

BACKGROUND TO TRESHAM

Tresham College of Further and Higher Education is a large general further and higher education college serving the communities of Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough in Northamptonshire. Tresham College also has a campus, Rutland College, in Oakham, Rutland. The College's mission is “*Working in partnership to provide high quality and responsive learning*”.

The College has four main campuses one each in Kettering, Wellingborough, Corby and Oakham. A major new capital build has been completed at Kettering and students and staff moved into a modern purpose built college. This is the first stage of the College's plan to replace all its current buildings with purpose built facilities in all the towns.

In addition to the main campuses, Tresham also provides learning in town centre cyber cafes in Wellingborough and Rushden. These provide access to basic skills and flexible IT courses.

The College provides courses across the 15 subject sector areas with minor provision in the land based sector. Courses range from pre-entry to level 4. Vocational courses are offered at all campuses and there are Sixth Form Centres at Kettering and the Rutland College.

Tresham is a partner college with the Universities of Bedfordshire, Derby and Northamptonshire. It is also an Associate College of De Montfort University.

The College is a key provider of work based learning and Entry to Employment (E2E) programmes within Northamptonshire. Tresham College Business Solutions (TBS), a division of the College, provides bespoke quality training exclusively for companies and provides large local employers and small businesses with a range of short courses, distance learning and in-company training.

The College is Northamptonshire's provider of Prince's Trust Volunteer work. Tresham's award winning team successfully manages all the 12 week development programmes in the county for local disadvantaged 16 – 25 year olds.

In Northamptonshire the unemployment rate is below the national level, but is much higher in Corby than other areas served by the College. Less than 5% of the population have minority ethnic heritage. In 2005 50% of Year 11 pupils in the county achieved 5 A*-C grades at GCSE which is slightly below the national average. In Corby and Wellingborough the proportion of 16 year olds staying on in education is close to the national level, but in Kettering the proportion is much higher. The College operates across an area with many school sixth forms.

The College has approximately 3,000 students ages 16 - 18, over half of whom are full time and 6000 adult students, the large majority taking part-time courses. There are nearly 284 work-based learners and 86 E2E learners.