



Franklin  
Sixth Form College

# PRINCIPAL



September 2017

About Franklin College



# ABOUT THE COLLEGE

## OUR HISTORY

Franklin College opened in September 1990 following the reorganisation of primary, middle and secondary schools within the Borough of Grimsby. School sixth form provision was transferred to the new college based on the site of Chelmsford School, which closed as part of the reorganisation. The college is named after Jack and Florence Franklin who, as local councillors, had devoted most of their adult lives to the well-being of the area.

The student number plan was for a small college of about 450 students based on the area's historically low post 16 participation of around 35%. The college immediately exceeded the planning number and the 16-19 population now stands at over 1600.

In 1993, Franklin became an incorporated college. The College is now located in N E Lincolnshire which includes the two boroughs of Grimsby and Cleethorpes and the port town of Immingham.

Following incorporation in 1993 the college diversified its provision beyond sixth form work and set up provision for adult learners both on site and in outreach centres



THIS YEAR'S RESULTS, ACROSS ALL LEVELS AND QUALIFICATION TYPES, ARE EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING, AND WILL PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT PLATFORM FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS.

## OUR CURRENT CONTEXT

In 2015 Franklin celebrated its 25th anniversary with a range of events throughout the year. As we start the new academic year 2017/18, the College faces a blend of challenge and opportunity – challenge in the form of the most recent Ofsted judgement (in October 2016), and the success of our actions to address the issues highlighted by inspectors, and opportunity founded on a clear understanding of our strengths in teaching, learning and assessment, a move towards relative financial stability, and our drive to further improve standards and life chances for our students as we work more collaboratively with our partners in the Venn4 federation. This year's results, across all levels and qualification types, are extremely encouraging, and will provide an excellent platform for further development and success. Performance is strong and consistent

across most of the curriculum, and College leaders have identified the few areas of underperformance and will be following agreed actions to improve student outcomes. Franklin College's local education context is complex and diverse. All secondary schools are now self-governing Academies (both 11-16 and 11-18) and there is a large general FE college with a growing HE provision. A further aspect of diversity lies in the proximity of selective grammar schools and other secondary provision in the neighbouring county of Lincolnshire. Sixth form provision exists in two secondary academies within the area, and in grammar schools in neighbouring Lincolnshire towns. The local GFE College has opened a 14-19 academy, and competition from other sixth form colleges in Scunthorpe and Hull occurs around the borders of our recruitment area.



EXCELLENCE  
INCLUSIVE  
INSPIRATIONAL  
SUPPORTIVE



## EXTERNALLY

Franklin is a member of the national organisation SFCA (Sixth Form Colleges Association) and the AoC (Association of Colleges). In addition to the emerging Venn4 federation (with John Leggott, Wilberforce and Wyke Sixth Form Colleges), regionally the College works with NorVIC (Northern Sixth Form Colleges Federation) for the purposes of development and mutual support. The College has particularly close relationships with the Universities of Hull and Lincoln and is an Associate College of both.

Franklin College has excellent and active links with employers and the local economic development agencies, both through its involvement with the Humber LEP, and also through our well-established and highly valued Career Academy programme. Career Academy (and Career Ready) form the core of the College's employer engagement activities, with five academies that reflect the emerging skill needs of the Humber area – Business, Health, Logistics, Law and Technology (including renewables). To this we have added professional pathways in teaching, media, sport and computing.

The social and economic challenges that impact on sections of the local community are well documented. The local authority is currently the 15th most deprived in the country. Whilst economic deprivation levels are high in parts of Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Immingham and the communities of the East Coast, there are also pockets of relative prosperity. This is reflected in the intake of local secondary schools, some of which serve areas of very high economic and social deprivation, with others having very mixed intakes. Whilst North East Lincolnshire schools are broadly comprehensive in nature from years 7 to 11, secondary education in northern Lincolnshire is selective, with a relatively small number of grammar schools,

and a larger proportion of academies based on what were secondary modern schools. Historically, Franklin College has relatively few students who attended the 11-18 grammar schools, although there has been a change this year with larger numbers in September 2016. The College Leadership Team is comprised of the Principal, Deputy Principal, three Assistant Principals and the Director of Finance. The organisational structure is relatively flat, with eight curriculum Departments, a dynamic and effective Student Services team, and a newly restructured College Services provision. Governance at Franklin is a key strength, with an excellent spread of skills, and an active and supportive Corporation who provide appropriate and considered challenge to the senior team.

# VENN4 PARTNERSHIP

## LAUNCH

The launch Conference of the Venn4 Federation was held at the University of Hull on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

It was attended by over 400 staff from the four member colleges:

- 1 Franklin College
- 2 John Leggott College
- 3 Wilberforce Sixth Form College
- 4 Wyke Sixth Form College

The Federation vision is a partnership of colleges sharing a common ethos, providing outstanding learning opportunities and outcomes to young people across the region that meet the need for advanced skills and higher level qualifications, for employers and the developing local economy.

The four sixth form colleges will pursue a federal structure, within which they will improve the quality of provision for post-16 learning and skills across the sub-region, working with schools and academies, with employers, and with HEIs to ensure sustainable progression pathways leading to higher level qualifications and training that meet the economic needs of the Humber, and secure improved life chances for young people and their families.

This will be achieved as incorporated sixth form colleges within a federal structure.



WILBERFORCE COLLEGE



JOHN LEGGOTT COLLEGE



FRANKLIN COLLEGE



WYKE COLLEGE

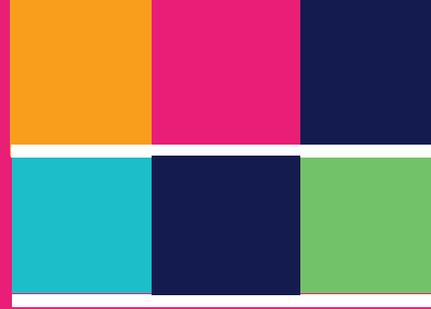
The Federation will be a formal, legal, arrangement and not merely an informal group. It is planned to create a company, limited by guarantee, although other structures may be considered. This will enable the Federation to hold funds, own assets, enter into contracts and employ staff if necessary.

Federal working will allow scale economies (including shared services) which will secure the financial position of college members, and this in turn will allow a strong and sustained focus on quality improvements, impacting on college quality and school and academy improvement.

Given the diversity of activity within the four members of the Federation, both collectively and individually, and the range of quality

improvement and other work we seek to achieve, we believe that this can best be achieved and sustained as incorporated further education providers. No member college is this time pursuing the option of converting to academy status, as it would serve no useful purpose.





“THERE IS A HUGE AMOUNT AT STAKE.

SFCS CAN BE – AND ARE – BEACON INSTITUTIONS.”

PETER MUCKLOW

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS



PETER MUCKLOW

The Keynote address was given by Peter Mucklow, from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

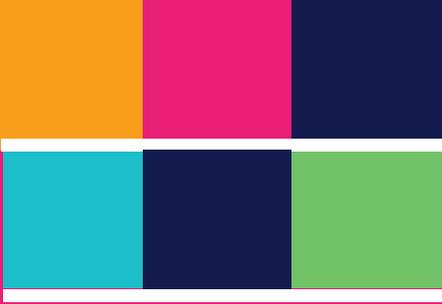
Peter began with an explanation of his role within the ESFA. He spoke about having to visit SFCs in his capacity as head of intervention at the ESFA, and about the educational and economic climate that poses challenges to many colleges, including sixth form colleges.

Peter stressed his determination to support the sector. He believes passionately in SFCs, in their capacity to support young people and their communities. Peter spoke about the positivity, energy of young people, of their motivation to learn and grow, to move on and to achieve their ambitions. In terms of the inspection framework, 74 of 90 SFCs are currently good or outstanding. SFCs achieve average A Level points per entry that are higher than schools, and easily outperform schools at GCSE in English and maths A\*-C. 55% of disadvantaged SFC students go on to University. SFCs offer a recipe of high expectations, committed teachers, a strong curriculum offer and a clear focus.



## A SHARED HISTORY AND A COLLABORATIVE FUTURE...

The four sixth form colleges have a long history of effective collaborative working, going back many years and significantly pre-dates the ABR. There is mutual trust and support between the four leadership teams, recent experience of successful collaboration at Governor level, and mutually supportive working between curriculum and student support teams. The four colleges share a core curriculum model, with key individual variances which support local need and aspirations. The ability to meet key elements of local economic need (as expressed by the Humber LEP, Greater Lincolnshire LEP, local authorities and employers) by individual sixth form colleges will be significantly enhanced by collaborative working and shared services and expertise. The Federation fulfils a unique role within the sub-region in terms of the development of high quality progression pathways, having extensive and highly effective partnerships with regional higher education partners, and working closely with schools and academies at both the secondary and primary phase (supporting school/academy improvement, and developing effective CIAG).



Peter went on to outline the achievements of the four SFCs that comprise the Venn4 federation.

**Franklin** – over 600 students following a STEM curriculum, with key recent curriculum developments in LEP priority areas such as logistics, renewable energy and engineering. Franklin also offers important adult provision within the 15th most deprived local authority area in the country.

**John Leggott** – achieves high success rates, above average value-added, is in the top half of all SFCs on average points per entry in 2016.

**Wilberforce** – rated good in both financial health by the Agency and standards by substantial vocational provision in engineering and hair and beauty and above average points per entry for applied general amongst SFCs. Best enrichment and employability at the recent SFCA Awards 2017, and also healthy lifestyle choices

**Wyke** – largest A Level provider in Hull and the East Riding. Above average and improving success rates. 65% progress to Higher Education

Peter then addressed the issue of “why change?”. Only one of the four SFCs in the Venn4 federation was rated “Good” for financial health in the last financial year. Funding rates are static, but costs are not. On average, SFCs are small institutions vulnerable to shocks, and loss of business. Financial efficiencies can be hard to find and hard to protect students. Competition and reputations once lost can take time to rebuild.

There is a huge amount at stake. SFCs can be and are beacon institutions. In the Humber region, seven percentage points below national average for adults with Level 4, a history of relatively low school attainment and high unemployment in Hull, and low aspiration across the Humber area.

It is critical that the high quality opportunities that SFCs currently provide are sustained for Grimsby, Scunthorpe, Hull and surrounding areas.

Peter said that as Chair of the two Area Reviews on the north and south banks of the Humber, he was impressed when all four Chairs of Corporation, and all four Principals, came with a united, worked-up proposition for federation, the first four-way federation in the country.

The proposal was challenged during the Area Reviews – by Peter as Chair, by some GFEs and by at least one local authority. The process stress-tested the colleges – their finances, quality, and leadership and management.

Ultimately it was endorsed by LEPs, local authorities, the Regional Schools Commissioners, other colleges, the FE and SFC Commissioners, the EFSA and the DfE.

Why did this happen? It was because the Venn4 federation is not about survival or defence, but because it has a clear vision of each member being an outstanding college for the Humber, generating benefits for students, teachers, support staff and managers.

## FUTURE

The Venn4 federation offers opportunities for improving teaching quality – data sharing, peer review, CPD, secondments, as well as stronger Departments for minority subjects .

It offers the potential for stronger curriculum development – making the integration and application of A Level, BTEC and GCSE reforms easier; for apprenticeships and T Levels, and for information advice and guidance (all of the colleges have or will gain the Humber gold standard, and this has been adopted in Lincolnshire as well as across the Humber).

The federation offers a way to make things better, and in a way which does not eliminate the strengths of the current institutions. This event sets the tone and the benchmark for the federation - open discussion, co-creating the future, clear purpose and strong leadership. It has the support of the Department and stakeholders. We will be bold & confident, and so create our future. The real work starts now.



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