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# Impact Report



Catering and Hospitality students spend up to 50% of their course time in the commercial kitchens at Silverstone Circuits.

MK College Group  
Community Day, February  
2023. Students and staff  
donated over 750 items  
to local charities.



# We Build Fairer Futures.



# Contents



MK College Barbering volunteering to give free haircuts to residents at MK YMCA.



We use the power of education  
to create opportunities, champion  
talent and build Fairer Futures.



# Foreword



**Sally Alexander**  
CEO and Group Principal

Welcome to our second Community Impact Report, the first for me as CEO and Group Principal.

This year, we have taken huge steps towards our goal of Building Fairer Futures. Our focus on student experiences has led to initiatives such as the Greater Than Network to raise standards in English and maths and our Multiply courses to support adults with improving their numeracy skills. We have expanded our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) provision in response to a 200% increase in demand from refugees and new settlers from Ukraine and Afghanistan.

Our first ever College in the Community Day, where more than 600 learners and colleagues volunteered for vital community projects, provided our learners with some fantastic experiences which they can build into their learning programmes. In prison education, we partnered with RMF Construction to explore the development of prison apprenticeships and were awarded the contracts for 10

additional prisons in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, meaning we can support even more learners to have better futures.

A key aspect of our Fairer Futures strategy is our partnerships. Working with employers like Silverstone means we can provide our students with insights from industry experts and excellent facilities. Looking ahead, we are confident that by partnering with industry leaders such as Microsoft and KPMG at our South Central Institute of Technology (SCIoT), we can help to close our city's digital skills gap. Plus, the connections we are developing through our community work mean that together, we can tackle the opportunities and challenges in Milton Keynes.

Creating a positive impact must be sustainable for the long-term, so we have taken measures like investing in the SCIoT to help us work with a more diverse range of stakeholders and learners in the future.

We have made progress on our journey to embed equality, diversity and fairness. We have retained our

Leaders in Diversity status and engaged with our learners through the newly launched Student Commission on Racial Justice. Our FE Voices podcast also focuses on racial justice and brings together diverse voices to identify ways to support meaningful change.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the colleagues, learners, employers and other partners who made all of this happen. By working together, we can bring Fairer Futures to life, and I am excited to see what the future holds.

I hope that this report encourages you to get involved. If you are a learner or a colleague, find out how you can support our community work. If you are an employer, ask us about apprenticeships, placements or other partnerships. And if you are a charity or community group, our door is always open.

Together we will Build Fairer Futures.

# Our Impact Aims

1

Drive aspirational, innovative and student-focussed educational experiences that have a positive impact on social mobility

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2

Deliver the skills employers need by developing meaningful partnerships to grow our influence and create opportunities

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3

Achieve and maintain financial and operational sustainability that contributes to economic growth

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4

Promote and live fairness, equality, diversity and inclusion to build a fairer society to live and work in

# Impact Highlights

**November 2021**

**Over £3m awarded for new buildings** to support growing learner numbers

**July 2022**

**Chaffron Business Centre launches** to help organisations address skills shortages through training and hi-tech, state-of-the-art facilities

**February 2023**

**MK College Group Community Day**  
Over 600 students and staff volunteered and raised funds for 35 local projects, tackling isolation, poverty, bereavement and increasing community cohesion

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**December 2021**

**SkillsHub:MK initiative launched in partnership** with OU, Cranfield University, Learning 2050 and MK:AI

**November 2022**

**Signing Race to Zero pledge** kicks off month-long focus on sustainability

**March 2023**

**MK College Group awarded contract for education services** at 10 prisons, taking the contract for prison education services from 19 to 29 prisons



# = Aim One

We drive aspirational, innovative and student-focussed educational experiences that have a positive impact on social mobility.

Our figures for learners who progress after studying with us demonstrate they are being prepared well for future successes in education, training and employment. Project One is designed as an entry point into the College for young people most at risk of not staying in education, employment or training (known as NEET). Project One develops transferable skills and builds resilience; we are really proud of the fact that so many learners progressed on to a mainstream College programme. All those who didn't were supported to find alternatives elsewhere.

In Summer 2022 we responded to the increased demand for English courses, largely for people from Ukraine and Afghanistan. The College quickly mobilised to increase our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) numbers, delivering in hotels and community centres alongside our campus-based offer.

# 91%

of learners progressed onto further study and training (including Higher Education and apprenticeships) or into employment.

# 90%

of all learners agreed that staff were experts in their field.\*

# 83%

of all learners feel their experience studying with MK College Group is good.\*

# 200%

increase in demand for English courses from refugees and asylum seekers from Ukraine and Afghanistan.

# 85%

of Project One learners progressed to another course in the College.

\*2021-22 Learner Feedback Survey



**Victoria Rouch**  
**SCIoT Apprentice**

Victoria shares her apprenticeship journey. **Read her story, click the QR code.**



**Paul Gartside**  
**MK College Alumnus**

Paul shares his career progress and advice. **Read his story, click the QR code.**





# Aim Two

We deliver the skills employers need by developing meaningful partnerships to grow our influence and create opportunities.

Milton Keynes College Group (MKCG) works with hundreds of employers across the region to deliver the training element of their apprenticeships. Apprenticeship employers are surveyed by the government and have rated the College as Excellent, the highest rating a training provider can receive.

Our regular employer forums that actively seek to identify skills needs have already shaped changes within our curriculum. These include adding green skills to our short course offer and changing our Level 1 study programme to focus on a broader employability curriculum.

The progression of our students from no qualifications to a Level 3 is important to deliver on our aim to Build Fairer Futures: a person educated to Level 3 will earn £425,000 more over their lifetime compared to someone without qualifications.

## Rated Excellent by Employers

Click the QR code to find out more.



# 79%

of employers said we provided the right training at the right time.

# 228

learners have progressed from Level 1 to Level 3 in the last five years.

# 200+

employer and skills forums delivered over a six month period.

# 483

adults in Milton Keynes have been upskilled in English and maths.



### Partnership with Silverstone

Gives hospitality students fuel for success. **Read the story, click the QR code.**



# RMF GROUP

### Pioneers in Prison Apprenticeships

MKCG and RMF Group launch apprenticeships. **Read the story, click the QR code.**



# Aim Three

We achieve and maintain financial and operational sustainability that contributes to economic growth.

The Construction and Engineering sectors are key growth areas for Milton Keynes. To deliver the talent pipeline needed by employers as well as provide opportunities for learners wanting to take advantage of the boom in these sectors, we have invested heavily in our Innovation and Technology Centre that houses these course areas. The additional facilities will provide space for an additional 200 learners by 2024/25.

The College Group's Sustainability Committee was formed in January 2022 and quickly agreed to follow the national sustainability plan for the sector: **The FE Climate Action Roadmap**. This action-focussed plan provides clear guidance on how colleges can respond to the climate emergency through advancing their own sustainability. MKCG is on track to achieve the Roadmap's Emerging status in 2022/23.

More than

# £3m

invested in key growth areas of employment of Construction and Engineering sectors with the build of new learning facilities.

# £571,000

invested in resources, equipment and facilities for students.

# £3.6m

awarded to provide training of in-demand skills for local employers with over **1,300** employees from **491** organisations attending skills workshops and events designed to bolster skills in leadership and management, digital and AI.



## MK College Group's Focus on Sustainability

Find out what we've been up to. **Read the story, click the QR code.**



# 200m<sup>2</sup>

of solar panels installed that produces 28 tonnes less CO<sub>2</sub> and delivers cost savings.

# == Aim Four

We promote and live fairness, equality, diversity and inclusion to build a fairer society to live and work in.

After an extensive accreditation process, in October 2022 we received news that we had retained our Leaders in Diversity status, remaining the only organisation in the city with this award. Building Fairer Futures is at the core of everything we do so this was a fantastic external validation of our work.

Our bursary fund was spent on supporting our learners with travel, food, childcare, course kit including uniform, trips, IT equipment and additional hardship funds to support the most vulnerable. From January 2023 we also provided free porridge with toppings and fruit to any students and staff who wanted it – this has been a positive way to start the day and removes barriers for people who are struggling to afford breakfast.



**Leaders  
in Diversity  
Award**

Achieved:  
Valid Until  
September 2024

MK College Group has retained its  
Leaders in Diversity accreditation.

**£566,727**

awarded in bursary payments to learners, moving the social  
mobility dial forward to create opportunities for all.



**83.7%**

achievement rate for  
GCSE English and  
maths.



**27.5%**

of learners are from  
ethnic minority  
backgrounds.



**12.8%**

of staff are from  
ethnic minority  
backgrounds.



## **Supporting St Mark's Meals**

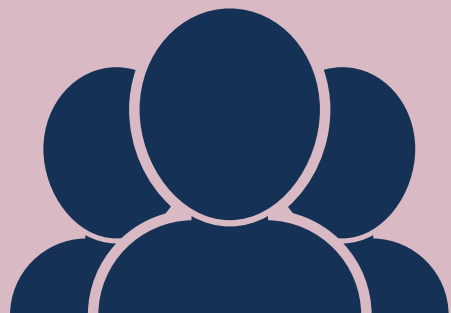
Students and staff raise  
funds for local charity.

**Read the story, click the  
QR code.**





# Community Impact In Action



600+

staff and students volunteered in the community in February 2023

750

items donated to St Mark's Meals,  
MK Food Bank, Winter Night Shelter  
Milton Keynes and MK Act

35

organisations and projects  
supported in Milton Keynes

# #WeAreMK

Images from Community Day on 21st February 2023.  
Over 600 students and staff supporting 35 projects  
across a range of organisations in Milton Keynes.



Sally Alexander, CEO and Group Principal of MK College Group shares what **College in the Community Day** means to delivering the Fairer Futures strategy and the impact on creating belonging.





MK College Group staff volunteering to pick up litter as part of College in the Community Day.



We Build  
Fairer Futures.



**The power to drive great change  
lies in the collective action and  
voices of our communities.**



Milton Keynes College Group  
Woughton Campus West  
Chaffron Way  
Leadenhall  
Milton Keynes  
MK6 5LP

## Join the conversation:

Get involved and have your say.

Tweet #FairerFutures to @MKCollege

Send an email to [info@mkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:info@mkcollege.ac.uk)

Call us on 01908 684444

## Connect with us on social media:

