



West
Nottinghamshire
College Group

BECOMING A
GOVERNOR
WEST NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COLLEGE

OUR VISION

A dynamic college for aspiring communities

OUR MISSION

Learners at the heart of excellence

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Sustaining excellence, reaching new heights

INTRODUCTION

West Nottinghamshire College is one of the most successful colleges in the country. Over the last nine years the college has cemented its reputation for excellence, particularly in the work that it does with employers. It is an ambitious college, not only for its own development but in terms of its ambitions for its local community. Over the last five years, the college has significantly improved its estate, making a £50m investment to provide some of the best facilities for learning in the country.

This significant achievement would not have been possible without the strategic support of an experienced, passionate and committed board of governors. They have supported the college on its incredible journey of success and have set a bold and ambitious strategy for the college, that is rooted in ensuring that the 34,000 or so students at the college succeed and achieve their aspirations and that the college helps to bring prosperity to the communities that it serves.

Serving as a board member for this high performing college is challenging but hugely rewarding. You will be joining an experienced and well-seasoned group of professionals who are passionate about the power of education at any level to transform lives and communities.

The corporation board is responsible for the strategic direction, vision and mission of the college and for ensuring its continued financial health. It is the governors' role to work alongside the senior leadership team to ensure that the strategic vision is being met by the college.

The corporation board meets once per month, with sub-committees meeting throughout the year. The corporation board currently has the following sub-committees:

- Audit
- Finance, Resources and Estates
- Standards
- Remuneration.

BACKGROUND TO THE COLLEGE

West Nottinghamshire College group is one of the most successful colleges in the country. It has been on an incredible journey of success over the last nine years and is now widely regarded as one of the leaders within the skills sector. It has a well-earned reputation for excellence, particularly in the areas of workforce development and employer engagement.

The college group is not just renowned as an exceptional training provider but is also recognised as one of the best employers, being awarded a national Best Companies star rating, named the 14th best place to work in the public sector by the Sunday Times and more recently being awarded the IIP Gold Standard.

Each year the college provides education and training to just over 34,000 full and part-time students across all major industry sectors and at pre-GCSE to university levels. Over 500 of those students study at Higher Education level with 12,000 engaged in an apprenticeship programme through the college and a further 7,000 engaged in some form of training in the workplace.

The college's on campus provision primarily serves the needs of Mansfield, Ashfield and clusters of smaller towns and villages across the borders between Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, however the college delivers employer-related and apprenticeship training nationally and to some of the largest employers in the country.

The college has a consistent record of achieving or exceeding its targets and funding agreements, despite operating within a community of relatively low aspirations and commitment to education. Participation levels and improved achievement rates across all groups of learners is key to economic and social regeneration.

By September 2016 the college will complete a £50m investment in state-of-the-art facilities for learning. On completion the college's provision will be consolidated onto four campuses:



DERBY ROAD

Its main campus with specialist and industry standard facilities in a range of vocational areas and commercial operations in theatre, childcare, hair and beauty, hospitality and travel, sport, creative industries, care and education and A Levels. Derby Road is also home to the college's University Centre.



CONSTRUCTION CENTRE (STATION PARK)

A centre serving the needs of the construction and building services industries. The centre provides a training environment where students can learn a trade in preparation for their future career.



ENGINEERING INNOVATION CENTRE

The Engineering Innovation centre provides training in engineering, motor vehicle and fabrication and welding industries. The centre includes innovative technologies to ensure students have the most up-to-date equipment and skills.



ASHFIELD COLLEGE

A specialist centre for young people who have disengaged from any form of education and training. The centre offers targeted and flexible courses, with dedicated support provided for the needs of the individual.

MORE THAN JUST A COLLEGE

In 2015, the college embarked upon an ambitious development strategy to create a university campus for Mansfield, Ashfield and surrounding areas. It is anticipated that this centre, which will provide higher-level skills training for over 1,000 individuals each year, will be complete by September 2016.

The college group owns three subsidiary companies – bksb, the longest established, provides online assessment tools and resources to help improve English and maths. bksb provides their innovative software solution to the vast majority of the college sector and in addition to over 2,000 companies world-wide. Most recently, bksb has established a company in India and in January 2015 opened a dedicated centre in Chandigarh.

Vision Apprentices, its second subsidiary company was established as an apprenticeship training agency in 2010 and it is widely-regarded as one of the best examples of this model in the country. Vision Apprentices has focussed much of its effort on supporting young people into work. It offers full recruitment and after appointment support to an employer to make the employment of the apprentice as straight forward as possible. Since its launch, Vision Apprentices has supported close to 3,000 young people into work through the apprenticeship programme and works with small, medium and large employers to meet their workforce needs.

Vision Business Support Services is the latest edition to the college group and is established to provide exceptional support services for all aspects of the group's business.

In September 2014, the college, as sponsor, opened the first studio school in Nottinghamshire. Studio schools are small schools established with the sole purpose of better preparing young people for the world of work. Vision Studio School focuses on engineering and health and care occupations and is currently working with over 60 employers to provide work placements, real project briefs and a curriculum that meets the needs of industry. On opening, the school was over-subscribed with 125 young people joining the school for the first time in September. Vision Studio School operates from a fully refurbished site located at Chesterfield Road in 2015.



WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO DO?

The total membership of the governing body is up to 20, this includes two staff and two student governors and the principal of the college. Other members are drawn from local businesses, community groups, local politicians and the other educational organisations. External governors bring a wide range of experience and expertise to the board which aid decision making processes. The chair, Nevil Croston is a long serving governor and a well-respected member of the college's business community. Governors are expected to:

- Attend and participate in the full range of meetings as appropriate.
 - Take a full role in development sessions and training events.
 - Take responsibility for finding out about the college and its core business.
 - Act as an ambassador and advocate for the college with external stakeholders.
 - Bring your own experience, knowledge and skills to enhance the work of the college and the board generally.
 - Take corporate responsibility for decisions made by the board, regardless of your own personal point of view.
- Before you join the board you will be asked to:
- Complete and sign a declaration of interests form.
 - Accept and abide by the governors' code of conduct.
 - Formally sign a declaration that you are eligible to be a governor.
 - Allow the college to conduct a DBS check.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

We expect the following personal qualities of all our governors:

- A passion and commitment to education and in particular Further Education.
 - A strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.
 - A knowledge of one of the communities that the college serves.
 - An ability to make a positive contribution to meetings and at times provide constructive challenge to senior managers.
 - A commitment to give your time freely and to work hard as a volunteer.
 - An ambition for the development of the college and the communities it serves.
 - A willingness to work with honesty and integrity.
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WHAT SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE?

We are committed to providing you with all the help and support you need to become an effective member of our board, this will include:

- A clerk to the corporation specifically tasked with providing administrative and procedural support for members.
- A full governor induction programme that includes meetings with the senior team to help you gain an overview of FE and the college.
- Linkages with a team within the college as a critical friend.
- Attendance at national training events for governors as well as the opportunity to participate in webinars and attend in-house training and development.
- One-to-one support and guidance from members of the senior management team as required.

The independent clerk to the corporation is Maxine Bagshaw and she can be contacted at maxine.bagshaw@wnc.ac.uk

GOVERNOR PROFILE

Prominent local councillor, Diana Meale shares some of the reasons why she became a governor at West Notts.

Day Job: County Councillor and Chair of the Economic Regeneration Committee.

What made you want to become a governor?

Our economy and the future prosperity of Mansfield people depends on our local companies being able to employ skilled people. I wanted to make a contribution to ensuring that people can get the training they need and local companies can employ people with the skills they want.

What difference do governors make?

Governors make a number of contributions. We bring our own knowledge of skills demand and shortages in the local economy. We bring our experience of management and organisational processes to support decision making. And more generally we provide an external check to strategy formation and delivery.

What's the most rewarding thing about being a governor?

The most rewarding thing is to be able to influence how people – predominantly young people – get to develop their professional and life skills, and doing so with an executive team that is both passionate and hugely talented.

Why should others get involved?

Others should get involved because being a governor is both rewarding, interesting and fun.



MEET THE SENIOR TEAM



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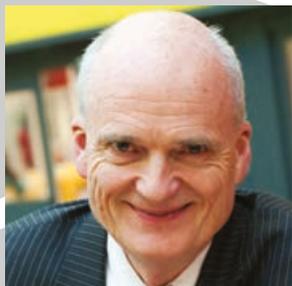
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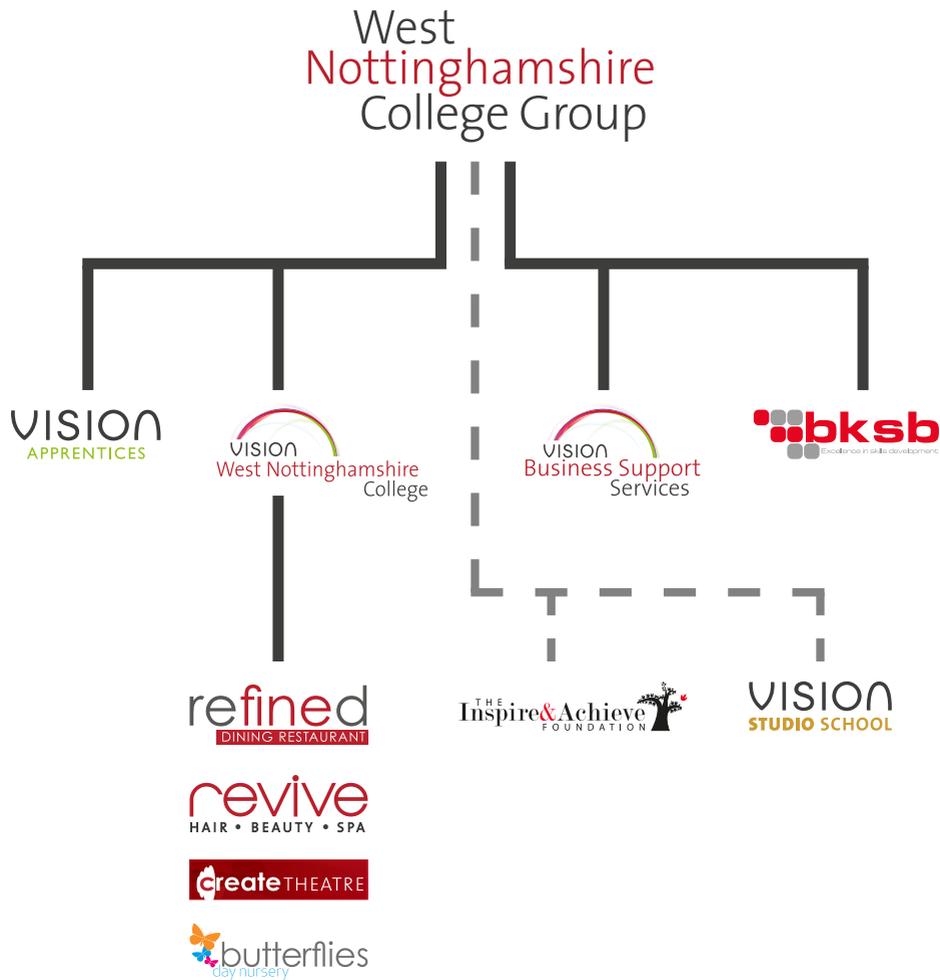


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Sacha McCarthy
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Business Development and
Employer Engagement
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GROUP STRUCTURE CHART



HOW DO I BECOME A GOVERNOR?

The board is supported by an independent clerk, Maxine Bagshaw who maintains a record of membership and advises upon any current and anticipated vacancies. Any expressions of interest in joining the board should be made to her in the first instance, either by email maxine.bagshaw@wnc.ac.uk or by phone **07912 218771**. Any expressions of interest will be communicated to the board and a decision then made collectively.

