

# Federation of Northamptonshire Colleges



The Federation of Northamptonshire Colleges represents the three Further Education colleges within Northamptonshire which provide a variety of vocational and academic courses and skills training to young people and adults at all levels up to and including higher education.

The three colleges – Moulton College, Northampton College and Tresham College of Further and Higher Education – are key to the local economy and central to national and regional economies. They offer a wide variety of training that provides work ready individuals in all sectors of UK industries as well as offering local services including restaurants, bistros, hair salons, beauty salons, garden

centres and an animal welfare centre.

It is expected that colleges will be at the forefront of the economic recovery in the near future through the speed and suitability of their response. We hope that this vital role is recognised by all political parties.

Our colleges in Northamptonshire are able to promote skills and development within the community and encourage young people and adults to progress into the international skills market.



The Principals of the three Northamptonshire Further Education Colleges: Mark Silverman (Tresham), Len Closs (Northampton) and Chris Moody (Moulton)

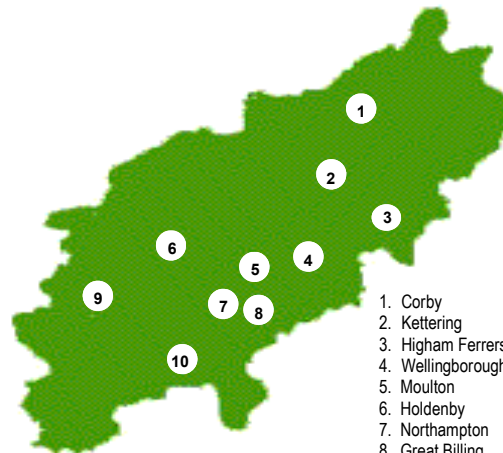
## Our Centres

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During 2009-10 Northamptonshire colleges offered training from main sites in Northampton, Moulton, Higham Ferrers, Silverstone, Kettering, Corby, Daventry and Wellingborough as well as a large number of specialist out-centres and in-house training for employers across the County.

Investing in our communities' future is important to all three Northamptonshire colleges and both Northampton College and Tresham College of Further and Higher Education won funding from the Learning and Skills Council in 2009 to proceed with large scale building projects which will see up to date and modern learning facilities in Northampton and Corby town centres to



Map showing the locations of centres offering FE in Northamptonshire.

1. Corby
2. Kettering
3. Higham Ferrers
4. Wellingborough
5. Moulton
6. Holdenby
7. Northampton
8. Great Billing
9. Daventry
10. Silverstone

over £20million in specialist resources to ensure that Northamptonshire remains at the forefront of specialist vocational education.

Northamptonshire colleges hope that these redevelopments to its main campuses will encourage more and more young people to progress into Further Education and adults to return to learning.

Northamptonshire colleges' commitment to providing high quality provision to all learners is supported by providing robust transport networks between sites to

complement recent developments in the centre of Northampton and Kettering.

Moulton College, with the support of the East Midlands Development Agency, is investing

ensure all learners can access specialist centres. A number of learners move to the area taking residence at Moulton and near to Silverstone to access the dedicated training offered in the county.

## Offering Opportunities For All

During the academic year of 2009 - 2010 a total of 26,254 learners studied at one of the college's centres across Northamptonshire on a variety of learning programmes including full time courses, adult programmes, Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships, Train to Gain courses and Higher Education programmes.

In the current academic year (2009-10) over 8,000 learners studying full time programmes at a Northamptonshire college were aged 16-18. In addition to this, over 11,500 individuals aged 19 or over were studying a full or part time course.

As well as offering a large variety of vocational and A Level programmes at the College's main sites across the county over 4,900 individuals studied in the workplace through Apprenticeships, Advanced Apprenticeships or Train to Gain funded programmes in small local business or with national employers based within Northamptonshire and its neighbouring counties.

In addition to offering a range of full and part time vocational training and employer related training in

Northamptonshire the three colleges - Northampton College, Moulton College and Tresham College of Further and Higher Education

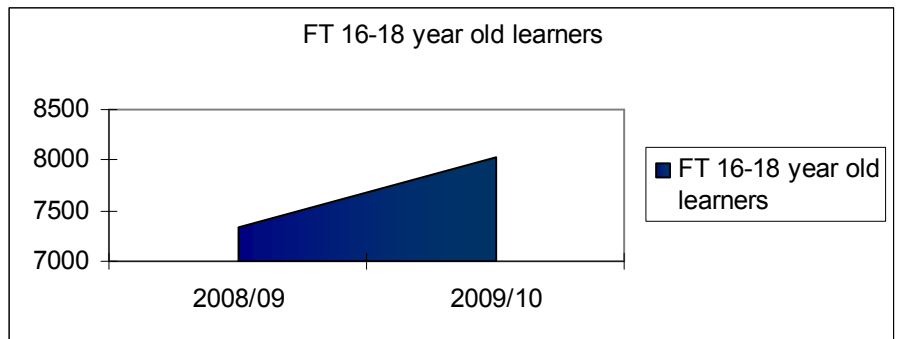
**Over 26,000 individuals are learning in a Northamptonshire college during 2009 - 10.**

work in close partnership with the county's head teachers from the majority of

secondary schools to provide learning opportunities to over 1,904 14 to 16 year olds, giving them a taste of vocational learning and encouraging many to progress on to Further Education after they complete their GCSEs for more vocationally suited learners.

As part of the Colleges' commitment to raising the skills levels within the County all three are able to offer a range of Higher Education programmes in a variety of areas including Creative Arts and Media, Business, Travel and Media, Tourism Management, Engineering, Sports Studies, Agriculture and Countryside Management, Animal Welfare and Veterinary Health, Construction, Equine Studies, Arboriculture, Horticulture and Teacher Training.

Higher Education provision is offered by the Colleges as a result of close relationships that have been forged between the colleges and local universities including the University of Northampton and University of Bedfordshire.



## College Staff Profile

In the academic year 2008-09 Northamptonshire colleges employed over 2,600 staff on a full or part time basis consisting of salaried and hourly paid staff working in a managerial, academic or business support role.

All staff have a commitment to providing high quality learning experiences to each learner at every one of their campuses and offering a safe learning environment where young people and adults can gain their qualifications.

Many of the teaching staff at the three colleges have gained previous experience within industry and can relate their experiences with the learners to provide work ready training and an insight into the real world of particular industries.

In March 2010 Moulton College was named as the 12th best college for Public Sector organisations to work for with staff feeling happy about their pay and benefits.

**In 2008-09 Northamptonshire Colleges employed over 2,600 staff**

All three colleges have high levels of professional development programmes to ensure that both teaching and business support staff gain additional skills to assist in their everyday roles and all staff are encouraged to grow and develop in their roles with a number of examples of former students now being employed to teach.



# Employer Engagement

**3,000 employees benefited from Train to Gain support in 2008-09**

Northamptonshire colleges work in partnership to respond to the public funding priorities set up to improve the skills base of the UK workforce and improve the competitiveness and productivity of Northamptonshire.

Both Northampton College and Tresham College of Further and Higher Education boast successful bespoke business training through their Business Centre divisions in which they offer training at their main centres as well as bespoke in-house training within the workplace in a variety of vocational areas and Apprenticeships.

In the academic year 2008-09, over 3,000 employees benefited from Train to Gain supported programmes. For the majority of these individuals it was an opportunity to improve their skills and gain their first Full Level 2 qualification.

In the same year the volume of learners completing NVQs doubled and colleges in Northamptonshire celebrated record



Employees from Holly House Care Home near Northampton who received their NVQ certificates in Health & Social Care as a result of Train to Gain funding offered through Tresham Business Solutions.

success rates for their Train to Gain funded programmes which are mainly offered in health, public services and care.

Apprenticeships offer employers an established approach to training their workforce and over 1,800 individuals benefited from this form of training. Apprenticeships are popular in Engineering, Building and

**Over 1,800 Apprentices were trained in 2008-09**

Construction and Service Enterprises.

As part of Ofsted inspections for the three Colleges, Tresham and Northampton College's Business Centres received a specific focus on the quality of delivery of Apprenticeships and Train to Gain activity which for the colleges involved was graded as 2 which Ofsted terms as 'Good'.

In addition to these inspections, the colleges have been monitored for their advice and guidance and both Northampton College and Tresham College of Further and Higher Education are emskills accredited. Tresham has been awarded the Training Quality Standard for its service to local businesses.



# Outstanding Providers



Over the past few years, Northamptonshire colleges have continued on their journeys to become outstanding providers of full time education and the County can boast outstanding provision in a large number of vocational areas and Moulton College is recognised as one of a small number of colleges in the country graded as Out-

standing overall with outstanding areas of provision in Agriculture and Countryside, Sports Studies, Provision for Students with Specific Learning Needs, Animal Welfare and Management, Equestrian Studies and Teacher Education.

The County boasts two Centres of Vocational Excellence in Logistics and Construction and is also the base for the National College for Motorsport at the world famous Silverstone circuit which attracts learners from across the UK to gain industry specific training for the motorsport industry.

Outstanding provision has also been recognised in Engineering at Tresham and Health Care at Northampton College. Excellent Hair and Beauty and Catering programmes are offered at Northampton College and Sports programmes which have received the RFU Rugby Beacon and



Chartered Development Status at Moulton College.

All three colleges have also been awarded the Matrix standard to recognise their excellent advice and guidance service provided to prospective and current learners in the County.

# Community Links

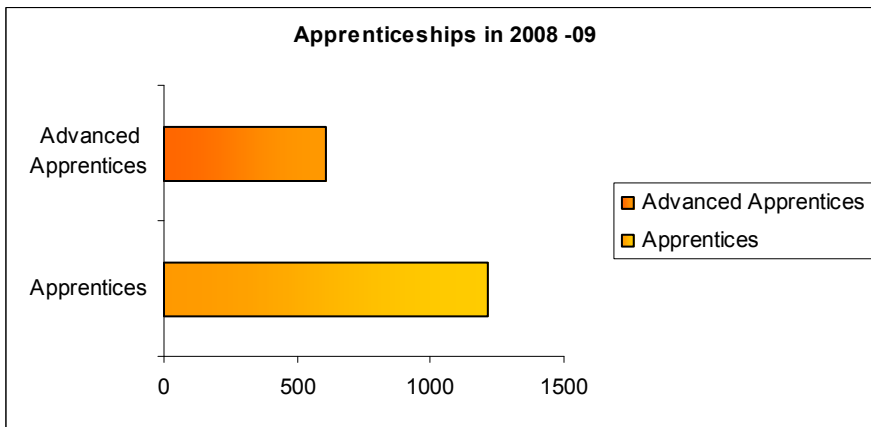
In addition to providing learning opportunities for individuals in Northamptonshire at the main college buildings, in the workplace and in schools, all colleges work closely with local community partners to ensure that individuals who may have become disengaged have the opportunity to return to learning and gain skills for life and entry level qualifications.

Tresham has been the delivery Partner in Northamptonshire for The Prince's Trust and since it began has been awarded the Delivery Partner of The Year three times.

Colleges are also closely linked to other organisations including Connexions, Job Centre Plus and Aimhigher to provide advice and guidance as well as promoting learning opportunities away from college sites.

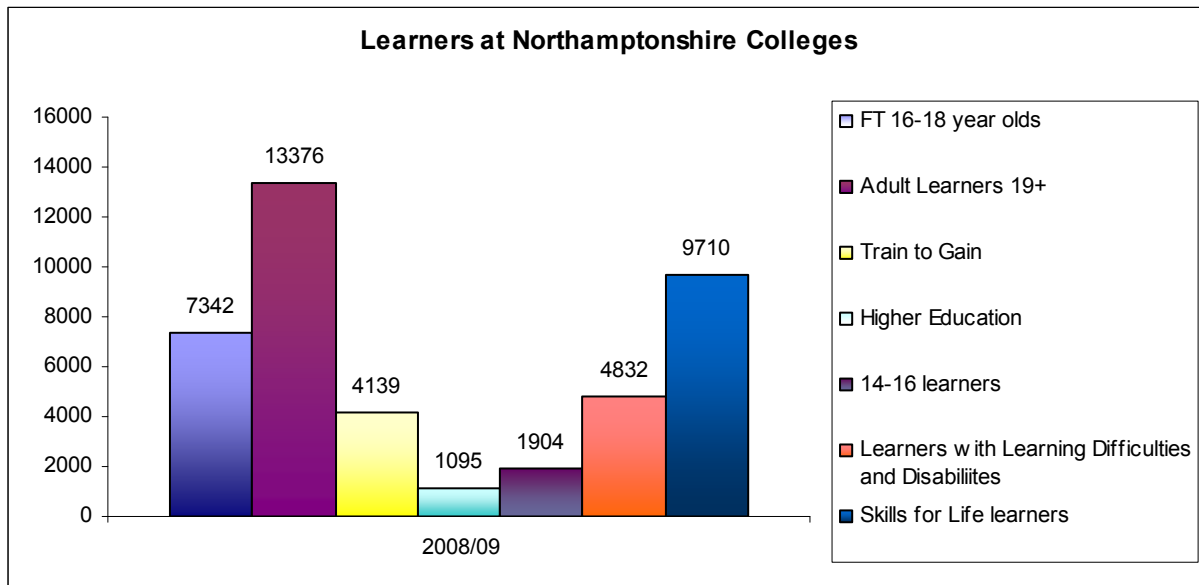
Colleges also play an important part in developing skills with charities including The National Trust, Riding for the Disabled and The Wildlife Trust.

Fresh starts are provided to many through the colleges' community links and entry level programmes can frequently equip individuals with the self confidence to progress on to higher level courses and gain employment in their desired career.



Success rates for colleges in Northamptonshire are 5% above the national average.

Overall achievement for learners in Northamptonshire Colleges in 2008-09 was well over 90%



For further information about the content of this report or the courses available please contact  
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