

FUTURES
Community College







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WELCOME TO FUTURES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

We know that choosing a secondary school for your son or daughter is a big step. As a parent myself I know how important all those questions are: will they be happy? Will they feel safe and secure? Will they learn well and be successful? Will the school be a positive place where they can grow in maturity and confidence? Here at Futures Community College we make sure that we do our best each and every day to provide the environment in which young people can develop their talents, take pride in their successes and feel valued and supported as members of our college community.

Futures Community College has been an improving school for some time, and now there couldn't be a more exciting time to join us. We have welcomed visitors to Futures from up and down the country, including government ministers and people from the Prime Minister's Office in Downing Street. They are all coming here to see how we are developing a new approach that Lord Baker described as a model that the rest of the country will follow. We are proud that we are getting all this attention as a result of our commitment to transforming education and focusing all we do on meeting the needs of young people and giving them the learning pathways that help them to succeed.

In 2010 Ofsted judged many elements of our college to be "good", including our curriculum and many elements of our care for students. You can see some of the things Ofsted said within this prospectus.

Our Year 7 students enjoy their own facilities in the Year 7 block, which eases the transition from primary to secondary school. We are working with one of the leading international organisations working in the field of school development and improvement.

With their support we are developing further our successful approach to teaching and learning that enables students to make connections between subjects and topics and to develop the Core Learning Skills that are the foundation for their future success. By the time students are in year 9, they will start working towards their GCSEs and other qualifications. We are proud that at Futures, all the traditional school subjects are available together with vocational, work related courses. We have a state of the art Upper College Building to facilitate learning in Hair, Beauty, Construction and Engineering. Our superb curriculum offer is one reason why our students are increasingly successful. We will make sure that there is a learning pathway that matches the needs and interests of each individual and which prepares them for their future, either in higher education or in their chosen career.

I look forward to meeting you and to welcoming you to Futures Community College at this most exciting time in your son or daughter's education.

Best wishes

Simon Carpenter
Principal



OUR VISION

Futures Community College has a strong vision underpinned by 6 key aims. These may be summarised as:



A world class learning environment which inspires high expectations within our students to be the best that they can be.



Blended pathways of vocational, academic and personal learning which lead to high achievement and every student realising their full potential.



An ethos which promotes emotional and social skills where everyone in the college feels relaxed, confident, optimistic and ready to deal with the successes and challenges of life.



A learning community which develops powerful partnerships both internally and externally and where the college and the community are supportive of each other.



An agent for social change refusing to accept any limitations on the potential of each and every student to learn and achieve.



A high performing professional culture permeating the whole college where there are high expectations about the quality of everything that we do.

OUR CURRICULUM

Year 7 and 8

To support individual learning and progress in Year 7, students work with a specialist team of teachers in their own dedicated block. As a result, each teacher knows their students well and can support their learning and their progress. Year 7 features a specially developed “Connected Curriculum” which allows students to make connections between their learning in various subjects. In Year 8 we continue to encourage students to think about their learning as a whole, although there is a greater emphasis on individual specialist subjects.



Years 9 to 11

In Year 9 our students begin to work towards their GCSEs and other qualifications. The full range of subjects is available, although changes to this may be made from time to time.

These are currently:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Statistics
- Science (various Science GCSEs are available)
- History
- Geography
- Film Studies
- Modern Foreign Languages
- RE
- Art and Design
- Music
- Drama
- PE
- Hospitality and Catering
- Information and Communication Technology
- Business Studies
- Sports Studies
- Construction
- Public Services
- Performing Arts
- Hairdressing
- Beauty Therapy
- Engineering

Sixth Form

Our successful Sixth Form opened in September 2010 and continues to go from strength to strength. This is another sign of the success and development of the college. The courses offered in the first year of the Sixth Form include Business Studies, ICT, Hairdressing (and Barbering), Beauty Therapy, Engineering and Construction. We review the courses available each year and as the Sixth Form grows the range will be extended, including the possible introduction of a Football Academy.



“Outstanding teaching ... in Mathematics and English” Ofsted Inspection 2010

“All groups of students now make at least the progress expected” Ofsted Inspection 2010

OUR COLLEGE FACILITIES

Year 7 start their time at Futures in their own modern, dedicated year 7 block. Housing classrooms, an assembly hall, toilets and other facilities, this provides the perfect place in which to start secondary school. Some time is spent in the main college building where students use the specialist facilities in subjects like Science and PE.

Futures now has a wonderful new building which has been described as “iconic” and “state of the art” and it certainly is. Its outstanding learning spaces support courses in Construction, Engineering, Painting and Decorating, Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy, Textiles, Art and Design, Science, ICT and Business Studies. Light, airy classrooms also support learning in a variety of other subjects. The mature, adult environment is enjoyed by our students alongside other learners who are taking a variety of courses, including apprenticeships. As one Ofsted inspector said about our range of courses recently, “you might not be able to find anything to equal it anywhere else in England”.

Our extensive grounds, PE facilities, ICT rooms, Drama Studio and Music Studio are among the high level amenities we enjoy. However, we are not content to stay as we are and are always seeking ways to improve the facilities available to our students, so expect to see further developments during your son or daughter’s time at Futures.



OUR COLLEGE COMMUNITY



We pride ourselves on the fact that every student is a valued member of the college community. We welcome students of all abilities and from all backgrounds and we positively celebrate the diversity of our college.

We regularly review our Community Code with our students and others to make sure that our Core Values are evident in the daily life of Futures Community College. These values include respect for one another, valuing each individual's achievements. We expect the best of our students because we know the high standards they can achieve in their work, learning and conduct. Visitors often comment on the smiles they see around the college and say that "students and staff seem happy to be here". This creates an atmosphere in which our students can enjoy their learning and can grow and develop as young people, playing a positive role in the college community and in society.

"All concerned have combined effectively to deliver a vision of high value learning opportunities; the 19 million pound upper school building that opens in September 2010 is a tangible reflection of this ambition and success" Ofsted Inspection 2010





SUPPORT AND CARE FOR STUDENTS

Ofsted recognised in our last inspection that the care and support we offer to students is a real strength of the school. They said that, “Many aspects of pastoral care are good and the efforts made to support looked after children are often exemplary.”

Students know that they can turn to staff for support and help. Building on these strengths, we are introducing new roles called “Learning Coaches” for September 2011. Each student will be in a Learning

Coach group of up to 15 students, the Learning Coach will be closely involved in their students’ learning and will monitor their progress throughout. The Learning Coach role is new and, supported by an Achievement Director, they will make sure that every student is happy, successful in their learning and progressing and developing as well as possible.

We are also investing in a significant development of our support for students by creating a Comprehensive Support Team of specialists who will work with and support students and Learning Coaches.





This means that the whole organisation of Futures is built around supporting and meeting the needs of each individual student and their learning.

The support we provide for all students means that all groups of students at Futures make at least the nationally expected rates of progress. There are many different ways in which we encourage students to achieve as highly as they can. Gifted and talented students are stretched by work and activities that are matched to their abilities and potential.

We have improved and developed our care, guidance and support for students over recent years and will continue to do so in the future. That is our commitment to every one of our students and it helps to explain why our students are achieving more and making greater progress all the time.

“Many aspects of pastoral care are good and the efforts made to support looked after children are often exemplary.” Ofsted Inspection 2010

OUR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

A wide range of clubs and activities are available to students of all ages. These include activities that support students' learning, such as Homework Club and ICT Club and others such as sports, arts and debating clubs which enable students to explore and develop their wider talents and interests.

There are frequent opportunities for students to take part in college productions, concerts and other performing arts activities which are staged throughout the year. There are also opportunities to represent Futures Community College in a range of sports teams.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS, CARERS AND FAMILIES

We know how important it is for us to be working together with you to support your child. Sharing and celebrating their achievements and successes is a highlight of college life. This could be through a phone call or a letter to tell you about something special that your son or daughter has done. It could be more formal, for example an invitation to attend the annual Student Awards.

As a parent or carer you will receive regular, written reports of your son or daughter's progress and you will get to know their Learning Coach very well during the year. You will also have your own secure, on-line access to your son or daughter's records via our website.

We also know that throughout their secondary education, some young people will experience various ups and downs that affect them both at school and at home. The more we communicate together the better we can support our students and help them to develop the resilience, skills and understanding that will equip them for life as they mature into young adults.

"Capacity to improve is good." Ofsted Inspection 2010





OUR COLLEGE UNIFORM

COLLEGE UNIFORM: Black blazer with Futures' badge
Black tailored trousers
Black skirts (suitable length only)
Year 7-8 light blue polo shirt with embroidered logo
Year 9-11 dark blue polo shirt with embroidered logo
Students taking vocational courses will wear appropriate workwear for example overalls or tunic
Black footwear suitable for school

Suppliers:

Year 7-8 Uniforms: Paul's Outfitters, 38 Southchurch Road, Southend.
Telephone number: 01702 466431

Year 7-8 Uniforms: Crawlers, 1 Southchurch Boulevard, Southend.
Telephone number: 01702 601274

Year 9-11 Uniforms: Order directly from the college
Telephone number: 01702 586123

PE Kit: The college's PE kit is only available from the college;
order forms are available from Main Reception/PE Department

Black shorts
Black football socks
White polo shirt
White socks

OPTIONAL: Royal blue reversible rugby top (boys)
Red/pink football shirt (girls)
Royal blue Puma sweatshirt
Royal blue Puma tracksuit
Royal blue Puma waterproof jacket
Shin pads

SIXTH FORM: Students will wear clothing appropriate to their course of study for example a tunic for Hair and Beauty or smart wear for Business Studies.



THE COLLEGE DAY AND TERM DATES

The college day starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.05 pm. In 2010-11 the school day on a Friday finished at 2.45pm, but we are consulting about changing that so that we finish at 3.05pm on Fridays as well from September 2011. The way we organise the school day is changing for September 2011. We are introducing lessons of different lengths to suit the kind of learning that students are engaged in instead of saying that all lessons have to be one hour long. Every day will start with something called “Our Meeting”, which is where students meet in groups of up to around 15 with their own Learning Coach who supports and monitors their learning and their well-being in school throughout the year.

Futures Community College currently follows the agreed term dates for schools within Southend Borough which you can find on the Borough Council’s website.



“Effective leadership and management has been the key to the progress made by the college in the last year” Ofsted Inspection 2010



JOINING FUTURES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

If you are interested in finding out more about how to apply for a place at Futures Community College then you are welcome to contact us. We will be pleased to invite you to visit the college and to give you any help or information you need.

Applications for Year 7 places at Futures Community College are managed by Southend Borough Council. Applications may be made online at www.southend.gov.uk/admissions or by returning a completed application form to The Pupil Access Team at Southend Borough Council. For general information about schools and admissions please contact the Borough Council Contact Centre on 01702 215000.

For detailed information about the admissions process, admissions criteria, allocation of places and admission appeals please contact the Pupil Access Team for Secondary Admissions at Southend Borough Council on 01702 215007 or you can email them at: admissions@southend.gov.uk

"Students have been offered the outstanding range of vocational courses provided" Ofsted Inspection 2010

MESSAGES FROM OUR STUDENTS

"I want you to come here because there are great things here like the lessons and clubs. There are also great teachers in this school."

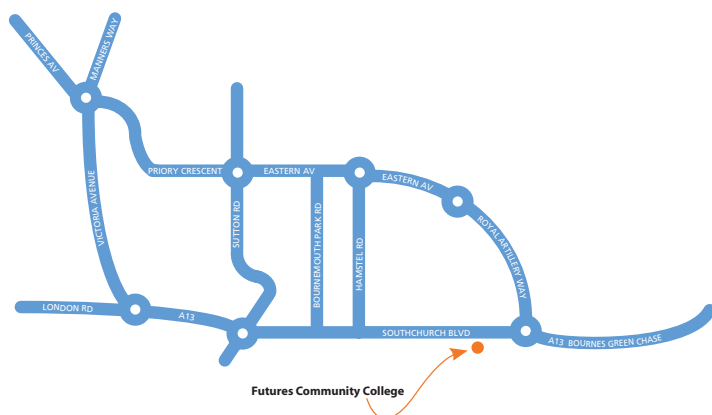
"...come here because the teachers are very friendly."



"...Futures Community College is the best... there are lots of things to do and discover and different activities."

"Everyone really wishes that you were here at Futures Community College because everyone here is friendly and there are lots of things you can do."

MAP AND CONTACT DETAILS



FUTURES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

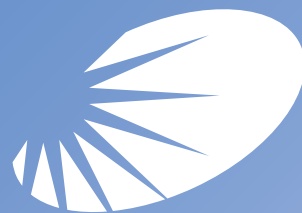
We encourage parents and carers to visit the school with their son or daughter and this can be arranged by contacting the school.

You can obtain more information from our website at www.futurescommunitycollege.net

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