



Croydon  
College



**COULSDON**  
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

# Creating Futures Together

## Our Visions and Commitment

Croydon College and Coulsdon Sixth Form College are excited to announce their proposal to merge to create a stronger offer to the communities we serve in both Croydon, Coulsdon and the wider area.



We are pleased to have the opportunity to seek your view of our proposed partnership, the result of which will be two Colleges, both rated 'Good' by Ofsted, continuing as one legal entity with one Governing Body and one Chief Executive Officer. We believe this will create a financially resilient and sustainable organisation allowing us to continue to meet the needs of our students, employers and the communities we serve.

Together our focus will be on delivering excellent and sustainable education and training as part of a coherent post 16 educational offer to the residents of Croydon, Coulsdon and beyond, ensuring that our students develop the skills, qualifications and behaviours they need to thrive and prosper.

“Together we have greater capacity to ensure our students continue to be successful, we will be more resilient and have greater scope to invest, increasing our capacity to innovate and respond effectively to local and regional needs”.

- *Caireen Mitchell, Principal & CEO of Croydon College and Steve Gooch & Richard Beales, Heads of Coulsdon College*



## Background

The merger is a positive and proactive step on the part of the governing bodies to secure a strong future for further education in Croydon and surrounding boroughs. Individually each college has a successful history of supporting their student body to achieve their best, to gain the skills, behaviours and qualifications they need to prosper. Each has worked hard to ensure that they meet the needs of the communities they serve.

At the same time there has been significant change in the Post 16 education sector in recent years:

- Government spending cuts and policy has led to consolidation of the sector into fewer, larger, more resilient and efficient colleges;
- We have had significant curriculum change as we introduced Study Programmes, and English and Maths for all students who have not gained high grades in GCSE.
- There is more curriculum change on the way with the introduction of Technical qualifications across 15 pathways, requiring significant levels of work experience.
- The Government has undertaken major reforms of the Apprenticeship system including the Levy for large Employers
- There has been a policy shift towards technical and vocational qualifications
- The Adult Skills Budget is due to be devolved in London and other designate cities.

## Key benefits to Coulsdon College of joining Croydon College

We have identified the following key benefits:

- ✓ Coulsdon Sixth Form College will continue to operate as a distinct part of Croydon College, maintaining its own identity and the successful Sixth Form offer which includes both vocational programmes as well as academic A Level subjects.
- ✓ Local management and leadership will remain, Coulsdon Sixth Form College will have its own College Quality and Curriculum Committee and Principal to ensure that the college continues to meet the needs of the communities it serves and optimise student outcomes.
- ✓ Working in partnership will improve our students' individual learning experience, encouraging and supporting them to achieve their full potential through the development of professional practice and innovations in delivery.
- ✓ There will be greater opportunity for work experience and extra-curricular activities, strengthening pathways into employment or future learning
- ✓ Together we can improve the quality of teaching and learning by providing new opportunities to staff through joint professional development and support. We will be able



to share expertise and best practice through enhanced teaching and learning communities.

- ✓ There will be greater opportunities to engage with a wider range of employers in the design and delivery of courses to encourage investment in their future workforce and more opportunities for staff to upskill.
- ✓ We can maximise the resources available to students by using scale to create more efficient delivery of operational functions.
- ✓ Together we will be more able to work with schools and stakeholders to ensure the curriculum meets the needs of the communities we serve.
- ✓ Our increased capacity will respond and develop provision in line with local and government priorities.

### Proposed Timescale

It is proposed that the Colleges become one legal entity on the 1<sup>st</sup> October:

- Consultation starts on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018
- Consultation ends on the 14 June 2018
- Results of the Consultation are published on 14 August 2018
- Date of merger will be 1st October 2018

### We need your views



This document outlines the proposal for Coulsdon Sixth Form College to merge with Croydon College. Here we set out our vision for the future and how we will focus on ensuring students thrive and prosper, building on the strengths of both colleges.

The Corporations of Coulsdon Sixth Form College and Croydon College believe in creating futures for the communities that we serve through high quality educational opportunities that enable our students to develop the skills, behaviours and qualifications they need to prosper. In developing a partnership Coulsdon and Croydon College Corporations believe that together we will be more able to meet the needs of our communities and create even more futures.

As part of the process the Governors of both colleges are undertaking a public consultation. As stakeholders your views are important to us.

Please can you email your response to:

Coulsdon College via [mergerconsultation@coulsdon.ac.uk](mailto:mergerconsultation@coulsdon.ac.uk)

Croydon College via Fiona George, Clerk to the Corporation: [Fiona.George@Croydon.ac.uk](mailto:Fiona.George@Croydon.ac.uk)