

Annual Report

2016/17



New College Durham

Welcome

Welcome to Annual Report for **New College Durham** for the academic year 2016/17.

The Academic Year 2016/17 was another successful year for the College both academically and financially. We continued to provide high quality education and training, maintaining our position as one of the top performing colleges in the region and the country. As can be seen, the financial strength reported in previous years has been maintained. This has enabled us to continue to invest in our facilities and buildings, with plans for an ambitious project to provide new workshops, laboratories and classrooms for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Higher level technical skills will underpin the success of our regional economy. We will build on our track record of success to play our full part in facing the challenges of the future, equipping our students with the skills and knowledge to make successful and worthwhile careers.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Widdowson'.

John Widdowson CBE
Principal & Chief Executive



Continuing Success

Achievement rates for students and apprentices at New College Durham continue to remain high. Achievement rates for our full-time students aged 16-18 years have increased from 2015/16 and exceeds the latest published national rate at all levels of provision. Achievement rates for adult students and Apprentices continue to be in the top 10% of General Further Education Colleges nationally.

An outstanding approach to impartial advice and guidance ensured students are well informed when applying to the College. This approach continues throughout their studies ensuring they are prepared for their next steps. Consequently progression to positive destinations was very high at 93%. The College ensured that students are exposed to a wide range of innovative and engaging learning strategies. As a result students gain new knowledge and skills as well as acquiring the behaviours to succeed both during their studies and in their future careers. Students have had access to high quality resources which teachers make excellent use of to develop creative and stimulating learning opportunities that inspired students to succeed.

Well-designed study programmes effectively prepared students to progress into further or higher education, employment or training. Students responded extremely well to the high expectations set by staff; this was reflected in very high achievement for almost all students.

By participating in very well managed, individualised and effective learning programmes, the large majority of students made significant progress and almost all achieved their qualifications; gaining excellent professional, vocational and wider work-related skills. Students continue to produce work of a high standard; practical work frequently exceeded the standards required for the level of qualification, and vocational skills were applied confidently in workplace situations. Students were able to improve their employability skills through planned employability sessions, work related activity or work experience with an employer.

Student behaviour continues to be outstanding. A well-established culture of mutual respect and inclusiveness exists throughout the College. This promotes learning and consequently attendance was good and most students were punctual. Outstanding care and support, within and outside of formal learning sessions, continued to be a key strength of the College. Students benefitted from a well organised and structured curriculum which encouraged them to feel safe and understand how to keep themselves safe. This was evident in high retention rates and high levels of student satisfaction consistently performing above benchmarks for the sector.



Achievement rates for students and apprentices at New College Durham continued to remain high.

Higher Education

Higher Education

A report published in April 2016, The Local Impact of College Based Higher Education (The Education & Training Foundation), based on research carried out by RCU, identified the distinctive role for college-based higher education as having two key components:

1. The expansion of the widening participation agenda by recruiting students from a non-traditional background and a higher proportion of older students.
2. A focus on the needs of the local economy by the provision of programmes, which produce graduates who have higher level technical and professional skills required by employers.

The College Vision and the HE Strategy reflects these with the College HE curriculum focused on offering and developing programmes and apprenticeships at QCF Levels 4, 5 and 6. This continued and sustained strategic approach to higher education, enables the College to meet the needs of government, employers, the regional economy, and most importantly our students by providing progression routes from our further education provision.

Results from the National Student Survey for 2015/2016 showed positive progress continuing to be made with the overall satisfaction of the student experience at the College, rising by 3% from last academic year with 86% of students stating that they were satisfied overall. Students were particularly positive about the academic support they received, with an 87% positive rating. Assessment and feedback were likewise rated highly with 88% of students stating this as a key strength of their programme. Both of these figures are in the top quartile for HE in FE sector

In response to the Government's agenda on increasing apprenticeships and higher apprenticeships, the College now offers a number of higher apprenticeships in nine curriculum areas. To facilitate delivery and maximise learning, relevant programme teams have mapped frameworks to programmes.

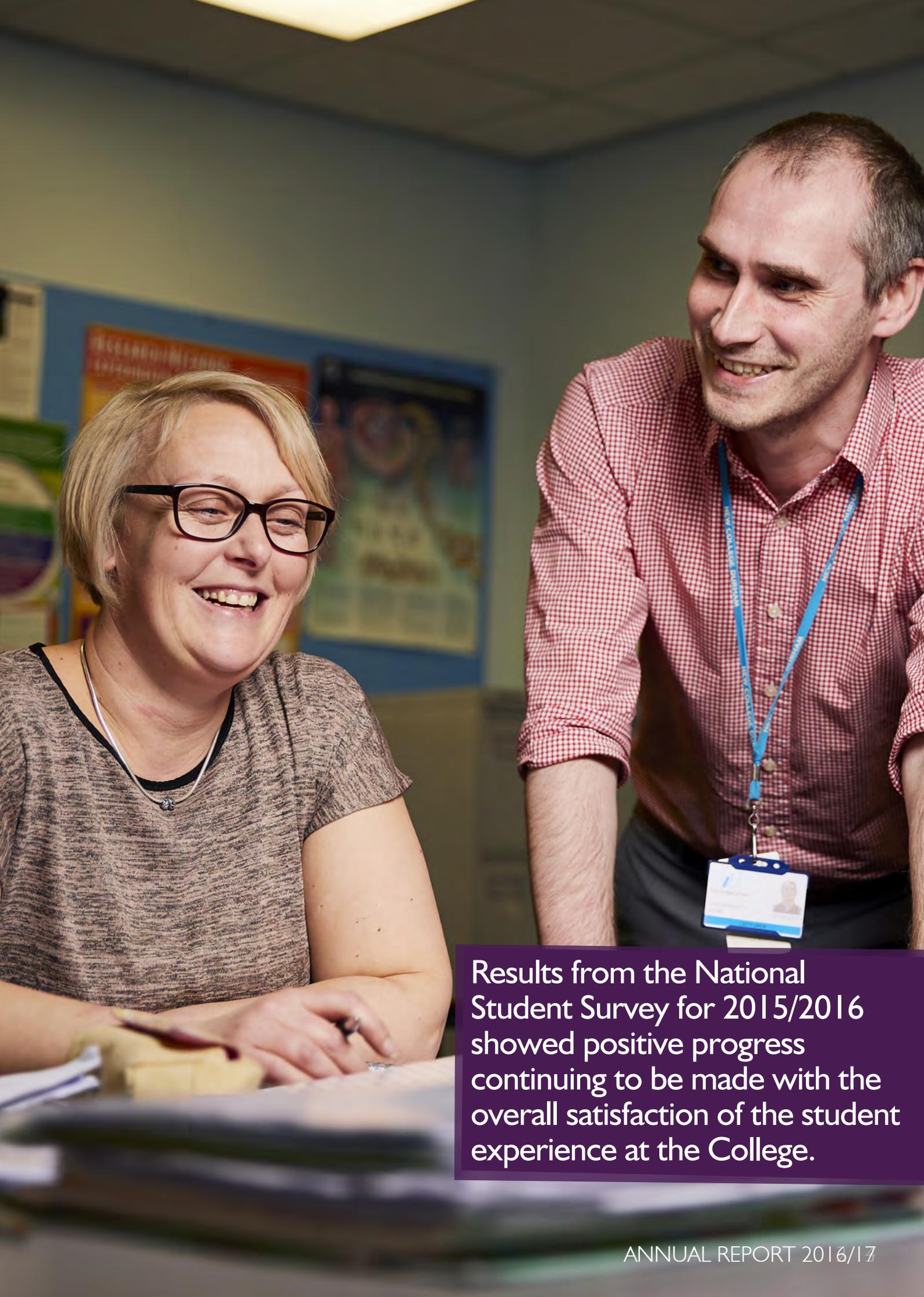
Examples of this are FdA Business and Management, and BA (Hons) Management, where modifications were approved to ensure they mapped to the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) degree apprenticeship framework.

Major building work over the summer provided additional teaching and learning resources for students on higher education programmes. This was in response to increasing student numbers in the area of technology, the demand for different types of learning spaces in the area of design, media and creative arts, and a separate social/learning area for students on higher education programmes. The separate space for HE students has been created by demolishing the existing lecture theatre which reflected the need for more collaborative workspaces rather than the delivery of one way learning to large groups. Employers who visited the College stated that the improvements will be significant in adding value to the student experience.

Working in partnership with Business Durham and employers at NETPark resulted in the introduction and integration of learning related to innovation, idea generation and enterprise onto a number of college foundation degrees. The impact of this project is that New College Durham students have the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills related to innovation as part of their studies. The knowledge and skills have been identified by world leading employers operating at the County Durham Science NETPark.

Scholarship of staff is recognised as having a positive impact on the student experience as staff are able to contribute learning to curriculum development, teaching, learning and assessment strategies and in a number of cases, active engagement of students in scholarship projects. Enhancement plans have been clearly focused on developing consistent support and development processes for new staff delivering on higher education programmes, and meeting the objectives of the College Higher Education Scholarship Plan (In conjunction with the AOC Catalyst Fund Scholarship Project objectives). Several key scholarship projects have been initiated including the development of HE student induction methodology and developing collaborative research as staff development. Members of the higher education community presented their scholarship work at several national conferences during 2015/2016. These included the Social Media Conference at Sheffield Hallam University, The IJADE Conference at Glasgow School of Art and at the HEFCE Differential Outcomes Conference in London.

A change in strategic direction of our current validating partner led to an exploration of options for new validating partners with The Open University agreed as the preferred provider.



Results from the National Student Survey for 2015/2016 showed positive progress continuing to be made with the overall satisfaction of the student experience at the College.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships

The College's apprenticeship provision saw an increase in recruitment for 2015/2016 with over 2,500 apprentices on-programme, an increase of 40% from the previous year. This was due to successful recruitment of new employers and partners to deliver niche provision. This included direct delivery, sub-contracted provision and apprenticeships delivered for the Construction Industry Training Board and other managing agencies. Sector areas with significant provision are Health and Social Care, Construction, Civil Engineering, Business and Management.

A total of nine higher apprenticeships were delivered including Health, IT Professionals, Leadership and Management, Construction and Engineering. The first cohort of Higher Apprentices in Management commenced in June 2015 with 21 learners. Enrolments for Higher Apprenticeships in 2015/2016 exceeded 250 with an additional 150 planned for 2016-2017, as the College strategically aligns its provision further to the North East Local Enterprise Partnership priorities.

With an outstanding timely success rate of in excess of 80% for the fourth consecutive year, New College Durham continues to be one of the top performing colleges in the region for apprenticeships. All sub-contracted success rates continued to be in excess of national averages demonstrating the effective management of this sub-contracted provision.

The College worked with two local charities, based in Durham City, Lord Crewe Charity and Henry Smith Charity, who reward apprentices with a financial contribution to support them throughout their apprenticeship programme. In recent years over 200 apprentices have received support from these charities.



New College Durham continues to be one of the top performing colleges in the region for apprenticeships.

Business Development

Business Development

The College continues to maintain its position as one of the key delivery organisations for ESF and other funded provision across the North-East and Tees Valley. Although Brexit has created an element of uncertainty around future funding, European Social Fund continues to play key role for the UK learning market.

During 2016/17 New College Durham secured the ESF North-East Employees Support for Skills contract worth £10.5 million over two years. This programme is designed to support those facing redundancy, employees who need to develop their skills and those wishing to move into self-employment. In Tees Valley we secured £500,000 of ESF to support those facing redundancy. Collectively we will support approximately 9000 learners across the North East.

Due to the successful delivery of these projects, New College Durham are in the process of seeking further extensions of these projects from July 18 to March 19 with a potential growth in funding equal to 50% of the original contract value. This demonstrates that the College continues to respond effectively to the demands of learners, employers and the community at large.

The College continues to deliver the DWP Youth Employment Initiative in the Tees Valley. This is an EU commission funded programme worth £7.3 Million over 3 years supporting 3,500 young people. This project, led by the College, is delivered in partnership with four other organisations and is designed to provide intensive support, advice and guidance to young people aged 15-29 who are not engaged in work, training or education. At the time of writing, we are currently in discussion with the DWP concerning an extension and additional funding for the project possibly up to 2020.

The College continues to utilise its Adult Education Budget to complement and its ESF provision to ensure value for money for learners and employers. This portfolio of funding is used across a wide range of priority sectors and is achieved through a wide variety of experienced subcontractors and key stakeholders.

The Business Development Unit continues to seek funding from a range of sources which will help to achieve the College ambition. We have recently submitted tenders to the DWP including collaborative bids with the other three colleges in Co. Durham:

1. To develop an innovative programme to increase the digital skills of young people in response to the rapidly changing requirements of employers, particularly around increased use of technology in the workplace.
2. To deliver employer based skills development programmes in the rapidly growing Health and Social care sector.

We have also submitted an Expression of Interest to the Department for Education for the forthcoming Flexible Fund. This is a partnership programme with the other three Durham Colleges to develop new, exciting and innovative ways of delivering bespoke training packages to those in the workplace using ICT and technology to deliver training outside of the classroom. These programmes will ensure that New College Durham and the FE sector remain at the leading edge of developing technology to support learning.

We are currently awaiting details of the forthcoming UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the expected replacement for European Fund.



The College continues to hold a pre-eminent position as the leading ESF provider in the North East region.

Tourism, Digital & Creative Industries

Art and Design

Level 2 Art and Design achieved first place in the intercollege competition. This was the first time that the art department has entered the competition and the winner designed a drinks can on industry standard software. Design students also attended a variety of educational trips locally including Leeds Sculpture Park, the Handcock Museum, the Baltic, Biscuit Factory, and Laing Art Gallery, to name a few.

Level 3 second year students exhibited their artwork at the end of their programme at The Gala Theatre, Durham. The experience showcased their creative skills and enabled students to exhibit, with some of them gaining commission work. The students worked very well and created a diverse range of outstanding artwork, which was highly praised by visitors and the local community.

The Art department established links with Durham County Council and organised a large scale recycling project which focuses on upcycling items for fashion and artist displays. This will commence in September and will see students work closely with the community and local authority on this project.

Graphic Design

Overall success rates for Graphic Design programmes in 2016/17 were 97%. 97% of students successfully completed and achieved their main qualification, which was an excellent achievement. The new Digital and Media Centre opened which was part of a £5 million pound re-development, comprising a new open plan centre which included three classrooms, an open plan space with space for three classes, a design studio, a TV studio and three editing rooms has increased student numbers.

Graphic Design students competed in the Word Skills UK competition with one student Ryan Scurfield, was one of twenty five students from across the country to make the finals at the live event being held in Birmingham NEC in November. The Graphic Design students were faced with design challenges to create initial design concepts, for a campaign to promote creative talent among young people and to create a flyer and poster to promote Well-being. Regional company Hoam Grown, a Newcastle-based store, requested that the students design the branding material for their shop. Short-listed students were able to present their designs to the client and receive constructive feedback. Retinent (educational services), required students to create their branding, and the students created marketing material for Southpaw (performing arts). All FE/HE graphic design students participated in these activities with appropriate critical feedback from clients. Several students also explored live work linked to their personal interests and ambitions within the remit of graphic design.

IT

The IT department maintained high success rates of 94% which is 11% above National Rates across all full-time further education programmes and Value Added continued to be high with a number of high grades reported across all programmes. 81% of Level 3 learners achieved high grades.

Links with local employers were developed with guest speakers from local industry such as Durham County Council and Fujitsu, NVIDIA, British Airways, Leighton, Tolent Construction, Aura solutions and others. All Level 3 learners were encouraged to secure work placements in local businesses and this proved to be a valuable addition to their classroom learning experience.

Level 3 apprenticeships in IT continued to grow steadily and part-time provision in higher education included the first Level 4 apprenticeship providing the opportunity for Higher Apprentices to infill with full-time learners which enhances the learning experiences overall.

The College also has added both foundation degrees in computing to the higher apprenticeship framework which meant that students benefited from further progression opportunities at New College Durham.

Media

Success rates on Media programmes were 96%. 100% of the 90 Credit Media students successfully completed and achieved their qualification, which is outstanding. Strong employer engagement continued throughout with a number of employers providing live briefs. Key employers included Outset Pictures, Metro Radio, Northumbria Water, BBC and Durham Constabulary.

Level 2 Media students investigated the skills necessary for employment leading towards producing a PREVENT Video to be used as a mechanism for raising awareness of the Governments PREVENT Agenda. First Year Media students visited the BBC in Newcastle where they explored the history of BBC broadcasting in the North East of England.

The students also had an interactive tour of the studios and produced a short radio programme, and a live news and weather broad-cast.



Overall success rates for Graphic Design programmes in 2015-16 were 93%.

Tourism, Digital & Creative Industries

Music

Music students continued to perform well and exhibit their skills at various showcases throughout the region including the Hair and Beauty competition, The Gala Theatre, NCD staff conference and many more events. This presented a fantastic opportunity to gain work related skills and introduce new talent to the public.

100% of Subsidiary Diploma Music students achieved and progressed to a positive destination. The peak of the Music calendar was the performance at The Gala Theatre. This showed outstanding, industry standard work from dedicated students who presented a show featuring music from such legends as Queen, Janis Joplin and David Bowie. The show was a great success.

Higher education in music continues to grow from strength to strength with 100% of students being satisfied with every aspect of their course in the National Student Survey. Level 6 music programme was validated and begins in September. The Level 5 Roots and Popular Music students attended a Roots specialist music conference in Colorado, USA. This forged international working relationships and gave students the opportunity to learn first-hand specialist Americana techniques.

Performing Arts

The academic year was a busy one with a number of trips and visits taking place. In February, the whole of the Performing Arts (acting and dance) cohort were involved in a performance entitled 'Showcase' at Gala Theatre, Durham.

Students attended workshops throughout the year with many industry professionals including and international group called the Young Americans, which provided students with on the job training and experience of working with individuals from real vocational world. This exposed students to other industry professionals alongside the current professional practice of their tutors, engaging them in work based scenarios, giving them the opportunity to explore aspects of the industry which they may not yet have considered and enhance further learning outcomes surrounding career aims and self/employment opportunities.

A successful Production of Sweeney Todd brought a close to the year. The performance was well received and the leading role succeeded in securing his place at London College of Music.



Music students won the North East Colleges music competition for the fifth consecutive year.

Tourism, Digital & Creative Industries

Hospitality & Tourism

91% of students achieved their Diploma Qualification in Hospitality and Tourism with 85% of those going on to study a higher qualification, an apprenticeship or progressing directly into employment.

All Hospitality and Tourism students benefited from a purposeful two week external work placement in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry. In addition to this, a large number of students were successful in securing part-time employment within the industry, with some securing full-time employment and apprenticeships as a result of their work placement. Students received excellent feedback from the employers that continue to provide these valuable opportunities. Employers included: Durham Cathedral, Palace Green Library, Botanical Gardens, Ramside Hall, Radisson Blue, Marriot Durham, Premier Inn, Bishop Rail, Beamish, Bowburn Hotel, Hays Travel, Thomson, Thomas Cook, Visit County Durham, NGI, Durham Castle and University and many more.

All programmes benefit from employer engagement, the Travel and Tourism team designed an employability programme that was delivered over the academic year. This was predominantly delivered by local tourism employers. There were six one-week career days over the year. They included: Cruise; Retail, Recruitment; Progression; Aviation and Resort Representatives. They were designed to meet intended destinations which are captured on all courses. Sessions were delivered by guest speakers who gave an overview of the industry and highlighted employer expectations. Thomas Cook Airline, NGI, Hayes Travel, Park Dean, Siesta, Air Travel, Marriott, P&O and Newcastle Airport were all in attendance. All Hospitality students competed in the Major and NECTA competitions, which are prestigious competitions. Classes were delivered to prepare the students for the competitions with guest speakers providing demonstrations, these included: Park Dean, Durham University, Aramark, Olympic London Park Chefs, DHI and Major the national competition organisers.

In addition, modules have been designed to take learning beyond the classroom. A series of educational visits have been arranged, these included overseas trips to Iceland, visits to London, Newcastle Airport, Edinburgh and the Guided Tour Module was delivered and assessed in York with input from Blue Badge Guides.

Hair & Beauty

96% of students who enrolled on a Hairdressing, Make-up or Beauty Therapy programme in 2016-17 successfully achieved their qualification and made a positive step on to a higher-level qualification or into employment.

To support progression and employment opportunities further, advice and guidance was available through a departmental employability event. External specialists from the industry showcased their skills and provided interactive taster sessions. This helped students gain further employability skills needed to work within the industry. During the week, students participated in hair and nail extension workshops, Indian Head Massage training, hot stones, bridal hair workshops, spray-tanning activities, advanced gel nail training and spoke to many industry experts on career options.

New College Durham continued to participate in the prestigious North East and National AHT (Association of Hairdressers and Therapists) skills competition. Students enhanced their employability and vocational skills whilst participating in a variety of heats against other colleges, which included masquerade face painting, 1920s make-up, ladies evening styles, long hair work and the team look presentation that incorporated a films theme. New College Durham were placed first in the North East heats for several of these categories including, the team event, body painting and ladies commercial cut and blow-dry.



Travel and Tourism students were offered a once in a lifetime trip to New York to experience elements of the industry at work first-hand.

Health, Care & Public Services

Further Education

The School commenced the academic year 16/17 with good further education enrolment numbers and the overall position for the 16-18 age range and for 19+ recruitment totalled 550 full-time and part time students studying across a range of subjects in health and social care, childcare and public services.

Childcare has had remarkable success in raising standards to a strong grade 2, and Public services self-assessing at a grade 1. Retention rates across the department are above 90% and excellent achievement rates across all further education programmes at 84%.

Our Level 2 Introduction to Early Years Education and Care students received a great opportunity to take part in a basic first aid training course which was delivered by the Army. Students learned how to perform CPR on young children and babies. The students expressed that they found the training course very interesting and some have said they would like to go onto complete the full first aid training.

12 of our Health and Social Care learners helped with the Fulfilling Lives event held in the College during half term. The students assisted the 80 exhibitors to their stands, and assisted the 300 visitors through the College to the event. The event was to raise awareness of the services available to individuals who have a learning disability. The organisers Paul James and Julie Simpson informed how good the students were in supporting the event and thanked them for their contribution toward the event throughout the day.

In November 2016 our full-time Level 2 Health & Social Care students attended The Skills Show at the NEC Birmingham. The trip provided students with first-hand experience in gaining an understanding of new technologies that are being developed to support and enhance learning within the Health and Social Care sector and were offered the opportunity to experience a Virtual Dementia Tour which allowed them to gain a clearer picture on how the world looks for those suffering from dementia.

This experience provided a poignant insight into the physical and emotional symptoms that a dementia sufferer may encounter. The students learnt that each person suffers the condition differently therefore it is difficult to recreate the full range of complex symptoms during normal classroom practice. Through harnessing new technologies this allows the students to fully engage with the impact of dementia at a new level.

29 FE and three HE students visited the RVI, in conjunction with Sunderland University, to take part in a one-hour session that focused on anatomy and physiology, specifically the head, brain and full body. Student doctors explained each section and answered any questions. The students were taken in to a locked room to prepare the observations, with gloves and aprons. The students all really enjoyed the morning.

Apprenticeships

Early Years, Health and Care has enrolled the 5th cohort of Dental Nurses. The first two groups have successfully achieved their qualification and are eligible to register with the General Dental Council.

Abigail Rayson, Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in Early Years Educator, was awarded employee of the month at Clever Clogs Nursery. Abi was nominated by a parent for always being friendly and smiling when greeting them on a morning. The parent continued that she is happy to leave her child knowing he will settle with Abigail.

Higher Apprenticeships

The Higher Apprenticeship in Care Leadership and Management commenced over the academic year and we recruited 50 higher apprentices. It provides learners with the skills and knowledge to meet service and delivery demands and to lead and manage the workforce in adult social care, as well as childcare pathways. This qualification also ensures managers can transfer their skills into a framework that is recognised across the sector, which has replaced the Registered Managers Award.

Our first cohort of Level 5 Leadership and Management in Care Higher Apprentices graduated in July 2017. The students were delighted to find all their hard work had paid off. They all achieved their Level 5 qualification and had a fabulous day celebrating their successes at graduation. They have all progressed into full-time employment within a variety of settings including Local Authority, Life House and Domiciliary Care.

Higher Education

39-year-old Health & Social Care student, Rachael Mawston from Newton Aycliffe, was inspired to make a difference after reading a report on isolation and loneliness as part of her Foundation Degree in Applied Health & Social Care at New College Durham.

Rachael set up a catering business called Orange Cake, with her mum and sister. The afternoon tea business aims to help tackle isolation and loneliness and offers affordable afternoon teas at community venues to help bring people together.

FdA Applied Health & Social Care students recently attended the two day 'Rise of The Entrepreneurs' conference that took place during the Durham International Festival of Enterprise in February 2017. The speakers shared their experiences of entrepreneurial skills to help attendees develop a successful business.

The de Bonos Six Thinking Hats activity implemented as part of the Leadership in Management illustrated to students the problem solving involved in business. Jo Thomas, Lecturer in Health & Social Care, commented that students have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this activity.

All Health & Social Care students completed work placement and have expressed that they have really enjoyed the experience of working within the Health and Social Care sector. Employers have been thanked for giving students the opportunity to apply theory to practice.

Health, Care & Public Services

Public Services

In November 2016, 39 Public Services students collected £3000 for the Royal British Legions' Poppy Appeal at Sainsbury's in the Arnison Centre. Store Staff and members of the public commented that they were extremely impressed by the students' manners, respect, behaviour and general demeanour. Jill Rogers from the Royal British Legion echoed those points and Roberta Blackman-Woods, the labour MP for Durham, also tweeted "wonderful to meet up with excellent Public Service students from New College".



FdA Public and Community Services students performed extremely well with 100% of students achieving their qualification.

Business, Management & Professional

Further Education Business

The Business department enjoyed a second year of outstanding achievement rates, with 100% across all Level 2 and 3 programmes. During 2015/16 the emphasis within the department was enterprise and students participated in a range of enterprise activities with a range of employers, including a Participating in Young Enterprise challenge, where our students won an award for the best business presentation. In addition, all students took part in the annual New College Durham Christmas Market as part of the £10 challenge, where they were encouraged to raise funds for their nominated business charities.

Excellent progression continues to be a selling point of the programmes, and all second year Level 3 students secured a place at their first choice university, with an increasing number choosing to stay with us for our own Foundation Degree offer.

Management & Professional

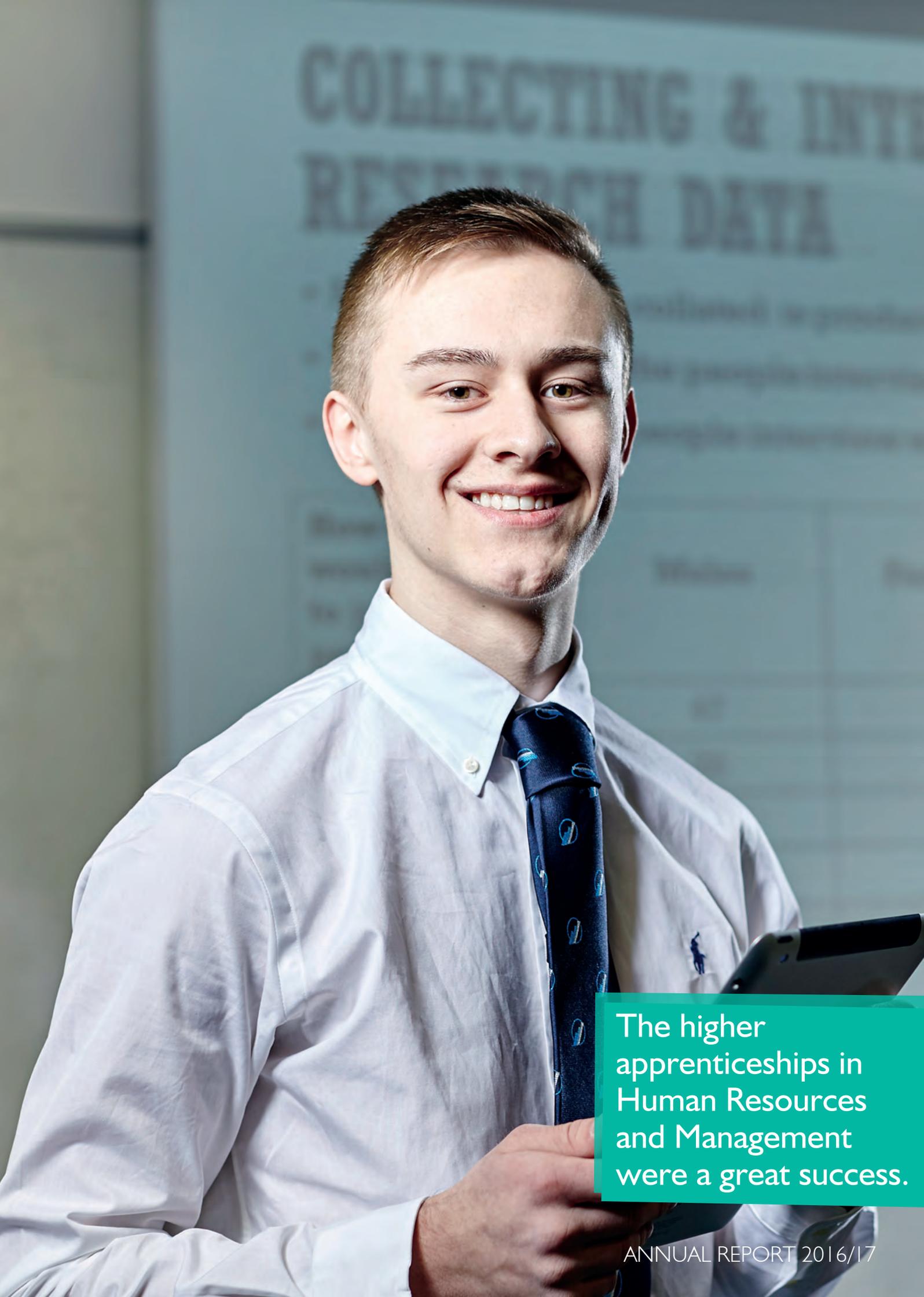
A pioneering innovation module has been launched as a direct response to employer needs in the North East. The Innovation Management module was developed following an idea from Business Durham, the economic development company for County Durham, and students from a range of courses are completing the module.

Maxine Mayhew, who is responsible for managing over 500 staff in her role as the Commercial Director of Northumbrian Water, addressed students from the BA (Hons) Management & FdA Housing and Communities Degree on Friday 2 December 2016.

Maxine is based locally at Northumbrian Water's Head Office at Pity Me in Durham. She was able to draw on her experience to explain the application of the theory of strategy and change to real businesses. The business units that Maxine is responsible for at Northumbrian Water have developed a "plan on a page" to describe their strategy, Maxine shared this with students who asked a wide variety of questions on how this strategy was being introduced to "change" the organisation.

We congratulated Linzi Passmore as she became our first Level 3 Advanced Apprentice Clinical Healthcare: Podiatry Assistant, to have completed her framework. New College Durham was the first provider in the country to deliver an apprenticeship in Podiatry. Linzi has been incredibly motivated in her learning which has now inspired her to progress onto BSc (Hons) Podiatry.

Course enhancement opportunities included guest speakers from areas of specialism such as Counter Fraud, and from local businesses including Mazars and Durham County Council together with visits to local organisations such as the Beamish Open Air Museum, Auckland Castle and Derwentside Homes, all of which continued to add value to the programme.



The higher apprenticeships in Human Resources and Management were a great success.

Business, Management & Professional

Sport

Working with employers continued to be a focus for the sports department with almost 80% of Level 1 to Level 3 students taking part in a meaningful work placement in 2015-16 as part of their study programme. In addition to this a number of visits, guest speakers and industry collaborations linked to local employment took place. A great example of this was the opportunity for all students to work with the County Durham School Sports Partnership, which saw the sports department hosting a 'gifted & talented' day for local children. Students planned and then delivered to over 160 year six primary school children performing a range of roles.

The creativity and organisational skills of the learners were also brought to the fore across a range of other sports development and coaching activities, including a disability awareness day held with the support of the Percy Headley Foundation and an inter-college Futsal tournament involving four local colleges, which was the first of its kind in the region.

These activities and partnerships helped contribute to high in-year success rates in 2015-2016 and outstanding achievement rates of 92% across all levels, with in year figures of 100% of L3 year two learners (Diploma and Extended Diploma) achieving their qualification. This is supported by 88% of Level 3 Extended Diploma learners achieving a high grade within their qualification.

The Development Centres within the sports department continue to succeed; the Football Development Centre team were again North East College League Cup champions for the second successive year and the Rugby team competed at a range of festivals throughout the year, where they were largely unbeaten.

Will Fletcher, an ex-Level 3 Sport student at New College Durham, represented Team GB in Rio. Will competed in the Light Weight Doubles with his rowing partner, Richard Chambers from Colrairie, N. Ireland.

Sports students attended an activity day at Durham University, taking part in a variety of wheelchair based sports and activities. During the day the students not only got to experience the top-class sporting facilities at Maiden Castle, but also received coaching from a number of wheelchair basketball players and the University's Coaching Team.

The activity allowed the students to engage in a new sport that none had taken part in before, whilst also gaining an insight into the range of different disabilities within sport. They thoroughly enjoyed the day, and have even been offered the chance to take part in regular sessions at the University training with the team, the Durham University Raptors.

New College Durham Higher Education Sports students supported Durham Triathlon Club, who have athletes that compete at an international level, in a range of testing protocols. Tests included, amongst others, the V02 max test, aerodynamic positioning when riding and the effects of beetroot juice on performance.

The data, and the students' knowledge of physiological testing and demands, meant an individual training programme could be created for the athletes, to improve their own performance.



Sixth Form & Educational Development

Sixth Form Centre (AS/A2)

In 2017 there was an increase in students gaining the highest A-Level grade of A*, and 17 A-Level courses achieved 100% pass rates. In addition, and due to an increase in retention, 11 subjects had 100% achievement. The Level 3 value added score has increased to +0.01, a considerable increase since 2016, and the average A-Level grade has increased to C-.

Destinations of A-Level students were 100% positive, with the majority of students moving into Higher Education while some chose apprenticeships or employment. The 2017 leavers are now studying at universities both locally and across the UK including Durham, Newcastle, York, Glasgow, Leeds and Plymouth. They are studying a diverse range of subjects including Biology, Psychology, English, Law and Forensics.

In 2017 we had continued success with the Norway Project as we welcomed 27 students from Oslo who once again worked hard with great enthusiasm in their AS subjects.

All students continued to benefit from activities to enhance their classroom learning including field trips, visits to the law courts and debating competitions. They also benefitted from work experience opportunities including volunteering at the Citizens' Advice Bureau and placements at Durham University laboratories.

Access to Higher Education (HE)

Access to HE Diploma achievement rates were good with excellent levels of support offered to students. Destinations of Access to HE students were excellent with students progressing to Higher Education courses in a diverse range of subjects including Nursing, Midwifery, Psychology and Creative Writing. A number of students progressed to HE degrees at New College Durham in Social Work and Podiatry.

Our application for validation of the Educational Studies Diploma was successful and this Diploma is on offer from September 2017.



Destinations from A-Level were 100% positive, with the majority of students moving into higher education.

Technology

Further Education

Overall achievement rates on courses were very high and significantly above the national rate, this resulted in an overall pass rate of 90%, and retention at 94%

Study programmes in all curriculum areas ensure that there are clearly defined pathways for progression through each level of FE qualifications and into Higher Education and employment.

Tutors make excellent use of their extensive industrial knowledge, motivate learners to do well and inspire them to progress to higher-level courses and employment.

Skilled teachers use up-to-date construction concepts and current plumbing and electrical methods well to stimulate learning.

Further Investment in new Advanced Manufacturing resources have provided students with state of the art facilities

All of the School of Technology curriculum areas have been very pro-active with learners entering skill competitions throughout 2016/17
Success has come to Technology students in the North East Inter College Skill competitions with winners in Automotive, CAD (Computer Aided Design), Carpentry and Joinery, Plumbing, Brickwork and Painting and Decorating. This was a fantastic overall achievement as competition was very strong. Competitions help to develop learners' confidence and employability development along with being able to showcase their skill attainment.

Caitlin joined the Painting and Decorating course at New College Durham as a Choices Plus student. Choices Plus students start later in the year and are usually allocated a Personal Learning Coach to support them in catching up with the rest of the class. Caitlin excelled in her studies and didn't require any support. She also competed in the live national final of Johnstone's Young Painter of the Year, a prestigious painting and decorating competition celebrating young talent.

Plumbing staff have forged links with DJ McGough Ltd, one of the largest plumbing contractors in the North of England, to facilitate on-site work placements for study programme learners. These work placements contribute towards a vital part of our students' development, affording them essential hands-on experience when installing heating systems, bathrooms, kitchens and all the associated pipework.



Investment in new CAD and Advanced Manufacturing facilities provided students with state-of-the-art facilities.

Technology

Apprenticeships

External verifier reports state that learners benefit from first class industry standard workshops, along with excellent classroom resources that significantly enhance the learner experience. A high level of work is consistently produced by learners on work based learning programmes, and learners clearly demonstrate knowledge, skills and understanding of their subject at a level appropriate to the grade achieved.

Highways apprentice, Liam Owen, from County Durham celebrated being named Apprentice of the Year at the distinguished national awards ceremony for the construction industry. Liam scooped the title at the prestigious Highways Magazine Excellence Awards for his consistently high standard of work for Tarmac, the UK's leading sustainable building materials and construction Solutions Company. He received his award from BBC television news presenter Huw Edwards at a glittering event in London's West End.

Apprentice Civil Engineer, Curtis Smith, was awarded the cup. All of his tutors, and employer, Sunderland City Council, agreed that Curtis was a pleasure to teach and his punctuality, attendance, behaviour, attitude to studies and quality of work was consistently excellent throughout his apprenticeship.

Ryan Weatherall, an apprentice in Fabrication and Welding employed by TW Steam & Heating Ltd, recently won the Building Services Association (BESA North East) apprentice of the year award. Ryan was nominated for the award by his company along with supporting statements from his course tutor Chris Dawson, for his skill ability, attitude to work, motivation both at work and in College.

The gala event was held at the Crown Plaza hotel in Newcastle where Ryan received a certificate and plaque from the BESA President. Ryan completed his Level 2 apprenticeship at New College Durham and is now working toward his Level 3.

Higher Education

HNC/HND courses in Mechanical and Electrical/Electronic Engineering and in Construction/Civil Engineering continue to be the favoured option for both employers and students due to the valued course content and the high reputation of the qualifications.

Higher Apprentices attend college for 1 day per week to study the HNC or HND, this being the employers preferred mode of study. The project for the qualification is work related and is designed to solve a problem in the workplace; assessors also visit the apprentice in the workplace, where additional support is implemented.

The School of Technology introduced Higher Apprenticeships in Engineering and Construction Management in 2015. Enrolment numbers have continued to increase each year and they are now becoming the favoured route for employers to choose.



Construction and Civil
Engineering Advanced
Apprenticeship
framework success rates
were excellent at 100%.

Foundation Studies & Learner Support (FSLs)

Foundation Studies & Learner Support

- Outcomes for most learners on Vocational Access programmes were good at 89%
- Leaders, managers and staff within FSLs were passionate about how they contribute to the success of their learners.
- The School established a culture of continuous improvement supported by rigorous performance management and an extensive programme of professional development.
- There was a clear pursuit of excellence evident in innovative curriculum improvements such as inclusive skills competitions in order to meet and exceed regional and national priorities.
- The School operated a Supported Employment programme that enabled young people with SEND to develop work skills through placements in the local job market.

Leadership and management significantly improved the quality of provision in the School. The Vocational Access curriculum area is part of a School, which includes Foundation Studies, cross-College Functional Skills and cross-College Learner Support. These curriculum areas have been together now for five years under a Head of School who has a clear vision for improvement. This has resulted in an impressive improving trend in success for learners, rising from 62.5% in 2009/10, to 89% in 2015/16. 89% of learners achieved their qualifications, and the quality of provision, including teaching and learning, was outstanding.

Within Vocational Access a significant number of students developed behaviours that ensured they were confident, self-assured learners. Their attitudes to learning had a strong, positive impact on their progress with 84% progressing to further education, voluntary work or employment.

Overall success rates in Foundation Studies for students in classroom learning in 2015/16 increased over three years and were outstanding at 89%. 52% of learners in Foundation Studies undertook non-accredited RARPA based qualifications, ranging from Entry Levels, as part of their 16-19 study programmes, with the majority at Entry Level 3.

19% of learners undertook vocational, diploma-sized qualifications as part of their 16-19 study programmes at Level 1. 8% of learners undertook vocational, certificate-sized qualifications at Entry Level 3 as part of their 16-19 study programmes. A further 19% of learners followed a 16-19 study programme, which is based on maths and English in College, and completed the rest of their programme in work placements. The final 2% of full time learners are adults.

As part of the Worldskills final in Birmingham there was a good representation of learners competing in the Inclusive Skills area of the competition. Inclusive Skills Competitions are an opportunity for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to showcase their talents. The School had competitors in Media, ICT and Health and Social Care. They all did extremely well, achieving bronze medals, which were presented at a special ceremony at Worldskills.

Supported Employment students worked hard in their placements and improving their maths and English Skills. The students helped contribute to the College's Christmas Fayre by learning a new skill of book art, this involved recycling old books and creating hedgehogs as Christmas decorations. Students used various skills such as writing skills to provide instructions for others, design skills, maths skills and enterprise skills. Students gained invaluable experience on work placements. Learners and their parents stated that placements encourage independence, confidence, increased self-esteem and a greater knowledge of expectations of employers and colleagues in the workplace.

Learners also visited Beamish Museum and took part in a workshop, which helped them understand employability skills such as customer care, health and safety and marketing of a visitor attraction.

The workshop themes consolidated knowledge gained from College and placements and students were able to see this in action, as well as enjoy Beamish at Christmas time!

As part of their Preparing for Adulthood curriculum the Vocational Access N3 group enjoyed working out at the College gym. After a rigorous induction, gym staff worked with each learner to devise a fitness plan. This had a great impact on their self-confidence and allowed them to develop a 'can-do' attitude.

Vocational Access students ran a Christmas Enterprise project. The aim was to work as a group and come up with ideas that the students could create and would be saleable. Beforehand students completed an enterprise booklet, which helped to develop their employability skills. They learned about concepts such as: idea generation, research, target audience, setting smart targets, team roles, budgeting and pricing, advertising and marketing, evaluation, review and reflection. The classes all generated their own ideas and made a wide selection of products including decorated baubles, recycled jar candles, pom-pom wreaths and garlands, hand painted T-lights, hand painted 3D tree decorations, folded book art, dog treats, various raffle prizes, handmade greeting cards, wooden wall art. Enterprise projects like this are invaluable as they help students practise the skills they have learned in their lessons. It also helps with their sense of Fundamental British Values as they learn tolerance and respect, as well as the value of giving back to the community.

Many of the students who are studying the Level 1 Vocational Access course started the year with none or very little idea about how their futures would pan out. Most of them also felt that they needed to improve their self-confidence and motivation as well as improve their maths and English skills.

A programme was designed for the first term to help the students to formulate ideas and give them more confidence and self-belief. The programme of study included a variety of activities, trips and visits from guest speakers, such as watching inspirational films and videos; using interactive careers web sites with self-assessment tools and videos; visits to employers in hospitality, retail, a charity and the motor industry; research using the internet to review qualification requirements for various job roles; using the BSKB tool to identify specific maths and English skill areas for improvement; visiting speakers including a representative from the Houses of Parliament, the Dogs Trust and the Police Dog Unit.



Overall success rates in Foundation Studies for students in classroom learning in 2015/16 increased over three years and were outstanding at 89%.

Student Achievements

Student Achievements

Overall achievement rates at the College were extremely high with 94% of students who completed their programme in 2015/16 achieving their qualification aim. This maintained the position of New College Durham as a top performing college, exceeding the National Achievement Rates for all levels.

Pass rates for students under 19, the majority studying long general further education qualifications, continued to be high with 94% of students who completed their studies achieving their qualification. This placed New College Durham in the top 10% of general further education colleges in England and Wales. Achievement rates for 19 years plus learners, mostly studying on a part-time basis, were also excellent with 97% of the students who completed their studies achieving their qualification.

Grades/Pass Rates

GCSE Results

Achieving A*-C	31%
Achieving A-G	91%

AS Level Results

Achieving A-E	77%
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A Level Results

Achieving A*-E	92%
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Level 1 Vocational Qualifications (excluding functional skills)

Art and Design	100%
Carpentry and Joinery	99%
Catering and Hospitality	97%
Construction Crafts	99%
Hair	100%
Motor Vehicle	100%
Painting and Decorating	100%
Plumbing	99%
Public Services	100%
Sport	100%

Level 2 Vocational Qualifications (excluding functional skills)

Art and Design	100%
Beauty	100%
Business FE	100%
Carpentry and Joinery	100%
Catering and Hospitality	97%
Construction	100%
Construction Craft	95%
Early Years & Care	95%
Electrical Installation	81%

ESOL	100%
General Engineering	99%
Hair	100%
Health and Social Care	94%
Information Technology	97%
Media	100%
Motor Vehicle	100%
Painting and Decorating	97%
Performing Arts Drama	100%
Plumbing	100%
Public Services	98%
Sport	99%
Travel and Tourism	100%

Level 3 Vocational Qualifications (excluding functional skills)

Art and Design	99%
Beauty	100%
Built Environment	100%
Business FE	100%
Carpentry and Joinery	100%
Catering and Hospitality	97%
Construction	100%
Construction Craft	100%
Early Years & Care	73%
Electrical Installation	92%
General Engineering	98%
Graphic Design	100%
Hair	99%
Health and Social Care	95%
Housing	100%
Information Technology	100%
Media	100%
Motor Vehicle	95%
Music	100%
Painting and Decorating	100%
Performing Arts Drama	98%
Plumbing	91%
Public Services	99%
Sport	100%
Technical Construction	98%
Travel and Tourism	99%

Higher National Certificates/Diplomas

School of Sport, Business, Public Services and IT	96%
Technology	90%

Foundation Degrees

Health and Social Studies	95%
School of Creative Industries, Hospitality and Tourism	100%
School of Early Years, Health and Care	96%
School of Sport, Business, Public Services and IT	95%
Sixth Form Centre and Education Development	100%

Honours Degrees

Health and Social Studies	84%
School of Creative Industries, Hospitality and Tourism	100%
School of Early Years, Health and Care	100%
School of Sport, Business, Public Services and IT	100%
Sixth Form Centre and Education Development	64%

Students by School (Full-Time)

Total Number

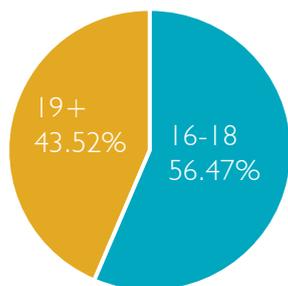
(blank)	7
Adult Learning	7
Employer Responsive (External)	18
External Funding (ESF)	0
Franchise	0
Health and Social Studies	160
School of Creative Industries, Hospitality and Tourism	776
School of Early Years, Health and Care	484
School of ESOL	0
School of Foundation Studies and Learning Support	52
School of Sport, Business, Public Services and IT	697
Sixth Form Centre and Education Development	261
Technology	684
Grand Total	3136

Students By School (Part-Time)

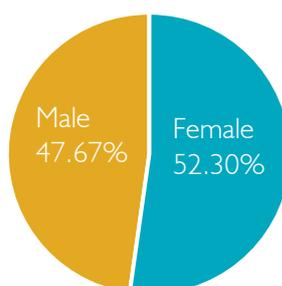
Total Number

(blank)	1
Adult Learning	598
Employer Responsive (External)	2513
External Funding (ESF)	7
Franchise	174
Health and Social Studies	84
School of Creative Industries, Hospitality and Tourism	174
School of Early Years, Health and Care	320
School of ESOL	164
School of Foundation Studies and Learning Support	154
School of Sport, Business, Public Services and IT	650
Sixth Form Centre and Education Development	950
Technology	742
Total	5749

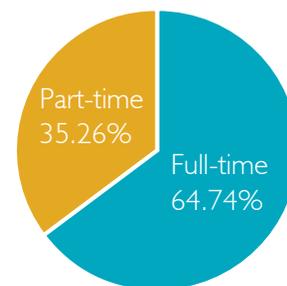
Learner Responsive Enrolments, Excluding Key/Functional Skills



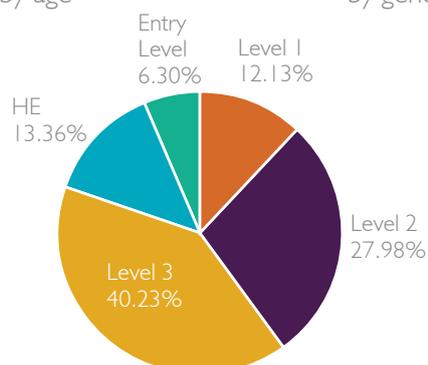
Percentage enrolments by age



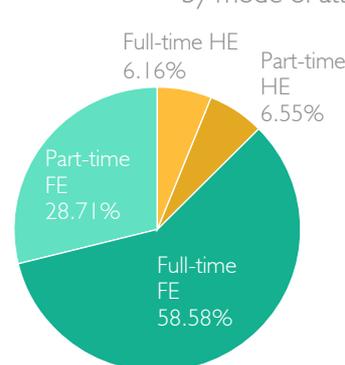
Percentage enrolments by gender



Percentage enrolments by mode of attendance



Percentage enrolments by NVQ level of study



Learner mode of attendance

FE - Further Education
HE - Higher Education

*(Level 4/5/H = FD/HNC/HND/BA/BSC)

Financial Performance

Financial Performance

The Annual Report and Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) and the 2015 FE HE Statements of Recognised Practice (SORP). The Group (New College Durham and its subsidiary company Westfirst Limited) generated an operating surplus before FRS102-28 and other gains and losses of £1,106,000 (2015/16 – surplus of £359,000). FRS102-28 LGPS pension charges included in expenditure are non-cash adjustments and amount to £1,100,000 (2015/16 £690,000). These charges are based on actuarial assumptions which the College has no control over and relate to estimates of current service costs and defined benefit plan finance costs. After FRS102-28 the Group generated a surplus before other gains and losses of £6,000 (2015/16 – deficit of £331,000).

The Group has significant reliance on the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for its principal funding source, largely from recurrent grants. In 2016/17 the ESFA provided 72.11% of the Groups total income. Higher Education related income (HEFCE grant and tuition fee income) accounted for 17.02% of the Groups total income.

Tangible fixed asset additions during the year amounted to £1,643,000. This was split between land and buildings costs of £761,000 and equipment and furniture and fittings costs of £882,000. In August 2017 the Group completed the accommodation redevelopment programme with the focus on digital creative media, advanced manufacturing technology and Higher Education provision. At 31st August 2017 £2,981,000 in building costs were transferred from assets under construction to freehold land and buildings and a review was carried out to assess the value of prior building costs that had diminished as a result of the works.

The Group has accumulated reserves of £28,473,000 and cash at bank and short term investment balances of £14,223,000. The Group will continue to accumulate reserves and cash balances in order to finance the replacement of capital plant and equipment as necessary and to further strengthen its financial position in order to deliver its strategic plan.

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 July 2017

Income	£'000
Funding body grants	25,494
Tuition fees and education contracts	7,172
Other grants and contracts	13
Other income	734
Endowment and investment income	105
Total Income	33,518
Expenditure	
Staff costs	19,439
Other operating expenses	11,833
Depreciation	1,840
Interest and other finance costs	400
Total Expenditure	33,512
Deficit before other gains and losses	6

Represented by:

Surplus on Operations	1,106
FRS102-28 LGPS pension charge	(1,100)
Surplus before other gains and losses	6

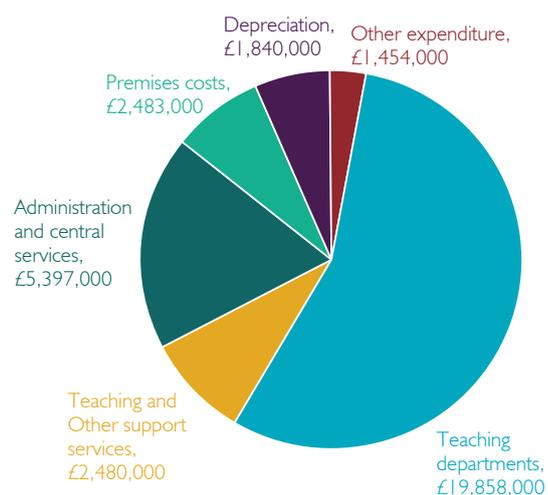
Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2017

Fixed assets	44,255
Current assets	18,153
Current liabilities	(6,544)
Net current assets	11,609
Total assets less current liabilities	55,864
Creditors due after more than 1 year	(9,641)
Pension provision	(17,750)
Total Net Assets	28,473
Income and expenditure account	15,988
Revaluation reserve	12,483
Designated reserve	2
Total Reserves	28,473

The Group spends its income on the running of its teaching departments, providing teaching and other support services (such as the Library, Personal Learning Coaches, ASC and student transport), management and administration, maintaining its buildings and other facilities and providing catering for students. The cost of teaching and teaching and other support services represents 67% of the Groups total expenditure.

The Group is committed to observing the importance of the key measures and performance indicators and is monitoring these through the completion of the annual Finance Record for the ESFA. The Finance Record produces a financial health grading. The College is assessed by the ESFA as having "OUTSTANDING" financial health rating.

Expenditure in 2015-16



The College is assessed by the SFA / EFA as having "Outstanding" financial health rating.