

Annual Review

2010-11





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The year 2010-2011 was the second year in which the college operated in its new building at Church Road. With staff now familiar with their new environment its full potential could be used to the benefit of the huge variety of learners who study full- and part-time. The formal opening by HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, was a memorable occasion.

The college now has an excellent learning environment, as well as outstanding staff, and will continue to offer a great service to all in its travel-to-learn area despite the challenges of reductions in government funding.

In 2010-2011 the refurbishment of the Wick Hill site was completed in partnership with the Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough Councils. This means the college now has an excellent centre for offering vocational courses to 14-16 year olds in partnership with local schools.

Bracknell & Wokingham College is now well equipped to face the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christie'.

Campbell Christie CBE
Principal and Chief Executive

What we do for 14-19 year olds



Our facilities help us offer new courses such as hospitality and catering. All our students and our community partners have benefited from the enhanced opportunities we can offer in qualifications for Sport, Art, Plumbing and Carpentry. Our spacious and well-equipped motor vehicle workshops mean we now offer our first Apprenticeships in this area.

14 -16 courses

In addition to our existing courses we have introduced a new course in Public Services, shortly to be followed by Photography for GCSE-level school pupils. The new dedicated Wick Hill centre is now fully operational and attracts 400-plus 14-16 year olds. We are continually developing all the facilities our communities need, in partnership with both Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough councils.

We have continued to work closely with special schools such as Kennel Lane and Addington to develop courses tailored specifically for them. We are also working with the travelling community and other excluded groups.

Full-time achievements

- 162 students applied to higher education with 91% taking up a place
- On average students achieved one grade higher than their value added predicted scores
- A Level results - 100% pass rate, 82% A*-C
- Level 3 BTEC students - 66% achieved triple merit or higher, and 50% of those achieved triple distinction grades.
- Students fundraised £3600 for charity



Adult and community learning

We offer courses at 24 venues in the Bracknell and Wokingham area. Whether local people want an accredited qualification or to develop a leisure interest, they can choose from one of the most diverse college course ranges in the area. From Art to Yoga – we are still this area's one-stop shop for courses; Monday to Saturday, for single days or 30 weeks.

In addition this year we offered 112 community courses in vital areas like courses for carers, family Maths and English, and opportunities for those working their way back from a range of mental health issues. We encourage vulnerable and difficult-to-reach learners to join our projects and learn in accessible and unthreatening places. They can then move their lives forward with confidence, on to mainstream college courses, volunteering or employment.

Adult literacy and numeracy, and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)

Our learners continue to achieve excellent results in literacy and numeracy thus making them more economically active within the community and more confident as individuals.

Similarly in ESOL, our students continued to gain the level of proficiency in English they need for success in work and everyday life.

Investing in our employees

We are Investors in People. Our Employee Development Scheme brings together all the effective recruitment, development and retention practices to ensure that we are an employer of choice.

We have an effective staff liaison information and consultation group which ensures that all employees can contribute to decision making. We work in partnership with our recognised unions.

We have excellent, well qualified staff. All new teaching staff are supported through their initial teacher training qualifications and in addition to vocational, professional and academic qualifications, over 95% of our full-time and fractional staff are at least PGCE/CertEd (DTLLS) qualified or are currently completing initial teacher training qualifications. Thirty members of staff have higher degrees.

The college spends approximately £60,000 annually on employee development.

Gender equality

The college is committed to gender equality as part of its equality and diversity policy under the Single Equality Scheme.

Bracknell & Wokingham College - a family-friendly place to work!

We recognise the importance of maintaining a work/life balance. We provide a number of generous family-friendly schemes that provide benefits in excess of the statutory requirements including:

- Term-time only employment opportunities
- Part-time employment opportunities
- Enhanced maternity leave and pay
- Family leave
- College Nursery
- Childcare vouchers
- A positive and flexible approach to working beyond normal retirement age

Health and safety

The college takes health and safety very seriously and encourages all our staff to take a proactive approach.

How we support our students



Functional skills

Functional Skills replaced Key Skills in September 2010. We teach transferable skills in English, Maths and ICT to all our students on Level 1 and 2 courses. These skills help our students to operate confidently, effectively and independently in life and at work. There is added rigour in Functional Skills as outcomes are assessed by external examinations which focus on applying knowledge to problem-solving. In 2010/11 the functional skills results for the college were above the exam board's pass rate in all areas.

Study support

Study support continues to be at the heart of the college. We offer support for English, Maths and study skills to allow students to succeed in life and study.

Our specialist teachers give support in fields such as dyslexia, dyspraxia and aspergers. We also bring in experts in specialist techniques, for example Ron Davis method and neurolinguistic programming for students with dyslexia. Close to 500 students benefited from all the valuable services given by study support both in the classroom and in workshops.

Apprenticeships – earn while you learn

This year we again increased our overall apprentice numbers and recruited a number of new employers who were taking on an apprentice for the first time. One new employer to us is a local, high class, hairdresser with a chain of salons providing us with over 30 apprentices and advanced apprentices. With most of our occupational areas showing increased recruitment, our overall number of apprentices totalled over 300. The new Church Road building with its enhanced facilities is proving a major asset to apprentice recruitment and employer engagement. SSE awarded us with their *Training Provider of the Year* award.

Jobseeker support

We have continued to develop an effective working relationship with Job Centre Plus in Bracknell and Wokingham, Maidenhead and Slough. We provided management, social care, IT and interview skills to 80 jobseekers; 25% of those who attended our jobseeker courses over the last two years gained employment.

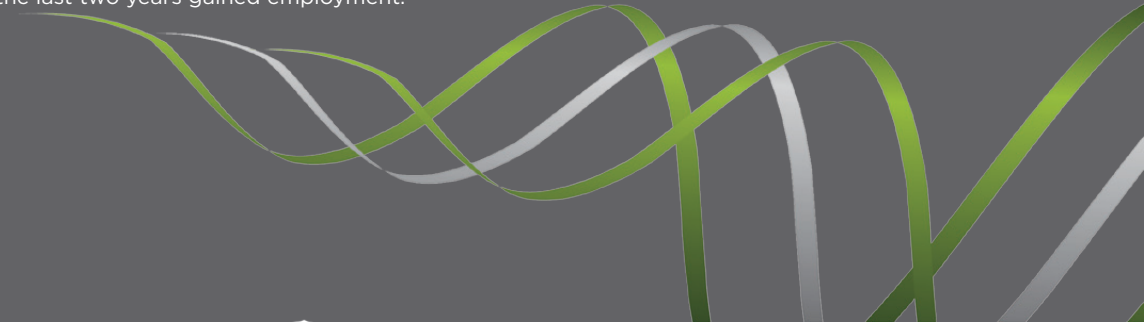
Employer engagement

During the economic downturn, we have maintained our reputation for excellent employer engagement, particularly with the adult social care, children's care and electrical installation sectors locally. We are creative and flexible to help employers benefit from the reduced funding available.

Professional courses

Students on our professional courses love learning in our bright, new Church Road Centre. We updated several of our portfolio of courses to fit the new Qualifications and Curriculum Framework (QCF) to offer the most up-to-date path to a successful professional career.

In a recent external review of our higher education courses the Quality Assurance Agency noted that “staff are highly committed to supporting students’ learning”.



Our finances

Expenditure

Teaching departments	£'000s	6,680
Teaching support services		619
Other support services		516
Administration and central services		2,464
Premises		1,173
Catering		229
Interest payable		321
Exceptional restructuring costs		210
Depreciation		1,630
Total		14,200

Income

Funding	£'000s	9,468
Fees		1,847
Education contracts		675
Other grants and funding		129
Other income		522
Investment income		9
Operating deficit		1,550
Total		14,200

Sources of income 2010/2011

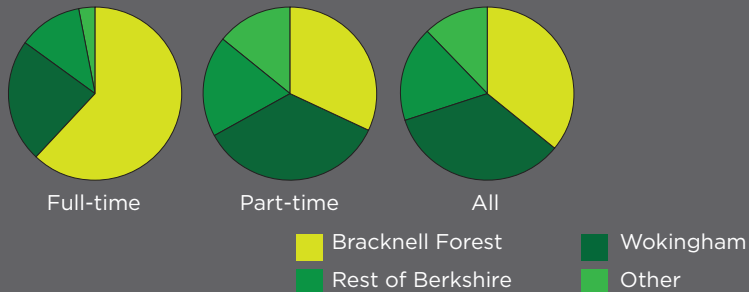
SFA/YPLA - Recurrent grant	£'000s	6,119
SFA - Work based training		874
SFA - Other funding		1,464
SFA - Release of capital grants		1,011
Local education authorities/schools		675
Tuition fees		1,847
Other grants and funding		129
Catering sales		318
Other income		204
Interest receivable		9
Operating deficit		1,550
Total		14,200

Subjects our learners study

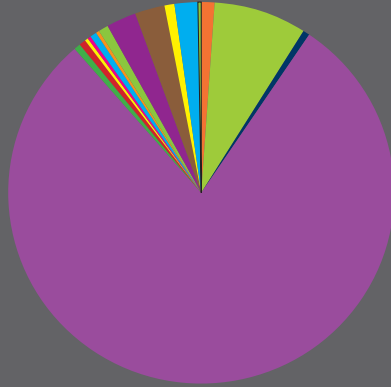
Subject area

Subject area	No of Enrolments	
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	125	1%
Arts, Media and Publishing	2,446	15%
Business, Administration and Law	833	5%
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	323	2%
Education and Training	394	2%
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	1,271	8%
Health, Public Services and Care	1,771	11%
History, Philosophy and Theology	156	1%
Information and Communication Technology	599	4%
Languages, Literature and Culture	1,622	10%
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	1,095	7%
Preparation for Life and Work	3,950	24%
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	788	5%
Science and Mathematics	550	3%
Social Sciences	117	1%
Other	238	1%
Total	16,278	

Where our learners live

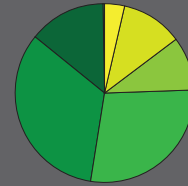


Our learners' ethnicities

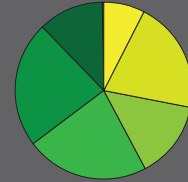


- Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British - Indian
- Asian or Asian British - Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British - any other Asian background
- Black or Black British - African
- Black or Black British - Caribbean
- Black or Black British - any other Black background
- Chinese
- Mixed - White and Asian
- Mixed - White and Black African
- Mixed - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed - any other Mixed background
- White - British
- White - Irish
- White - any other White background
- Any other

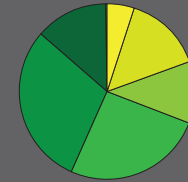
Our learners' ages



Female



Male



Overall

- Under 16
- 16-18
- 19-24
- 25-39
- 40-59
- 60+
- Unknown

How our learners study with us

Full-time	2009/10	2010/11	Part-time	2009/10	2010/11
Under 16	0	0	Under 16	463	472
16-18	978	921	16-18	386	421
Adult	202	191	Adult	8400	7203
Total	1180	1112	Total	9249	8096