

# Barnsley College

## Context

### **College Vision: To be a World Class Tertiary College**

We are a large General Further Education and Tertiary College serving Barnsley Metropolitan Borough and the surrounding areas in South Yorkshire. The college is the main provider of post-16 education in the Borough. Barnsley Metropolitan Borough has a population of 230,000 and is made up of both rural and urban industrial areas, including the main town of Barnsley (population just under 90,000) and other smaller towns and former mining villages.

### **Socio-economic profile**

Barnsley continues to experience serious economic challenges as a legacy of the demise of the mining industry. In the Local Economic Assessment, barriers to economic improvement included: low employment growth, skills poverty and ingrained worklessness, lack of aspiration, and a dependency culture.

Barnsley is an area of high social disadvantage and income deprivation. Barnsley is the 43rd most deprived local authority in England out of 354. It is the fourth most deprived in Yorkshire and the Humber out of 21. Barnsley has 11,320 children in poverty, 23.9% of the under 16 population; this is higher than the England average of 19.7% (www.chimat.org.uk June 2015)

Level attainment at Key Stage 4 is improving slowly, in 2014/15 at 52% of pupils attained five A\* to C grades including English and mathematics but is significantly below the national average of 69% (2014/15). 50% of Barnsley secondary schools are rated good or better by Ofsted.

### **Broad college offer**

The college is a tertiary institution that offers both A Level and vocational provision.

Vocational provision is available from Entry Level to Level 3 across all subject sector areas. There is a large apprenticeship provision for both young people and adults.

### **There are also dedicated programmes for:**

- **Disengaged young people**
- **Individuals with learning difficulties and disabilities**
- **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners**
- **Adult learners who wish to access Higher Education**

A small number of EHE learners aged 14-16 study in college. There is a 14-16 offer that is delivered both in college and in local schools.

In addition to EFA/SFA funded provision the college has a broad HE offer with over 620 full and part-time learners studying HEFCE programmes. These programmes are a mix of degree programmes validated by the University of Huddersfield and Pearson accredited Higher Nationals.

In 2013/14 Barnsley College responded to the 16-19 'Study Programme' agenda rather than repeating the offer of previous years. This resulted in programmes that were less qualification rich and increasingly personalised. Short qualifications (and to a lesser extent some long) were often replaced by the development of real-life skills or work experience. The only additional qualifications to the main programme were those that were recognised by employers or that gave real value for learners wishing to progress to a higher level.

To improve levels of mathematics and English the college changed the entitlement. Historically, young people without Level 2 in both mathematics and English had to study one of the subjects but in 2013/14 the requirement was that they must study both. In line with government ambition more were set the increasingly challenging target of achieving Level 2 rather than Level





## Learners by Programme Type and Age

	Advanced		Intermediate		Higher		All									
	16 - 18	19+	16 - 18	19+	16 - 18	19+	16 - 18	19+								
<b>Number of apprentices by Apprenticeship level and age</b>	202	11.9%	366	21.5%	569	33.4%	470	27.6%	6	0.4%	91	5.3%	777	45.6%	927	54.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>568</b>		<b>33.3%</b>		<b>1039</b>		<b>61.0%</b>		<b>97</b>		<b>5.7%</b>		<b>1704</b>		<b>100.0%</b>	

## College staff

There are 849 full and part time staff employed at the college, of which 69 are Managers, 111 are Course and Curriculum Leaders, 212 are Teaching Staff, 92 are Academic Support, 269 are Business Support and 96 are Apprentices. 60% of staff are female, 40% male. The age profile of staff is as follows: 16 to 29 – 25%, 30 to 39 – 20%, 40 to 49 – 23%, 50 to 59 – 23% and 60 plus – 7%.

## College estate

The college has approximately 62,124m<sup>2</sup> of floor space across 21 buildings. In addition to this we rent around 676m<sup>2</sup> within Queens Court.

The college is delivering an ambitious capital investment programme and recent successes include:

- **Refurbishment of the Engineering site to create a new STEM Centre.**
- **An additional classroom block at the Farm – completed in September 2013.**
- **Further classroom block, laboratory and pig barn at the Farm – completed in August 2014.**
- **Extension to the existing Sports building – completed in July 2014.**
- **Refurbishment and extension of the Shed Theatre as a HE and commercial Sports Centre – completed in July 2014.**
- **A new Construction Centre building – opened September 2015.**
- **A new campus for Barnsley Sixth Form College – opened in January 2016.**



# Barnsley College

## Curriculum

### Offer 2016/17

#### Curriculum planning overview

The college has a different, yet successful approach, to curriculum planning, when compared to other colleges.

The Governors set the vision for the college and identify annually a series of strategic priorities.

The Senior Management Team (SMT) set the curriculum framework and monitor progress. SMT determines the nature of the offer, departments determine the detailed content.

In the Business Plan process departments present a departmental plan and agree with SMT a series of learner number and income targets for:

- **16-18**
- **Schools activity**
- **Adults**
- **Apprenticeships**
- **Higher Education**
- **Project activity**

These are determined by previous history, demand (applications), local/regional market need/priority, government priorities, Governors' strategic priorities and funding allocation/availability. This is an iterative process where departments present an initial offer that then is modified to meet the overall needs of the institution.

To deliver these targets the curriculum departments are supported by the Communications and Recruitment department (16-18, schools activity, adults, Higher Education, Marketing and Admissions), the Apprenticeships department (Apprenticeships) and the Bids department (Projects). Each support department has targets creating a shared accountability.

#### 16-18 provision

##### Planning

The college is an inclusive tertiary provider and will provide access to learning for all learners. 16-18 provision will continue to place emphasis on the holistic experience of the learner rather than just the main qualification aim. The learners will follow a 'main learning aim' and, where appropriate, English and maths. Other study was to be driven by the needs of the learner. This may be additional qualifications, preparation for employment, preparation for progression (FE/HE) and improving general life skills.



Developing English and maths skills are a key part of study programmes as many of the young people who join the college in year 12 do not have GCSE grade C in both mathematics and English. Full-time learners that had not achieved a grade C in GCSE English and/or mathematics are required to undertake additional study in that/those subject(s). Learners that achieve grade D in GCSE English and/or mathematics are expected to repeat the respective GCSE(s). The learners that achieved below a grade D will followed a Functional Skills at a level determined by the initial assessment. On the achievement of the qualification learners then undertook some additional studies at the next level.

The college will continue to offer both A Level and vocational provision.

AS and A2 are to be offered. AS will continue to be offered as discrete courses. As this is a tertiary college, entry requirements will result in an inclusive Sixth Form. A three year A Level programme will be available to young people with potential who achieved disappointing results at GCSE in year 11.

Across all vocational areas where there continues to be demand, study programmes at levels one, two and three will be offered.

The department of Foundation Studies will continue to offer study programmes for learners that are disengaged from statutory education or are not yet 'college-ready'. These programmes will develop personal skills, provide access to vocational tasters and opportunities to develop English and maths.

The Learning for Living and Work department will continue to offer programmes for young people (aged 16-24) with learning difficulties. The provision seeks to develop independent living skills and prepare young people for supported employment.

The college targets pupils from schools inside the Barnsley borough and those on the periphery where there are good travel routes into the centre of Barnsley.

## 14-16 provision

### Context

- Traditional vocational training from schools is in decline as qualifications do not contribute towards national targets and many schools have a shortage of funds to pay for such provision.
- Schools are increasingly seeking bespoke provision for 14-16 learners rather than for cohorts.
- The introduction of offering EHE students access to studying in college, has proved to be successful.

### Curriculum planning

The college will continue to work with local schools to offer opportunities for young people to access vocational training alongside their KS4 school programme. This may be through courses in school or at college. This is

determined by school/pupil need and may be either on a group or individual basis.

It is anticipated that the college will continue to work with the Local Authority and there will be a small cohort of EHE learners that come to the college as a good reputation for this provision has been developed over the last year.

Curriculum links through the Sixth Form will continue to be developed schools and provision to support 'gifted' learners is to be offered.

## Adult provision

### Context

- Skills levels of Barnsley adults are significantly below national and City Region averages. Unemployment in Barnsley is always above national averages.
- The largest employers in Barnsley are public sector employers – all of which are financially squeezed and/or making redundancies. Barnsley College is the third largest employer in the town (behind the Local Authority and NHS). Barnsley does not have a significant employment 'sector'.
- The college ASF allocation is low.
- ASF is reducing although the college has received an additional in-year allocation in 2014/15.
- The college seeks to deploy ASF in Barnsley and not through sub-contracting.
- The college, Northern College and BMBC do not actively compete and each provider has its own market.
- Many adults infill into full-time provision – poor schools performance results in learners staying at college into 'adulthood' or re-engaging with education in 19-24 age group.
- The end of the Skills for Jobs contract in 2015 will result in re-allocating ASF to sector-based work academies.
- SCR priorities do not readily map onto Barnsley.

### Curriculum planning

Classroom based adult provision will be limited and reduce.

There will be opportunities for young adults (18-24) to infill into full-time programmes. This will, in part, contribute to addressing the growing NEETs issue in this cohort.

Access to English and maths programmes will remain although there will be a reduction in the number of specialist ESOL programmes.

Dedicated adult programmes remain limited. Pre-Access and Access in Health will be retained. AAT (Accountancy) will continue from Level 2 to Level 4.

The college will offer full-cost provision on an on-demand basis. Significant growth in full-cost is not a priority as European funding over a significant number of years appears to have dulled the appetite for business paying fees for training.



## Apprenticeships and Traineeships

### Context

- **The college is an outstanding provider.**
- **The apprenticeship offer has both breadth and depth.**
- **Apprenticeships are growing in numbers at 16-18 and remaining static at 19+.**
- **The college acts as a sub-contractee for CSkills (Construction) and the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (Engineering).**
- **Barnsley does not have a specialist 'sector' with the main employers public sector organisations. Barnsley MBC is looking to develop warehousing in the east of the borough and the college is already working with companies such as ASOS.**

### Curriculum planning

The college will continue to grow the apprenticeship offer both in terms of volume and breadth/depth of offer.

There are currently frameworks at Intermediate level, at Advanced level and at Higher level.

The apprenticeship offer responds to the need of 'local' employers (Barnsley and surrounding areas) and is delivered predominantly by the college.

The college will build on the good reputation already in place in the Health sector and develop further partnerships.

There is a small amount of local franchising to a partner who works with hard to reach Construction learners in Barnsley.

Franchising of apprenticeships is limited.

In addition to delivering apprenticeships directly, other partnership work will continue. The Construction department will continue to deliver components of construction sector frameworks.

The Engineering department will continue to work with the AMRC to deliver the technical certificates for all Engineering students based in the new specialist on-site training centre.

The college will utilise traineeships for adults. These will be predominately for sector-based work academies.



## Higher Education

### Context

- **University Campus Barnsley (UCB) transferred to Barnsley College in August 2013. Whilst retaining the HE identity UCB is an integral part of the college.**
- **There are over 600 HE learners at UCB.**
- **Since the transfer strategically, the portfolio of provision has diversified giving an increased vocational 'feel' with progression pathways available to Level 5 and 6 in all curriculum areas. The provision is skills based and structured to enable both full and part-time attendance.**

**The education profile of Barnsley adults shows the authority to be significantly below regional and national averages for the number of people qualified at Level 4 and above.**

**The offer will target Barnsley and the surrounding boroughs.**

### Curriculum planning

The college continues to seek to grow Higher Education. Students will be based in the University Campus Barnsley (UCB) and will only use the main college sites for specialist resources.

UCB will offer predominately skills based provision at Levels 4 and 5 (HNC and HND) and some degree programmes. HNC/D will provide progression pathways for existing college learners in Engineering, Animal Management, Business, Computing, Catering, Graphic Design, Health, Sport and Public Services. PGCE/Certificate in Education will continue to be offered as the college remains part of the University of Huddersfield Collaborative partnership.

New HNC/D provision has been introduced in Motor Vehicle, Hair and Beauty Management, Moving Image and Performing Arts. A Foundation Degree in Learning Support is also offered.

For the Higher National provision the cohorts will predominantly be local learners from Barnsley and the surrounding boroughs. This offer will cater for both full-time and part-time learners to access the provision.