



DERBY college

ABOUT DERBY COLLEGE





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About Derby College and the Principal and Chief Executive: **David Croll**

David Croll is Principal and Chief Executive of Derby College which was formed in January 2002 as a result of a three-way merger bringing together two former tertiary colleges, Mackworth and Wilmorton, and an agricultural college, Broomfield.



Derby College is one of the largest further education colleges in England, employing over 1300 staff and with a turnover of £50 million. The College offers a curriculum covering all fourteen subject sector areas to approximately 4,000 full-time and 16,000 part-time students. Long qualification success rates for 16-18 year olds show a year on year upward trend with a 25% rate of increase since 2004/05. For adult learners the long qualification success shows an even higher rate, with an overall increase of 35% since 2004/05. The College has four Centres of Vocational Excellence - Retail, Engineering, Construction and ICT. The College's Employer Engagement unit - Corporate College - offers a responsive curriculum and services to meet employer needs, locally, regionally and nationally, and the College has secured large Train to Gain contracts.

The College has established a strong reputation which is supported by a good Ofsted report. David's vision for Derby College has been one of excellence in teaching and learning. With the development of The Joseph Wright Centre in the heart of Derby, and soon to be opened, The Roundhouse, the College boasts some of the region's most cutting edge facilities and equipment.

David began his career as a lecturer of Liberal Studies in 1975, worked for four years as a further education adviser and strategic planner for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, and then moved into college senior management in 1992. David was appointed as Principal of Derby Tertiary College : Wilmorton in July 1995, following the decision of the then Secretary of State for Education and Employment to install a new governing body in the wake of a major inquiry into the College's management and governance. After taking over a college in serious decline, he led Wilmorton to a position of strength, achieving all strategic objectives relating to restructuring, unit growth, new contracts, quality assurance and market position. With the full support of the Governing Body he approached the challenge that Wilmorton offered through decisive but open management and consulted staff where appropriate to ensure from the outset a collective discipline that would enable recovery in the shortest possible time.

David has worked with the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) as a Board Member, has been Chair of the Further Education Skills Competitions Council (FESCC), which was linked into UK Skills, and was a Council Member of the East Midlands Prince's Trust Regional Council. David worked with the DfES as a "critical friend" on the development of the 'Success for All' strategy.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OFSTED'S INSPECTION OF DERBY COLLEGE

Derby College was last inspected by Ofsted in November 2007. Ofsted recognised the College's dynamic approach to learning, which ensures we keep up with our ever-changing environment, providing a highly skilled workforce that meets the needs of our economy.

As an established and trusted learning facility in the City, Derby College has a strong reputation for innovation and inclusion, and this brochure highlights just some of the areas in which Derby College is leading the way in learning.

We were graded as follows:

Capacity to Improve	Outstanding: Grade 1
Effectiveness of Provision	Good: Grade 2
Achievement and Standards	Good: Grade 2
Quality of Provision	Good: Grade 2
Leadership and Management	Good: Grade 2

Subject Grades:

Preparation for Life and Work	Outstanding: Grade 1
Health, Public Services and Care	Good: Grade 2
Agriculture, Horticulture & Animal Care	Good: Grade 2
Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies	Good: Grade 2
Information & Communication Technology	Good: Grade 2

COLLEGE-WIDE GRADES

CAPACITY TO IMPROVE

OUTSTANDING: GRADE 1

Capacity to Improve is a very important measure used by Ofsted to determine the College's ability to continually improve and drive standards and achievements.

- Derby College's capacity to improve is outstanding.
- Our governors, the senior leadership team, managers and staff focus very effectively on raising standards for learners.

EFFECTIVENESS OF PROVISION

GOOD: GRADE 2

- Learners are central to all College strategies and the College's response to the needs of learners is outstanding. Success rates are high and have increased substantially since the last inspection.
- All provision is now graded good or outstanding and we strive to continually improve the quality and diversity of our courses.
- Preparation for Life and Work is outstanding and covers almost 25 percent of the College's provision. Success rates are excellent and the extensive range of courses offered effectively meets the needs of learners, communities and employers.
- Additional learning support is very good. Staff provide very effective support in lessons and at specialist sessions for individuals and groups, ensuring that learners receive the individual support they need to thrive in the College environment and fulfil their learning potential.

- Derby City has a culturally and economically diverse population which is reflected in Derby College's approach to education and training. The College offers an inclusive learning community in which people from all walks of life can succeed, regardless of their previous academic performance.
- Derby College continually breaks down barriers to learning and the College's approach to increasing participation of those under-represented in education is very effective.
- Guidance and support are of a high standard and available to all learners throughout their time at College to ensure their courses are right for them and help them achieve their goals.
- The range of provision for employers is excellent and the response to employers' needs is outstanding. Derby College works in partnership with a wide range of local, regional and national employers to improve workforce skills.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND STANDARDS

GOOD: GRADE 2

- Learners gain more than qualifications, they develop transferable social and economic skills through enrichment activities including working in the community and taking part in local and national competitions.
- The percentage of students achieving their qualifications is well above the national average.
- Derby College caters for all ages and abilities. Full time course success rates are high at all levels. Success rates have increased considerably since the last inspection and recognition was given to the outstanding achievements made in Key Skills.
- Overall achievement rates of Apprentices have increased significantly and are above the national average.

QUALITY OF PROVISION

GOOD: GRADE 2

- Educational and social inclusion is outstanding.
- Teaching and learning are stimulating and purposeful. Teachers take account of learners' individual learning needs effectively, taking the time to question learners to make sure they understand their course.
- Rigorous self-assessment processes and well supported data lead to effective actions for improvement.
- The College successfully implements an effective strategy to develop an inclusive learning community, including refugees, migrants, offenders, those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and learners from wards with high levels of deprivation.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

GOOD: GRADE 2

- The Principal provides very good leadership and, along with other members of the senior leadership team, sets a clear strategic direction for the College.
- Governance is very good. Governors have relevant experience which they use well for strategic planning. Governors monitor financial and educational matters thoroughly and have a good knowledge of the College's strengths and areas for improvement.
- The College works well with a range of strategic partners to widen participation by providing enrichment opportunities and work placements for learners to further develop their skills.
- Managers are very successful at implementing Quality Improvement arrangements and raising standards.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

GOOD: CONTRIBUTORY GRADE 2

- The promotion of equality of opportunity is good. The College is making good progress in response to statutory requirements, including the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2002 (SENDA), and it has clear arrangements to assess the impact of its policies.

SUBJECT GRADES

PREPARATION FOR LIFE AND WORK

OUTSTANDING: GRADE 1

- Excellent success rates for accredited courses in 2006/07
- Outstanding progression for full time ESOL learners aged 16 to 18
- Very good teaching and learning
- Very extensive range of provision that meets the needs of learners, communities and employers
- Outstanding support for learners
- Very good leadership and management

HEALTH, PUBLIC SERVICES AND CARE

GOOD: GRADE 2

- High success rates for adult learners on long courses
- Good progression of BTEC national diploma learners
- Very effective development of vocational study skills
- Comprehensive links with employers
- Effective actions to improve provision

AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND ANIMAL CARE

GOOD: GRADE 2

- High and improving success rates on the majority of level 2 and 3 courses
- Very effective links between theory and practical teaching and learning
- Good use of ILT
- Broad range of provision
- Very good personal support

ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES

GOOD: GRADE 2

- High success rates in 2006/07
- High standard of learners' work
- Good teaching and learning
- Very good range of courses
- Effective additional learning support
- Good leadership and management

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

GOOD: GRADE 2

- High success rates in 2006/07
- Good teaching and learning
- Thorough monitoring of outreach learners' progress
- Effective additional learning support
- Good resources
- Good leadership and management

BUSINESS, ADMINISTRATION AND LAW

GOOD: GRADE 2

- High success rates on most courses in 2006/07
- Good teaching and learning on vocational business courses
- Good provision for adults in the workplace through close partnerships with employers
- Rigorous actions taken to rectify weaknesses and improve success rates

TEACHING AND LEARNING

As a further education college teaching and learning is fundamental to our success and the Inspection highlighted teaching and learning as a key strength.

Our standard of teaching and learning is good with many positive observations made by the Inspectors. Lessons are planned well and include a variety of good teaching and learning methods, which keeps learners interested resulting in stimulating and purposeful lessons. Our lesson observations are thorough and improvements in quality assurance ensures the moderation of grades is consistent and a true reflection of the College's teaching standards.

EVERY STUDENT MATTERS

The Inspectors were impressed by the level and quality of pastoral support available and commended the College on the promotion of Every Student Matters. Tutors plan tutorials well. They provide a wide range of activities promoting Every Child Matters. The College also provides a comprehensive range of support services including counselling, advice and welfare support.