EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 25 May 2016

Present:

Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P. (Chairman) Councillor Neil Reddin FCCA (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Kathy Bance MBE, Kim Botting, Alan Collins, Judi Ellis, Chris Pierce and Stephen Wells

Mary Capon and Joan McConnell

Tajana Reeves and Alison Regester

Also Present:

Mylene Williams, Parent Governor Representative

Councillor Peter Fortune, Councillor Tom Philpott and Mylene Williams
Jane Bailey, Director of Education, LBB

Mrs Jo Brinkely, Executive Headteacher and CEO, Spring Partnership Trust

Mrs Sam Parrett, Principal and CEO, Bromley College

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ellie Harmer and Councillor Wells attended as substitute. Councillor Cooke also sent her apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP declared that he was a Governor of Bromley College of Further and Higher Education and of Southborough Primary School.

Councillor Kathy Bance declared that she had grandchildren in 6 Bromley Schools.

Councillor Judi Ellis declared that she was a Governor of Riverside School and Midfield Primary School, that her son was the Head teacher of Biggin Hill Primary School and that she had two grandchildren attending Tubbenden Primary School.

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Councillor Peter Fortune declared that his wife was a teacher at an academy in the Borough.

Councillor Tom Philpott declared that he was an employee of Pearson Education Plc.

Councillor Neil Reddin declared that he had children who attended a school in the Borough and that his wife was a Governor of two primary schools in the Borough.

Mrs Mary Capon, Church representative, declared that she was an employee of the Aquinas Church of England Education Trust, that her husband was a governor at Newstead Wood and her daughter attended Newstead Wood

Mrs Joan McConnell, Church representative, declared that she was a Governor of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

Mrs Alison Regester, Pre-School Settings and Early Years representative, declared that she ran a private day nursery in the Borough.

Mrs Mylene Williams, Parent Governor representative, declared that she was a Governor of St Paul's Cray C.E. Primary School and that she had a child who attended St Paul's Cray C.E. Primary School.

3 MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2016 AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2016 be agreed and that matters outstanding be noted.

4 QUESTIONS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING

There were no questions.

5 QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING

There were no questions.

6 EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Report ED16035

The Committee considered its work plan for the 2016/17 municipal year. It was agreed that for the meeting on 15 September 2016 the Committee would

consider Child Safeguarding and the recent outcome of the Ofsted Inspection into Children's Services (this would be a joint item with the Care Services PDS Committee).

The following issues were identified for consideration for the remainder of the year:

January 2017

SEND Update Helping Under Performing Schools

March 2017

Missing Children (NEET) Home Education

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme for 2016/17 be agreed and the school schools visits undertaken in the Spring Term 2015/16be noted.

7 PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE

The Portfolio Holder gave an update to Members on work being undertaken across the Education Portfolio. In providing a brief review of his first year in office, the Portfolio Holder highlighted that a number of challenges had been tackled in 2015/16 notable the Youth Offending Service which had just received a positive report following the mock inspection of the Youth Justice Board. A number of difficult decisions had needed to be taken in relation to the provision of Adult Education however a lot a positive work had been done and a new curriculum was now being developed.

Focusing on the year head, the Portfolio Holder reported that there would be a requirement to take different decisions in 2016/17. The Local Authority would have to consider the shape of the services that it provided in the future and the best way to deliver those services. This would present the opportunity to work with departments across the Authority. Communication would need to be a key priority for the year.

The Portfolio Holder highlighted that decisions surrounding the provision of Education would be guided by the Government's White Paper. In the white Paper, the success of the London Borough of Bromley in driving the academy agenda had been acknowledged. In addition to this, good feedback had been received about SEN provision. The Portfolio Holder concluded his update by stressing that the year ahead would be busy with the transformation of the provision of educational services.

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In response to questions from Members of the Committee, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that in relation to the Beckenham Society, the applicants were currently in the second phase of the pre-application stage, no formal application had been submitted. The applicants were also working with residents. In relation to Langley Park and Eden one of the key challenges had been communication around making land available. The White Paper issued by the Government had made it clear that suitable land had to be made available for education. This was an internal challenge faced by the Local Authority and if the Council was unable to identify suitable land itself the Government would intervene.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Director of Education reported that she believed that the admissions criteria for Langley Primary Free School would be based on the permanent location of the school, not its temporary location whilst building work is ongoing.

In response to a question from a Member the Director of Education reported that a good relationship with the Regional Schools Commissioner had been built. The London Borough of Bromley found itself in a unique position to feed its learning and experience back to the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Department for Education.

8 THE EDUCATION LANDSCAPE IN BROMLEY - PRESENTATION

Report ED16034

The Chairman was pleased to welcome the Director of Education, Mrs Sam Parrett, Principal and CEO of Bromley College, and Mrs Jo Brinkley, CEO and Executive Headteacher of the Spring Partnership Trust to the meeting. The Committee had before them a report which provided an overview of education and the Education Services Department within the London Borough of Bromley. The report provided background information and context on the education landscape within Bromley highlighting the key priorities and policies of the teams within the Education Department. In addition to this, Mrs Parrett had provided to the Committee some background information on Bromley College and Mrs Brinkley had provided a report on the Spring Partnership Trust.

The Director of Education and Mrs Parrett also gave comprehensive presentations to the Committee.

Mrs Jane Bailey, Director of Education and Cllr Peter Fortune, Portfolio Holder for Education

Following the presentation to the Committee by the Director of Education, a question and answer session was held with the following themes emerging:

Statutory Responsibilities of the Local Authority

The Director of Education reported that she anticipated that the statutory duties of the Local Authority would reduce however, the Local Authority would retain responsibility for safeguarding. In relation to this duty all schools had a duty to co-operate with the Local Authority. The Children's Safeguarding Board would retain its responsibilities and the Local Authority would be looking at how the system could be strengthened. Recently a Primary Headteacher and a Secondary Headteacher had joined the Board and it was considered that this would help to develop and enhance relationships moving into the future.

The Committee noted that Appendix 3 to the reported provided by the Director of Education was a review of statutory duties and outlined the duties which the Local authority was likely to retain and those that would transfer to other bodies.

In terms of developing close co-operation with both academies and the Regional Schools Commissioner, the Director of Education emphasised the importance of working in partnership and developing robust relationships in order to share information. To this end, good communication would be key. It was not anticipated that the resolution of any issues that could arise would be driven through statute.

The Portfolio Holder emphasised that this was very much an evolving process and that as a leader in the field of academy conversions the London Borough of Bromley would need to be pro-active in feedback back to the Department for Education any policy issues as they arise.

Nursery Provision

The Director of Education reported that the White Paper did not comment on Early Years provision as its focus was statutory provision however the Local Authority was awaiting the White Paper relating to Early Years. It was anticipated that any impact for early years would be around funding reforms.

In relation to the concerns that had been raised surrounding the proposals for extending nursery provision at a fixed rate, taking no account of the variation in the quality and quantity of facilities, the Director of Education confirmed that the intention was to extend free nursery provision for 3 year olds from 15 hours to 30 hours per week. The Local Authority shared the concerns of the providers about how this would be delivered and Bromley Council had provided a response to the consultation. The Director of Education reported that she understood that the providers were responding on their own behalf.

Mrs Regester, representative for Early Years, reported that guidance that had been received indicated that providers would not be compelled to offer the additional 15 hours free provision. It was possible that, in light of the guidance, a number of providers in the Borough would not offer the additional hours and this could be a particular challenge for Bromley.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Provision

The Director for Education highlighted that Bromley was a Pathfinder Local Authority in this area. As a result of this status a great deal of work had already taken place with parents being fully involved. There now had to be an emphasis that Education, Care and Health Plans were for those with complex needs who fell within the criteria that the title suggested and this would require a shift in culture. There was a strong SENCO Forum within the Borough and this was very helpful in enabling learning and the sharing of policy and strategy. The priority of the Local Authority had to be early intervention, working with SENCOs to ensure that they were able to identify young people that required additional help and support.

The Director of Education reported that within the Borough there were approximately 8,000 children with an identified need and of these approximately 1,600 had a statement or health plan. There were 48 children in specialist out-of-borough provision. There was a clear focus on keeping as many as possible in borough and this would require ensuring that there was a fit-for-purpose offer for some of the more complex young people residing within the Borough.

In relation to SEN Transport, the Director of Education reported that Officers were continually looking at ways to manage the SEN Transport budget efficiently. The Portfolio Holder highlighted the importance of ensuring that as many children with EHC plans/statements are educated within the Borough, and in doing so keeping children near their homes and thus keeping transport costs to a minimum.

Faith Schools

The Director of Education confirmed that she was aware of the desire of the Catholic Community to have a Catholic secondary school in the Borough. Any new school would now have to be approved through the new Free School process. The Chairman noted that it has been indicated that the Government may change the current restriction on the number of pupils which the Church could require to be practising adherents. This could mean that the Catholic Bishops may review their position on new schools. It was noted that in the successful appeal against planning permission for new homes at the former All Saints School site a commitment was made by the Archdioceses that the proceeds of the sale of the land would be used for Bromley pupils.

School Places

In relation to ensuring that there was planning for a sufficient number of school places, the Director of Education reported that Officers were working closely with the Education Funding Agency (EFA). The Education White Paper had made it clear that if Local Authorities failed to established enough school places the Government would intervene however no information had been provided concerning what form any intervention would take.

The Portfolio Holder stressed that choice of school place and need for school places were two very different entities and in order to give parents any choice the Local Authority would need to deliver extra school places. This was a function of the planning system and something that would need to be resolved during the coming year.

The Committee noted that the provision of sufficient schools places was a monumental problem for Bromley as a local authority. It was clear that between 30 and 35 FE would be required by 2023 and it took time to build a school. If action was not taken soon there would be a serious problem as the Local Authority would be unable to fulfil its statutory duties and could be facing Government intervention.

Children in Care

The Director of Education confirmed that the Education White Paper sought to strengthen the roles of Corporate Parents and the Virtual Headteacher in order to drive improvements in the educational achievement of children in care.

Miscellaneous Issues

In terms of decisions surrounding whether the needs of schools could be partially met by funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in the way in which Section 106 monies were earmarked, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that no decisions had been reached however, the Education Department was making representations along the lines that the money should be available for this purpose.

In relation to attendance, the Director of Education reported that the recent High Court judgement in the Isle of White case regarding term time holidays had not had any impact up until now on requests for such holidays in Bromley's maintained schools. The Portfolio Holder stressed that the view of the Local Authority was that the best place for children was in school.

In relation to sold services to schools, the Director of Education highlighted that the Local Authority sold very few services to schools: there was a small free school meals checking service, elements of the education welfare service is traded and data packs were sold to a number of schools.

Mrs Sam Parrett, Principal and CEO of Bromley College

Following the presentation to the Committee by Mrs Parrett, a question and answer session was held with the following themes emerging:

New Free School Academies

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Mrs Parrett confirmed that if the Bromley Futures Academy was successful in navigating the Free School application process it would provide places for 50 pupils and would open in 2018.

The Committee noted that the Bromley Beacon Academy was expected to take girls with social, emotional, and mental health needs, Mrs Parrett confirmed that these pupils were currently schooled within the pupil referral until system and would transfer out of their existing provision.

Providing Skills for the Future

In response to questions from the Committee, Mrs Parrett reported that labour market information was used to identify the potential skills that employers would require in the future and thus determine the curriculum. Bromley College was continually reviewing its ability to deliver the necessary skills for the continually evolving labour market. In this respect the College's offer was very much market led. Provision was constantly being reviewed and developed to match the market for jobs and the future requirements of employers.

The Committee was informed that 4,000 students attending the College were adults over 25, therefore individuals who were upskilling or retraining.

Mrs Parrett explained to the Committee that over the next three years there would be 300,000 new jobs in the construction industry. As a result of this there was a need to ensure that skills were readily available locally and that potential workers had a good understanding of emerging technologies in the industry with these types of skills being provided by the pan-London Construction Career College.

In relation to the proposed Academy at Biggin Hill for Aeronautical, Engineering and Motor Vehicles, Mrs Parrett explained that the Local Authority was now master planning the area. One residual problem was whether the land would be transferred and at what price however, the College was receiving excellent support from the Local Authority. One area of uncertainty was whether the financial commitment from the Greater London Authority would remain with the change of London Mayor.

SEN Provision

The Committee noted that Bromley College provided some excellent provision for SEN students and queried whether this could be expanded in co-operation with the Council in view of the Council's duties in this area. In response, Mrs Parrett confirmed that there were priority places for Bromley children however, as the reputation of the College grew this was becoming increasingly difficult. However, with the planned merger of Greenwich and Bexley Colleges with Bromley College new opportunities may arise.

Mrs Jo Brinkley, Executive Headteacher and CEO of Spring Partnership Trust

Mrs Brinkley had provided a brief written report which was circulated to the Committee outlining the work of the Spring Partnership Trust. Mrs Brinkley explained that the Local Authority had a wealth of experience developed over many years. This experience could reveal a number of opportunities for sold services to schools as it was clear that as a result of the acadamisation agenda there were now a number of emerging business leaders in schools who would benefit from this expertise. Schools would not want to lose the expertise of local authorities that had been developed over a long period.

It was unclear from the Education White Paper how services would be coordinated in the future however, there was an opportunity to make the new system work through the Regional Schools Commissioner, Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) and the Local Authority in Bromley acting as a champion of the Government's education strategies.

In response to a question, Mrs Brinkley indicated that it was not clear what the 'optimum' number of MATs across Bromley would be. The whole point of the new system was to introduce diversity and competition. Mrs Brinkley suggested that parents would want schools to each have an individual identity with any Trust acting as the backbone linking all the schools within its responsibility and providing the overarching culture and values. Mrs Brinkley stressed the importance of schools reflecting their local community and being unique to their local area.

The Chairman thanked the witnesses for the attendance at and input into the Select Committees meeting. A report outlining the findings and recommendations of the Committee would be produced in due course.

9 INFORMATION REPORTS

The Youth Offending Service – Improvement Plan Update

In response to a question regarding the role of the Operational Managers, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that Operational Managers would be in place to lead the Teams, in addition to this there would be a Head of Service. In terms of recruiting a permanent Head of Service, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that everyone involved was aware of the need for good leadership.

Proposed Adult Education Curriculum for 2016/17

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Head of Adult Education reported that payment by instalments had been set up a few years ago when fees for adult education increased. The offer of payment by instalment helped to make more courses more widely available. Service users chose to pay by a number of different methods and any missed payments were promptly followed up.

The Head of Adult Education also confirmed that the leisure courses that were on offer as part of the new curriculum were those that historically attracted a high take up and received a subsidy and were therefore envisaged to break

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even. In relation to the large printing and etching machine at the Widmore Centre, this had been identified as surplus to requirements and would therefore be open to closed bids.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the service would continue to be monitored to ensure that it was fit for purpose.

In relation to courses at the Cotmandene Centre, the Head of Adult Education confirmed that the intention was to add to the volunteer provision by putting additional tutors in.

10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006, AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business listed below as it was likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

11 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2016

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2016 were agreed, and signed as a correct record.

The Meeting ended at 10.15 pm

Chairman



THE LONDON BOROUGH

The new education landscape

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Jane Bailey
Director of Education



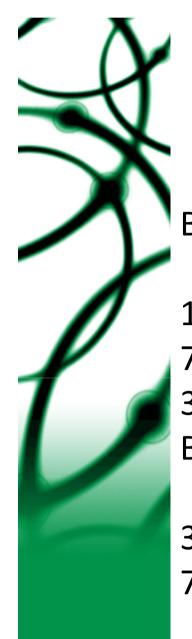
The national picture

- Government ambition for every school to become an academy
- A school led system: academy trusts to oversee performance and school improvement
- Much reduced role for councils: admissions and place planning, special needs and disabilities, champion for children and families, maintain duty for safeguarding and overall wellbeing and attainment of all children



System wide reform

- Ofsted to continue to quality assure school performance
- Extended role for Regional Schools
 Commissioner; deputy director for
 London Boroughs overseen by Dominic
 Herrington
- Sub-regional group for shared learning
- Bromley as a trail blazer



Bromley and the new educational landscape

Bromley

17 secondary schools, 16 are academies (94%) 74 primary schools, 59 are academies (80%) 3 primary free schools Beckenham

3 secondary schools, 3 are academies (100%) 7 primary schools, 4 are academies (57%)





National Funding Formula Consultation

- 3 funding blocks:
- Schools Block (money to go direct to schools)
- Central Block (to cover reduced LA duties)
- High Needs Block (as a traditionally well funded LA Bromley is expecting to see some reduction to this funding stream)
- Plus Early Years funding



School improvement

- No longer an LA duty from 2017
- Bromley will cease to offer this service January 2017
- School to school support
- Once all schools have converted Bromley will not offer governor services; ambition to bring another provider into the Borough to meet the needs of academies

Alternative Provision: Bromley Trust Academy

- Schools will have the money to commission placements directly
- LA still responsible for place planning
- Changing relationships and responsibilities

Safeguarding and Education Welfare

- Statistics show that where schools buy the LA service there are fewer court proceedings
- Education welfare is an aspect of safeguarding, which remains an LA duty
- Opportunity to increase support for schools in this area through a strengthened traded offer



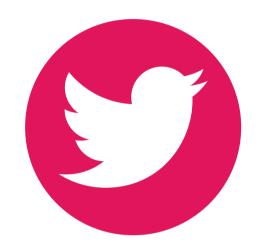
Challenges

- Maintaining relationships across the system
- Ensuring that the LA is an effective champion for all parents and families
- Funding reform
- Place planning
- Long term viability of small standalone academies
- Internal structures to effectively lead smaller discrete and specialised services

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In a tweet

A great place to study and work #beinspired #realskillsfortherealworld



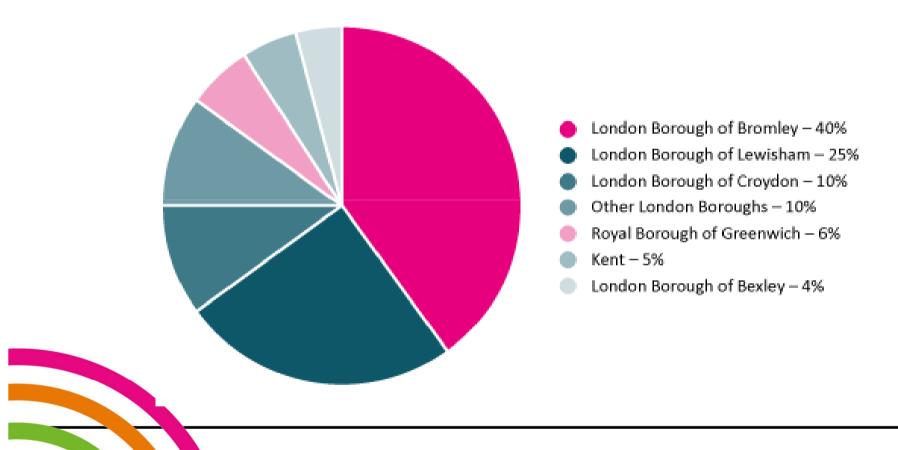


Vision & Mission

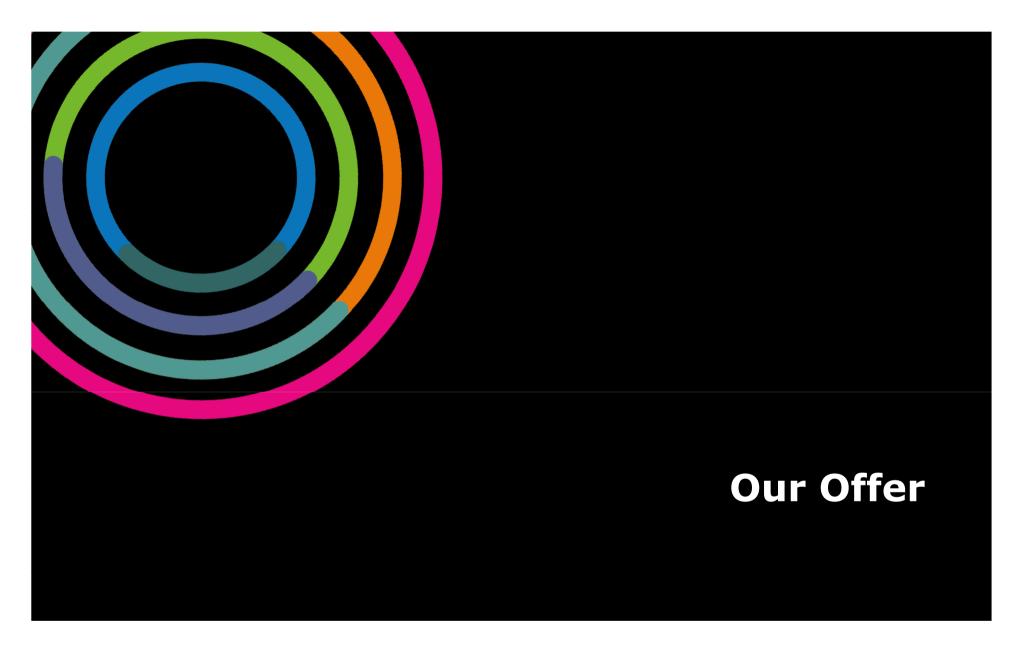
- 'The College's vision is to be recognised, valued and respected in our communities as listening, responsive and relevant. We will be recognised as an outstanding centre of vocational and educational excellence and will play a leading role in the economic and social development of the area.
- The College's mission is 'delivering real skills for the real world'. This brings to life the absolute focus on relevant, up to date, high quality skills that meet the needs of the local business community.'













Bromley College of Further & Higher Education

- Further Education
- Bromley College University Centre
- Bromley Trust Academy
- Apprenticeships
- Nido Volans Centre
- Careers College (BR6)
- Bromley Business School
- Innovation Centre
- Bromley Educational Trust our Multi Academy Trust
- Bromley University Technical College





Further Education

- Vocational specialists for 16-19 and 19+
- Full time and part time courses
- Industry-standard facilities
- Expert teaching staff
- A range of qualifications to suit all interests and abilities









Bromley College University Centre

- Degrees, HNCs and professional courses
- All degrees validated by top universities
- Full or part-time flexible programs to suit all
- Small class sizes
- Industry-relevant facilities and practices
- Lower tuition fees
- Local and convenient









Bromley Technical Academy

- For Year 10 and 11 students
- A varied and inspiring curriculum combining GCSEs with specialist vocational skills
- Small classes (around 18 students)
- Teaching from industry experts
- Industry-standard facilities
- Great employer links, career-focused







Apprenticeship & Traineeships

A great way to learn on the job - earning a salary whilst gaining a qualification

- We currently have c1,200 Apprenticeships
- We plan to increase this by 100% in 2017/18
- Over 500 employers involved
- A range of traineeships also available for learners to prepare for work or an Apprenticeship





Nido Volans

Specialist provision for around 150 students with

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Employability programmes

- Personal progression pathways
- 97% Success Rates
- Employment outcomes average 32% against London average of 6%

DfE Pathfinder Status





Hospitality, Food & Enterprise Career College

- London's first Career College (est.2014)
- Curriculum is designed and part-delivered by top employers within the hospitality industry
- Industry-standard training kitchens
- Excellent work experience / shadowing opportunities
- BR6 Restaurant real commercial experience
- BR6 Bistro (October 2016)





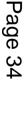
Innovation Centre

Supports small businesses and start-ups with:

- A series of flexible training programs, delivered both online and face to face
- Desk, meeting room and office hire
- Reception services and mediation support
- Access to a talent pool of business undergraduates for research, internship and work experience

Based at Orpington





Bromley Business School

- Offering a range of business courses across all levels from FE to Degrees
- Located at Orpington Campus
- Supporting local and regional economic growth
- Driven by an employer advisory board
- Ensuring that students of all levels can progress into sustainable employment



Bromley Educational Trust est. 2013

- **Bromley Trust Academy** specialist Alternative Provision at Midfield Campus (4-11) and Hayes Campus (11-16)
- **Bromley Beacon Academy SEHM provision currently** boys. 11-16 will be mixed 7-18 from September 2016
- Proposed merger with William Willett Learning Trust underway: Mead Road & Coopers School
- **Bromley Futures Academy** (Wave 11 Free School application)





Bromley UTC

- Health & Wellbeing Sciences
- In partnership with King's College Hospital, Nuffield Health, Mytime Active, Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust
- Outstanding technical education
- Planned 2018 opening
- Will transfer to MAT in September 2016
- Will extend from 14-18 to 11-19
- Will be based at Bromley South







Every Learner Counts

- High Aspirations and Expectations
- Preparation for Employment
- English and Maths
- Real Skills for the Real World
- The Bromley Advantage









Maths & English

Centre of Excellence for Maths & English
 with specialist Hubs at each College

• £500k investment in teaching staff and facilities

• 300% increase in the number of students studying Maths & English

Excellent success rates above NA for 16+

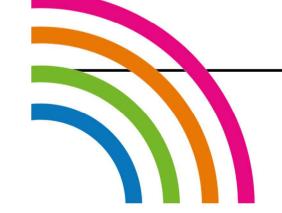




Industry – standard facilities

- 'enhance' Hair & Beauty Salon and learning company model
- BR6 Restaurant student-led, commercial operation with additional training kitchens
- The Life Centre £4m gym and sports hall
- Peter Jones Enterprise Academy offering enterprise courses and business skills at Level 2 and 3





Bromley Advantage

Our pioneering programme to equip students with:

- Social Skills
- Employability skills
- Enterprise skills
- Digital Skills
- Confidence











Who are we?

South East London College Group, incorporating three colleges (as of 1 August 2016):

- Bromley College of Further & Higher Education
- Bexley College
- Royal Greenwich College
- South East London Apprenticeship Company









This:South East London Colleges Group?







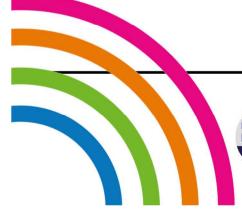




Key statistics

Our new merged college will have:

- c£50m turnover (excluding BET)
- c13,000 students
- c1200 staff
- 8 sites (14 including BET)









Our Ambition for 2020

- A strong dynamic and responsive College to employers, communities, learners and staff.
- The College seen as part of the solution and the first place people turn to for training and education.
- An enterprise and employability skills 'wrap-around' curriculum (Bromley Advantage).
- A new College with 'visible' sector specialisms that are aligned to the business needs of the area and are easy for employers to connect to.
- New and improved services and facilities where efficiencies gained will be reinvested.
- A greater opportunity to progress from Level 1 up to Level 4 and in some areas Levels 5 and 6.
- More flexible and affordable programmes through new delivery models and the identification of new finance arrangements.
- Outstanding partnerships and relationships with schools, colleges, universities, local authorities and employers.
- Support for staff through CPD, mentoring and first-class management.





