Sharing Innovative Approaches to Implementing 16 – 19 Study Programmes

Hull College Group
“AT HCUK we are committed to ensuring our students get the best possible experience, they achieve the best that they can and develop the skills they will need to go on to fulfil their ambitions and make a positive contribution to society. In developing our new Study Programmes we have worked hard to further reinforce this commitment which will help us to continue developing people with the right skills to make them ready for work and/or higher learning”.

Graham Towse - Principal

About the College

The Hull College Group is one of the largest general further education colleges in the country. It operates from three main geographical locations: Hull, Harrogate and Goole. There are five main centres in Hull, along with the Learning Zone situated in the Kingston Communications Stadium, which is run in partnership with Hull City Council offering sports programmes.

Hull College Group enrols around 31,000 students annually and offers technical, professional and academic education and training, ranging from GCSEs and NVQs to degree and post-graduate qualifications programmes, in all 15 sector subject areas. There is also significant HE provision. It sponsors a local school academy in Hull and has helped to raise GCSE achievements substantially there. It is also the main sponsor for a Studio School in Hull which opened in 2012 and it serves 1,100 14-16s on part-time vocational programmes. Each year some 7,700 16-18s study through the college Group, of which some 3,600 are full time. There are 6,500 apprentices and over 10,000 adult students.

“The Energy League” is the college's name for a centre for full time 14-16 year olds in the main Hull campus, comprising bespoke classrooms, a flexible learning space, social/catering space and staff areas at the south side of the Queen's Gardens tower block. This project was developed to accommodate the transfer of around 80 young people from a local school to a safe, secure and bespoke learning environment. The Group has Accredited Schools Provider status, enabling it to provide full time education for pre-16s.

Some 11.3% of students enrolled at the college are of minority ethnic heritage, compared with 8.3% in the local community of Hull, 4.6% in the East Riding and 6.3% in Harrogate.

The college Group makes substantial provision for employers¹, including through its own Yorkshire & Humber Apprentice Training Agency (YHATA). Businesses served include BP, P&O Ferries and British Aerospace. The Group also recruits

¹ http://www.hull-college.ac.uk/employers/client-testimonials
nationally and internationally for its commercial and higher education (HE) provision.

**Study Programmes**

The college Group has developed a framework for all Study Programmes following a full review of the 16-18 curriculum. These programmes will operate from 540 to 600 annualised hours and will comprise: the substantive vocational qualification; an English and maths core theme; and a Student Development Programme - Experience of Work, Enterprise, Enrichment and Personal Development.

**The student development programme**

This element of the Study Programme will provide:

- Experience of work, expanded and enhanced as it is built into all Study Programmes, with Enterprise Projects, Employer Commissioned Projects, and a partnership with Reed\(^2\) to provide a Job Brokerage Service to support positive progression.
- Components mapped across the curriculum, covering
  - Understanding the world of work
  - Business and Enterprise
  - Enrichment and Personal Development
  - Equality and Diversity.

Students will be engaged through their tutorials in 1:1 Progress and Learning Reviews; and termly “Work Ready” review meetings. The E-ILP will be used to monitor attendance, achievements, to record extra curricula activities, and work experience. Individual targets will be set and noted towards the progression plan.

**Maths and English within Study Programmes**

Students will have an entitlement of 100 hours to study English and/or maths to reach the Gold Standard of GCSE A*-C, where they have not already achieved this. A matrix timetabling model will allow for “stepping stone” qualifications to GCSE and movement of students between levels. At Entry level to level 1, there will be Functional Skills (FS) in these subjects in two 1.5 hour sessions per week. From levels One to Two there will be either FS or free-standing maths and English qualifications, for three hours per week; and at level 3 there will be GCSE maths and English timetabled for three hours per week.

\(^2\) A jobs recruitment and placement agency: http://www.reed.co.uk/career-advice
The E-ILP has been developed to record this, with curriculum area lead posts in place to ensure effective tracking of student progress, placing English and maths as the core. Entry qualifications have been agreed for each curriculum area level in English and maths, to allow personalised and inclusive progression through the levels in these subjects for students wanting to gain employment or move to HE.

The college Group has a centralised staff development and capacity-building model in place to enhance staff skills in the teaching of English and maths GCSEs. This includes an initiative in Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG), and in embedding numeracy training to support the core subjects in the Study Programme.

**The supported internship programme**

Access can be provided for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to all the main vocational curriculum areas. There is a Specialist Centre in Hull for students with learning difficulties and disabilities, with an additional 80 students on integrated Supported Learning programmes. Other specialist provision includes the Sight Centre and Hearing Impaired provision.

The college Group has been part of the DfE’s Supported Internship pilot in 2012/13, with 15 Interns. There were regular internal and national reports on progress of the project. This provision will continue into 2013-14, where there are two groups planned in a Study Programme framework.

In their first term all students undertook Level 1 in Work Skills. Throughout the year they studied English and maths. All students participated in the college Enrichment Programme at the main college site. In Jan 2013 each Internee was placed with an employer and had an individualized programme of work and education.

Staff include: a Co-ordinator, two Job Coaches, two Support Workers, one Course Leader and one administrator.

There were several open events which parents, employers and partners have attended. The last event was to promote the 2013-4 programme. Two current Interns attended and spoke out promoting their course (this was a major achievement for one of them who had autism). The parent of this Intern addressed the event and thanked the college for providing such a valuable course. The range of employers involved included Hull City Council, The Freedom Centre, The Deep, Asda, TVC, Teenytots, HERIB, Soccer Sensations, and Age UK. Students’ Progress. The programme has been a huge success. Interns and parents have made comments such as ‘a life safer’ ‘the making of him’ ‘feels valued’ ‘feels like
part of the world’, ‘the best year of my life’ in some of the feedback. One Intern completed early and gained employment in a garage. Two other Interns have been offered apprenticeships with Hull City Council.

**Employability**

The focus is on equipping students with the core skills that make them employable. In September 2013, the Hull College Group will launch its “Progression Passport”, an innovative approach to promoting employer engagement within curriculum design to ensure that students leave the college with ‘work-ready’ employability skills. Through the Passport and utilising each e-Individual Learning Planner, students will record their progress against a series of activities, skills sessions and “milestones”, designed in consultation with employers, which will help to prepare them for real work. Students will in turn have the opportunity to be awarded the “HCUK Employability Seal” if they secure particularly high levels of attainment for a range of Employability related skills.

The college Group will establish a dedicated Employability Hub in Hull in September 2013, to ensure all students gain the skills they need to succeed in life and work. There is also an Employability Skills Academy at the Goole campus.

**Enterprise**

Enterprise is at the heart of the Hull College Group’s culture. It is a key aim to contribute to an innovation-rich, enterprising local community. All full-time students complete an enterprise qualification focused on teamwork, clarity of communication and problem-solving which equips them to demonstrate initiative and independent thinking, recognised as vital skills in today’s demanding world of work.

The college’s enterprise culture is also illustrated by schemes such as the “Enterprise Gateway” which helps students launch start-up businesses. So far it has created 26 businesses and 43 new jobs.

The college Group has forged many links with the business community and its networks, such as the Bondholders (a 180-strong business network) and For Entrepreneurs Only (FEO). The college has partnered with FEO to create a BTEC Diploma in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship for budding entrepreneurs aged 16-19 and Start-Up “Bootcamps” for new and fledgling companies, featuring practical workshops and mentoring from successful local business owners. In Goole, the college’s Employability Skills Academy has strong links to major businesses, including blue chip companies Drax and Croda. More than 30 employers are
represented on the Goole College Consultative Committee and help to shape the college’s curriculum and skills agenda.

**Renewables**

Industries developing renewable technologies are seen as the Humber’s greatest economic opportunity. The college Group is promoting skills development in this field, to enable the region to realise the potential for green energy to transform the region’s economy.

Hull College has more than 150 courses related to over 100 different careers within the renewables sector and associated supply chains, from NVQ Level 2 to honours degrees. This provision equips the local workforce for careers from manufacturing and wind farm technician roles up to production and technical director positions.

Over the past five years the college has invested £6m in state-of-the-art facilities focused on skills required by the green energy sector, including the Energy and Climate Centre which is the focal point for its extensive renewables provision. During Humber Business Week 2013 Hull College Group launched its “STEM Manifesto”, pledging to focus even more of its courses on the STEM subjects vital for careers in renewables and the wider energy industry.

The STEM Manifesto and the strategy that lies behind it have been developed in partnership with the New Engineering Foundation[^3], a leading professional body which champions innovation in science and technology.

[^3]: http://www.thenef.org.uk/foundation
particularly with non-qualification activity, as shown below.