Abingdon & Witney College and Moulton College

Have your say

Merger Consultation
31 October to 30 November 2018
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Moulton College and Abingdon & Witney College Merger

Joint Foreword from the Chairs of the Corporations

Moulton College and Abingdon & Witney College are proposing to merge to form a new group supporting the South East Midlands, Oxfordshire and the surrounding areas. Building on the strengths and successes of the two Colleges, the merger will provide the opportunity to deliver high quality, responsive and inclusive professional and technical education, apprenticeships, high needs funded learners and higher education with Moulton College continuing to specialise in the land-based, construction and sport disciplines. The two Colleges will continue to be known by their existing names, building on their proud history and key roles in their local communities.

The proposed merged College will meet the skills needs of the local areas now and in the future. It will create a financially robust and sustainable College that can maximise the benefits for learners, make best use of public funding, private investment and maintain innovation and excellence, putting the student at the heart of all activities. It will secure the future for both Colleges, whilst delivering excellence with exceptional resources and accommodation in areas of rising student numbers and demand for skills. Together, the group has the potential to be sector leading, to provide both land-based and more general professional and technical education at a range of levels and to excel at what it does.

We are excited about the future, the opportunities available, and hope that you are too.

We look forward to hearing your views.

Robin Thompson
Chair
Moulton College

Barry Jenner
Chair
Abingdon & Witney College
Moulton College and Abingdon & Witney College Merger

Merger Proposal

The merger of Moulton College with Abingdon & Witney College will create a single strategic partnership serving the communities of both the South East Midlands and Oxfordshire. It will maintain Moulton College as a specialist provider of land-based, construction and sport with both Colleges delivering the highest quality of teaching and learning and meeting the needs of a wide-reaching employer base. It will develop a financially sustainable model, building on the strengths of the two Colleges that ensures continued investment and secures the College as the first choice for students, staff and employers. Both Colleges will retain their current brands and separate identities and continue to deliver from a range of sites across the regions.

Rationale for Merger

Both Colleges have ambitious plans to support students, staff, employers and other stakeholders to achieve greater success. By merging, the two Colleges will be able to direct resources more effectively to support students benefitting from greater efficiency and securing a stronger financial future, in the context of continuing reduced funding for education. The proposed merger is based on building on the complementary strengths of both Colleges to deliver innovative professional and technical education and training in both land-based and the wider curriculum and provide pathways for all to engage at the appropriate level from entry to postgraduate. The Colleges will be the ‘Go To’ Colleges for their locality, for students, staff, employers and wider stakeholder group.
Our Vision for the Merged College

The current strategic aims and objectives of Moulton College and Abingdon & Witney College are strikingly similar; both share a clear commitment to preparing students for work, to putting students and staff first, and to delivering provision of the highest quality. We are already committed to similar things, and we believe this shared vision will be supported by our current stakeholders as well as those of the future.

As a Group, we will:

- achieve the very best outcomes for our students, our staff, our employers, and for our wider stakeholders and our communities
- be well-recognised as responding proactively to local needs and contributing positively to local and regional economies
- command national respect for land-based work, for apprenticeships and for our work with students who have special educational needs
- provide real work experiences for all who study with us
- attract students and staff because our Colleges are fabulous places to study and to work
- develop a sustainable financial position from which to start generating a surplus for investment

We will ensure that we successfully deliver that vision by:

- returning Moulton College to a sound financial footing
- always putting the student experience first
- delivering the highest quality in everything we do
- maintaining and developing exceptional stakeholder relationships
- highly valuing staff, celebrating success, and having fun
- actively promoting our work

Benefits of the Merger

Abingdon & Witney College and Moulton College today share common aspirations, operate from state of the art facilities, and have complementary strengths. Abingdon & Witney College will quickly help to restore the Moulton brand to its national reputation for quality and student success. Moulton College will enable Abingdon & Witney College to form a Group with the resources, capacity and vision to be a sector leader with national reach.
In the end, however, this proposal is not really about the two current Colleges. It is about what we will create together. Together, we will deliver successful outcomes and attract new students and apprentices. Together, we will be recognised for the investment we make in the staff who will build our future. Together, we will enable more businesses to prosper, and satisfy the expectations of our stakeholders. Together, we will command national respect for our contribution to land-based industries and for other specialist areas of work. Together, we will make this new Group work.

**Next steps**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 October 2018</td>
<td>Public consultation commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 November 2018</td>
<td>Public consultation closes</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2019</td>
<td>Consultation outcomes published</td>
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</table>
Have your say …

The Corporations of both Colleges would like to know your views on the proposed merger. We need to ensure that the new College will continue to meet the needs of all learners, the local, regional and national communities that they have historically served and other valued stakeholders.

The formal consultation period runs from 31 October 2018 to 30 November 2018. All responses and representations must be received by the closing date.

You can respond in a number of ways:

Write

Clerk to the Corporation
Moulton College
West St
Moulton
Northampton
NN3 7RR

Email

merger@moulton.ac.uk

Visit

www.moulton.ac.uk and complete the online form.

Further copies of this consultation document and additional information can be obtained online at: www.moulton.ac.uk and www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk

The Governing Bodies of each College will publish an online summary of the consultation outcome in January 2019 (see web address above).
The summary can also be provided by post. To request a copy please send a stamped addressed envelope (A4) to:

Clerk to the Corporation
Moulton College
West St
Moulton
Northampton
NN3 7RR
APPENDIX ONE

Feedback Form

Proposed Merger of Moulton College and Abingdon & Witney College

Moulton College and Abingdon & Witney College are proposing to merge in order to further the ambitions we both have for the communities we serve. Details of the proposed merger are outlined in this document. Once you have read the proposal, please answer the following questions:

Name:

Preferred contact details (such as address, contact number or e-mail address):

Which of the following best describes you or your organisation:

- College Staff
- Learner
- School
- Employer
- Local Business
- FE or Sixth Form College
- Member of the Public
- Government Body/Local Authority
- Government
- HE Institution
- Parent
- Other

1. Do you support the proposal for the merger of Moulton College and Abingdon & Witney College?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Not Sure
Comments

2. We plan to maintain and widen the range of opportunities for learners and to expand our employer focused provision and services. Do you support these aims?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Please give details:

3. Do you think any group, including students and staff, would be adversely affected by the merger plans?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Please give details:
Please use this space to make any comments relevant to the plans in this document or to expand on any of your previous answers:

General Data Protection Regulation

Abingdon & Witney College and Moulton College will use the information on this feedback form for statistical purposes, in order to produce the formal response document and to provide specific responses on request. A copy of the response document will be available on www.moulton.ac.uk and www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk

You agree that Moulton College and Abingdon & Witney College are free to use any comments, information or ideas contained in any communication you may send to Moulton College and Abingdon & Witney College without compensation, acknowledgement or payment to you for any purpose. No individuals will be identifiable.
APPENDIX TWO

Statutory Notice

Further and Higher Education Act 1992

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Corporation of Moulton College, in accordance with the Further Education Corporations (Publication of Proposals) (England) Regulations 2012, SI 2012 No. 1157, of the proposal for the transfer of the property, rights and liabilities to the Corporation of Abingdon & Witney College and the subsequent dissolution of the Further Education Corporation of Moulton College. Moulton College is a General Further Education College, which delivers professional and technical education.

In 2017/18 the College had 2326 learners aged 16-18 years; 2697 19+ learners; 642 Apprentices and 485 HE students.

Dissolution of the Corporation of Moulton College is proposed in order that it may merge with Abingdon & Witney College. The merger will create a strong institution delivering high quality education and skills training for learners and employers.

All students at Moulton College who have not completed their courses of study by the date of the proposed dissolution will continue with and complete their studies in their current locations.

The date proposed for the dissolution of the Corporation of Moulton College is 1 March 2019.

A copy of the consultation document can be requested by emailing: merger@moulton.ac.uk or in writing to: The Clerk of the Corporation, Moulton College, West Street, Moulton, Northampton, NN3 7RR or The Clerk of the Corporation, Abingdon & Witney College, Wootton Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1GG

The consultation period runs from 31 October 2018 until 30 November 2018. All responses and representations must be received by the closing date. A summary of the consultation and its outcome will be published within two months beginning on the date after the end of the consultation period and the summary will be available free of charge to any person who requests it.
Di Batchelor, Principal & Chief Executive
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