

Annual Report

2024/2025



1	Summary	
	1.1	The College has met or exceeded all its funding targets and remains in OUTSTANDING financial health and has invested over £6m in teaching and learning facilities and pay awards this year.
	1.2	Achievement rates and high grades for all students remain high and the consistent quality of provision is confirmed in the findings of the most recent Ofsted report, June 2024 https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50249456
	1.3	<p>The College has achieved growth of 60% since 2018/19. 73% of the College's provision is 16-19. The reputation of the College with stakeholders, particularly local schools, is held in high regard.</p> <p>The College supported the development of the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) and continues to work with employers and key stakeholders to shape future curriculum to meet local skills needs. The new facilities due to open in 2025/2026 will support the skills needed for the LCR Local Growth Plan and the national Industrial Strategy.</p> <p>Staff and student health and wellbeing is a priority for the College. Staff morale is high, and the college community is thriving, thus enabling the Quality, Efficiency and Growth Plans to be implemented and delivered with enthusiasm. The college was awarded Employer of the Year 2025 at the Halton Business Awards, and the staff survey was incredibly positive.</p>
2	Quality, Efficiency and Growth	
	2.1	Quality Key Achievements
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Outstanding and significantly improved 16-18 achievement rates ii. Outstanding value added and high grades for 16–18-year-old learners iii. High achievement rates for all provision types: adults, HE and apprenticeships iv. Outstanding teaching, learning and assessment evidenced by feedback from students and outcomes for learners
		Priorities for 2025/26
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reaffirming student expectations and performance ii. Review inclusion offer for cross-college provision and foundation studies iii. Embedding local and national skills needs iv. Respond to Ofsted reforms as required
	2.2	Efficiency Key Achievements
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A prudent financial plan is in place to 2028 demonstrating the College is in OUTSTANDING financial health ii. The College is progressing with a phased and affordable approach to create attractive learning environments, which are pivotal to the success of the College. The Green Skills Centre at Kingsway (£7m) and the Teaching Block/Music Hub at Cronton (£7m) building projects are both progressing. These buildings are due to open for the Spring Term 2026. A Visioning Project to define the College's long term property strategy is underway. iii. Funding targets have been met or exceeded, including growth in 16-18. The Adult Skills budget remains challenging iv. Staff utilisation and class sizes are high. v. Successful audits have been completed, including Strategic and Business, IT Data Security, 16-18 Curriculum Efficiency, EDI and and ESFA Mock Funding Audit (All GREEN).

		Priorities for 2025/26		
		i.	Maintain financial stability to allow for investment in staff, students and facilities.	
		ii.	Deliver the building projects, progress the Visioning Project and develop the Property Strategy, including the Green Agenda.	
		iii.	Improve further the robustness and security of all College systems, allowing for the development of AI, and improvements to current system reporting	
2.3		Growth		
		Key Achievements		
		i.	Enrolment of 16–18-year-olds has increased by +296 with new students making up +38 of this growth following successful marketing and schools' liaison campaigns.	
		ii.	Highly effective delivery of school liaison, marketing and admissions activity including open events, school presentations, Year 10 sampling, new student days and interviews.	
		iii.	Apprenticeship income exceeded the target of £2.5m with growth in construction and pipe welding	
		iv.	The highest volume of apprentices in learning, 520 since before the pandemic.	
		v.	Despite an increase in the number of adults studying at the college this year, the funding landscape has remained challenging leading to a full review of curriculum in preparation for 2025/26.	
		Priorities for 2025/2026		
		i.	Maintain high levels of quality communications and meet the needs of schools, applicants and parents/carers by offering a range of activities to promote academic, technical, vocational and apprenticeship provision and ensure a smooth transition to support the 'Know Me to Teach Me' strategy.	
		ii.	Implement campaigns putting student success, new curriculum, investment in facilities and the whole student experience at the heart of promotional activities to maintain enrolment levels	
		iii.	Collaborate with key stakeholders and employers in response to the priorities identified in the Local Skills Improvement Plans and the Local Growth Plan	
3	Conclusion			
	The College remains in an exceptionally strong position with robust finances and high-quality provision.			
	The health and wellbeing of all our staff and students remains a high priority and we will take every opportunity to celebrate achievement throughout the College. We will approach 2025/2026 with the confidence to deal with whatever comes our way.			
		OUTSTANDING	Ofsted	June 2024
		OUTSTANDING Financial Health	ESFA	April 2024