

**Education
Partnership
NorthEast**

**Annual
report**

2018/19



H S
Hartlepool
SixthForm
Sunderland
College

Welcome

Welcome to our annual report, which provides an opportunity to review a transformational year for the college.

We are proud of everything that has been achieved in 2018/19. Our merger with Northumberland College in March 2019, was a significant highlight and has strengthened the organisation to create one of the largest college groups nationally.

We hope you enjoy reviewing last year's successes as we look forward to continuing our journey towards excellence.



Ellen Thinnesen
Chief Executive



Rob Lawson
Chair of Governors



Overview

1.1 Sunderland College

Sunderland College is one of the largest providers of post-16 education in the North East with three campuses across the city of Sunderland and a sixth form in Hartlepool, offering a wide range of academic and vocational provision for school leavers and adults.

1.2 EPNE

Education Partnership North East (EPNE) is a dynamic partnership between Sunderland College, Hartlepool Sixth Form and Northumberland College. It was created following the merger with Northumberland College in March 2019 and is now one of the largest college groups in the country.

The college group has campuses across the North East region, from Berwick-upon-Tweed to the Tees Valley, and delivers high-quality professional, academic and technical education and training including further education, adult education, apprenticeship provision, higher education and specialist provision for students with special education needs and disabilities.

The merger with Northumberland College took place later on in the academic report, therefore this annual report will focus on Sunderland College and Hartlepool Sixth Form.



1.3 Our governance

Our Governing Body comprises prominent and well-respected figures from the local and wider communities that Education Partnership North East serves. They drive forward our ambitious strategic plan and vision of excellence. They dedicate an average of 10-15 hours a month to the college.

Board of the Corporation

John Barnett, Emma Bass (Staff Governor), George Blyth, Katie Booth (Student Governor), June Cramman, Tom Crompton, Louise Farthing, Rob Lawson, Catherine Magog, Daniel Measor (Student Governor), Paul McEldon, Simon Patterson, Mark Patton, Kamareswaradas Ramanathas, Ralph Saelzer, Ellen Thinnesen.

Please note: Post-merger with Northumberland College, the governance was re-structured on 1 Jul 2019 (not included in the report)

1.4 The college by numbers

4 campuses

144

recruitment
events across
all campuses

500 hours of
careers advice for
students through PD

167
careers, advice
and guidance
scheduled
appointments



28,000 engagements with potential students

700 members
of staff



62%

38%

Over
12,000
students

Over 800 employer
partnerships

98% overall
employer
satisfaction



Charities supported:

Alzheimer's Society
Anthony Nolan Trust
Bowel Cancer UK
Cash for Kids
Cancer Research UK
Children in Need
Comic Relief
Demetria Friendly Hartlepool
Hartlepool Food Bank
Jeans for Genes
Macmillan Cancer Support
Save the Children
Show Racism the Red Card

3,311 exams delivered

95.4% 
overall pass rate

94.7% of our
students
progressed
to a positive
destination

1,337 counselling
appointments
offered

905 
counselling
hours attended

1.5 Our vision, priorities & values

Our vision

The college is led by an inspiring leadership team with a clear and ambitious vision for excellence. All of our staff are dedicated to transforming lives and providing an outstanding experience to students.

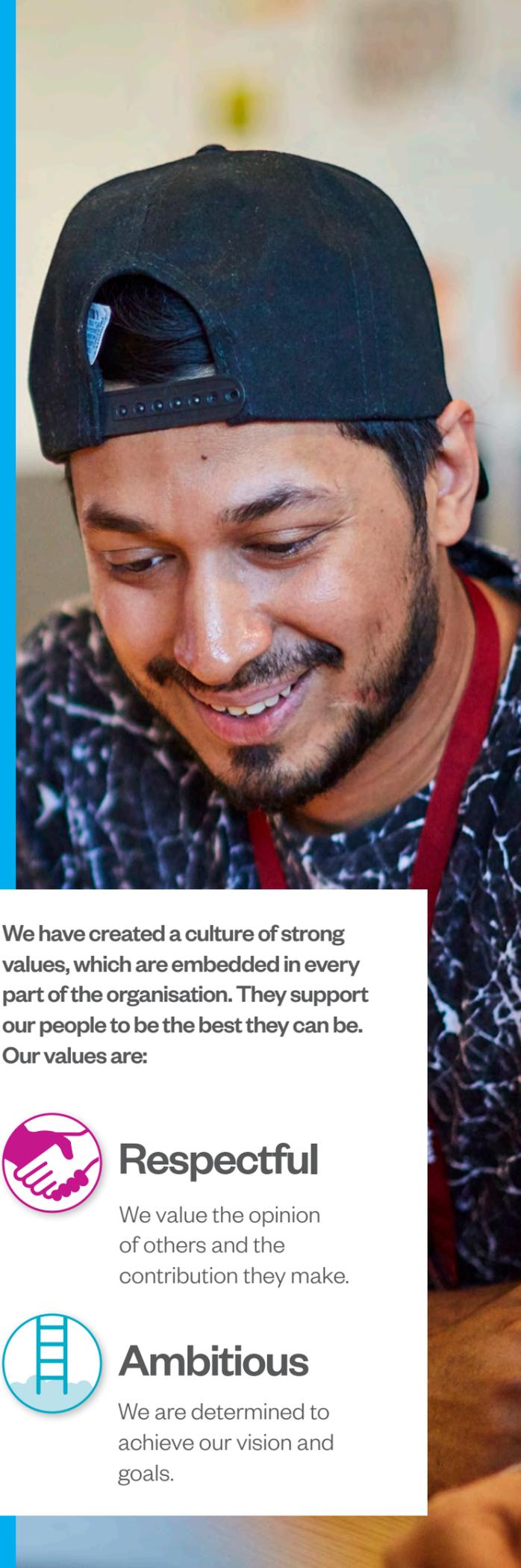
In November 2018, a three-year transformation process was launched to shape and embed culture and values, clarity of vision and strategy within the organisation.

Our strategic vision focuses on 'excellence at the heart of everything'. The strategic vision is supported by a set of four professional values and behaviours, which underpin all of the college's activities, and five strategic goals.



Our priorities

Our academic, technical and professional education and training is aligned to the region's economic growth ambitions. Our priorities are to strengthen our specialisms within the growing areas of our regional economy by investing in digital industries, advanced manufacturing and engineering, construction, health and life sciences, and finance, professional, and business services; innovating and supporting the development of the creative industries through cross-disciplinary working and enhancing SEND provision.



Our professional values & behaviours

We have created a culture of strong values, which are embedded in every part of the organisation. They support our people to be the best they can be. Our values are:



Authentic

We are who we say we are, we do what we say we will do.



Respectful

We value the opinion of others and the contribution they make.



Innovative

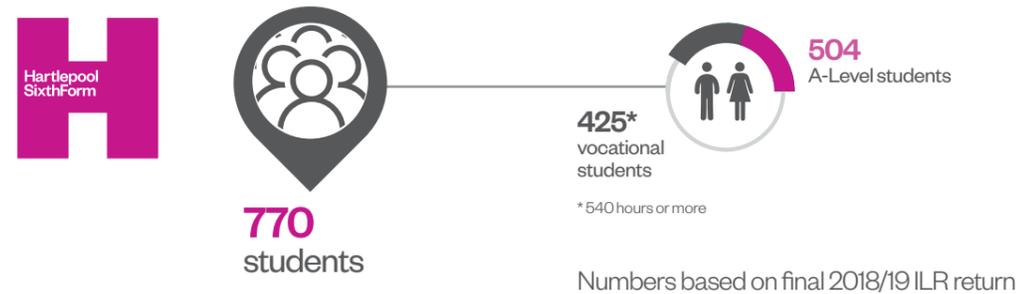
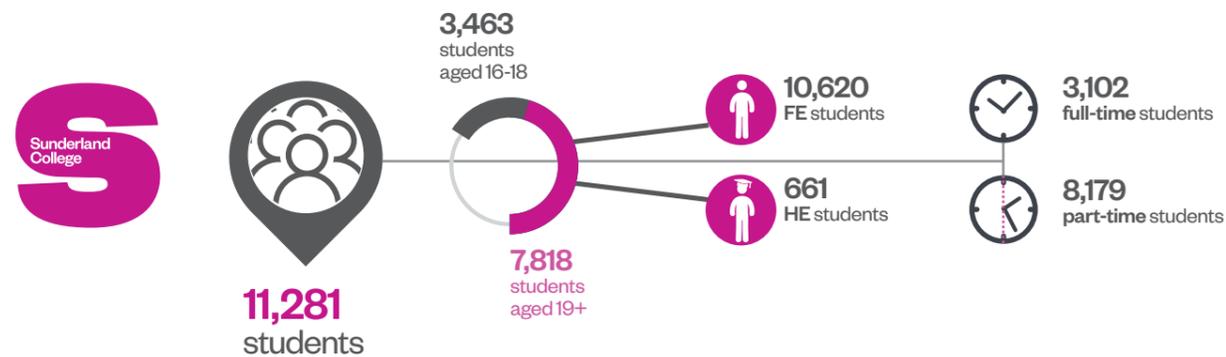
We work hard to create a dynamic, forward-looking culture.



Ambitious

We are determined to achieve our vision and goals.

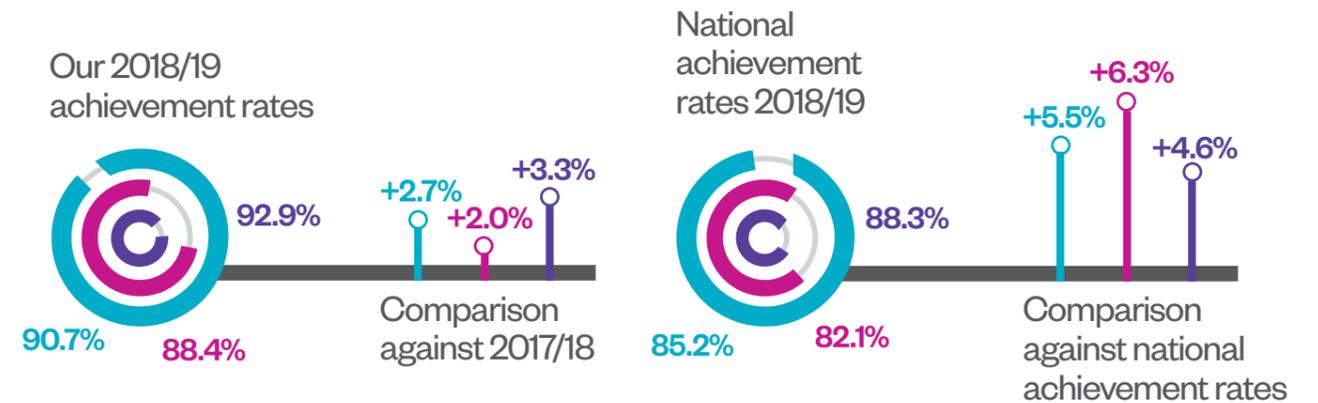
1.6 Our students



1.7 Achievement rates

The success and achievement of our students mean everything to us. Our achievement rates show an increase year-on-year and are consistently above the national average.

All ages 16 - 18 19 +



1.8 Our students & their success



Our students are at the heart of everything we do. We provide them with an outstanding experience and create a positive and inspiring environment for them to achieve their life and career ambitions.

Bronze Award BTEC Engineering Student of the Year

One of our talented engineering students, Chloe Tumilty, achieved a Bronze Award for BTEC Engineering Student of the Year at the prestigious BTEC Awards. The Level 3 Extended Diploma Engineering student overcame many barriers and is an advocate for encouraging girls to study engineering and inspiring the next generation of women engineers. During her time at college she supported school engagement activities such as Women into Engineering taster days and she is now at Lincoln University studying for an engineering degree.



Scoring a double success

Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport (Performance and Excellence) student, Will McCamley, not only achieved an outstanding triple distinction* but also signed a contract with Championship team Huddersfield Town AFC.



Football champions

Our Women's Football Development Centre team, in partnership with Improtech, won the North East Colleges League title, the league cup and the winter futsal league. The Men's Football Development Centre won the North East College's Premier League.



Tech talent

Three of our digital and computing students were recruited by leading technology company, tombola, following an intense industry experience week. Ryan Walker, Jack Levitt and Aidan Alsaadoun were chosen for the company's new degree training programme, among 40 hopefuls, during a Tombola Academy initiative to discover new talent.





Net a place in seafood final

Level 3 Professional Cookery students Brandon Green and Katie Falconer secured one of nine places in the grand final of the Young Seafood Chef of the Year competition. Their high-scoring dish was a three-course menu using sustainably-sourced seafood.



Top apprentice

Andrew Plemper, an Adult Care Worker apprentice with Sunderland Care and Support was one of the first apprentices from Sunderland College to complete an end point assessment, and the first to achieve a distinction under the new rigorous apprenticeship reforms.



Home goal

Football Development Centre student, Dimitri Limbo, was selected to play international football for his home country at the AFC Under 23 Championship Thailand 2020 qualifiers.



Bafta for Digital student

The British Academy for Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) announced NextGen student Adam Pace as winner of the Young Game Designers 2019 competition. The national competition, which celebrates talented game developers under the age of 18, crowned Adam as winner of the Game Making Award for his prototype game Wip. Adam was one of four winners who beat over 50 finalists.

British Esports Champions

Our NextGen students won the national British Esports Championships, which were organised by the British Esports Association to help promote esports in the UK, increase the level of awareness, improve standards and inspire future talent. The championships gave our students an opportunity to embrace the newly emerging esports sector and develop their team work and communication skills.



The future's bright

Performing arts student Olivia Carey, was awarded Entertainer of the Year at the Future's Bright Awards. The awards celebrate and recognise the courage, entertainment, academic achievement and sporting excellence of young people in the town. Olivia studied BTEC Extended Diploma Performing Arts at Hartlepool Sixth Form and progressed to the prestigious Urdang Academy in London after gaining a scholarship.



1.8 A year in review



Hartlepool Sixth Form launched a new women's rugby academy to combine professional coaching and competitive match play at an elite standard with an academic or vocational programme of study. It was also awarded Focus College status by the Rugby Football Union (RFU).



The one year anniversary of the successful merger between Sunderland College and Hartlepool Sixth Form was celebrated.



We celebrated the achievements of our higher education students at a prestigious graduation ceremony, which took place at The Quayside Exchange.



One of our drama lecturers, Jonathan Wharton, was named FE Lecturer of the Year at the 2018 Pearson Teaching Awards. Jonathan was one of just 13 inspiring teachers from across the country who were recognised with a Gold Plato Award, the UK's Oscars for teachers.



We launched our ambitious new strategic plan to shape the strategic direction of the college and position it as a leading organisation, nationally, regionally and locally.



We signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding with Teesside University to develop progression pathways into higher education and to collaborate on research training, events and staff development.



We achieved TASS Dual Career Accreditation in recognition of the support we provide for student athletes to follow a dual path of sporting excellence and academic success.



We invested in our people with Aspire, an innovative two-year programme for staff at all levels of the organisation to gain the skills and knowledge to become successful and inspiring leaders within a rapidly changing and increasingly complex further education environment.



Our NextGen students took part in the Global Game Jam (GGJ), the world's largest game jam event taking place, and were tasked with creating games in teams. They were given 17 hours to take their game from inception to a playable product and developing skills in teamwork, communication and time management.



We officially signed the Time to Change Employers Pledge to demonstrate our commitment to changing perceptions towards mental health in the workplace. As part of the commitment, we aim to train a team of 100 mental health first aiders to support staff and students who are experiencing mental health issues.



Sunderland College was announced as an Association of Colleges (AoC) football Super Hub, in partnership with the FA. We joined an elite network of only 22 football Super Hub colleges nationally.



We announced plans to launch a Digital Academy at Hartlepool Sixth Form to provide young people with digital technology focused skills and career routes.



In an ambitious move to create significant benefits for the region, Sunderland College merged with Northumberland College to create Education Partnership North East.



A new Principal was appointed at Northumberland College to lead the institution into an ambitious new phase following its merger with Sunderland College.



Hartlepool Sixth Form established a new partnership with Northumbria University, which benefited Elite Sports Academy students with strength and conditioning, performance analysis and nutritional support.



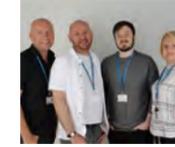
We were named as finalists for the Association of Colleges (AoC) Beacon Award for Education and Guidance. The AoC Beacon Awards celebrate the best and most innovative practice among UK further education colleges.



We led the second phase of the national Love Our Colleges campaign across the region by joining with other North East colleges to demonstrate the importance of our role in transforming lives and driving economic growth, and to call on the government for better investment and fair pay.



Elite Sports Academy students were chosen to represent the North East region in the annual AoC National Championships.



Our Music Teaching team were honoured with a national Pearson's Silver Teaching Award for FE Team of the Year.



Our City Bistro hosted the Young Seafood Chef of the Year national competition for the third consecutive year. Highly regarded throughout the industry, it provides young chefs with a platform to demonstrate their flair, understanding, skill and ability to use seafood from sustainable sources.



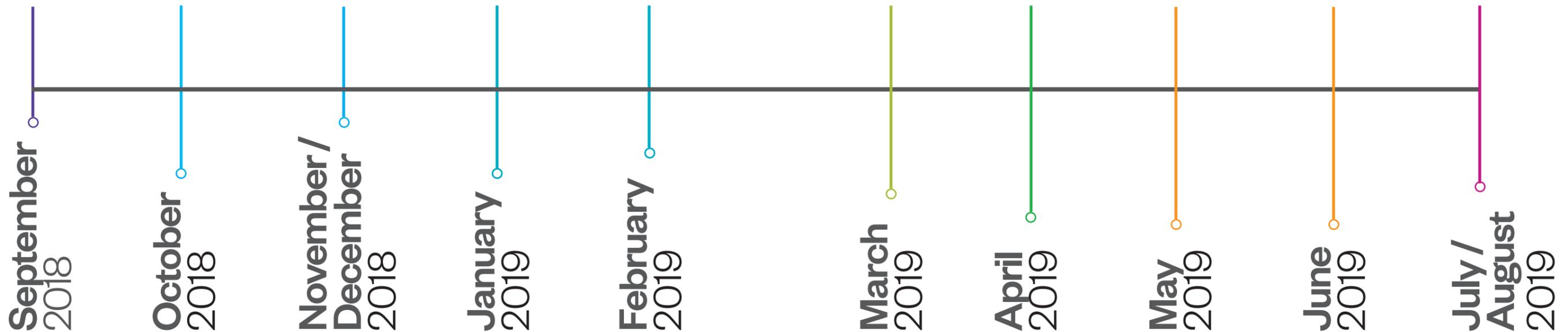
Sunderland College was BTEC College of the Year 2019. We were recognised as the top college nationally by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding organisation.



Our BTEC students at both Sunderland College and Hartlepool Sixth Form achieved outstanding vocational results.



We were delighted to achieve our best ever A-Level results. Combined, we celebrated an overall A-Level pass rate of 99%. This included an impressive 100% pass rate in 26 A-Level subjects. A total of 73% of students achieved the top A*-C grades, which was an increase on the previous year.



2. Awards & accolades

We were privileged to receive the following awards and accolades, which is testimony to the dedication and commitment of our staff and students.

BTEC AWARDS 2019

BTEC College of the Year, Pearson 2019



Time to Change Employer Pledge

time to change
let's end mental health discrimination

Gold Award winner for FE Lecturer of the Year 2018, Pearson Teaching Awards (Jonathan Wharton)



Armed Forces Covenant

Creating Safer Learning Spaces for LGBTQ People, LGBTQ North East Awards (shortlisted)

Silver Award winner for FE Team of the Year 2019, Pearson Teaching Awards (music teaching team)



TASS (Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme) Dual Career Accredited



Inspirational Workplace, LGBTQ North East Awards (shortlisted)

Continuing Excellence Better Health at Work Award (BHAWA)



North East Better Health at Work Award



Better Health at Work for Social Values

3. Reporting against our strategic plan

Goal 1

Shape and evolve a careers-focused curriculum

One of 64 further education providers to offer T Levels

We were announced as one of 64 further education providers nationally, and one of only two from the North East, to deliver the second wave of the new post-16 T Level qualifications. We will offer high-quality T Level courses in Digital, Construction and Health and Science from September 2021.

315 hours working for local schools

Our sports students took part in substantial work experience, delivered in partnership with the Capacity Fund placement. The students completed 315 hours working for local schools, gyms and leisure centres. It supported us in delivering aspirational, career-focused programmes of study that connect students with leading industry employers.



3. Reporting against our strategic plan

Goal 2

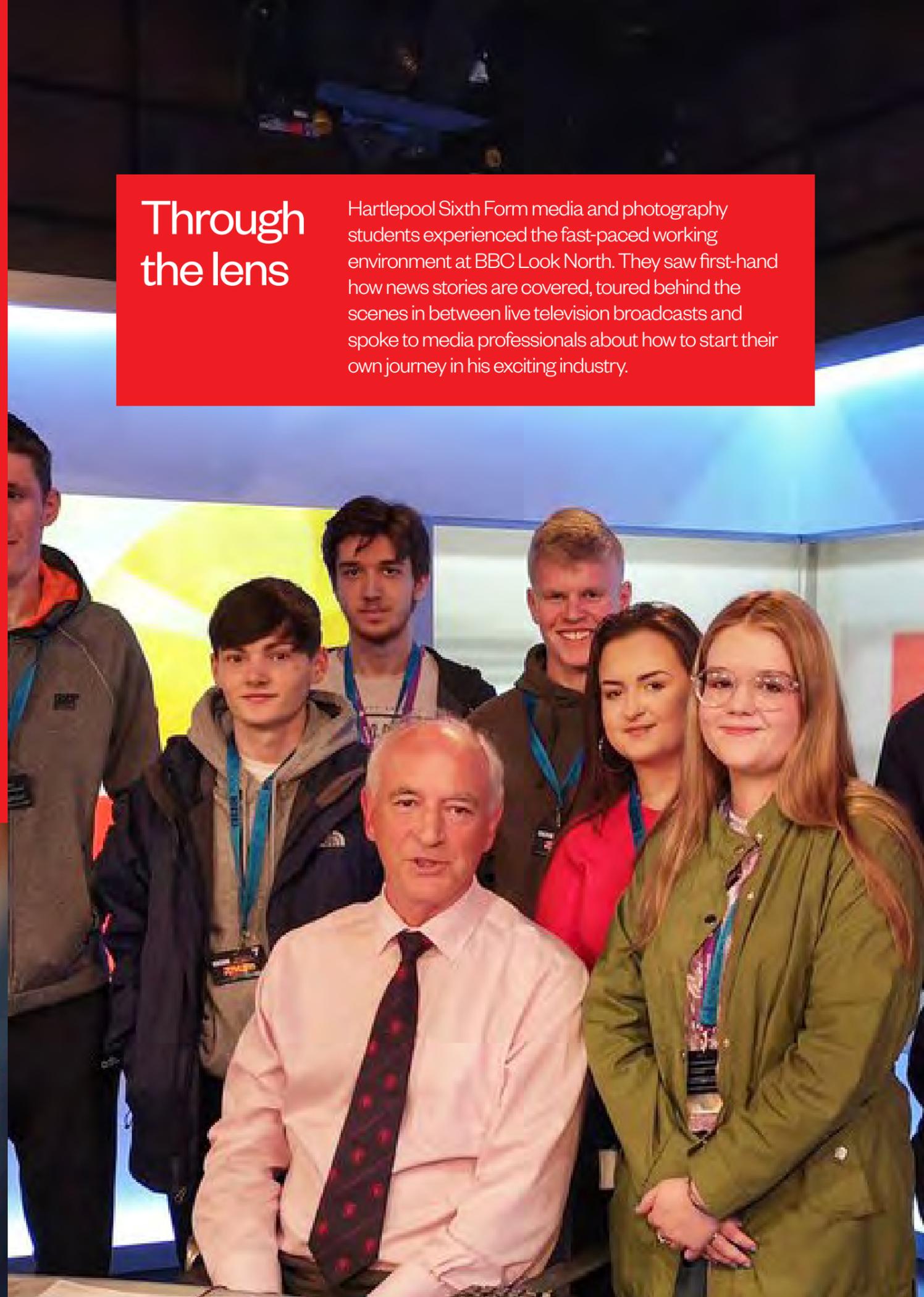
Create outstanding learning opportunities for our students

It all adds up to a great experience

Students studying engineering, construction and commercial and digital at Sunderland College took part in a week-long project in Bucharest, Romania, to engage in a range of STEM and maths activities. The event was a key component in the college's two-year Erasmus+ maths project, in which open-source maths videos and accompanying resources will be created.

Through the lens

Hartlepool Sixth Form media and photography students experienced the fast-paced working environment at BBC Look North. They saw first-hand how news stories are covered, toured behind the scenes in between live television broadcasts and spoke to media professionals about how to start their own journey in his exciting industry.



3. Reporting against our strategic plan

Goal 3

Unite our culture and empower our people

Designed to encourage, nurture and mentor leaders of the future

We launched an innovative leadership programme, Aspire, to empower staff to succeed and achieve their career goals. Open to staff at all levels of the organisation, it is designed to encourage, nurture and mentor leaders of the future. The first cohort of 20 employees started on the two-year programme in January 2019 and received dedicated support from the college's senior leadership team, governors, external stakeholders and expert trainers. On completion of the programme, staff can gain an accredited qualification (ILM Level 5 Diploma).



Outstanding contribution to the life of the college

Evolve Awards, an annual staff awards event, was launched in June 2018 to recognise the excellence, dedication and innovation of individual staff and teams, who make outstanding contributions to the life of the college and demonstrate the college values. They were open to any staff, at any level of the organisation and award categories included Above and Beyond, Unsung Hero, Teacher of the Year and Contribution to the Local Community.



3. Reporting against our strategic plan

Goal 4

Strengthen our financial resilience and invest in our resources

New facilities to deliver industry-standard training

We invested in a state-of-the-art digital academy at Hartlepool Sixth Form and an industry standard health simulation ward. These impressive new facilities deliver industry-standard training in a realistic setting and provide the future generation of digital and healthcare professionals with the skills to meet the sector's increasing needs.



Strength in numbers

A merger with Northumberland College in March 2019 created Education Partnership North East, one of the largest college groups in the UK.



3. Reporting against our strategic plan

Goal 5

Engage locally, regionally and nationally, and build our reputation

Caring partnership

We established a partnership with Be Caring to challenge the growing skills gap in the health and social care sector. The partnership with the domiciliary care organisation creates opportunities for Be Caring's employees to realise their potential and develop their skillset.



In the driving seat for a new career

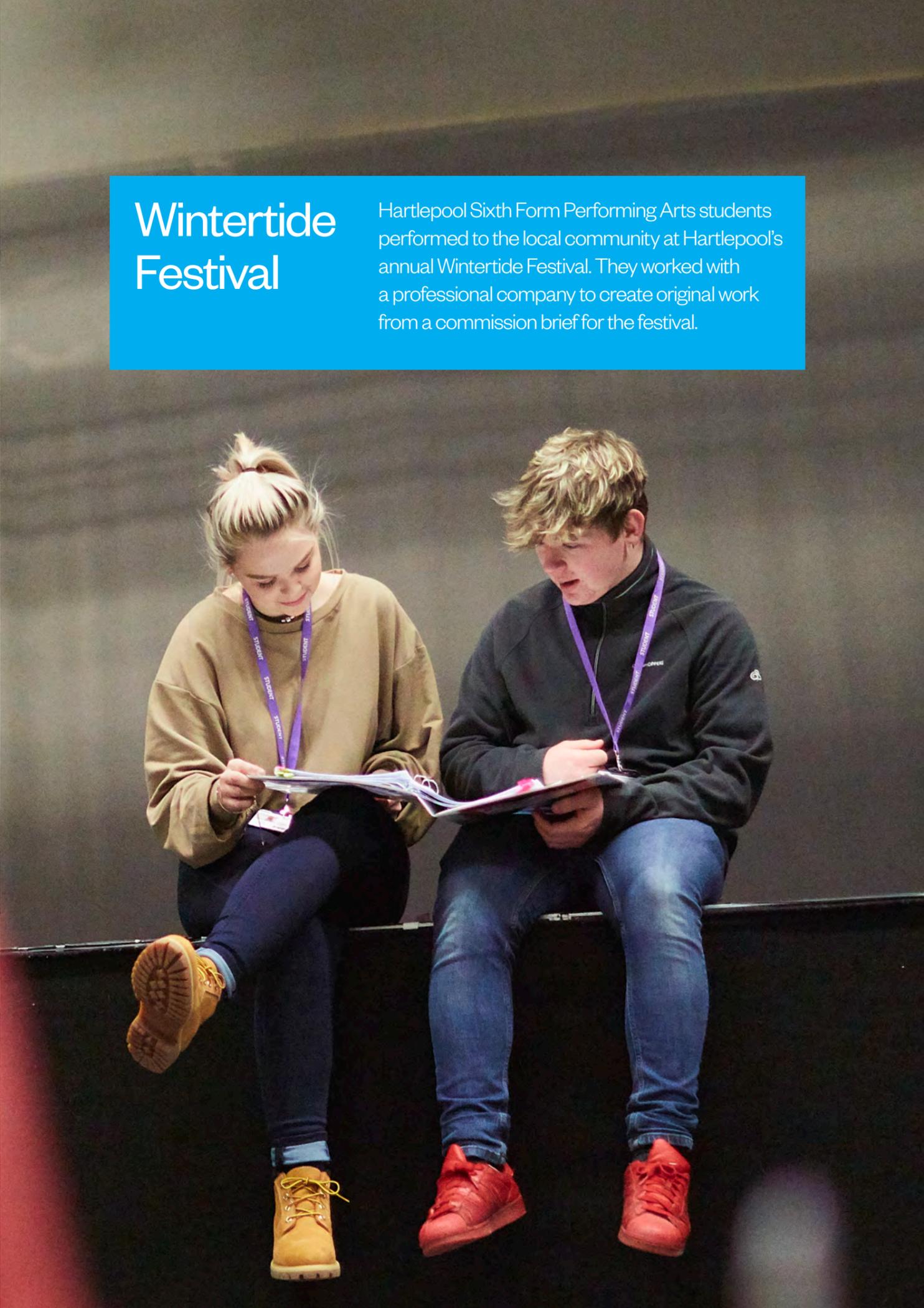
We delivered a new five-week training course for job seekers, in partnership with Station Taxis or City Taxis, and a five-day training course in partnership with The Food Warehouse, to recruit retail assistants for a new Iceland store. Students who successfully completed their course were guaranteed an interview.





Regenerating the City Centre

Construction students worked in partnership with Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust after they secured £45,000 from the Coastal Revival Fund to restore a derelict building. The Living Classroom project saw over 40 of our construction students transforming 170 High Street West into a multi-purpose culture hub. They gained first-hand experience of working on a busy, commercial site and used their skills and knowledge in the heart of the local community to play a part in regenerating the city centre.



Wintertide Festival

Hartlepool Sixth Form Performing Arts students performed to the local community at Hartlepool's annual Wintertide Festival. They worked with a professional company to create original work from a commission brief for the festival.

4. Making a difference

Community & volunteering

We contribute significantly to our corporate social responsibility across Sunderland and Hartlepool and our wider communities.

Throughout the year, our A-Level students at Sunderland took part in approximately 100 hours of voluntary work, while students at Hartlepool Sixth Form took part in Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee morning, raising £250 for the cancer charity. The icing on the cake was that the date of the coffee morning coincided with the 80th anniversary of the sixth form building opening as a school.

Hartlepool Sixth Form also sponsored for the town's arts and cultural Wintertide Festival, following a plea by its organisers for funding to cover infrastructure costs in order for the community festival to be allowed to go ahead. Performing arts students also took part in the festival with second year students staging 'myths of the sea' and first year students performing extracts of Rosie Kay's 5 Soldiers. Creative Arts students from Sunderland College continued their partnership with Sunderland BID and supported a range of community events.



Wellbeing

As part of our ongoing journey for improving health and wellbeing for all staff and students, a Wellbeing Strategy has been introduced, which during 2018/19, focused on promoting good mental health.

The college's Wellbeing Action Group has been proactive in delivering campaigns and initiatives including Pilates and Clubbersize classes, resilience training with Washington Mind and a Mental Health Motivation Pedometer Challenge with teams taking part in a week-long competition. At the end of the Pedometer Challenge week, 6,054,842 steps were recorded - the equivalent of walking from Sunderland to Egypt!

Social value

Our people are dedicated to transforming lives and providing an outstanding experience to students.

Every day they inspire young people and adults to achieve their potential, life ambitions and career goals. We continue to increase our social value by improving lives through education and training and making a difference to the people and local communities that we serve.

Making an impact in the local community, our construction students used their talents to restore a derelict building and helped to regenerating the city centre through The Living Classroom project with Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust.





Carbon footprint

Diversity & inclusion

We embrace diversity and have a staff and student network groups for LGBTQ+.

We are Diversity Champion for Stonewall and a Disability Confident Employer. This year, we were recognised as providing an inclusive environment and were nominated for both Creating Safer Learning Spaces for LGBTQ People category and Inspirational Workplace category at the LGBTQ North East Awards.

Across our Sunderland and Hartlepool estates we have actively implemented a number of energy saving measures to reduce our carbon footprint.

These include heating optimisation to better reflect the opening hours of the buildings, internal temperature monitoring to reduce overheating of buildings and energy wastage, and an LED lighting upgrade project combined with presence detection to reduce energy usage.

Overall, these efficiency measures have resulted in a 7.4% decrease in electricity and a 12.9% decrease in gas for the combined usage for all sites. Solar generation panels have also been installed on three buildings across our Sunderland campus, which further offsets our import usage. In addition, a new environmental impact group will be developed in the next academic year to further implement an environmental strategy.

5. What our students say

93%

say they are **happy** with their course.



93%

say the **teaching** on their course **is good**.

93%

say they are **achieving** what they set out to do.

96%

say they **feel safe** at college.

94%

say they are **treated fairly** by college staff.

96%

of apprentices say they have the chance to **develop new skills** at their workplace.

