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Welcome

Weston College has had an exceptional year delivering teaching, learning and training to thousands of learners and local, regional and national businesses.

Our recent campus capital investments have included the South West Skills Centre, opened by HRH the Princess Royal, alongside new centres for construction, and health and sport to complement state-of-the-art resources spread across five campuses.

‘Creating Brighter Futures’ remains our strapline and indeed we do create a value-added environment for all who study or engage with us.

Our academic results place us at the top of the league tables and include 31% first class honours, 99% A Level and vocational course success, alongside work with North Somerset Council, the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and the Combined Authority in the West of England, reinforces our ambitions and excellence in training.

As I look back on a year which has brought academic success and state-of-the-art resources to fruition, I must thank everyone who has been part of this unique journey, where we have certainly bucked the trend! The 2019/20 year must now prioritise our work in innovation and curriculum development. It will prioritise our skills delivery at all levels, including our new Prison Education contracts in the South East of England and the advancement of the West of England Institute of Technology.

Ambition must remain paramount and we have continued to refine staffing structures, appointing and retaining the very best staff in the field. Our work with key employers, including HMS, MOD, GKN, Airbus, Rolls Royce, Wessex Water, MoD and many others, must be sustained and built upon. Partnerships with our HE partners - UWE Bristol, Bath Spa University and Hartpury University - alongside work with North Somerset Council, the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and the Combined Authority in the West of England, reinforces our ambitions and excellence in training.

There is no doubt that there will be further challenges, but they in turn will bring opportunities to ensure we can continue to be the very best academic, technical and vocational education to all who study and train with us.

Our multifaceted imperatives – academic, social, cultural, transformational and economic - will provide impact to ensure we continue to create ‘Brighter Futures’ for all who engage with us.

Dr Paul Phillips, CBE; PhD; DLit; EdD
Principal and Chief Executive

As the new Chair of the Weston College Group, I have the privilege in commending the 2018/19 Annual Report and Accounts.

It reflects a phenomenal set of results endorsed by the Corporation, who together act as the critical friend and scrutineer of strategy, finances, curriculum and ethos of the organisation. This year we have been involved in a range of new initiatives and as a previous governor of the College, I am thrilled by the partnership that has been developed across the Governing Body.

The higher we climb, the better the view – a view that will be enhanced by sharing it with our colleagues and partners alike.

I look forward to working with you.

Andrew Leighton-Price
Chair of Governing Body
Weston College Group

Weston College is a general college of further and higher education in Weston-super-Mare, delivering education and vocational training to students aged 14 and above. It is regarded as one of the top further education colleges in the UK, and is the only college in the West of England to be rated ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted. The College provides education to approximately 30,000 learners across the UK.

Inspirational Events and Investments Limited is a subsidiary company of the Weston College Group. It runs the Winter Gardens Pavilion, Lasseter’s restaurant, the Florentine bistro, and the Lauriston Hotel. The company was incorporated in March 2017 and has already made a significant contribution to the regeneration of Weston-super-Mare.

University Centre Weston (UCW) offers more than 40 courses across a number of vocational and academic subject areas. UCW delivers the courses in partnership with Bath Spa University, UWE Bristol and Hartpury University. UCW is rated ‘Gold’ in the Teaching Excellence Framework, meaning the learning, teaching and outcomes it provides for students are of the highest quality in Britain.

Weston College’s Offender Learning Services is a top-performing provider of offender and detainee learning. The service is recognised for its excellent teaching, learning and assessment; the positive outcomes it achieves for learners; and its partnership approach to business planning, which ensures that the curriculum meets learners’ and employers’ needs.

Forward Futures Limited is the College Group’s in-house recruitment agency. It provides high calibre associates to the Weston College Group and its key services, such as offender learning. Forward Futures is often the first step for applicants interested in beginning a career with the College, either on a cover/supply or longer assignment basis.
As a further and higher education and training provider, Weston College Group has always been committed to making a difference in all areas of education and training. The College is working particularly closely with the North Somerset Council to create unrivalled opportunities for people, particularly young people, to improve their skills and find work in their local area.

North Somerset is a diverse area, with coastal and urban market towns and rural villages. Generally, it is prosperous, with an increasing population, but has nine LSOAs (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) within the most deprived 5% in England, all within Weston-super-Mare. By providing high-quality education, training and support, the College can assist local learners to develop their skills and achieve their academic, career and life aspirations. By mapping our training and support, the College has worked closely with the Bengelsford Trust to develop a Centre for Excellence in SEND, of the SEND Association Conference on December 2nd 2019. It is expected that the work of the centre will not only improve post-16 maths outcomes but will also support improvements within institutions across the wider South West region.

Centre for Excellence in SEND
As part of our continued drive to make education more accessible to all, we widened our community outreach programmes and successfully launched a number of distance and blended learning courses that meet learners’ individual needs. Our development of digital learning is working, with curriculum teams continuing to trial new online and blended learning approaches for adult learners. The impact has been raising the participation of those hardest to reach and overcoming traditional barriers whilst providing enhanced opportunities for progression across the provision.

West of England Institute of Technology (WoE IoT) and the South West LEP have taken the lead on key collaborative projects, including West of England Institute of Technology’s (WoE IoT) and Weston College-led a £20 million bids scheme competed against over 100 other organisations, including colleges and universities locally and nationally. The lead on the key collaborative projects, including West of England Institute of Technology (WoE IoT) and Weston College’s work is raising the participation of those hardest to reach and overcoming traditional barriers whilst providing enhanced opportunities for progression across the provision.

West of England Institute of Technology
West of England Institute of Technology (WoE IoT) is a key partner in the South West LEP’s work to develop the right employability behaviours designed to help young people and adults develop the skills and knowledge to access well-paid, sustainable employment. The College is at the forefront of the technical education reforms being driven by central Government. Weston College will pilot the first T Level pathways from September 2020. A key element of the T Level framework is an extended industry placement. The College has successfully trialled industry placements in 2018/19 with a range of employers across a number of industry sectors. This will be significantly expanded in 2019/20 to ensure the majority of Level 3 study programme students benefit from this opportunity and the occupational experience that it will bring. The College sees industry placements as a unique element of its provision that makes it stand out from the other sixth form colleges being provided within the local region.

T Levels
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The past year has seen a combined investment of £18 million by the Weston College Group in new training centres, providing a high quality learning environment for students and helping to address the skills gaps in priority sectors in the region.

These capital projects have been achieved with funding from the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and by working in partnership with North Somerset Council.

The Health and Active Living Skills Centre (HALSC), built on the College’s Loxton Campus, opened its doors to its first students in June 2019. The centre comprises a six-bed simulation ward that is unique to the area, specialised laboratory spaces, sports hall, multi-gym and external sports facilities. This not only supports the region’s skills needs for the health, life sciences and active living sectors but also the NHS Trust and public health agendas around prevention and management of long-term complex health conditions, rehabilitation and promotion of active living. Training provision comprises full-time courses, programmes for the unemployed and apprenticeships – from entry level to degree apprenticeships. The sports facilities are also being used by community organisations and individuals of all ages.

Also in April 2019, Weston College Group opened its new Construction Training Centre, located close to the M5 junction 21. The centre was designed and built to create an industry-focused training facility that would address the shortage of construction plant, scaffolding and groundworks training available in the area.

The centre comprises a large high-roofed scaffolding workshop, versatile classrooms, IT training and assessment rooms, and office and catering facilities. Constructed of modular design, the building offers the flexibility to adapt to evolving skills and training needs. The outdoor training area replicates a modern construction environment for large plant, groundworks and logistics training.

The College now delivers a range of short courses, pre-employment courses and apprenticeships in a range of areas, including scaffolding, highways, logistics and groundworks, health and safety, management and supervision, CSCS and site readiness.

Weston College is also in the process of creating a unique, high quality Animal Management Education Centre in partnership with Puxton Park. Due to open in January 2020, this facility will meet the growing demand of learners, including SEND learners, to access industry-standard facilities. Furthermore, the centre will facilitate the growth of training to meet the skills needs of the visitor economy and land-based sectors in the region.

The new centre will create an inclusive education facility for delivery of the practical elements of the animal management curriculum and will include classrooms, IT suite, wash-space and a student breakout area catering for over 250 students each year. It is located within the grounds of Puxton Park visitor attraction, just off M5 junction 21, and through the agreement with Puxton Park, learners and staff will have invaluable access to the park’s wide range of farm, domestic and exotic species in addition to an extensive acreage of farmland, facilities and resources.

Students will gain a real-life appreciation and experience of working with animals within a busy working farm environment and popular visitor attraction, significantly enhancing their employability skills.

The centre will deliver broad-ranging study programmes offering a complete progression pathway from Level 1 to foundation degree. Students and staff alike, await the opening of the centre with excited anticipation.
This has been another successful year for our full-time, 16-18 curriculum. This is reflected not only in the strong academic results but also in the wider curriculum success that has been achieved. The standing ovation for the performance of ‘Made in Dagenham’, the Rosslyn Park, sevens-winning female rugby team and beauty and computing students reaching the finals of World Skills are just a few such examples.

Wherever you look across the College, you will see young people engaged in learning and enrichment opportunities that place them among some of the most employable young people in the country. Young people continue to choose the College as their first choice for academic and technical learning, while year 11 school leaver applications have continued to rise.

The College is at the forefront of Government plans to revolutionise technical qualifications. The College will be one of the first providers in the country to deliver T Levels at Level 3 from 2020.

The development of maths and English skills is an integral element of the curriculum delivery. The College continues to innovate in this area and is leading research into teaching pedagogy and student engagement through its status as a Maths Centre for Excellence.

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<td>16-18 curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proportion of learners completing a work or industry placement</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proportion of learners progressing to employment or further learning</td>
<td>95%</td>
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<td>Proportion of Level 3 learners progressing to higher education</td>
<td>77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proportion of Level 3 learners progressing to UCW</td>
<td>37%</td>
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Adult and part-time provision

The core focus of Weston College’s adult provision concentrates on supporting adults to learn and develop the necessary skills, attributes and behaviours required to operate effectively in life and work. It helps them to achieve the next stage of their unique pathway, be that a new career, a promotion or a new hobby.

Proudly standing at the heart of the community, Weston College understood that some adults’ circumstances and past experiences may have previously inhibited their participation and achievement in education and training. That’s why we adapt provision and modes of delivery to meet all our learners’ needs.

As part of our continued drive to make education more accessible, we widened our community outreach programmes and successfully launched a number of distance and blended learning courses to meet learners’ individual needs. The effect was to raise participation among those who are, traditionally, hardest to reach, whilst providing enhanced opportunities for progression across the provision.

The curriculum considers and reflects the skills demanded by employers and industry, both regionally and locally. In partnership with key stakeholders, the College has constructed and delivered a curriculum that supports:

- Unemployed learners who need employability skills and transition support to find and sustain employment
- Learners wanting to secure their first full Level 2 or 3 qualification in a vocational discipline
- Learners to achieve key qualifications in English and maths
- Learners who want to gain access to higher education
- Learners to gain higher-level qualifications
- Learners who want to re-train and pursue a career in new professional or technical disciplines.
- Learners who want to meet like-minded people as they take up a new hobby.

Student recruitment

The College’s adult provision has continued to grow by more than 5%. In addition, more than 9,050 people aged over 19 are enrolled at the College, 873 on an apprenticeship and 827 studying higher education courses at University Centre Weston.

Achievement rates

In the 2018/19 academic year, 95% of adult learners successfully completed their courses with a further 90% positively progressing to the next phase of their unique learning journey. Of the College’s tracked Access to Higher Education learners, 93% applied to university through UCAS.

Increased flexibility in the learning approach for adults studying English and maths has yielded impressive results, with 89% of English and 92% of maths students passing their GCSE courses.

Investment in curriculum and resources

The College Group continues to invest in its curriculum and resources to train adults in sectors that will drive and fuel the regional economy for the future.

Changing demographics in the labour market and the abilities and barriers of the unemployed has meant a real change in the needs of the community. In adapting to this challenge, the College has developed new courses that focus on the needs of employers and the community.

Traditional courses in accounting, teacher training, health and social care and leadership and management are now offered as a distance pathway making previously inaccessible courses available to adults.

This year, we engaged with even more job centres, referral partners and industry specific training providers.

Our courses for the long-term unemployed and people with specific barriers have helped learners progress through a structured programme. This has enabled them to find appropriate employment – for instance, with employers that have found vacancies difficult to fill. This year also saw Responsible Tenant Passport course developed in partnership with North Somerset Council.

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This has been another year of growth for Weston College apprenticeships. The College has maintained its strategy of implementing apprenticeship standards and reducing apprenticeship frameworks. This has helped to improve employer responsiveness, giving us greater flexibility and enabling us to create bespoke apprenticeship programmes tailored to the needs of individual employers. Partnerships with companies such as Avon Fire and Rescue have enabled the College to offer apprenticeships in vocational occupations (such as the Operational Firefighter course), that we have not been able to offer previously. Our strategic partnership with UWE Bristol has led to joint delivery of degree apprenticeships in engineering, utilising both organisations’ expertise in apprenticeship and Level 6 delivery respectively. This has resulted in an increase in our apprenticeship portfolio.

Weston College starts have grown by 25% with most taken up with large employers. Large employers now account for 60% of all apprenticeship enrolments, which has seen a significant swing from early 2017 where large employers contributed to just 20% of Weston College apprenticeship provision. Our move into larger geographical areas is slowing and the College is now concentrating on a smaller number of employers in the areas where we have expanded.

The level of apprenticeships that are being enrolled this year has also seen a noticeable shift away from lower level apprenticeships. Level 2 apprenticeships have reduced by 22% due to reducing availability, whilst Level 3 apprenticeships have increased by 11%. Higher apprenticeships have increased by 82% since last academic year. Looking forward it is likely that Level 2 provision will continue to decrease when all apprenticeship frameworks are phased out by July 2020.

The opening of two new campuses in 2019 for Construction and Health and Active Living has focussed new provision this year on those two sectors. New provision has been tailored to meet the needs of employers, and includes apprenticeships in groundworks, civil engineering and highways operations. The Health and Active Living Centre has focussed on expanding our offer in healthcare and developing and commencing new apprenticeships in healthcare science and soon, for trainee nursing associates. The acquisition of Coachmakers has also strengthened our sports offer, which complements the full-time provision in sport to provide a pathway into work for students in this sector.

The ongoing reforms for apprenticeships has identified that the College has had to retrospectively react to. The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IFATE) and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) have applied funding band adjustments mid-year to a large number of apprenticeship standards that have had a negative impact on funding per apprentice. In relation to standards which are part of the College’s offer, income for 20 apprentice standards have decreased, 10 have remained the same with only 1 apprentice standard has increased. The ESFA has also tightened the in-year funding rules to focus on an apprentice’s prior learning and achievement and ensure this is accounted for whenaggering a price with employers for apprenticeship delivery. This again required action to ensure the impact on the viability of apprentices’ programmes was mitigated so that we could continue to offer the wide range of apprenticeships in our portfolio.

Our focus for the next 12 months is to improve the outcomes for adult apprentices as the growth in apprenticeships is rapidly increasing for this age group. Employers training existing staff is a major factor in this growth and as a consequence the College has to make sure that programmes provide new skills and knowledge and make an impact on the employer’s business.
Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Weston College has been recognised for its exemplary and high-profile SEND provision by being appointed a SEND Centre for Excellence – focussing on leadership and people.

The Principal and Chief executive as a visionary and an influential leader is integral to supporting other colleges and training providers becoming inclusive organisations. This exceptional achievement allows Weston College to share best practice and drive a step change in the sector’s approach to SEND and support FE providers to create a culture that is truly inclusive.

Leadership hub: Influencing from the top

The aim of our leadership hub is to create truly inclusive FE cultures by supporting learners to achieve their aspirations, and:  
- Improving the quality of provision through motivating staff and learners  
- Creating an inclusive culture with SEND learners at its heart  
- Making SEND learners a top priority to ensure they succeed in adult life.

Supporting learners at Weston College

Weston College continues to expand its innovative practice for learners with SEND, providing exceptional support in world-class facilities, to over 1,500 learners. The College places empowerment and personalisation at the heart of its strategic plans, creating a highly inclusive ethos and culture. This is demonstrated through 90% success rates of learners with SEND, exceeding national benchmarks. This year we have:

- Seen an increase by 9% to 21% of learners with SEND progressing into employment  
- SEND apprenticeship success levels increasing from 68% to 88% since the specialist model was introduced  
- Achieved the AAC SEND Apprenticeship Champion award  
- Won a Beacon Award for Mental Health and Well-being  
- Achieved the TES Leader of the Year 2019 and been named a finalist for Specialist Provider of the Year.

The College continues to lead the SEND field and is proactive in informing the sector, having developed a specialist provision model for a general further education college. This provides SEND learners with high-quality accessible and sustainable ‘in-county’ provision, including a residential training element for learners with autism and Sensory Learning Base for learners with profound, complex and multiple learning difficulties - both not usually seen outside of specialist colleges.
The Weston College Group’s Law and Professional Services Academy is the regional centre of excellence for professional services education.

The academy provides learners with professionally accredited training in law, business, human resources, administration, management, finance, accounting, computing, IT and other professional services.

The academy offers classroom and work-based learning options and nationally recognised qualifications so employers can train new staff and upskill existing employees.

The Group’s Training Solutions division supports employers throughout the process, providing expert guidance on how to fund the programmes through either the government’s apprenticeship levy or through government apprenticeship funding for small employers.

The Law and Professional Services Academy has enjoyed a number of notable successes this year.

The number of students on the six Chartered Institute of Legal Executive (CILEx) courses on offer at the academy increased by 23% in 2018/19.

Learners on these courses outperform national averages in terms of results, with a 100% pass rate on the CILEx Level 6 Professional Higher Diploma in Law and Practice, Graduate Diploma in Law and Practice and Chartered Legal Executive Apprenticeship programmes.

The first CILEx graduates from the academy are now working as legal professionals.

The academy also offers four Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) courses including the Level 5 Certificate in Human Resources Management.

Graduates from the course took part in the Weston College Group’s Graduation Day celebrations in September, with more than 500 higher education learners from across the Group collecting their scrolls on the day.

The learner experience was also significantly enhanced in 2018/19 with the development of a new virtual learning environment (VLE) for academy courses. The VLE allows learners to access more than 100 recorded lessons and other online resources. These facilitate a more flexible blended learning approach for professionals, as an alternative when work or family commitments prevent them from being able to attend classes.
University Centre Weston

University Centre Weston (UCW) is the higher education division of the Weston College Group. It was awarded University Centre status in 2016, and built upon its new identity in 2018/19, bucking the national trend by continuing to grow its student numbers.

Close to 1,000 students are now enrolled on its 40+ courses, with a broad range of subjects and degree-level qualifications on offer. Part of the reason for this continued success in such a competitive marketplace is the quality of the provision on offer at UCW. The coveted Teaching Excellence Framework Gold award UCW achieved in 2017 was this year extended until summer 2021.

Also in 2019, UCW achieved its best ever results in the National Student Survey, with students awarding it an overall satisfaction score of 93% - well above the average of 84% for all HE providers in the UK. UCW also achieved top-quartile scores in the eight other main categories used to determine student satisfaction, and five degrees at UCW - Animal Management, Applied Computing, Counselling, Early Years and Musical Theatre - were awarded individual overall satisfaction scores of 100%.

UCW has also extended its strategic associations, with Hartpury University added to its existing partnerships with Bath Spa University and UWE Bristol.

UCW held its biggest and best ever graduation ceremony in 2019, with 35% of Honours students achieving first-class degrees.

New courses were launched in the area of engineering, with UCW now the degree apprenticeship destination of choice in the region for world renowned companies such as Rolls-Royce and GKN Aerospace and public sector organisations such as the Ministry of Defence. Foundation degrees in Performing Arts, Musical Theatre, Dance for Commercial Performance, Uniformed and Public Services and Games and Animation Production have also been converted into full three-year full Honours degrees.

UCW held its second annual awards ceremony in 2019 to celebrate a number of students and graduates achieving outstanding personal and professional successes. These included talented performers receiving rave reviews for their shows at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Marvin ‘The Jazzman’ Muoneke wowing the judges on Britain’s Got Talent and multiple Chartered Institute of Environmental Excellence Award wins.

UCW also launched a regional photography competition and its own creative arts festival in venues across Weston in 2019 and the Dirigo Film Festival for up-and-coming filmmakers received more than 120 entries from as far afield as Canada, the United States, India and Jordan.

UCW will continue to focus on offering quality, work-based courses in outstanding facilities to meet the strategic aim of appealing to students from diverse backgrounds, and fulfil its commitment to provide an outstanding higher education experience, enabling success and inspiring ambition.
Blended learning

Following the successful development of six blended courses as part of the Flexible Learning Fund during the 2018/2019 year, we have created a clear vision for collaborative and tutor-led adult courses that promote a high-quality ‘virtual classroom’ learning experience and have the potential to extend both the geographic and demographic reach of Weston College.

As well as developing digital learning, curriculum teams continue to grow flexible learning approaches for adult learners, and to enhance the delivery of 16–19 courses through high quality digital interventions. This ensures that classroom teaching time is utilised in the most efficient and engaging ways whilst providing learners with the opportunity to develop the digital work and communication skills that they will need to succeed in later life. An early example of this can be seen in the blended study skills modules that have been launched with Access to HE for the 2019/20 academic year.

Educational technologies move forward rapidly, and our digital learning development aims to keep Weston College at the forefront of digital innovation through the considered use of technologies such as Virtual and Augmented Reality, 360 Videos and innovative use of collaborative technologies such as Microsoft Teams. The development of our dedicated ‘Virtual Classroom’ studio and collaborative learning suite later this year will allow Weston College tutors to deliver professional online lectures in an active and engaging way. As one of the first colleges in the UK implementing these dedicated virtual delivery spaces, our aim is to be a sector leader in delivering high-quality blended and virtual classroom experiences.

Forward Futures Limited

As Weston College’s in-house temporary staff recruitment service, Forward Futures has continued to provide academic business support and service sector staff cover at its Weston-super-Mare campuses.

It has also provided cover throughout the South West and, more recently, in the South East after the College was awarded the Prison Education Framework contracts in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

In the 2018/19 academic year, Forward Futures has continued to create opportunities for people to begin or develop careers in the FE and HE sector. Forward Futures is often the first step for applicants interested in beginning a career with Weston College, either on a cover supply or longer assignment basis.

When recruiting for areas of national skills shortages, increased focus has been placed on upskilling Forward Futures associates to open up opportunities in other teaching, assessing or support areas.

Year on year, the high calibre of Forward Futures associates is recognised with increasing numbers securing permanent roles with the College. This year, 73 associates were successful in achieving positions, demonstrating that this highly flexible workforce is beneficial to the College and its learners.

This year, the new Weston College mentoring programme was piloted with established Forward Futures associates in the Faculty of Inclusive Practice to enhance the training and support of all Forward Futures LSAs.
Inspirational Events and Investments

Limited runs the Winter Gardens Pavilion, Lasserter’s restaurant, the Florentine bistro and the Lauriston Hotel.

Winter Garden Pavilion
Now in its second year, the award-winning venue has delivered events for all sectors of the community, including live music, social dances, festivals, charity dinners, sporting events plus public free-to-attend events.

The venue has a bright future with a full schedule for 2020 and bookings already being taken for 2021. Over the next year the team will be focussing on improving the weekdays usage.

The Lauriston Hotel
Purchased in March 2017, the Lauriston Hotel is in a prime location in Weston-super-Mare. After purchase, the 37-bedroom hotel underwent a staged refurbishment programme.

This year the hotel has benefitted from the on-going refurbishment of a number of the rooms, which has led to a positive impact on bookings, and this programme will be continued as the funds allow, to ensure the whole hotel is completed to the same standard.

The hotel has also benefitted from a direct link with the Winter Gardens with the two businesses working in tandem to offer accommodation for ceremonies, conferences and other events held in the ballroom.

The hotel has seen a shift in the customer base with more individual bookings, notably in mid-week.

Next year a key project will be looking at the availability of Wi-Fi throughout the hotel.

Lasserter’s
Lasserter’s is the restaurant set in the Pavilion’s southern wing. The restaurant is set over two floors, offering views across Weston’s seafront, and is open to the public. The refurbished kitchen also services the ballroom during banqueting events.

The Florentine
The Florentine is based at the rear of the Winter Gardens and is a commercially operating bistro, fast becoming a regular and popular destination for locals and visitors alike.

This year it has seen partnership working with the Pavilion and hosted some smaller acoustic music events in the evenings, bringing in additional revenue.
The community board was established when the Winter Gardens was transferred by North Somerset Council to Weston College in early 2016. Here are their reflections on the year.

The recent refurbishment of a dilapidated Winter Gardens has given the town and the central sea-front location a positive presence and a beautiful facility.

The board are working to form a ‘Friends of Weston Winter Gardens’ group and boost the facility’s profile amongst business communities of the region to stimulate community use of the facility.

The College, Winter Gardens team, community board members and Council have worked together positively, especially in the latter half of the year, after board changes had been made.

The College has continued promoting the Winter Gardens as a venue – including linking it with Lasseter’s restaurant, next door, to host events. This has proved particularly popular.

This work has resulted in increased usage across the year, in terms of the events hosted and the people attending. Interest across commercial, business, charity, public and private sectors has also increased – a trend that looks set to continue as bookings are taken for 2020 and 2021.

However, juggling the competing priorities of attracting community users, setting realistic pricing for a ‘high-end’ facility, maintaining the venue’s individuality and finding appropriate events for such a space, will be an ongoing challenge.

Over the last year, the Pavilion has hosted an outstanding range of events that have appealed to a cross-section of the community.

Live music has included the RAF and Weston Brass bands, Silent Discos, Rockabilly All-Dayers, cinema sing-along nights, tribute artists, original bands and local musicians. The ballroom also had the pleasure of welcoming British music legends, Jerry Dammers, Neville Staple and Noel Davis, for the 40th Anniversary of Two-Tone tour.

The Florentine café has hosted intimate acoustic evenings with talented local and touring artists, while the ballroom was also the venue for the Woodspring School Trust annual children’s concert and the Watoto children’s choir, who were visiting from South Africa.

The traditional Ballroom and Latin Social Dance season continues bi-monthly, and a midwinter summer programme will be trialled on four Thursday afternoons next year.

The Winter Gardens has also hosted a diverse range of festivals, such as Weston Pride’s official afterparty, Weston Horticultural Society’s annual flower show and the Avon Ballroom Dance Championships.

A range of charity dinners and events, including the ‘Feed The Homeless’ gala dinner, organised by the high sheriff of North Somerset; Weston Hospicecare’s ‘Strictly Fun Dancing’, hosted by TV personality Martin Roberts; and various fundraising dinners for local charities, including the Revealed Project, have also taken place at the venue.

The Winter Gardens has been used by many local sporting clubs for awards dinners and fundraisers, including Weston’s rugby, athletics and cricket clubs.

Free-to-attend events have included the EAT Festival, Big Bang Science and Engineering festival and the NHS Weston Area Health Trust Stakeholder’s meeting (a public forum to discuss the future of Weston General Hospital’s Emergency Department).

Organisers of sporting events are also realising the potential of the ballroom space, with Dave ‘Chizzy’ Chisnall darts nights and regular professional boxing and mixed-martial arts evenings all being held. The success of the Winter Gardens venue was rewarded at the 2019 Weston Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, where it was named ‘Best Night-Time Venue’.

Despite this success, the Winter Gardens must continue attracting midweek and summer season events that appeal to all sections of the community and bring visitors to Weston. This is key to ensuring the long-term sustainability of this unique and much-loved asset.
Prison Education

Weston College is a top performing provider of prison education. Following 6 years’ successful delivery of the OLASS 4 contract in 10 South West prisons which concluded at the end of March 2019, Weston College commenced delivery of the new Prison Education Framework (PEF) contracts in 19 prisons in 2 Lots in the South West and 1 Lot in the South East from April 2019.

2018/19 highlights:

• End of year success rate of 95.1% for all vocational courses.
• End of year success rate of 80.3% for Functional Skills English and maths.
• Successful OLASS conference held on 7th September 2018 at the Winter Gardens for all South West prison education staff with a theme of “Inclusivity – A Whole Prison Approach”.
• Successful bidding for the new Prison Education Framework (PEF) contracts in the South West for Lot 1: 5 prisons in Avon and South Dorset and for Lot 4: 4 prisons in Lot 4: Devon and North Dorset and in the South East for Lot 8: 10 prisons in Kent, Surrey and Sussex
• A 90% increase in the number of contracted prisons - from 10 to 19.
• Successful commencement of PEF contract delivery in all prisons.
• Increased library service contracts within the PEF contract to 7 prisons in the South West at HMP Bristol, HMP Portland and HMP The Verne in Lot 1 and HMP Channings Wood, HMP Dartmoor, HMP Exeter and HMP Guys Marsh, developing and extending Library and Learning Resource Centre (LLRC) services to provide community hubs for information; enhancement, equality, diversity and resettlement activities; and promoting and supporting improved literacy for life and work.
• Train the Trainer event held on 12th March 2019 to introduce new provider / UCU / HMPPS Health and Safety induction training for PEF staff.
• Positive post-Coates review presentation delivered on 20th May 2019 alongside Dame Sally Coates and prison Governor at the Prisoner Learning Alliance event.
• College represented at the Justice Select Committee in Parliament on 2nd July as part of a three person panel reviewing the new PEF and OPS contracts.
• Rebranding of new prisons with updated Weston College marketing.
• Successful class held on 7th September 2018 at the Winter Gardens for all South West prison education staff with a theme of “Inclusivity – A Whole Prison Approach”.
• Successful bidding for the new Prison Education Framework (PEF) contracts in the South West for Lot 1: 5 prisons in Avon and South Dorset and for Lot 4: 4 prisons in Lot 4: Devon and North Dorset and in the South East for Lot 8: 10 prisons in Kent, Surrey and Sussex

Strategic partnership

Partnership working is a key focus of the Weston College Group. We work with businesses and organisations across the region and beyond to provide the skills that employers need for their future workforce.

Bath Spa University is delighted to be a long-term partner to Weston College in the provision of higher education through UGW.

“The effective and pioneering work of Weston makes it an outstanding education provider and one with which we are deeply proud to be associated.”

Sue Rigby
Professor of Higher Education and Vice-Chancellor
Bath Spa University

We are delighted that our partnership with Weston College continues to flourish. Together we are making a real impact for our region, the economy and for the communities we serve.

Our partnership has real breadth and depth as together we continue to deliver an outstanding learning experience to all students and ensure our graduates and apprentices have the knowledge, skills and attributes which enable them to make immediate impact in their workplace.

“We are building a network of excellent relationships with industry, the NHS and regional stakeholders and look forward to working even more closely with Weston College to deliver outstanding education, skills and talent solutions for the West of England.”

Jo Midgley
Pro Vice-Chancellor
University of the West of England, Bristol

We are also proud to be associated with Weston College and pleased to continue to work with such a well respected and successful organisation.

“We are building a network of excellent relationships with industry, the NHS and regional stakeholders and look forward to working even more closely with Weston College to deliver outstanding education, skills and talent solutions for the West of England.”

Jo Walker
Chief Executive
North Somerset Council

6 The new Health and Active Living Skills Centre provides health and social care training as well as introducing a range of courses to encourage active lifestyle choices, including sport therapies and condition management. This supports the council’s aim of improving the health and wellbeing of our communities and provides key workforce skills valued within the council and its supply chain.

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Weston College is key local partner for Aerospace Bristol. We have successfully collaborated on many initiatives to support our charity, including hosting events, working in partnership on a media filming project and hopefully industrial placements to support our volunteers.

"This highlights some of the support available from the College. We look forward to developing this partnership during 2019/20 and beyond."

Amy Seadon
Learning and Community Engagement Manager
Aerospace Bristol

Weston College is one of the largest and most successful colleges in our region, a great champion of AoC’s #LoveOurColleges campaign and central to raising the awareness of the strategic importance of all our SW FE colleges.

"By working with the team at Weston College, we have successfully delivered business events and they make it easy to work in collaboration in addressing the South West skills gaps."

Chris Loach
Area Director, Somerset
Lloyds Bank

Weston College has continued on its growth trajectory this year, playing an important role in the regeneration of Weston and beyond. It delivers a range of excellent training solutions to local businesses, has modern state of the art facilities across all its campuses and demonstrates a strong tradition of innovation.

"We are pleased to work alongside Weston College on a range of business support initiatives helping to make sure that North Somerset is a place where ideas can flourish and businesses can grow."

Angela Hicks
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North Somerset Enterprise Agency

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"We look forward to developing this partnership during 2019/20 and beyond."

Sue Shillabeer
President
Weston Chamber of Commerce

"Our partnership with Weston College plays a hugely important role in the training and education of our staff, in all health and social care professions. It also supports the Trust’s strategy to attract and retain the best people, so we can continue to deliver great care for our patients."

"The new Healthy and Active Living Skills Centre next door to the hospital offers a fantastic environment for the education and training of health and social care students, while our involvement in the College’s application for Institute of Technology status in the South West opens up the exciting opportunity to contribute to real and lasting benefits for the communities of North Somerset, through improved health, regeneration, employment and economic growth."

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Skills is a key issue for Lloyds business customers and Weston College offers courses and apprenticeships relevant for employers, providing industry-standard training facilities.

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"The College is another excellent example from the South West of how an FE College can assist and lead the national debate on the skills agenda."

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Area Director (South West)
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“We look forward to developing this partnership during 2019/20 and beyond.”

Alistair Head
Managing Director
Puxton Park

Weston College is a key local partner for Visit Somerset, supporting businesses across the Somerset area and beyond to attract and train a skilled workforce. We have worked with the College on numerous projects to support our members, including hosting events, website design, media filming to highlight the support available from the College.

“The value that the College helps us to deliver for the visitor economy is unrivalled and the relationship with the College is possibly one of the strongest, delivering empowerment to our SME’s and increases in inward investment. We are far better for this incredible relationship. We look forward to developing this partnership during 2019/20 and beyond.”

John Turner
Chief Executive Officer
Visit Somerset

Weston’s skills rebirth has moved up a gear, with new centres for health and sport, construction skills, maths and special needs to complement the university centre.

“They mean local employers and investors can find capable, qualified staff in almost any sector you care to name. Weston can be proud of its College.”

Dave Lees
CEO,
Bristol Airport

It has been a real inspiration for locals to see Weston College not only thrive but achieve Ofsted Outstanding status as well as expanding its offering and recently providing university degrees for its own brand as well as its partner universities.

“Its outreach into the community in the last few years offering time, effort, expertise and collaboration has been very welcome by businesses small and large. We look forward to seeing the continued rise of its student numbers so that we can truly call ourselves a university town.”

Michelle Michael
Director
Grand Pier

As a business with ambition and opportunities for exciting careers it is fantastic to be able to work in partnership with a college such as Weston to deliver future talent.

“The constant evolution of Weston College to deliver a successful and expanding range of skills and talented students is a shining example of best practice in our region.”

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Impact on students

Lauren
Studied A Levels
Lauren is now studying law at Oxford University.

“My lecturers were amazing and made me even more enthusiastic about studying law.”

Molly
Business Apprentice at Thatchers
Molly won Apprentice of the Year at the Weston College Business Awards.

“The support I have received has been excellent, and I can’t wait to continue my development.”

Ashley
Engineering Apprentice at Wessex Water YTL
Ashley is continuing his apprenticeship with Wessex Water YTL.

“The most enjoyable parts were the hands-on problem-solving and the opportunity to work with Wessex Water.”

Amy
Studied Sport and Exercise Science
Amy is an England Rugby U18 representative and in trials for England Rugby U20.

“The College has supported me both on and off the pitch, and the amazing new facilities at the Health and Active Living Skills Centre are the best in the region.”

Fadumo
Studied Health and Social Care
Fadumo is now training to be a paramedic.

“The facilities give you realistic experiences to prepare you for university and the real world.”

Stephen
Studied Applied Computing BSc (Hons)
Stephen is now employed in a digital marketing role.

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Weston College works with employers across the South West and beyond to deliver training solutions to address their skills needs and provide them with high-quality training, including apprenticeships.

"Weston College is a significant and valued partner not only in the Weston Area Health Trust but increasingly with University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust. "They have an innovative and ambitious approach to training, development and learning and are leading the way for others to follow."

Jeff Farrar
Chairman
Weston Area Health Trust and University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust

Impact on employers

This is our third year of working with Weston College in the delivery of a range of specialised engineering degree apprenticeships. I believe we have a true partnership with the College. The College listens and reacts to us and our apprentices over suggestions for improvements and areas that require attention. The marketing and recruitment team have gone out of their way to support us in our unique requirements for candidate assessments.

"The option for our first year apprentices to live in halls is also a major plus point for our scheme and undoubtedly helps to put both apprentices, and parents, minds at rest when leaving home for the first time. All of this is reflected in the excellent results across the three year groups and 60+ apprentices we currently have under training with University Centre Weston."

Philip Rotherham
Senior Apprentice Scheme Manager
Ministry of Defence

Weston College has supported our Young Talent Programme, helping us to reach over 10,000 people in 12 months, which has received regional and national recognition. "Our bespoke Thatchers Brand Academy Apprenticeship, created in partnership with Weston College, has created a new source of talented employees and we were delighted to not only win the Weston College Employer of the Year Award, but also our apprentice Molly received the Apprentice of the Year Award at the 2019 Weston College Business Awards. "We look forward to developing this successful partnership in the future.

Martin Thatcher
Managing Director
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Partner
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Paul Ashbee
Technical Training Manager
GKN Aerospace

During the 2018/19 academic year the partnership between GKN Aerospace and Weston College strengthened further. In addition to the delivery of our existing Engineering Apprenticeship programmes, Weston College’s support proved invaluable in our diversification into non-engineering apprenticeships. "This diversification is viewed by our organisation as a key growth area to support the continued development of the wider workforce."

Paul Ashbee
Technical Training Manager
GKN Aerospace

In 2018/19, Weston College has supported our ambition to develop our leadership team, utilising the apprenticeship levy for the benefit of Bristol Port. Together, we have created the Maritime Leadership and Development Course (ILM Level 3), and a Senior Leadership Diploma course (ILM Level 5), providing an innovative and successful training programme for our leadership team, including a module from the Outward Bound Trust. "As a result of the partnership, our Maritime Leadership and Development course has seen excellent results, supporting the development of our team. In addition, Weston College students have developed a health and safety app, supporting our strong culture of safety at Bristol Port. We look forward to many further collaborations with Weston College in the future.

David Brown
CEO
The Bristol Port Company

Weston College is a key part of the business community both in Weston and the region. Investment in skills training and facilities, working collaboratively with employers, and providing skilled graduates are all important to the prosperity of Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset and the wider region. "We are delighted to have an innovative and ambitious approach to training, development and learning and are leading the way for others to follow."

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Partner
Albert Goodman

Weston College has supported our Young Talent Programme, helping us to reach over 10,000 people in 12 months, which has received regional and national recognition. "Our bespoke Thatchers Brand Academy Apprenticeship, created in partnership with Weston College, has created a new source of talented employees and we were delighted to not only win the Weston College Employer of the Year Award, but also our apprentice Molly received the Apprentice of the Year Award at the 2019 Weston College Business Awards. "We look forward to developing this successful partnership in the future.

Martin Thatcher
Managing Director
Thatchers

During the 2018/19 academic year the partnership between GKN Aerospace and Weston College strengthened further. In addition to the delivery of our existing Engineering Apprenticeship programmes, Weston College’s support proved invaluable in our diversification into non-engineering apprenticeships. "This diversification is viewed by our organisation as a key growth area to support the continued development of the wider workforce."

Paul Ashbee
Technical Training Manager
GKN Aerospace

In 2018/19, Weston College has supported our ambition to develop our leadership team, utilising the apprenticeship levy for the benefit of Bristol Port. Together, we have created the Maritime Leadership and Development Course (ILM Level 3), and a Senior Leadership Diploma course (ILM Level 5), providing an innovative and successful training programme for our leadership team, including a module from the Outward Bound Trust. "As a result of the partnership, our Maritime Leadership and Development course has seen excellent results, supporting the development of our team. In addition, Weston College students have developed a health and safety app, supporting our strong culture of safety at Bristol Port. We look forward to many further collaborations with Weston College in the future.

David Brown
CEO
The Bristol Port Company

Weston College is a key part of the business community both in Weston and the region. Investment in skills training and facilities, working collaboratively with employers, and providing skilled graduates are all important to the prosperity of Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset and the wider region. "We are delighted to have
Construction Training Centre opens
The College's new Construction Training Centre received universal approval after officially opening for business. Bookings for training exceeded expectations in the first months and the College was inundated with positive feedback on the facilities and quality of training.

State-of-the-art facility completed
Work was completed on the College's Health and Active Living Skills Centre (HALSC). The £13m state-of-the-art facility brought the College's health and social care, sports therapy, elite sports performance and active living curricula into one bespoke facility.

Puxton Park partnership forged
The College joined forces with Puxton Park – one of the region’s top visitor attractions. The partnership will enable animal management students to learn in a new £1.4m education centre and work with Puxton’s outstanding range of animals.

Dr Phillips wins prestigious national award
College Principal, Dr Paul Phillips CBE, was named FE Leader of the Year at the prestigious TES FE Awards. The award recognised the outstanding impact Dr Phillips has had on the College and sector since he was appointed in 2001.

Leading the T Level revolution
The College was one of 54 providers selected to pilot the new T Level qualification, which is a technical alternative to A Levels. It will deliver the Digital T Level from September 2020 – two years before the full roll-out.

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The year in numbers

**Finance**

- **Income**
  - Funding body grants: £33,093,000
  - Tuition fees and contracts: £8,729,000
  - Other grants and contracts: £2,314,000
  - Other income: £15,876,000
  - Investment income: £65,000
  - Total income: £60,077,000

- **Expenditure**
  - Staff costs: £38,780,000
  - Restructuring costs: £189,000
  - Other operating expenses: £18,332,000
  - Depreciation: £1,707,000
  - Interest and other finance costs: £746,000
  - Total expenditure: £38,780,000

- **Surplus**
  - Surplus before other gains and losses: £323,000
  - Other gains and losses: £1,827,000
  - Total surplus: £2,150,000

**Demographics**

- **Students by gender**
  - Male: 52.2%
  - Female: 47.8%

- **Students by age**
  - Under 21: 46.4%
  - 21 to 30: 20.2%
  - Over 30: 33.4%

- **Progression**
  - Apprenticeship: 3.7%
  - Employment: 21.4%
  - Further education: 41.2%

**Enrolments by faculty**

- Apprenticeships: 12%
- Construction, Engineering and Future Technologies: 8%
- Advanced Engineering and Computing: 3%
- Projects: 5%
- Business Enterprise and Service Industries: 11%
- Creative Arts and Design: 8%
- Education, Health and Lifestyle: 9%
- English and Maths: 5%
- External Contracts: 15%
- Under 16: 12%
- 16 to 18: 11%
- 19 and over: 20%

**Number of enrolments (UCW)**

- Full time: 745
- Part time: 231

**Number of enrolments (excluding OLS)**

- Under 16: 8,885
- 16 to 18: 12,661
- 19 and over: 21,647
- Total: 43,247

All numbers presented subject to external audit inspection.
## Corporation during the academic year 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governor</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Background</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judith Brown</td>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Canniford</td>
<td>Chair of Audit Committee and Lead Governor for Safeguarding</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Carter</td>
<td>Vice Chair of Corporation and Chair of Finance Committee</td>
<td>Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Cowley</td>
<td>Vice Chair of CQC Governance Committee</td>
<td>Industry and legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gemma Day</td>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>Commercial and HR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austen Driscoll</td>
<td>Student Governor (FE)</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Driver</td>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>Education and Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Earles</td>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jude Ferguson</td>
<td>Chair of the Corporation, Chair of Forward Futures, Offender Learning Services, SOMAX, Inspirational Events, and Investments and Releasing New Potential</td>
<td>Education, Careers and Guidance</td>
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<td>Andrew Leighton-Price</td>
<td>Chair of the Corporation, Chair of Forward Futures, Offender Learning Services, SOMAX, Inspirational Events and Investments, and Releasing New Potential</td>
<td>Audit and Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo Midgley</td>
<td>Vice Chair of Corporation and Chair of CQC Governance Committee</td>
<td>Higher Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxine Park</td>
<td>Staff Governor (Academic)</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Penrose</td>
<td>Corporation Associate</td>
<td>MP for Weston-Super-Mare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Paul Phillips</td>
<td>Principal and Chief Executive</td>
<td>Education, Business and Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Porter</td>
<td>Lead Governor for Health and Safety</td>
<td>Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheila Smith</td>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>Local Authority, Adult and Children’s Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil Walmsley</td>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>Health and Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiona Waters</td>
<td>Staff Governor (non-academic)</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contact us

01934 411 411
www.weston.ac.uk
enquiries@weston.ac.uk

Knightstone Campus
Knightstone Road, Weston-super-Mare,
BS23 2AL

Loxton Campus
Loxton Road, Weston-super-Mare,
BS23 4QU

South West Skills Campus
Locking Road, Weston-super-Mare,
BS22 8NL

Construction Training Centre
Locking Head Drove, Weston-super-Mare,
BS24 7NA

Winter Gardens
South Parade, Weston-super-Mare,
BS23 1AJ

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