



College mergers in England 2017 to 2021

(updated October 2021)

College mergers 2017

- RNN Group and Dearne Valley College merged on 1 February 2017, retaining the RNN Group name.
- South Cheshire College and West Cheshire College merged on 31 March 2017 and were known as South and West Cheshire College but as of 1 January 2018 the merged college is known as Cheshire College South and West.
- NCG and Carlisle College merged on 31 March 2017, retaining the NCG name.
- Northbrook College and City College Brighton merged on 31 March 2017 and are known as Greater Brighton Metropolitan College.
- New City College group (formed from merger of Tower Hamlets College and Hackney Community College) and Redbridge College merged on 1 April 2017, retained the New City College group name.
- East Berkshire College and Strode's College Egham merged on 9 May 2017, retaining the East Berkshire College name initially then changing to The Windsor Forest Colleges Group (on 1 July 2017)
- Central College Nottingham and New College Nottingham merged on 8 June 2017 and are known as Nottingham College
- Bedford College and Tresham College of Further and Higher Education merged on 1 August to become The Bedford College Group

- Cambridge Regional College and Huntingdonshire Regional College merged on 1 August 2017 retaining Cambridge Regional College as the name
- Chichester College and Central Sussex College merged on 1 August 2017 to become Chichester College Group
- City of Westminster College and The College of North West London merged on 1 August 2017 to become United Colleges Group
- Henley College Coventry and City College Coventry merged on 1 August 2017 to become Coventry College
- Kingston College, Carshalton College and South Thames College merged on 1 August 2017 to become The South Thames Colleges Group
- Lowestoft College and Great Yarmouth College merged on 1 August 2017 to become East Coast College
- NCG and Lewisham Southwark College merged on 1 August 2017 and retaining NCG as the name
- Seevic College and Palmer's Sixth Form College merged on 1 August 2017 to become Seevic and Palmer's Colleges Group (and then Unified Seevic Palmer's College (USP) with effect as of 12 November 2018)
- South and City College Birmingham and Bournville College merged on 2 August 2017 retaining South and City College Birmingham as the name
- South Downs College and Havant College merged on 1 August to become Havant and South Downs College.
- South Tyneside College and Tyne Metropolitan College merged on 1 August 2017 to become Tyne Coast College
- Sunderland College and Hartlepool Sixth Form College merged on 1 August 2017 to become Sunderland College Group
- Uxbridge College and Harrow College merged on 1 August 2017 to become HCUC
- Warrington Collegiate and Mid Cheshire College merged on 1 August 2017 to become Warrington and Vale Royal College
- National College for High Speed Rail – new college incorporated September 2015 but opened on students September 2017

- Hillcroft College and Richmond Adult and Community College merged on 1 October 2017 to become Richmond and Hillcroft Adult and Community College (Note: newly merged college will retain SDC status)
- Aylesbury College and Amersham and Wycombe College merged on 3 October 2017 to become Buckinghamshire College Group
- Capital City College Group (CCCG) and College of Haringey Enfield & North East London (CONEL) merged on 1 November 2017 retaining the CCCG name
- Doncaster College and North Lindsey College merged on 1 November 2017 to become DN Colleges Group
- City College Norwich and Paston Sixth Form College merged on 1 December 2017 retaining the City College Norwich name
- St Helens College and Knowsley College merged on 12 December 2017 to become SK Group
- Telford College of Arts and Technology and New College Telford merged on 20 December 2017 to become Telford College

College mergers 2018

(includes one with a university)

- Solihull College & University Centre and Stratford-upon-Avon College merged on 1 February 2018 retaining the Solihull College & University Centre name
- East Kent College and Canterbury College merged on 1 February 2018 to become EKC (East Kent College) Group
- Southport College and King George V College merged on 1 February 2018 retaining the Southport College name
- Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth 1 College and Regent College merged on 29 March 2018 to become WQE and Regent Colleges Group
- Sussex Coast College Hastings and Sussex Downs College merged on 29 March 2018 to become East Sussex College Group
- Trafford College and Stockport College merged on 5 April 2018 to become The Trafford College Group
- Stockton Riverside College and Redcar & Cleveland College merged on 1 August 2018 retaining the Stockton Riverside College name

- New City College and Epping Forest College merged on 1 August 2018 retaining the New City College name
- East Coast College and Lowestoft Sixth Form College merged on 1 August 2018 retaining the East Coast College name
- University of Bolton and Bolton College merged on 1 August 2018. The Bolton College Corporation was dissolved. The college is now a company limited by guarantee with the university as its sole member, which will give the HE institute ultimate control. The new company is being designated as an FE institution under the FE and HE Act 1992 (so remains in FE sector)
- Herefordshire & Ludlow College and North Shropshire College merged on 1 November 2018 to become Herefordshire, Ludlow and North Shropshire College
- Sandwell College and Cadbury College merged on 1 November 2018 retaining the Sandwell College name
- Nelson and Colne College and Accrington and Rossendale merged on 20 November 2018, retaining the Nelson and Colne College name

College mergers 2019

(includes one with a university)

- Activate Learning and Bracknell & Wokingham College merged on 10 January 2019 retaining the Activate Learning name
- South Essex College of Further and Higher Education and Prospects College of Advanced Technology merged on 1 February 2019 retaining the South Essex College name
- London South Bank University and Lambeth College merged on 1 February 2019. The Lambeth College Corporation was dissolved and its assets transferred to South Bank Colleges, which is a company limited by guarantee, and a wholly owned subsidiary of the University. It is being designated as an FE institution under the FE and HE Act 1992 (so remains in the FE sector)
- West Herts College and Barnfield College merged on 1 February 2019 to become The West Herts College Group
- East Surrey College (incorporating Reigate School of Art) and John Ruskin College merged on 1 February 2019 to become Orbital South Colleges
- Croydon College and Coulsdon College merged on 12 February 2019 retaining the Croydon College name

- Havant & South Downs College and Alton College merged on 1 March 2019 retaining the Havant & South Downs College name
- Sunderland College and Northumberland College merged on 22 March 2019 to become Sunderland College Group / Education Partnership North East
- Activate Learning and Guildford College merged on 29 March 2019 retaining the Activate Learning name
- Chichester College Group and Worthing College merged on 1 April 2019 retaining the Chichester College Group name
- New City College and Havering College of FE & HE and Havering Sixth Form College merged on 1 August 2019 retaining the New City College name

College mergers 2020

- Easton & Otley College was de-merged on 1 January 2020. The Easton campus is now part of City College Norwich and the Otley campus (renamed Suffolk Rural) has become part of Suffolk New College
- Brooksby Melton College and Stephenson College merged on 31 January 2020 to become SMB Group
- National College Creative and Cultural Industries was dissolved on 31 January 2020, with provision transferring to South Essex College of Further and Higher Education and Access Creative College (an Independent Training Provider)
- Morley College and Kensington & Chelsea College merged on 3 February 2020 to become Morley College London
- Grimsby Institute and East Riding College merged on 1 August 2020 to become TEC Partnership, formerly known as the Grimsby Institute Group
- Peterborough Regional College and New College Stamford merged on 1 August 2020 to become Inspire Education Group.
- New College Swindon and Swindon College merged on 17 August 2020 retaining the New College Swindon name
- The Hadlow College Group transaction - Hadlow College and West Kent & Ashford College (which were two separate legal entities), both fully broken up by 17 August 2020 (college initials in brackets below are for information only – ie. to show the split of campuses)

- Hadlow College and West Kent & Ashford College formed a federation in 2015 (though they remained two separate legal entities)
- An education administrator was appointed to run Hadlow College in May 2020 and West Kent College in August 2020
- The administrator's role is to protect the student interest as well as creditors and has arranged the following transfers
- The Mottingham Campus (HC) was transferred to Capel Manor College on 1 January 2020
- Ashford College (WK&AC) and Canterbury Spring Lane (HC) were transferred to EKC Group on 31 March 2020
- Hadlow (HC), Tonbridge (WK&AC) and Greenwich (HC) campuses transferred to North Kent College on 17 August 2020

College mergers 2021

- National College for Advanced Transport and Infrastructure merged with University of Birmingham on 30 April 2021 (NCATI was dissolved and the institution is now a company limited by guarantee that is a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of Birmingham). It is being designated as an FE institution under the FE and HE Act 1992 (so remains in the FE sector)
- Trafford College Group and Cheadle & Marple College merged on 4 May 2021 retaining the Trafford College Group name
- Highbury College and Portsmouth College merged on 1 August 2021 to become City of Portsmouth College
- Ruskin College joined University of West London on 1 August 2021. It is a charitable company limited by guarantee, of which University of West London is the sole member. Ruskin College's status as an institution designated under s28 of the FHEA 1992 has not changed, which means that it remains in the statutory FE sector

College mergers planned for 2020/21 so far:

- Richmond upon Thames College and HCUC to merge December 2021
- St Mary's College Blackburn due to close 31 July 2022
- Wakefield College and Selby College 2022 (date tbc)

Sixth form college academy conversions

Conversions completed in 2017

- Hereford Sixth Form College on 1 March 2017
- Rochdale Sixth Form College on 1 April 2017 (joined Altus Education Partnership which it set up)
- Priestly College on 1 May 2017 (joined The Challenge Academy Trust which it set up)
- New College Pontefract on 1 June 2017
- Birkenhead Sixth Form College on 1 August 2017 (joined Wirral Academy Trust which it set up)
- Longley Park Sixth Form College on 1 August 2017 (joined Brigantia Learning Trust)
- Sixth Form College Solihull on 1 August 2017 (joined Ninestiles Academy Trust)
- City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College on 1 September 2017 (joined Potteries Educational Trust)
- Oldham Sixth Form College on 1 September 2017 (joined Pinnacle Academy Trust which it is set up)
- Reigate College on 1 September 2017 (joined Reigate Learning Alliance - a new multi academy trust)
- The Sixth Form College Farnborough on 1 September 2017 (formed The Prospect Trust – a new multi academy trust)
- Woking College on 1 September 2017 (formed a single academy trust known as Woking College)
- Queen Mary's College on 1 October 2017 (formed North Hampshire Learning Trust - a multi-academy)
- Prior Pursglove and Stockton Sixth Form College on 1 November 2017 (joined Tees Valley Collaborative Trust - a Multi Academy Trust which it is setting up)

- Richard Taunton Sixth Form College on 1 November 2017 (joined Lighthouse Learning Trust - a multi-academy trust established by both Richard Taunton Sixth Form College and St Vincent College)
- St Vincent College on 1 November 2017 (joined Lighthouse Learning Trust - a multi-academy trust established by both Richard Taunton Sixth Form College and St Vincent College)
- Thomas Rotherham College on 1 November 2017 (joined Inspire Trust)

Conversions completed in 2018

- Godalming College on 1 January 2018 (formed a single academy trust known as Godalming College)
- Sir John Deane's College on 1 April 2018 (formed a new multi academy trust Sir John Brunner Foundation)
- East Norfolk Sixth Form College on 1 August 2018 (formed the East Norfolk Multi Academy Trust – ENMAT)

Conversions completed in 2019

- King Edward VI College Nuneaton on 1 January 2019 (joined Better Futures Multi Academy Trust, formed by Coventry University)
- Ashton (under Lyne) Sixth Form College on 1 February 2019 (joined the Stamford Park Trust which it set up)
- Worcester Sixth Form College on 1 April 2019 (formed the Worcestershire Learning Trust – a new multi academy trust)
- Esher College on 1 September 2019 (formed the Esher Sixth Form College Academy Trust)
- Bilborough Sixth Form College on 1 November 2019 (joined Better Futures Multi Academy Trust, formed by Coventry University)

Conversions completed in 2020

- Gateway Sixth Form College on 1 April 2020 (joined the Better Futures Multi-Academy Trust, a Multi-Academy Trust established by Coventry University)

Conversions completed in 2021

- Woodhouse College on 1 January 2021 (joined the Frontier Learning Multi Academy Trust)
- King Edward VI College Stourbridge on 1 February 2021 (joined the Heart of Mercia Multi Academy Trust)
- Richard Huish College on 1 October 2021 (formed the Richard Huish Trust MAT)

Conversions where applications have been made and/or there has been a public consultation

- Cirencester College – 2022 (date TBC)

Corrections and clarifications

The information in this note is accurate so far as we know at the time of writing. For any corrections or clarifications please email geeta.halai@aoc.co.uk or julian.gravatt@aoc.co.uk

Association of Colleges
10 October 2021