy.

The aim is that, by the end of their studies, students will have a well-developed set of employability skills and workplace experience. The range of options available to them will increase, whether that be university, an apprenticeship, or another training route offered to them by a partner employer.



"We help young people to prepare for the next phase in their lives. Many of our students progress directly into high quality employment or apprenticeships every year, so we are constantly seeking to develop partnerships with employers to enhance opportunities"

Chris Nicholls, Principal at Luton Sixth Form College



## MILTON KEYNES COLLEGE

### MILTON KEYNES COLLEGE LAUNCH IT HELPDESK FOR STUDENTS

Working in partnership with Mirus IT Solutions, Milton Keynes College can now offer an IT student led software support desk.

In2Tech Service Desk, will allow our IT students to help other students across the college get the most out of the software they use in and out of college. Helping to drive adoption of new tools and packages, starting with Office 365, the students at MK College will gain access to cloud based packages that save them money and time, as well as assisting the students in keeping their knowledge of IT skills and packages up to date.

Caroline Sunley, Service Support Manager at Mirus IT Solutions has said: "This project has given the students' exposure to one of the fastest growing Professional Service Automation Systems, exposure to how a service desk runs and they have gained knowledge from IT professionals that they can use when they enter the workplace".

### DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY WITH INTEGRITY

The Aspers Casino in Milton Keynes is an entertainment complex that in addition to a gaming casino has bars, restaurants and live entertainment. Milton Keynes College was identified as a training provider for the casino during their initial licence bid. The college supported them with staff recruitment and training as well as a competition for a student to design the casino uniforms.

Potential employees seeking employment at the casino in customer service or hospitality roles in the Casino were provided access to a series of Sector Based Work Academies that gave training around employability, hospitality, food safety and customer services skills. The Sector Based Work Academies provided a conversion rate of 37%. Milton Keynes College has also provided first aid in the workplace training for the security guards.

Luke Perkins, Assistant General Manager at Casino MK spoke about the huge task that they had - "Milton Keynes College provided facilities at the Business and Leadership Centre for our croupier training skills. The team also helped us recruit and train our hospitality team from pre-employment to being ready for our launch."



Paul Tomlinson, Director at Mirus IT and Julie Mills, Principal of Milton Keynes College



18-year-old Stephanie Czoboriek designed Casino MK staff uniforms



## MOULTON COLLEGE

### GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH

Moulton College supports businesses with groundbreaking and innovative research. It has recently conducted a trial of PhytoLux's new Attis range of LED plant growth lighting. Dr. Wanda McCormick, Research and Knowledge Transfer Coordinator at the college explains "This trial has produced some very interesting and positive results which suggest that plant growth is enhanced when grown under PhytoLux's LED lights".

Other research projects include working with Lightsource Renewable Energy Limited to support the farming community to identify how they can integrate renewable energy into their farms and supporting Volac International with research around the artificial rearing of lambs.

From a sports perspective, we're working with Northampton Football Club to enhance the performance of their players. All these projects involve higher education students, giving them first-hand experience of innovation across a range of industry sectors.

### BRINGING FRESH TALENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

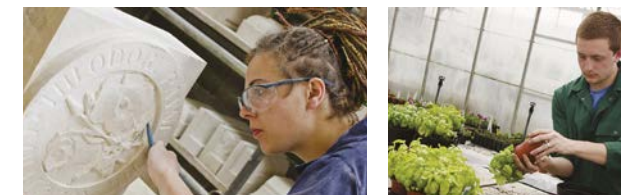
Apprenticeships offer employers the opportunity to recruit and train motivated young people who will help their business grow. Moulton College works with hundreds of businesses to support them to recruit and train apprentices at the intermediate, advanced or higher levels.

Higher apprenticeships offer a real alternative to university for young people and Charlie Waumsley and Luke Emery, who have recently been recruited by Bloor Homes through Moulton College, will achieve an HND in Construction and a NVQ level 5 Diploma in Construction Management at the end of their three year apprenticeship. Charlie says "My apprenticeship is just fantastic because I won't come out with a bill at the end of it and the experience that I'm going to gather over the next couple of years will be invaluable".

Darren Pratt, Design and Technical Director from Bloor Homes South Midlands comments "We're delighted to welcome two such talented young men to our team and I really look forward to seeing them and their careers grow. Moulton College have been a great support in helping us recruit and develop our new trainees".



From left to right: A new team: Luke Emery, Apprentice Quantity Surveyor; Rebecca Kinnear, Employer Engagement Manager, Moulton College; Darren Pratt, Design and Technical Director, Bloor Homes and Charlie Waumsley, Apprentice Engineer



**"Milton Keynes College provided facilities at the Business and Leadership Centre for our croupier training skills. The team also helped us recruit and train our hospitality team from pre-employment to being ready for our launch."**

Luke Perkins, Assistant General Manager at Casino MK

**"My apprenticeship is just fantastic because I won't come out with a bill at the end of it and the experience that I'm going to gather over the next couple of years will be invaluable"**

Charlie Waumsley, NVQ level 5 Diploma in Construction Management



## NORTHAMPTON COLLEGE

### FUTURE SKILLS FOR CHURCH'S SHOES

Leading footwear manufacturers, Church and Co Ltd in Northampton, has a robust apprenticeship scheme in partnership with Northampton College that not only attracts people into the industry, but also gives them a recognised qualification for a highly skilled craft.

Helen Errington, Head of HR at Church and Co Ltd said, "We started our apprenticeship scheme in 2012 to meet a distinct skills gap in footwear manufacturing where there was no external training available and skills were being lost as staff left the business or retired".

"We see apprentices as the future of the company; they become highly skilled, adaptable and motivated team members with the ability to support our whole manufacturing process."

Footwear Manufacturing apprentice Ashley Walter said, "Finding something you enjoy and doing an apprenticeship is possibly the best thing you could do. You get so much experience and the skills you learn are extremely valuable and unique. An apprenticeship definitely gives you an advantage because you get a qualification as well as experience in the workplace."

### OPUS ENERGY INVEST IN APPRENTICES

Opus Energy, a leading independent business energy supplier, has a successful partnership with Northampton College for its apprenticeship scheme that is central to its recruitment and retention strategy.

Opus Energy is passionate about developing motivated and loyal employees so the scheme is an opportunity to attract a vital pool of talented individuals who are able to experience working life and achieve NVQ qualifications.

Stephen Smith, Learning & Development Officer at Opus Energy said, "Taking on apprentices gives us the opportunity to provide chances to those people who need it most. We invest a great deal in support and training for apprentices and we find that they are extremely committed to the business. We also offer them a competitive salary to make sure they feel valued."

Working closely with Opus Energy, the college developed a tailored package that includes maths and english skills, on-site support and a bespoke workshop that runs in partnership with the company's employee induction sessions.



## EVOLVE BUSINESS TRAINING, TRESHAM COLLEGE

### USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO GROW SMALL BUSINESSES

Evolve and Tresham College have the exclusive rights to offer Digital Youth Apprenticeships (DYA) in Northamptonshire. These qualifications are geared towards equipping young people with the necessary skills to help smaller organisations to harness social media to grow their businesses.

Amber Towler is working as a DYA for KA Photography, combining on-the-job training with a structured study programme that teaches her how to use digital and social media to market the business and grow the client base.

Kareema McCarthy is the owner of KA Photography and is very happy with the difference that Amber has made to her business. "Amber has been a great asset to the business, particularly on the social media side. She has been able to advertise my work more effectively and, because of this, I have found myself with a lot more clients and my business is thriving".

### RECRUITING NEW HOUSING TALENT

Evolve Business Training is the employer-responsive arm of Tresham and works in partnership with many local businesses to develop the training and skills that they need to grow their business.

ASRA Housing needed a training partner to meet all of their training needs in construction and maintenance operations within Northamptonshire. Evolve delivered an intensive practical skills workshop together with training sessions in interview techniques and other skills to help the candidates prepare for interviews with ASRA. Following the assessment week, ASRA appointed four apprentices to join their team.

"The communication with Evolve throughout this process has been excellent," says Jan Westbrook, ASRA Housing. "We liaise with our designated assessor every month and get copies of his assessments. We have visited our apprentices at the college and it is really helpful for us to see what they're doing during their training in the college workshops. Moving forward we hope that they will complete their three-year apprenticeships and become permanent employees."



**"We see apprentices as the future of the company; they become highly skilled, adaptable and motivated team members with the ability to support our whole manufacturing process"**

Helen Errington, Head of HR at Church and Co Ltd

**"We have visited our apprentices at the college and it is really helpful for us to see what they're doing during their training in the college workshops."**

Jan Westbrook, ASRA Housing

SECTOR DISCIPLINES AT A GLANCE

COLLEGE PROFILES AND CONTACTS DIRECTORY

This simple overview table highlights the core disciplines of our colleges, but of course each college also has numerous specialisms, ranging from animal welfare to stonemasonry; motorsport to sports science; offender retraining to digital media; accountancy to beauty. So it is almost certain that our collective FUSE colleges will have the talent and training options to meet all the skills requirements for your business of whatever size or sector. The following pages of this brochure provides a short profile with contact details for each college. They are ready and waiting for you to get in touch.

	Aylesbury	Banbury and Bicester	Barnfield	Bedford	Central Beds	Luton Sixth Form	Milton Keynes	Moulton	Northampton	Tresham
Agriculture & Environmental Management										
Automotive										
Construction Trades										
Creative & Cultural										
Distribution & Logistics										
Food & Drink Manufacturing										
Health & Social Care										
Hospitality & Tourism										
ICT & High Technology										
Manufacturing & Engineering										
Public & Business Administration										
Retail										

AYLESBURY COLLEGE

Aylesbury College is an innovative and inclusive further education environment and a customer-focused, forward thinking centre of excellence for learning and skills development. Graded ‘Good’ by Ofsted in May 2013, we are ambitious and impatient to be excellent in all we do.

The college offers people of all ages and abilities a broad range of educational and training opportunities. Courses offered include traditional academic qualifications, vocational training in a wide range of areas, apprenticeship and traineeship schemes, higher education and business training. We have a strong culture of employability and enterprise enabling positive and sustainable futures for our students, employers and the wider community.

Tim Keighley  
Executive Director of Engagement & Business Development  
pstephens@aylesbury.ac.uk

01296 588 626  
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BANBURY AND BICESTER COLLEGE



Andy Marshall  
Business Growth Manager  
andrew.marshall@banbury-bicester.ac.uk

07765 972 806  
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Banbury and Bicester College is part of Activate Learning, a pioneering education group which combines secondary, further and higher education with apprenticeship and workforce training, consultancy, commercial business and social enterprise.

These organisations are united by a common purpose - to transform lives through learning. Activate Learning launched in November 2013 as the new name for Oxford & Cherwell Valley College Group.

The college’s unique learning philosophy understands how people learn best and creates an environment where they can succeed. It ensures the future employability of our learners throughout their lives. A focus on enterprise, including a pioneering learning

company model, develops the technical and softer skills required for continued success.

The Banbury campus of Banbury and Bicester College has recently undergone a multi-million development, with new state-of-the-art facilities for creative media, motor vehicle and the creative arts. The college’s Bicester campus, a national leader in motorsport engineering, is also expanding to meet the growing needs of this rapidly-developing town.



# BARNFIELD COLLEGE

Dynamic and inspirational, courses at Barnfield College begin and end with students being the focus across two college campuses in Luton.

Barnfield College plays a fundamental role in the provision of essential skills in the Bedfordshire economy. The college works collaboratively with partners in the delivery of its respective strategic objectives. It offers an attractive and far-reaching range of vocational courses to assist in a wider context to support student aspirations.

The Solutions for Business division is continuing to expand the propositions offered to local employers. The college is well known for its excellent apprenticeship provision and the support it offers local businesses in searching for, selecting, recruiting and training their apprentices. It is now formalising the skills training it offers

**Shagufta Shahin**  
Vice-Principal, Transforming Curriculum & Learning  
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to the incumbent workforce of local organisations with a wide range of skills from basic maths and english to vocational and management skills. This will make a significant difference to the employment opportunities of the local workforce.

Student support is provided by Student Gateway Services, enabling access to all the information and support they need to enrol and study at the college in one place. The purpose- built student support and lounge area ensures that students are comfortable and confident talking to support teams about access to funding opportunities and networking.

# BEDFORD COLLEGE

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Bedford College is a further education college offering a range of academic and vocational qualifications, including higher education and apprenticeships.

Its vision is to deliver world-class skills and education to the communities it serves. In order to achieve this, the college has established itself as a leading and innovative provider of qualifications, skills and commercial training for employers, ultimately to contribute to increasing local, regional and national skills levels and productivity.

The college's Employer Training Services team currently works with over 1,200 local and national companies, delivering tailored training solutions and apprenticeships. The college delivered 1,068 apprenticeships to local businesses in 2013/2014. By gauging the

skills demand within the area, Bedford College ensures that the training and qualifications it offers fully meet local employer needs.

In a recent Ofsted inspection, the college was praised for its work in helping young people towards employment and Ofsted was impressed with the college's service to employers and its excellent links with industry.

The Ofsted survey to employers returned very positive results, in which a growing customer base and growth in apprenticeships and bespoke courses was identified, as well as improved customer satisfaction resulting from a centralised Sales team with one point of contact for the employer.

# CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COLLEGE

Central Bedfordshire College is a highly successful and rapidly expanding further education college, which works in partnership with local employers and communities to deliver outstanding learning opportunities.

Its main purpose is to ensure that people can access the jobs and careers that they want and that a wide range of courses are available.

Graded 2 by Ofsted, the college continues to demonstrate significant success in enabling learners to progress on to the next step in their education or into the work option of their choice.

All vocational courses are very carefully designed to ensure that they provide the specific skills demanded by industry, with learning units which reflect the kind of tasks expected in the real

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workplace; these courses are offered at campuses in Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Luton and Leighton Buzzard.

In addition, the college offers apprenticeships, traineeships, higher education and business training. From September 2016, the college will open its doors to full time students aged 14-16 years and will offer these young people the opportunity to gain their GCSEs, whilst developing core vocational skills in a work-like learning environment.

The college has invested £16.7 million in building state of the art work-like learning facilities and resources in hospitality, catering, travel and tourism, hair and beauty, childcare, health & social care and engineering. The college has also recently been awarded £2.5 million of Local Growth Funding to build and operate an engineering and construction skills training centre in Leighton Buzzard, in partnership with Vinci Plc, which is planned to open in Autumn 2016.



# LUTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

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Luton Sixth Form College is the specialist provider of academic and vocational education for 16 to 18 year olds in the town.

It was the very first sixth form college in the country when it was established in 1966, and has built up an enviable reputation for quality and reliability. The college offers a very broad curriculum, consisting of around 40 A Levels and 20 BTEC courses.

Luton Sixth Form College helps young people to prepare for the next phase in their lives. The majority of students progress to university. However, many also progress directly into high quality employment or apprenticeships. Our team of specialist and experienced staff support all students to become highly qualified, independent, responsible, reliable and confident young adults by the time they leave the college.

In 2007/08 a large-scale rebuilding project was approved. A new £56 million campus opened to students in September 2010, providing a first-class learning environment in state-of-the-art facilities.

The college enjoys outstanding exam results year on year: in 2014 pass rates were 96.9% for A Levels and 99.5% for BTEC Level 3 Diplomas.



# MILTON KEYNES COLLEGE

**Milton Keynes College has provided high-quality education, training and development in Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire for over thirty years.**

The college has grown rapidly in the last 10 years becoming one of the largest employers in the city, educating over 20,000 students and engaging with over 3,000 businesses. In addition to this, it delivers Offender Learning to 31 prisons across the East Midlands, South Central and West Midlands – establishing the college as one of the largest providers in England.

The Business and Leadership Centre is a state-of-the-art central hub for business engagement that is located in a prime, easily accessible, position in the city. Its core focus is to provide a range of quality services that will strengthen and support the business

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community, building a network of lasting partnerships with businesses of all sizes.

The Business and Leadership Centre offers a whole range of services and initiatives including:

- Learning and development
- Sponsorship and participation
- Apprenticeships
- Start-up support
- Employer services
- Corporate services
- College to careers programme
- Partners programme



# MOULTON COLLEGE



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**Moulton College has been providing specialist training and education since 1921.**

Today, Moulton College is a centre of excellence for land-based sports and construction education. Operating out of six sites across Northamptonshire – Moulton, Daventry, Great Billing, Higham Ferrers, Holdenby and Silverstone – it offers courses from entry to post graduate level, as well as apprenticeships at intermediate, advanced and higher level.

The college's provision and services support over 6,000 learners to develop the skills and experience that they need to further their careers. The college works with hundreds of employers to support them with apprenticeships, training and research and these relationships help to ensure that provision meets current and future skills needs.

Over the last 15 years, Moulton College has invested over £75 million to ensure students are trained by industry experts in world class facilities.

Most recently, it has secured Government funding to build a £5 million Food and Drink Technology Academy to support local businesses and meet key strategic growth targets. A new £1.5 million athletics track will further enhance sports facilities and continue to ensure that it attracts elite sports activity to the area. As lead sponsor of the Daventry UTC and a partner in the development of vocational education and training Colleges of Excellence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the college continuously looks for ways to evolve so that it is better placed to support the needs of the local and regional economy and community.

# NORTHAMPTON COLLEGE

**Northampton College serves 9,800 students at three locations in Northampton and Daventry.**

It enables thousands of students every year to succeed and develop themselves as individuals. Ninety-five per cent of students achieve their qualifications and 85% go on to further study or into employment. Teachers have industry experience and expert knowledge and are able to introduce students to work experience. The curriculum spans a wide range of subjects from entry level to higher education for students aged 14–19 years and adults.

The college's impact lies in understanding the economic context in which it operates and contributes to the skills agenda. It has developed an understanding of the particular challenges facing an economy in which 96.5% of Northamptonshire's 25,000

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businesses employ fewer than ten individuals and supports the priority sectors designed to promote economic growth and contribute to the Government's industrial strategy.

Northampton College offers over 550 courses, all of which are broad ranging. In response to the deficit of higher level skills in the area, it has developed Higher Level Diplomas and Level 3 Diplomas, in subject areas including engineering, professional and business service, health and social care and creative industries.

Through its relationships with local businesses, the college offers a job brokerage service and has become very successful in placing apprentices into roles in industry.

Northampton College has recently been awarded £6.5 million of Local Growth Funding to build a new purpose built campus in Daventry, which will open in Autumn 2016.



# TRESHAM COLLEGE



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**Tresham College of Further and Higher Education delivers high quality training at campuses in Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough.**

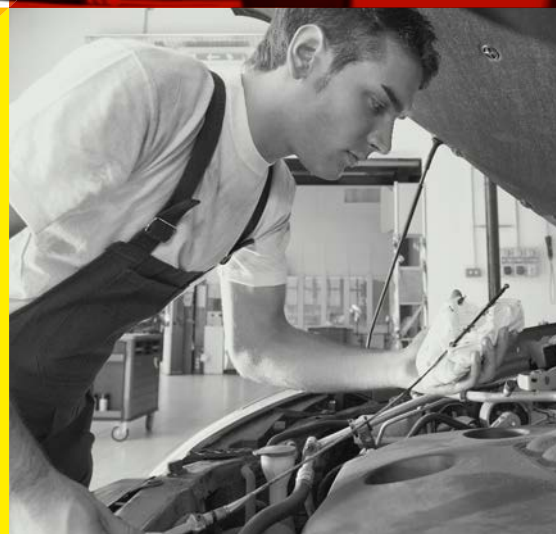
The college also operates the National College for Motorsport located at the Silverstone circuit, the heart of British Motor racing. Its mission is to deliver an outstanding learning experience with excellence across all areas of the college from teaching, to support services and the provision of industry standard facilities.

The college has invested millions of pounds to develop modern facilities at its Kettering and Corby campuses in the last 5 years. These inspiring learning spaces accommodate over 7,000 full and part time students in addition to providing learning bases for nearly 800 apprentices.

The college has recently gained government funding support to rebuild its Wellingborough campus which is planned to open in September 2017 and will accommodate up to 1,000 students. It will offer an extended range of subjects, including construction, engineering, art & design, science, technology, engineering and maths, as well as introducing the first degree level courses to the town.

Evolve is the business responsive arm of Tresham and works closely with employers throughout the county to deliver bespoke skills development programmes, ensuring that local companies have the skills necessary to succeed now and in the future.





# SEMLEP

**South East Midlands**  
Local Enterprise Partnership

[www.semlep.com](http://www.semlep.com)

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