

**Northern
College**



Our 2025 Ambition



Northern College is the only residential college in the North supporting adults to re-enter education to upskill, progress, gain employment or retrain for a new career.

OUR 2025 AMBITION

Our mission is to 'inspire positive change through adult education' and this is central to all we do.

Providing adults with an opportunity to learn and raising the aspirations of some of the nation's most disadvantaged communities is vital if the UK is to bridge the current skills and productivity gap which evidence shows is holding back the economy.

Northern College, the only adult residential college in the North, is in a unique position to be able to offer essential skills for adults and employers in our region and beyond through flexible and accessible modes of delivery – residential, blended, evenings and weekends.

We have a proud and celebrated history of providing educational opportunities for those adults that have returned to learning. For many, we provide a platform to engage people back into education with the aim of designing a supportive and purposeful learning pathway. Our work with community and employer partners ensures our provision responds to the needs of all our stakeholders and allows us to reach out to adults who may not have had the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

The College is based in Wentworth Castle, a Grade 1 listed building located in Barnsley, set in beautiful gardens and parkland and providing an immersive experience for adults, away from the pressures of everyday life. Our specialist adult teaching and support team has the experience, success and progression of every student at the forefront of everything they do, whilst our residential accommodation with its associated support services provides the wrap around that is core to Northern College, and for many students, is crucial to their success.

On campus, adults work together for an intensive period of time, rebuilding their confidence to learn, engaging with like-minded peers and becoming part of an adult learning community. Our students regularly report that residential study at Northern College generates an excitement for learning resulting in life changing experiences driving positive change at work, at home and within their community.

Our 2025 Ambition sets out a clear set of priorities for the next three years with the specific intention to deliver an offer which contributes to the post-Covid recovery, promotes employability, social justice and social mobility, builds stronger families and communities, enables digital inclusion, and improves access through different and digital modes of delivery.

Signed by Principal and
Chief Executive




OUR MISSION

“Inspire positive change through adult education”

OUR LOCAL AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Our 2025 Ambition responds to the current social and economic landscape with the aim of ensuring our impact positively meets the needs of our students and communities, as well as delivering on a number of key social inclusion, skills and employment priorities in local, regional and national plans.

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION

The Sheffield City Region (SCR) has set an ambitious Strategic Economic Plan 2020-2040 which seeks to grow an economy that works for everyone. It aims to develop inclusive and sustainable approaches that contribute to UK prosperity and enhance the quality of life for all. In addition, and as a result of Covid-19, SCR has developed a Renewal Action Plan which aims to provide immediate support to local people, employers and places. This looks to transform wellbeing and inclusion, raise the quality of life, reduce inequality and widen opportunity.

WEST YORKSHIRE

The West Yorkshire Strategic Economic Plan (2016-2036) aims to build a skilled and flexible workforce that meets the needs of the local economy and enables businesses and communities to thrive. This will be delivered through world class learning opportunities that are valued by employers and individuals. Provision will be accessible to individuals from all backgrounds, with support and signposting to achieve their personal ambitions.

BARNSELY

Barnsley Council's Employment and Skills Strategy – More and Better Jobs 2016-2020 outlines a shared ambition in Barnsley people, communities and businesses for better jobs. Although Barnsley's economy is growing and diversifying, and the employment rate has improved, challenges remain. There are still high numbers of people out of work and they often face multiple barriers, including low or no skills and health conditions. In work, many lack workplace progression or are under-employed. The plan prioritises action on skills and routes to employment.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The government has a clear ambition for full devolution across England giving power to people and places across the UK, so that every part of our country has the power to shape its own destiny.

There is a commitment to the development of a National Skills Fund to help to transform the lives of people who have not got onto the work ladder and lack qualifications, as well as people who are keen to return to work or need to retrain for a different career.

A UK Shared Prosperity Fund will seek to give disadvantaged people the skills they need to make a success of life, helping people of whatever age and background navigate the new world of work, equip themselves with the skills they need, increase their earnings and make Britain more productive.

OUR VALUES

We Will

ALWAYS BE AMBITIOUS

- ✓ Having high aspirations and high expectations
- ✓ Providing the right balance of support and challenge to ensure everyone achieves their best
- ✓ Seeking to improve in everything we do

HAVE PEOPLE AT OUR HEART

- ✓ Valuing every individual
- ✓ Sharing, innovating, collaborating and building relationships
- ✓ Being inclusive and celebrating diversity

MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

- ✓ Being clear and straightforward
- ✓ Listening so that we can understand and do the right thing
- ✓ Promoting a culture of openness, personal responsibility and accountability



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

We Will

DIVERSIFY OUR CURRICULUM OFFER

- ✓ Deliver a community and employability offer that enables social inclusion
- ✓ Develop the essential skills our students need to progress in life and work
- ✓ Offer a range of programmes that enable entry to higher level study
- ✓ Deliver a programme of professional study to improve work opportunities
- ✓ Work with partner organisations to improve people's lives through education

PROMOTE NORTHERN COLLEGE AND ADULT EDUCATION

- ✓ Shout loudly about the success of Northern College
- ✓ Raise the profile of adult education at local, regional and national level
- ✓ Develop wide ranging partnerships to improve the overall offer for our students
- ✓ Open up new markets in line with our mission

INNOVATE TO IMPROVE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- ✓ Deliver an impactful experience, enabling progression to further study or work
- ✓ Offer a vibrant, relevant and innovative curriculum meeting local and regional priorities
- ✓ Expand digital methods of delivery and use the 24/7 campus to improve access
- ✓ Offer excellent support for learning and social inclusion

VALUE OUR PEOPLE

- ✓ Ensure we have the experience of our students at the forefront of all we do
- ✓ Attract, develop and retain highly skilled and motivated staff
- ✓ Enable everyone to be safe, secure, healthy and well
- ✓ Offer and engage in current and appropriate Continuous Professional Development
- ✓ Plan for succession

BE SUSTAINABLE

- ✓ Plan for the future
- ✓ Be financially resilient
- ✓ Grow new and sustainable income
- ✓ Deliver value for money



**Northern
College**



NORTHERN COLLEGE FOR ADULTS

Wentworth Castle, Stainborough, Barnsley,
South Yorkshire, S75 3ET

Tel: **01226 776000**

Web: **www.northern.ac.uk**

Facebook: **[northerncollege](https://www.facebook.com/northerncollege)**

Twitter: **[@NorthernCollege](https://twitter.com/NorthernCollege)**

Do you need this publication in an alternative format (eg large print or audio)?
Email studentservices@northern.ac.uk or telephone 01226 776000.