

Inspiring Excellence and Achievement

Higher Education, Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Peter Symonds College has a well established reputation for excellence and is committed to raising achievement so that all learners do their very best in relation to their learning goals, prior attainment and potential. Central to this strategy is the belief that each learner is an exception, an individual with his or her own needs and aspirations. Within the context of our higher education programmes our aim is to develop:

- Critical Thinkers;
- Academic Achievers;
- Involved Citizens;
- Effective Communicators; and
- Self Directed Responsible Learners.

The college aims to do this through the provision of learning experiences which emphasise autonomy, independence, a commitment to lifelong learning and instil in each student confidence, skills and knowledge for life and work.

Our Strategic Aims are:

- To raise achievement so that all learners do their very best in relation to their learning goals, prior attainment and potential:
 - To maintain an ethos of high expectations with regard to performance and achievement; and
 - To prepare learners effectively for higher education, the workplace and life in the community as appropriate
- To enhance learning through teaching that inspires and challenges and that raises achievement:
 - To continuously improve the quality of teaching and learning;
 - To promote and support learning within and outside the classroom; and
 - To use Information Technology in a proactive way to deliver and support learning.
- To ensure physical resources and staffing are effective in supporting teaching, learning and helping learners succeed:
 - To recruit and retain staff of high calibre who will respond to the challenges of the curriculum and the needs of individual students;
 - To invest in our staff via high quality training and staff development;
 - To make best use of current accommodation and plan effectively for the future development of the college estate and learning environment;

- To maintain and improve our equipment, including the ICT infrastructure, to meet the needs of the curriculum, its support services and the requirements of the college's health and safety policy;
- To continuously improve access to sites and buildings for students with disabilities; and
- To procure, deploy and dispose of resources with due regard for sustainability and environmental issues.

Embedding our Strategic Aims

Each curriculum area will compile an annual self-assessment report and operational plan which reflects on how these strategic aims have been achieved and identifies what improvements and or developments will take place in the forthcoming year in order to further enhance and continuously improve teaching and learning. This process facilitates a range of learning opportunities to be developed to build the self awareness, self esteem and confidence of students, enabling them to face intellectual and academic demands appropriate to that curriculum area as critical and generative thinkers and also enabling students from a diverse range of backgrounds to achieve their full potential. Working in partnership with students each curriculum area will enhance the learning experience of their individual students whilst offering an educational environment that develops criticality, autonomy and a capacity for lifelong learning.

Teaching within the College

Peter Symonds College is committed to enhancing learning which inspires, challenges and raises achievement. The teaching in the college will reflect the diversity of the disciplines, programmes and module aims and therefore a number of different strategies such as, didactic teaching, experiential, collaborative or self-directed learning, and small group work will be employed as appropriate.

Our commitment to reflexivity, informed by student feedback, will enable the college to maintain a consistently high quality of provision whilst fostering creative and innovative approaches.

Peter Symonds College encourages the generation and exchange of knowledge and also encourages its staff to add value to teaching through the active engagement of staff in appropriate relevant research, knowledge exchange, consultancy or professional practice.

Assessment

Assessment will be designed to contribute constructively to the learning process through the provision of a variety of assessment methods and tools that are appropriate to the assessed tasks and to the specific subject/discipline.

Peter Symonds College perceives assessment to be a fundamental part of the student's learning experience and is the general descriptor for a set of processes which measure the success of a student's education and learning.

Assessed work will be returned to the students on time, in accordance with clear statements about return dates which are published in the module handbook or student handbook. Feedback provided to the students will be constructive and highlight the individual student's learning edge.

Employability and Lifelong Learning

This is a key motivation in the development of the curriculum offered at Peter Symonds College and of the support which is offered to the students both in the short term and with regard to their longer term career prospects.

Peter Symonds College is committed to ensuring that all our students are equipped to achieve their individual aspirations by instilling in them a self confidence in their capabilities and potential.

All curriculum areas develop and maintain links with employers, incorporate into their courses employability related attributes to enhance academic learning and to encourage students to be more employable.

All curriculum areas will promote Lifelong Learning as a means of personal and professional development.