



As you may know, we are currently working with the Further Education Commissioner's office to undertake a Structure and Prospects Appraisal (SPA). The SPA process has confirmed an ongoing need for a further education institution in Newbury.

An evaluation process is now underway to establish the best sustainable future for the College and our community. This will assess whether our provision offers the best opportunities for our students and skills partners through a merger with another further education college, or whether Newbury College remains viable as an independent institution.

While we are receiving temporary financial support from the Department for Education, this provides only an essential stopgap on the path to a long-term sustainable future for the College.

None of this distracts from our focus on excellence, ensuring the highest quality of learning and supporting the future success of our students as they develop the skills and knowledge our community needs. You can discover some recent examples of how we are doing this in our [National Apprenticeship Week celebrations](#).



Lee Jamieson
Deputy Principal

 [LinkedIn profile](#)

Your feedback

Thank you to everyone who completed our Parent Survey last term. Your feedback has helped us be clear about what we're doing well, and where we need to improve. A consistent message from parents is that Newbury College feels **welcoming, safe and supportive**, and that staff make a real difference to students' confidence and progress. Our vocational specialists bring our **"Careers, not courses"** ethos to life every day, and we'll continue to build our offer with employers so that the guidance we give families is rooted not just in our curriculum, but in the progression routes students can move into.

You also highlighted a few areas for development, that we are actively addressing:

- **Progress updates and communication:** Our January Progress Evening was well attended, but we recognise the format created technical challenges for some families, including booking access and securing suitable appointment times. We are reviewing this and working on a clearer, more reliable process for timely progress updates. We will share details with you very soon.
- **Attendance, timetables and consistency:** Attendance has been a key focus this term. Where concerns are due to simple non-attendance, our Student Development Coaches and support teams are meeting with students, setting targets and supporting improvement. Where issues relate to timetable changes or cancelled sessions, curriculum managers are addressing these directly, with a strong focus on improving stability and accurate register marking as we move forward.
- **Continuity of learning:** As a specialist provider of vocational and technical education, there are occasions (for example, staff illness) when like-for-like cover isn't possible at short notice. Even in these situations, learning should not stop. Students are expected to access set resources on Microsoft Teams and use time productively for assignments and directed study. This aligns with our focus on independent learning, a key skill for the workplace and next-level study, and it sits alongside our ongoing work to minimise disruption wherever possible.
- **English & maths:** We are strengthening this provision through new leadership and additional teaching capacity. We know these qualifications are essential for progression, and for students who find them particularly challenging, our PASC team and Student Development Coaches are working closely with them to support progress and plan for the best possible outcomes.

Finally, a reminder that our next [Open Event is on Wednesday 11 March \(16:00-19:00\)](#). This is an excellent opportunity to meet course teams, tour facilities, and discuss progression routes, especially helpful if you have younger children who will be making post-16 decisions in the coming years.

Thank you again for your continued support.

