



An overview of the college

Easton College is a vocational specialist college located in a rural location 7 miles from the centre of the city of Norwich in Norfolk.

The college provides a wide range of learning opportunities at all levels ranging from work at pre foundation through to Foundation Degree. The college also undertakes a substantial volume of 14-16 vocational provision working in partnership with some 36 schools.

The college specialises in the following curriculum areas:

Agriculture	Horticulture	Interior Design
Gamekeeping	Arboriculture	Equestrian
Animal Care	Veterinary Nursing	Floristry
Sport	Public Services	Basic Skills
Rural Mechanisation /Engineering	Business Management	Countryside Management

The college has experienced very substantial growth in 14-19 year old student numbers in recent years (82% growth in 16-19 year old enrolments for the period 2003 to date) with in excess of 300% growth in 14-16 vocational provision growth. Adult funded provision has reduced although many programmes have been maintained on a full cost fee basis.

During the current year the college has around 750 full time 16-18 year old students, 100 full time 19+ year olds on FE programmes and expects to enrol around 1500 funded learners on FE programmes during the current year. There are a further 110 Higher Education Students funded on a partnership basis with the University of East Anglia and around 2000 non funded enrolments on full cost fee funded provision.

The college has exceeded its funding agreement with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in each of the last 5 years with all funded provision in LSC priority areas.

The college has 100 beds of residential accommodation in Halls of Residence (all in single study bedrooms) with a further 14 beds in college owned houses. College accommodation has been oversubscribed in recent years. Most Hall

of Residence rooms are occupied by students under the age of 18. The college has achieved a “Good” overall grading from the Care Standards Inspectorate in 2006.

The college has an extensive estate of some 560 acres which is farmed commercially as well as providing horticultural, equine and sporting facilities.

The college has a strong LSC Grade A status which it has consistently held for several years. The college generates a substantial surplus annually which is then re invested in the assets of the college. The college turnover this year will be circa £8.2m with 260 staff employed.

The college has invested heavily in improving its learning resources with the development of two new teaching buildings, new sports fields, workshop and farm improvements totalling in excess of £8m in the last 7 years. The college is in the process of submitting a £17m capital bid for the next stage of its capital development, to cope with student number growth and further development of its specialist provision. This bid will include a further 3000m² teaching building, 8 indoor court tennis centre, Olympic sized riding arena and new equestrian centre, animal welfare teaching centre, golf teaching facilities, additional student residential accommodation and road improvements.

The college is a Centre of Vocational Excellence for Land Management and delivers the Advanced Certificate in Sporting Excellence in both Football (through FA and Norwich City Football Club) and Golf (where the college is the England Golf Union Centre of Excellence for East Anglia).

The college was overall graded “Good” at its last OFSTED Inspection in November 2006. Inspectors found a good capacity for further improvement and success rates were above average for the Specialist College sector. The college was noted for an exceptional rate of improvement in 16-18 success rates. The college was found to offer good value for money and inspectors judged that the college had used resources well to provide an excellent environment which is valued by learners.

College leadership, management and governance were judged good.

The college has a strong history of partnership working with employers, local colleges, the University, local councils, Children’s Services and schools.