



# Impact Report

## 2022/23



# Foreword



**Sally Alexander**  
CEO and Group Principal

Welcome to our third annual Community Impact Report.

This year, our mission to Deliver Fairer Futures has been widely recognised. When Ofsted inspectors visited in February 2024, Milton Keynes College was once again rated as Good and our work with Adult Learners and those with High Needs was rated as Outstanding.

The report made special mention of our expertise in meeting the skills needs of our local businesses and stakeholders, the standard of teaching and learning, the College's links to employers and the careers guidance and support provided. This report is so encouraging, as the inspectors saw us doing exactly what we promise, providing Fairer Futures for our learners.

The College Group was awarded the MKBAA Award for 'Business Impact in the Community' in March this year. The judges said, "the breadth of engagement through the college's partnerships and stakeholder engagement activities clearly demonstrated the impact and influence the organisation has had within the Milton Keynes community".

I couldn't have said it better myself!

Lots of exciting things have happened across the College Group this year. Our South Central Institute of Technology (SCIoT) building in Bletchley fully opened to students in September 2023, offering state-of-the-art facilities and real-world projects with global tech brands, led by expert tutors. The SCIoT has also hosted community events including holiday activity clubs and our 'Demystifying AI' event in March for the local business community.

Our prison education network has also been growing. The 10 additional prisons in Kent, Surrey and Sussex and the new HMP Fosse Way, which opened last spring, mean that we can support even more learners to have better futures.

Our journey to embed equality, diversity and fairness continues. Our second cohort of Student Commissioners for Racial Justice are doing important work to raise awareness of the vital topic of racial justice and our employee networks have built strong relationships with local groups such as Man Cave and Q:Alliance. We're also strengthening

our relationships with Women Leaders UK, MK Community Foundation, the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire and MK Ethnic Business Community.

Supporting our local communities remains central to our Fairer Futures Strategy. We recently held a Hustings event where learners put their questions to electoral candidates from all four major parties and voted for their preferred candidate. We held our second annual College in the Community Day, where more than 900 learners and colleagues volunteered for more than 40 vital community projects and had fantastic experiences which they can build into their learning to better understand their local communities.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the colleagues, learners, employers and partners who made all of this happen. By working together, we can deliver Fairer Futures to our communities, and I am excited to see what the future holds.



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# 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

**April 2023**

**HMP Fosse Way opens**  
with MK College Group  
as the education  
provider.

**August 2023**

**T Level results**  
The first cohort of MK College  
students received their T Levels  
results, achieving a 100% pass rate.

**February 2024**

**Good Ofsted rating for  
Milton Keynes College**  
Two areas graded as  
Outstanding.

**March 2024**

**‘Delivering Skills, Boosting  
Business’ campaign  
launched**  
MK College Group and four  
other FE Colleges launched  
a campaign to encourage  
businesses to work with  
them to close the skills gap.



**July 2023**

**SCIoT building opens  
in Bletchley**  
The TeenTech Festival  
being the first event in  
the brand-new building.



**September 2023**

**Silver Award for Armed  
Forces Covenant**  
MK College Group receives  
this for supporting veterans  
and their families.



**March 2024**

**Second annual College in  
the Community Day**  
Over 900 students and staff volunteered  
and raised funds more than 40 projects  
for local charities and community groups.

# Aim One

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

Building aspiration in our students is key to their ongoing success, igniting a spark that can propel them forwards in their future careers. Key to this is ensuring that students are equipped to learn effectively by building core skills of confidence, resilience, as well as strong English and maths. This is particularly important where students have had a challenging time at school. In September 2023 we launched our 'Skills Academy', to build these key skills and competencies. The programme was incredibly popular with students and their parents, and we look forward to our first cohort of learners moving onto vocational specialisms within the College.

We are proud of our prison education business. MK College Group delivers education in 30 prisons throughout England including the entire long-term, high security estate and the brand-new Fosse Way private prison in Leicester. This year our prison work grew as we were entrusted with the Kent, Surrey and Sussex prison contract in Southeast England.



Ofsted good rating achieved with some areas graded 'Outstanding'. Read more, scan the QR Code.

## 365

more 16-19 year old students in 2023/24 academic year.

## 33%

of 16-19 year olds from Milton Keynes study at MK College.

## 100%

pass rate in GCSE English achieved by 9 prisoners at high security Frankland Prison.



**Jacob Vale, wins Student of the Year 2023**

Read more, tap or scan the QR code.



**100% T Levels success rate**

Read more, tap or scan the QR code.



# Aim One

One of the areas highlighted as 'Outstanding' in our recent Ofsted report, was provision for students with High Needs.

The report recognised that students with High Needs "enjoy being at College. They feel supported and valued by their teachers and by each other. They form sound friendships and know to whom they should speak if they have any worries or concerns," and that these students "make rapid and sustained progress with their academic, vocational and personal learning."

Becca Partridge, Head of School for ESOL and Inclusive Learning, spoke about her pride in her team and the hard work that goes into being rated as Outstanding.

Becca said, "I think the thing that impressed the inspectors most was the sense of teamwork shown by all staff. The inspection allowed us to show off all the fantastic things we do in addition to the learners' main study programme, including our Horticulture Centre, Inclusively Yours shop, and partnership working with organisations such as Woughton Community Council."



Sorting donations for MK Food Bank

BBC's Countryfile with Inclusive Learners at The Inclusive Farm



A learner with plants from the Horticulture Centre



Inclusive Learning Choir at MK Snap

Learners and staff at Woughton Community Café



**Learners on Countryfile at The Inclusive Farm**

Read more, tap or scan the QR code.



**Community Christmas lunches in The Brasserie**

Read more, tap or scan the QR code.





# = Aim Two

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

This year has seen our aim of using partnerships to support employers tested to the max. Ofsted spent two days speaking to a selection of our employer customers, as well as our local council and other bodies representing employers to see how strong we are at responding to skills needs.

The result couldn't have been more positive. In their rating of MK College as 'Strong' for skills, the highest category available, Ofsted commented; "Senior leaders work very effectively in partnership with numerous stakeholders to identify, understand and contribute to meeting skills needs in the city, region and nationally... Leaders and managers use these excellent partnerships to develop an offer that aligns very closely with the local skills priorities".



Achieved for fifth year, building on digital learning specialisms.



25 colleagues are Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts (MIEE).

## 86%

of apprenticeship employers said improving apprentice skills is a strength of ours.

## 68%

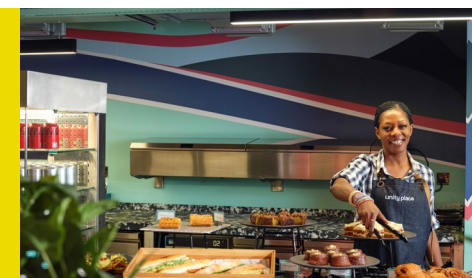
achievement rate for Data Analyst (Level 4) apprentices, 9% higher than the national rate.

**Find out more about our Excellent rating by Apprenticeship employers**



**Partnership working to solve recruitment challenges**

Read the story, tap or scan the QR code.



**Unity Place supporting College students into apprenticeships**

Read the story, tap or scan the QR code.





# = Aim Two

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

MK College Group has led on a regional Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) project which has contributed over £5m to supporting regional skills needs. Working with a group of Further Education Colleges in the region that represent almost 60,000 learners, they have come together to help bridge the skills gap.

As part of the project known as 'Delivering Skills, Boosting Business', the region will see new 'green technology' centres, brand new digital short courses, enhanced support for health and care sectors and a commitment to meeting and engaging with employers to continue to understand their evolving needs.

We know the transformational impact our exceptional teachers deliver; however we also know that inspiration can come from external experiences and competitions that bring to life learning. We call these 'wow' moments, which were highlighted and praised by Ofsted.

Hospitality & Catering students working at the British Grand Prix, Silverstone



Music students at Marshall Amplification to use their studio and get feedback on their performances



Motor Vehicle students visit the Aston Martin F1 team as part of the Valvoline Aspiring Mechanics programme performances



AI Hackathon for the Common Good by The British Council at the South Central Institute of Technology



European Smart City Robotics Competition, where we came second to King's College London

**Colleges of South East Midlands,  
Delivering Skills, Boosting  
Business**



# Aim Three

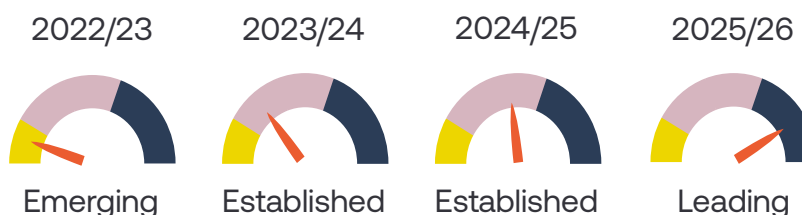
We achieve and maintain financial and operational sustainability that contributes to economic growth.

We know environmental sustainability is very important to our people – it is a key factor in attracting future colleagues and learners to Milton Keynes College. As we work towards carbon neutrality by 2030 through our installation of solar panels and an air source heat pump, we can also observe financial benefits from energy savings to attracting new investment.

In 2023 we engaged a consultant specialising in sustainability for the FE sector to produce a report on our performance and provide key recommendations for the way forward. Crucially, to ensure momentum is maintained as activities increase, we have invested in a Sustainability Lead who will spearhead our environmental initiatives. This supports our goal to achieve 'Leading' status on the FE Climate Action Roadmap by 2025/26.

Raising aspirations and improving prospects for our learners benefits them personally but also boosts the local economy. Our recent Ofsted report praised the College's collaborative working to develop the skills local people need to progress into further training, apprenticeships, or study.

## Moving from Emerging to Established status on The FE Climate Action Roadmap



**MK College Group will aim to be Carbon Neutral by 2030**

**The solar panels we've installed save the equivalent CO2 as 1,436 trees planted.**

**170**

over 170 learners have progressed through three or more qualifications with us.

**95%**

of our learners who applied to university received an offer.

**389**

employees began 2023 having already participated in Carbon Literacy Training.



**Deborah Mungai, former South Central Institute of Technology student, named as Local Skills Champion**

Read the story, tap or scan the QR code.



# ■ Aim Four

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

College Voice has been part of college life for several years as the process by which learners can raise issues and give feedback on topics that matter to them. Course Representatives, College Council, the NUS Executive Committee, Student Governors and our two Student Conferences each year provide a range of opportunities for learners to have their voice heard as well as actively participate in positive change.

These democratic processes have been enriched through support for students to set up their own student groups and societies, including providing funding if this is needed. Whether the groups are about being active, getting creative or just having fun, they are a fantastic way to connect learners from across the College and foster our value of Belonging.

Forging bonds through communication, building confidence and developing new skills are all vital to ensuring our learners leave us as well-rounded individuals, with the best opportunity to move into further study, an apprenticeship or the workforce.

## £706,074

awarded in bursary payments to learners, moving the social mobility dial forward to create opportunities for all. A 24.5% increase on the previous year.

## £5,000

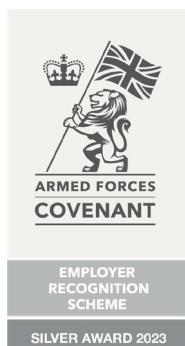
budget for Student Committee - providing opportunities for personal growth, including training, societies, and competitions.

## 87.2%

achievement rate for High Needs students: **4.5%** increase from previous year.

## 1,365

students supported with a bursary. **32%** increase from previous year.



We received Silver Award for Armed Forces Covenant



Is our podcast series amplifying diverse voices, listen here



### Students question local candidates in hustings event

Read the story, tap or scan the QR code.



### Student Commissioners for Racial Justice appointed as part of national scheme

Read the story, tap or scan the QR code.





# Community Impact In Action

900+

staff and students volunteered in the  
community in March 2024

42

organisations and projects  
supported in Milton Keynes

2,700

volunteering hours

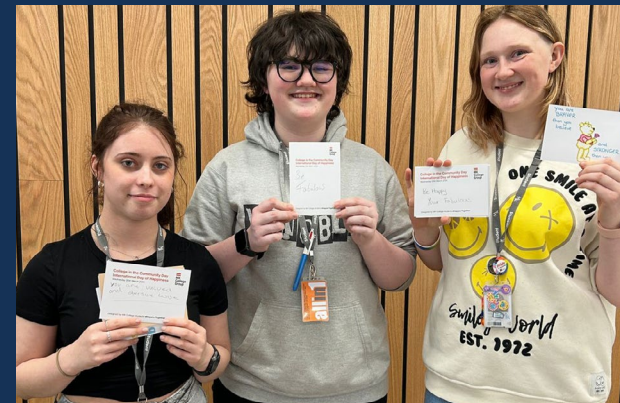
1,000

Postcards of Happiness  
designed, written and distributed



# #WeAreMK

Images from Community Day on 20th March 2024. Over 900 learners and staff supporting 42 projects across a range of organisations in Milton Keynes.



Find our more about  
the day here





Winning Business Impact in  
the Community at the Milton  
Keynes Business Achievement  
Awards, March 2024.



We Deliver  
Fairer Futures.



**“The college’s extensive employer partnerships provide learners with enviable opportunities to experience 21st century industry practice and open their eyes to exciting careers”.**

Ofsted, 2024

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:

