

Loughborough College Statement

Shaping Futures
**Meeting Local Skills Needs the
Loughborough College Way**

Introduction

Loughborough College has a mission “to transform and enrich lives through lifelong learning, empowering the workforce of tomorrow.” Our vision is “Broadening Horizons. Transforming Lives. Shaping Futures.” Meeting local, regional and national skills needs is at the core of what we deliver, and we focus clearly on the destinations of our outstanding students.

In May 2022 the Government published the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill. The Act introduces new duties on college governing bodies to review and publish how their education and training offer is meeting local skills needs. The following discourse is our response to this duty, and on behalf of the Loughborough College governing body, I am delighted to share this with you.

Loughborough College is at the forefront of the skills agenda and has played a leading and convening role regionally and nationally in response to the Skills Bill and in supporting local provision to meet the UK Skills agenda. From being the first completed Town’s Deal project in the country through the launch of our Careers and Enterprise Hub, to leading a Skills Development Fund (SDF) pilot and being a key partner in SDF2. The College was part of the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) trailblazer and the final LSIP recently endorsed by the Secretary of State for Education. With our key role in securing the East Midlands Institute of Technology and partnership with the global NFL Academy, it is clear that supporting students to develop the skills that employers require is central to our approach.

Meeting Skills Needs Considering Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact

Employers and stakeholders have had a positive impact on curriculum design and delivery. Using local labour market intelligence data for each sector sourced from thousands of job adverts, alongside developing relationships with employers, each curriculum area has an on-trend skills card which identifies the most important skills and behaviours identified by employers and stakeholders for that sector.

The development of these skills and behaviours are planned in schemes of learning and assessments. The involvement of employers and stakeholders in curriculum delivery, for example through joint delivery, mentoring, guest speaking and setting project assignments, ensures that relevant skills awareness and development is central to curriculum delivery. The curriculum is regularly reviewed and updated based on employer feedback to ensure that students leave Loughborough College with the skills and behaviours employers and stakeholders identify as most desirable.

The College’s approach to meeting skills needs is evidence based, using a range of market intelligence sources to identify current and future demand to ensure that our provision is aligned to local employment opportunities and supports local as well as regional and national priorities where relevant. This includes analysis of local and national data, the LSIP created skills observatory resources, LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) strategies and the regional and national business skills surveys.



Wide Range of Employer Partners

The College is currently working with over 400 businesses to offer a full range of services to ensure that we are building a robust future workforce with the skills they require to succeed. The College works collaboratively with employers in the delivery of apprenticeships, professional qualifications, degree programmes, distance learning, study programmes, industry placements, work experience and supported internships.

Examples of innovative employer engagement include the Motorsport study programme delivered jointly with Motorsport UK, the involvement of numerous celebrity chefs in the delivery of hospitality qualifications, the engaged presence of emergency services in the delivery of public services qualifications and a strong partnership with the pace centre in the delivery of a unique space engineering qualification.

Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) and Skills Development Fund (SDF)

Loughborough College successfully secured a Skills Development Fund (SDF) pilot in wave one, the SDF pilot in Human Health in relation to Physical Activity enabled significant employer engagement, staff upskilling and curriculum design to meet employer needs. Loughborough College worked in partnership with North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College, Leicester College and SMB Group (Stephenson, Melton Brooksby College) as the education partners and CIMSPA as the employer representative body with Active Together.



Over 100 employers carried out detailed training needs analysis work to identify the knowledge, skills and behaviours they require amongst their employees to inform the College's curriculum development work. The Workforce Industry Exchange program enabled staff to update their own knowledge and skills and provided opportunities for them to learn in environments that they do not usually access.

In SDF Phase Two, Loughborough College successfully partnered with education leads from Phase One, with North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College taking the lead in a bid centred around logistics vehicle electrification. This has enabled greater training and resources to support decarbonisation in logistics and to future proof our technician workforce as we phase out diesel and petrol engines.

The College played a key role in the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) trailblazer and more recently the approved LSIP for the Leicester and Leicestershire region.

As an ambitious and forward-thinking College, we have played an active role in engaging and connecting the LSIP with major capital projects within the East Midlands, such as the East Midlands Freeport, to ensure the skills agenda is at the forefront of investment plans in the region as the site is developed.



East Midlands Institute of Technology (IoT)

Loughborough College, the University of Derby, Loughborough University and the Derby College Group (DCG) have joined forces on a £13m plan to create the highly advanced workforce needed to lead the digital revolution – otherwise known as Industry 4.0.

The East Midlands IoT will focus on levelling up the critical engineering, manufacturing and digital skills needed by employers to address the grand engineering challenges of clean growth by embracing the advanced skills required for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and a data-driven economy.

Graduates will be part of a net zero carbon workforce and support the UK's journey to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. They will work closely with global powerhouse employers, including Rolls-Royce, Toyota, National Grid ESO, Alstom, Fujitsu, Uniper and Bloc Digital to ensure programmes level up the workforce with the right skills.

Based in the heart of the East Midlands, the IoT will:

- Support students by specialising in programmes such as Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies; Information and Communication Technology; Science and Mathematics and Construction, Planning and the Built Environment.
- Create an exciting new IoT centre in Loughborough, with students able to access all four sites, including world class training environments in Derby at the University of Derby's Enterprise Centre and DCG's Roundhouse technical and professional skills college.



Careers and Enterprise Hub

The Careers and Enterprise Hub is a unique partnership between Loughborough College, Loughborough University and Charnwood Borough Council and was created as part of the Loughborough Town Deal. Based in the heart of Loughborough Market Place, careers and employment experts from Loughborough College offer guidance and support to people who want to boost their careers or get in to work. Individuals are supported to develop the skills employers need and look for when recruiting. Meanwhile, enterprise experts from Loughborough University provide guidance, training and mentoring to people who want to start their own businesses.

Digital Skills Hub

The Digital Skills Hub has received a £2.6m boost from the Loughborough Town's Deal and will help to equip local people with digital skills for the future.

The Digital Skills Hub will aim to support the delivery of T-Levels, Apprenticeships, Industry Placements and higher technical qualifications to upskill local people in the community as Loughborough moves into a more digitally-focused future.



The Digital Skills Hub will also:

- target unemployed and semi-skilled adults to support them into employment
- equip the next generation with the skills and knowledge to improve social mobility, human capital and economic success
- provide support to businesses post-COVID-19
- reduce the need for local people to travel to access skills therefore contributing to the College's commitment to clean growth and carbon reductions in Loughborough
- create an accessible and modern facility to welcome the community and local businesses and provide training on digital jobs for the future.

NFL Global Academy

The National Football League's UK-based NFL Academy relocated to Loughborough College and Loughborough University at the start of the 2022-23 academic year. The NFL Academy provides students aged 16-19 with pathways into employment, higher education and the opportunity to play NCAA college football in the United States by combining full-time education with professional-level American Football coaching. A partnership between the College and the University provides an opportunity for young players to be a part of the world-renowned centre of sporting excellence.

Through the partnership, the College provides high-quality coaching, education, accommodation and pastoral support to its cohort of players, while the University provides performance staff and world-class training and sporting facilities to focus on the physical development of students.

Loughborough College has a proven track record of developing hundreds of elite level athletes including Olympic and Paralympic champions.





T-Levels

Our suite of T-Levels, supported by our brand-new government funded T-Level Centre opened by the Minister for Skills in March 2023, means that we are supporting employers with hundreds of placement students across six sector areas. Our study programs include master class employer input, high-quality industry placements and promote high quality destinations which meet local skills needs.

Apprenticeships

Working with over 400 employers, including blue chip companies, we design our apprenticeships offer around meeting the skills needs of our regional employers. We also support employers through our suite of business breakfasts and events to ensure that both immediate skills needs, and the skills needs of the future are met through the curriculum offer.



Summary

It is clear from the above that Loughborough College supports excellent progression and shapes the futures of students by developing the skills that employers need. This is achieved through the extensive range of employer and stakeholder engagement activities.

Stuart Lindeman
Chair of Governors