



## Access and Participation Statement

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## AMBITION AND STRATEGY

The Venture College is firmly grounded in its community and plays a significant role in supporting young people and adults in developing their knowledge, skills and education in preparation for employment, career advancement or further study. The Venture provides the culture, environment, facilities, resources and services to enable learners at all career stages, to make effective progress and contribute to a thriving local economy.

The College is committed to widening participation, providing opportunities for all learners to achieve and progress.

The Vantage is proud of the inclusive nature of its intake, which reflects the town's growing diversity and population change. The College has ensured that the plan is underpinned by the Equality Act so that no one is directly or indirectly discriminated against.

The Vantage has a clear mission and vision and is clear in its strategic positioning both within the education and training sector and geographically.

### **The Mission of the Vantage College is:**

*Our vision is to inspire and empower a new generation of digital entrepreneurs to become innovative thinkers and problem solvers, who are able to leverage the power of technology and create sustainable digital start-ups that can make a lasting and positive impact in the world.*

*Our mission is to establish a Hub for digital entrepreneurship education that equips our students with the knowledge, skills, insight and mindset needed to succeed as digital entrepreneurs, who can establish sustainable and innovative start ups that shape the future and solve some of the world's greatest challenges.*

## ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PRIORITIES

### A. ACCESS

The College will follow Academic Partners guidance in terms of providing admissions:

- To increase the entry rates of students from underrepresented groups to higher education, reducing the participation gaps for those from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds and at higher tariff providers,

### B. SUCCESS

We will provide additional support for our students

- To improve the non-continuation rates of students from under-represented groups, particularly those from minority ethnic groups and those with disabilities, and to reduce the gaps between these groups and other students.
- To reduce the attainment gaps between students from underrepresented groups, particularly those from minority ethnic groups and those with disabilities, and those from other groups.

## C. PROGRESSION

The College will take necessary measures to improve the rates of progression of students from underrepresented groups, particularly those from minority ethnic groups and those with disabilities, into graduate-level employment or further study, and to reduce the gaps between these groups and other students.

## AMBITION, STRATEGY AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS. PROGRESSION

An appropriate strategy will be formulated by our academic board in order to reduce the widening participation gap.

- people estranged from their families
- people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities
- refugees
- people with mental health problems
- people with specific learning difficulties
- children of military families
- those living in areas of low higher education participation, household income, or socioeconomic status
- students of particular ethnicities
- mature students
- disabled students
- care leavers
- carers

The College is committed to increasing access, participation and achievement as outlined below:

- Raise participation for those learners from an ethnic background.
- Raise participation for learners from areas of low higher education participation and deprived areas.
- Raise the high grade achievement for young graduates.
- Increase progression of learners from ethnic minority backgrounds into employment or further study.

## ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

The College supports its student through a variety of mechanisms.

### PASTORAL AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

The Student Support Services team offer professional and impartial advice to any student who is experiencing a difficulty that is having an impact on their learning; this may be a declared disability, or other issue that may impact on the student's progression and academic studies. Students who have a DSAS (Disabled Students Allowance) package in place are directed towards information regarding their general allowance and supported to contact the nominated preferred provider.

### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Personal tutoring is an essential part of Vantage's student experience and makes a significant contribution to the retention and success of our students. Personal Tutors will act as a first point of reference for individual students on pastoral or academic matters. Every student is allocated a Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) from the academic staff. The PAT is an essential part of the student learning and teaching experience and help is provided to students to succeed and complete their studies with the Vantage.

### EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The College is committed to supporting, developing and promoting equality and diversity in all its practices and activities and aims to establish an inclusive culture free from discrimination and based upon the values of dignity, courtesy and respect. The institution will support and develop the staff and student populations through providing all with access to facilities, personal and career development opportunities, employment and study based on equality.