

NSCG

NEWCASTLE
AND STAFFORD
COLLEGES GROUP



Ofsted Summary Report 2024





We are officially an Ofsted Outstanding College... again!

Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (NSCG) has an established reputation for educational excellence, and five years since our last inspection, I am delighted to announce that Ofsted has again confirmed NSCG is an Outstanding College, with inspectors praising our 'strong contribution' to meeting skills needs.

I am extremely proud of our college community and was so pleased that the inspection team experienced first-hand what I see from our students, apprentices and staff every single day – a warm and welcoming environment where learners are motivated and enthusiastic and staff demonstrate creativity, energy and passion in all that they do.

The high ambitions we have for our learners were recognised in all areas of the Ofsted report, and our learners will always remain at the heart of everything we do. Our academic results rank among the best in the sector and NSCG is the leading college in Staffordshire for university progression, with 1,111 students advancing to 98 institutions in 2023.

We pride ourselves on offering 'more than just a course' and deliver an individual approach to learning, where students receive outstanding teaching and support, extensive extracurricular opportunities and first

class facilities and we were pleased to see Ofsted positively acknowledge all of these aspects in their full report.

The inspection period was an intense week for everyone involved, and we wouldn't have been able to achieve what we did without our students, apprentices, governors, employers and wider civic partners, who gave us their full support throughout, each playing an important part in the final outcome.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated and talented staff team for their relentless pursuit of excellence, and for consistently upholding the high standards that make NSCG such a special place to learn and work – I'm delighted that these efforts have once again been recognised by Ofsted.

Craig Hodgson, Principal & Chief Executive, NSCG
Craig



Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Education programmes for young people	Outstanding
Apprenticeships	Outstanding
Provision for learners with high needs	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding
Meeting skills needs	Strong Contribution

As part of their visit a team of 13 Ofsted inspectors spent time with, and spoke to, a variety of NSCG's stakeholders including staff, governors, students, apprentices, parents, local schools and universities, local authorities as well as partner employers to rigorously scrutinise all aspects of college life.

Here are just a selection of the many 'Outstanding' features that Ofsted commented on:



Our learners and apprentices

- Learners and apprentices enjoy learning at college. They are enthusiastic and motivated about their education and futures.
- Learners and apprentices learn substantial new knowledge, skills and behaviours quickly.
- Learners' and apprentices' attendance and punctuality is exemplary.
- Learners participate in a wide range of enrichment activities which suit their own talents, interests and career aspirations.
- Learners and apprentices treat each other and the college staff with due respect.
- Learners develop their English and mathematical skills and fluency extensively within the curriculum. They produce high-quality written work.
- Apprentices make outstanding progress. Apprentices at all levels, develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours that they need to be highly effective at work.

Our teaching staff

- Staff are excellent role models; they are professional, friendly, incredibly supportive and work tirelessly to meet the needs of their learners and apprentices.
- Teachers demonstrate creativity, energy and passion for their subjects through the wide range of additional activities they include within the curriculum. These experiences inspire learners to produce excellent work.
- Teachers have extremely high expectations of learners and plan their teaching sessions skilfully.
- Teachers use information about learners' starting points to plan accurately the activities and support they need to achieve their potential.
- Staff collaborate productively with employers and other stakeholders in the decisions made about the content of their curriculum.
- Teachers provide high-quality education through which most learners and apprentices move on to their aspirational next steps.

“ Teachers create highly supportive, calm and highly aspirational environments in which learners and apprentices thrive. ”



Our stakeholder links

- The college makes a strong contribution to meeting skills needs.
- Leaders and managers have exceptional links with local employers, universities and regional business groups. They collaborate effectively with partners and are agile in the way they create a challenging curriculum to help learners achieve ambitious career goals.
- Staff at all levels work highly collaboratively with important stakeholders, including local authorities, the city council and Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce, to understand the local economy, job market and priorities.
- Learners, including those with high needs, take advantage of the well-planned and plentiful opportunities for encounters with the world of work, including work experience.



Our support

- Staff have high aspirations for learners with high needs.
- Learners on foundation courses receive the specialist support they need to develop greater independence, and the knowledge and skills to move on to higher level courses, supported internships and employment.
- Staff provide learners with access to support from an expert careers guidance team.
- Teachers ensure that learners with additional learning needs receive the support or adaptations to the curriculum that they need to make substantial progress.
- Learners value the knowledge and support offered by teachers and can recall their learning exceptionally well.
- Teachers deliver a breadth of personal development topics in the curriculum. Learners can talk fluently about healthy relationships and mental health awareness.
- Learners feel safe at NSCG. New learners benefit from exceptional transition arrangements, which swiftly make them feel comfortable and familiar in new surroundings.
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.



**“ With clarity and passion,
leaders set high expectations
for staff and learners. ”**

Our leadership and management

- Leaders have developed curriculum which strongly reflects the knowledge and skills required in the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP).
- Leaders have taken a lead role in planning, developing and the build of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Institute of Technology. They have worked alongside the local university, national employers and local colleges to offer courses which will develop the technical skills most needed in the region.
- Leaders have been swift to successfully implement T Levels to support priority sectors including health and care, engineering, construction and digital.
- Leaders have invested extensively in state-of-the-art facilities, at both sites, which support the current skills priorities.
- Leaders ensure there are high-quality resources available for learners to use, which helps them to develop their skills in a professional environment.
- Governors are highly committed to the strategic vision of NSCG. They understand the strengths and priorities for improvement and hold senior leaders to account very effectively.

Read the full report at:

nscg.ac.uk/ofsted

Newcastle College

Knutton Lane
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 2GB

T: 01782 715111

E: info.newcastle@nscg.ac.uk

Stafford College

Victoria Square
Stafford
Staffordshire
ST16 2QR

T: 01785 223800

E: info.stafford@nscg.ac.uk

Part of the

NSCG

NEWCASTLE
AND STAFFORD
COLLEGES GROUP


Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider