

## East Kent Colleges Group – KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2020-24

Strategic Goal 2020-24	Key Achievements
<p>1. Create a revolutionary model of education, delivering a new range of national recognised education solutions for the benefit of East Kent and beyond</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have worked closely with our sister organisation, EKC Schools Trust, to support their growth in primary schools to eight schools (from a starting point of zero) and establishing EKC Sheppey Secondary.</li> <li>• All EKC Group Colleges work with their local EKC Schools Trust schools to enhance the curriculum, provide opportunities for children to experience technical and vocational education, and enable our students to share their technical skills and passion for their chosen industry.</li> <li>• We have expanded our Junior College provision for 14 to 16-year-olds to complement our existing centres in Broadstairs and Folkestone, with new centres opening at our Spring Lane campus and another under development as part of the extension to Sheppey College. 91.2% of our Junior College progress onto an EKC Group study programme at age 16.</li> <li>• The Group was graded by Ofsted as Outstanding in all areas in March 2023, the first FE College in the country to achieve this. We were also judged to be 'strong' at meeting skills needs.</li> <li>• The Group won two prestigious Association of Colleges Beacon Awards between 2020-24. These national awards celebrate innovation and outstanding practice in further education. The first award was for</li> </ul>

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	<p>Social Action and Student Engagement, recognising our pioneering social action initiatives in the communities we serve. The second award was for Excellence in Governance, recognising our community leadership model that devolves accountability and responsibility for local education and meeting the needs of our communities to Local College Board level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We secured chartered status in 2023, being welcomed into the Chartered Institute of Further Education.</li> </ul>
<p>2. Deliver inspirational, inclusive and purposeful education that enables young people and adults to achieve their ambitions and meet the needs of East Kent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An outstanding 92% of students have achieved a positive destination</li> <li>• A range of strategic partnerships have been secured with key East Kent employers, focused on co-design and co-delivery of learning programmes, for example The Marlowe, Kent Cricket, the NHS, and Morgan Sindall.</li> <li>• The Group introduced a two-year Level 2 programme in 2022/23 to replace most Level 1 programmes and raise aspirations. The number of young people achieving a Level 2 qualification in this cohort has increased significantly by 36%, ensuring students can continue to progress and secure improved career opportunities.</li> <li>• Employability centres have been successfully established in each of our six district communities to support 2,000 adults every year to upskill and secure sustainable employment, including new centres in Ashford and Swale.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been significant growth and enhancement of our prison education on the Isle of Sheppey, including new provision in rail engineering. This innovative provision now boasts one of the lowest reoffending rates in the England at just 5.72%, which for the last four years has been 10-15% better than the national rate.</li> <li>• EKC Group is one of the largest providers of High Needs provision in the country and now enrolls 1,000 students per year with an Education, Health and Care Plan, delivering inclusive, purposeful and accessible provision to students with a wide range of Special Education Needs.</li> <li>• Apprenticeship achievement rates for 2023/24 are 9% above the national benchmark of 57%. Pass rates for end point assessments are 98%, with many apprentices achieving high grades.</li> </ul>
<p>3. Successfully integrate Ashford College and Spring Lane into the EKC Group family, developing the provision to enable the Group to truly meet the needs of the whole of East Kent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with local stakeholders and employers, Ashford College's curriculum has been reconfigured to ensure it meets local needs. This includes enhanced curriculum for Business, Computing and Digital, Creative Industries, and Engineering (including robotics).</li> <li>• A Local College Board was created for Ashford College in 2020 to ensure local stakeholders and employers could play a key role in shaping the curriculum and oversee education performance.</li> <li>• 16-19 student numbers at Ashford College have increased by 60% since the acquisition in 2020.</li> <li>• An Employability Centre was established in Ashford in 2021 to provide upskilling and support into employment for local adults.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 193 apprentices in learning in Ashford in 2023/24, compared to 20 when EKC Group acquired the College in 2020.</li> <li>• The Spring Lane campus has been successfully integrated into Canterbury College, with land-based sector representation on its Local Board.</li> <li>• Enhanced Land-Based provision has been developed at Spring Lane, linked to local needs, including Habitat Management and a new apprenticeship programme.</li> <li>• A new Junior College was launched at Spring Lane in 2022/23, providing land-based pathways for 14 to 16-year-olds.</li> </ul>
<p>4. Continue to invest in industry-standard facilities and first-class Group services that support our business units to deliver aspirational, relevant and high quality learning experiences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ambitious £23m capital programme has been successfully delivered between 2020-24, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A Phase 2 extension of Ashford College, enabling additional capacity to meet significant demographic growth and to provide industry-standard facilities</li> <li>○ A new campus frontage for Folkestone College, including facilities for a range of curriculum areas</li> <li>○ A new learning facility at the Spring Lane campus to provide industry standard resources in Animal Management, Conservation and Horticulture</li> <li>○ A refurbished Automotive Centre for Dover College, including a range of new industry-standard equipment</li> <li>○ A range of projects to improve the condition and sustainability of the Group's estate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A further £33m of capital funding has been secured to deliver the next phase of the Group's investment programme, including working closely with Ashford Borough Council (Newtown Works), Swale Borough Council (Sheppey College extension) and Thanet District Council (Margate Digital) to deliver Levelling Up Fund projects.</li> <li>• £9m of Strategic Development Fund and Local Skills Improvement Fund projects have been delivered to meet the needs of priority sectors, including engineering and robotics labs, immersive classrooms across all our colleges, assistive technology suites to support the health and social care sector, and green skills and retrofit.</li> <li>• £1.8m investment in digital infrastructure and devices to ensure that the Group has the digital environment to support the student experience and deliver its provision and services.</li> </ul>
<p>5. Ensure that EKC Group is an employer of choice and responds appropriately to the social, ethical and moral issues of its communities, supporting the development of well-rounded and responsible young people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 140,000 hours of student-led social action were delivered between 2020-24, enabling students to showcase their technical skills across a range of community projects. This innovative and pioneering programme was recognised when the Group won a Beacon Award for Social Action and Student Engagement in 2023.</li> <li>• The Group has created and delivered a new teacher and apprenticeship programme to develop the next generation of talent to inspire our students.</li> <li>• New sustainability and entrepreneurship programmes have been developed and delivered as a core part of students' courses.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% of employees are proud to be a member of staff at EKC Group.</li> <li>• The Group won 'Employer of the Year' in the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2024.</li> <li>• The Group's energy usage has reduced by 16% since 2021/22. CO<sup>2</sup> emissions have reduced by 14%.</li> </ul>