

Annual Report

2009 - 2010



2009/10 Building on Success

Once again the College increased its success rates overall, exemplifying the determination of staff and students to deliver their best. These results included not only students attending college but also those studying in the workplace.

The highlight of the year was the completion of the Lower Mounts Two project which now offers the best-in-industry standard accommodation for Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy students. The building also houses Northampton's first Job Club, a premier hairdressing salon and the leading edge restaurant 'The Albero', opening the facilities to the public.

The College's ethos of inclusion, support and wellbeing was recognised in our accreditation as an Investor in Diversity.

The College's Initial Teacher Training provision had a successful inspection by Ofsted and the College was designated as a MoleNET Academy in recognition of its cutting-edge work in the deployment of mobile technologies for learning.

In terms of outstanding individual achievement, one of the College's catering students was successful in the UK Skills competition and has been selected for Squad UK as part of the World Skills championship.

Future Plans

The first phase of the new build project at Booth Lane will be opening in 2011. Representing an outlay of some £60m investment, it provides outstanding accommodation for current and future students.

In addition, the College has created the funds for the final phase which will be completed by the middle of 2012. The whole venture represents the biggest single capital investment in Northampton in recent times.

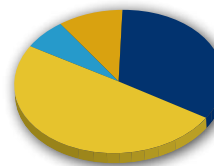
The College will continue to work locally with the University, FE partners and schools to maximise the learning and skills opportunities for our students. Significant activity will be targeted at supporting local businesses through the improvement in the skills base of their current and future workforce. The College will seek to support the unemployed through programmes which prepare them for sustainable employment.

The College will diversify activity to develop new income streams including bespoke training and commercial operations such as the College's top class restaurant, 'The Albero'.

In the current economic climate, Northampton, Daventry and South Northants have many reasons for optimism and Northampton College will play its part in generating and sustaining that optimism.

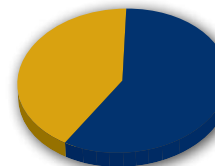
Our Students

Our Students



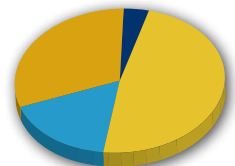
| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Full-time | 33.8% |
| Part-time | 49.6% |
| Part-time Evening | 6.7% |
| Distance Learning | 9.9% |

Student Gender



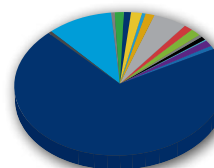
| | |
|--------|-------|
| Female | 58.8% |
| Male | 41.2% |

Student Age



| | |
|----------|-------|
| Under 16 | 4% |
| 16-18 | 30.7% |
| 19-24 | 17.3% |
| 25+ | 48% |

Student Ethnicity



| | | | |
|------------------------------|------|-----------------------|-------|
| Asian or British-Bangladeshi | 1.3% | Mxd-White & Black | 0.3% |
| Asian or British-Indian | 1.7% | Mxd-White & Caribbean | 1.6% |
| Asian or British-Pakistani | 0.5% | Mxd-Any Other | 0.6% |
| Asian or British-Other | 1.5% | White-British | 70.9% |
| Black or British-African | 5.2% | White-Irish | 0.5% |
| Black or British-Caribbean | 1.3% | Other White | 10.1% |
| Black or British-Other | 1.8% | Other | 0.6% |
| Chinese | 0.6% | Not Known | 1.2% |
| Mxd-White & Asian | 0.6% | | |

Employer Engagement

During the 2009/10 operating year the Business Centre continued to consolidate its reputation for delivering high quality work based training.

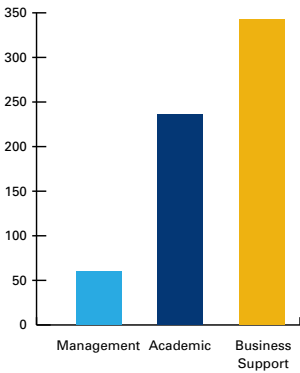
The Business Centre concentrated on two key strands of activity; Apprenticeships and Train to Gain. Train to Gain attracted a significant amount of interest from employers in the County. The funding support criteria continued to allow the College to deliver, in most cases, fully subsidised training and assessment of NVQs in the workplace. The volume of students completing NVQs within the year was over 500 and, in line with the Government expectations, there was a year on year increase of 27% in the number of Apprenticeships completed and a 33% increase in the number of Apprenticeships started.

The Business Centre more than matched increases in the national rates with an overall success rate for 2009/10 of 85% for Train to Gain activity within the East Midlands. Apprenticeships continue to offer employers a well established and thorough approach to training their workforce with an overall success rate of 68%. The significant majority of students following Apprenticeships were 16-18 years old with an increasing take up within the 19-24 age range. Several of the individual Apprenticeship frameworks delivered success rates of over 90%; well above national success rates.

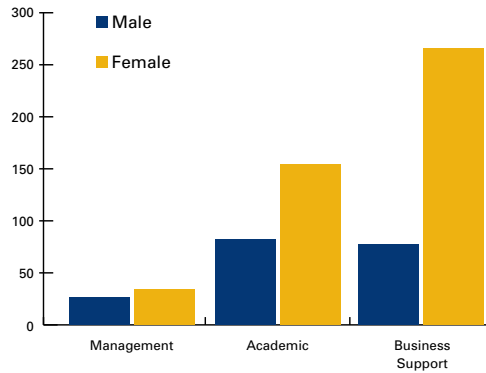
2009/10 was another excellent year for success and quality; the Business Centre continued to improve its reputation within the County delivering what local employers need. An employer survey identified that 96.2% of employers would be prepared to recommend the Business Centre to other employers.

College Staff Profile

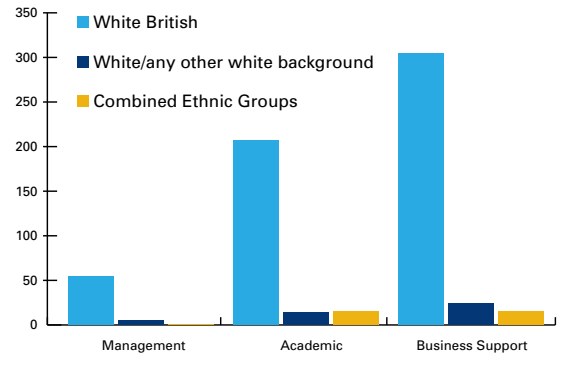
Staff Headcount



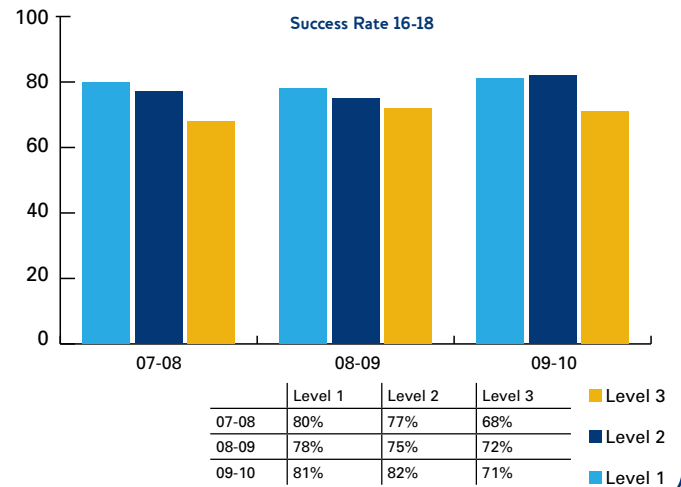
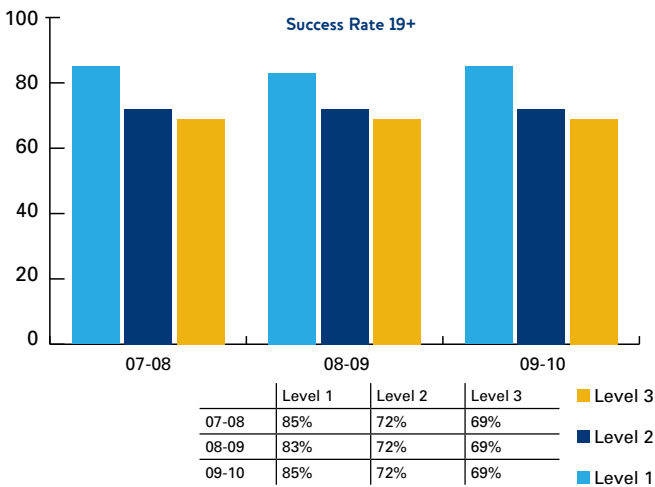
Staff Gender



Staff Ethnicity



Our Students' Success



Student satisfaction

Northampton College welcomes the views of its students and uses a variety of methods to capture information about student satisfaction and the student experience. In 2009/10, all students were given the opportunity to participate in the national student survey organised and administered by the Learning & Skills Council and reported under Framework for Excellence. In the survey students were invited to respond to a number of questions about their college experience and the quality of service they received. The College scored highly overall and produced a plan to act upon any areas where it was felt that further improvements could be made.

The College held its annual Student Conference where students from across sites and modes of delivery were able to come together to work with College staff in identifying areas for improvement in provision, curriculum, student services and in enhancing the student experience and journey. Points from the conference together with those derived from numerous focus groups and student meetings were considered under the College self-assessment processes.

Self Assessment

The College Self Assessment report 1 was approved by the Corporation at its meeting in December 2010. The process of Self Assessment is comprehensive and seeks to present an accurate assessment of the College's strengths and areas for improvements with judgements based on reliable evidence and data. The process is designed to be rigorous and developmental as the College seeks to promote continuous improvements in all aspects of its business and in support of its students.

The College was helped again this year by colleagues from its Peer Review network, drawn from similar colleges in the East Midlands. Their constructive advice improved the report and the College was pleased to gain the benefit of their experience. Self Assessment has judged that the College's overall effectiveness grade is Satisfactory (Grade 3) and that its 'Capacity to Improve' is Good (Grade 2). The College's improvement plan, which seeks to build upon or sustain its strengths and to address those areas where it can improve, will be carefully monitored throughout the year to ensure that it continues to make positive progress.

Income & Expenditure

