

STOCKTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



The College – background information

Stockton on Tees and the Tees Valley

Stockton is the largest of the towns which make up the Tees Valley. Economically, despite the credit crunch, the area is still advancing strongly. Its recreational, shopping and sporting facilities are excellent. Culturally it attracts international events and artistes. It offers a huge range of educational opportunities including the University of Teesside and the Stockton Campus of Durham University. Its housing stock is very varied and realistically priced. Stockton on Tees is home to a diverse selection of tourist attractions. The River Tees, being the main focal point of the Borough's tourism, has been developed to provide an excellent environment for water-based activities. The Tees barrage has created clean *Grade A 2 Star* deep water making the river suitable for watersports such as sailing, rowing, wind-surfing, water-skiing, kayaking and canoeing. Stockton and the Tees Valley have a wonderful combination of countryside and urban living including excellent access to the North York Moors, the Yorkshire Dales, the North East coastline and the cultural high spots of Durham and York.

The College

The College is situated in a single building on a large and pleasant open site with playing fields, in an established residential part of the town with easy access from major road and rail routes.

One of the few purpose-built sixth form Colleges the main building was completed in 1973. It has been regularly updated internally and externally including a new 10 classroom extension built in 2003. The premises have specialist accommodation in all the major subject areas: there are six Science laboratories, 13 networked ICT rooms and dedicated areas for Art, Design and Media Studies. There are good sporting facilities, including a large Sports Hall and a recently built dance and drama studio.

The College has invested heavily in ICT in recent years and has a ratio of more than one networked PC to 2.0 full-time students. 99% of classrooms have a multimedia projector, custom built computer desk and are connected to the internet and the College's learning network. There are also banks of computers in study areas, the LRC and some classrooms. One of the largest labs is reserved exclusively for drop-in use by students. The College is keen to continue to develop the wide use of information and learning technology across the curriculum.

The College's primary strategic objective is to increase participation and achievement on full-time courses within the 16-19 age group. It recruits from thirteen partner schools in the borough, although the majority of students enrol from six 11-16 schools in the immediate locality.

The College is a very popular choice for school leavers: in September 2009 there were over 1000 full-time 16-19 students on the College roll. The majority of these students follow a GCE AS/Advanced Level programme. 30 subjects are offered at AS/A2 and there is also a substantial programme of Applied Advanced Level courses and a BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science (Sports Studies). The College has enthusiastically embraced Curriculum 2000 and all new Level 3 students follow a programme of four subjects and work towards a Key Skills qualification in Number, Communication or ICT.

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Pioneering
a vibrant new future



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The College is committed to providing a new start and second chance for young people irrespective of their achievement at school. It offers a programme of GCSE subjects. These Level 2 courses attract some 35 students each year and a substantial proportion stay on at the College for a further two years to take A Level courses.

Some 70% of Level 3 students go on to read for degrees in higher education and the College supports each student in finding the appropriate route into employment, training and further study. Work experience and work shadowing are well established and available to all on request.

The Borough of Stockton on Tees is an Aim Higher area and the College is working with 11-16 schools and the two universities in the Tees Valley in order to widen participation. There are also a number of activities for high flying students to foster and support their aspirations.

Over the years the College has gained a strong local and regional reputation in major sports and team games. Many students compete at county level in their chosen sport and in recent years increasing numbers of College teams and individual athletes have reached the national finals of the British Colleges' Competition, with a number of outstanding athletes succeeding in representing their country at international competitions.

The College employs 71 teaching and 23 support staff in addition to the catering assistants and cleaning staff. There are good facilities for all the staff. Teachers share study offices equipped with a PC linked to the network and, in addition to a large, well-used staff room, there is an ICT training and workroom.

The Principal, Vice Principal, Director of Finance and three Assistant Principals make up the Senior Management Team. The Vice Principal leads on curriculum and staff development. The Assistant Principals lead on Schools Liaison, Student Services and Resources.

Heads of Subject have responsibility for the delivery of teaching and learning and they are grouped together in one of three Schools of Study, each of which is led by an Assistant Principal. The Assistant Principals have oversight for Quality Assurance within their School of Study and provide leadership in the delivery and assessment of teaching and learning, review of student progress and dissemination of good practice.

All full time students are members of a tutor group whilst at the College, with a specialist team of tutors responsible for administration matters and for the general academic progress and welfare of their tutees. There is a system for regular monitoring and review of student progress, both by subject teachers and tutors. Individual targets are determined for each student and progress against these targets is monitored and reviewed at regular intervals. There is an electronic registration system and reports for parents are produced electronically.

The College has very sound finances and has, for a number of years, achieved a grade A financial status under the criteria set by the Learning & Skills Council. The commitment of the College to continuous improvement has been recognised not only in Inspection Reports but also in the gaining of the Investor in People Award and successful re-recognition in 2008.

Plans for an extension to the College's accommodation together with refurbishment of other areas are currently underway.

Useful Links

<http://www.stocktonsfsc.ac.uk/>

<http://www.stockton.gov.uk/>,

<http://www.visitteesvalley.co.uk/tourism.asp>