

**EAST
BERKSHIRE
COLLEGE**

**TOGETHER
WE ARE BETTER**

A JOINT PROPOSAL FROM EAST BERKSHIRE COLLEGE
& STRODE'S COLLEGE FOR A MERGER.



STRODE'S COLLEGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why are East Berkshire College and Strode's College merging?

A: The colleges are proposing to merge in order to create a new college group, which will provide greater opportunities for young people, adults and businesses in Berkshire and Surrey. The merger is a positive and proactive step on the part of both governing bodies to ensure the continuation and development of further education and sixth form provision for their towns and local communities, now and in the future.

The partnership will mean both Strode's College in Egham and East Berkshire College in Langley and Windsor will retain their existing campuses and distinctive ethos, while sharing their wealth of expertise, extensive staff talent, state-of-the-art facilities and resources for the benefit of current and future students.

Q: What does the merger mean for students?

A: The merger of the two colleges is very much a technical process, which should have no impact on the day-to-day learning experience of students at either of the colleges. All of the current campuses of the colleges will continue and all of the current opportunities and resources will continue to be available to students.

Q: What are the benefits of merging?

A: By joining forces, Strode's College and East Berkshire College will be able to do everything they do now and more for their students. Whilst students will continue to identify with one particular college campus, being part of a new college group will provide an enhanced offer to students across all campuses, greater learning opportunities, access to a wider range of resources and more progression routes.

The benefits to students and businesses will include: an enhanced specialist sixth form college provision, enhanced student enrichment opportunities, the growth and development of higher education courses, increased apprenticeship opportunities, greater progression opportunities for young people to local, affordable Higher Education and enhanced adult learning opportunities.

Q: I have already applied to one of the colleges – do I have to do anything differently?

A: No. The applications and admissions processes for entry in September 2017 remain unchanged and this merger will not affect your application in any way. The individual college websites will provide you with details of how to apply for a course.

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Q: Will any courses not be available at their current locations?

A: Courses currently publicised in the individual college prospectuses and on the college websites will continue to be offered in September 2017.

Q: I am an employer with an apprentice(s) studying at East Berkshire College. How will the merger affect me?

A: The merger will not affect you or your apprentices in any way. You will continue to work with the College in the same way. As a result of the merger, we aim to increase our range of higher apprenticeships, so we hope to be able to offer employers and their apprentices new progression opportunities to enable them to obtain higher level skills and qualifications.

Q: What will happen to Strode's College in this merger?

A: Strode's College will join East Berkshire College to form a new college group. Strode's College will play a leading role in the new group, retaining its identity and distinctive sixth form ethos.

Q: When will the merger happen?

A: The two colleges are now undertaking preparatory work before both governing bodies consider the final merger proposal in December 2016. It is envisaged that the formal merger will take place in February 2017.

Q: How will the colleges keep students, parents and staff informed?

A: Both colleges have written to current students and parents to tell them about the proposed merger. Over the coming months, the colleges will issue communications to students and staff to keep them updated as well as engaging with a range of stakeholders. Information will also be available on college intranet and/or Moodle sites as well as the individual college websites (see below).

Q: Where can I find out more information about the proposal?

A: Details about the proposed plans will be available on the Strode's College website at www.strodes.ac.uk/AboutStrodes/EastBerkshirePartnership and the East Berkshire College website at www.eastberks.ac.uk/strodes. Alternatively, if you have any questions or concerns, please email Strode's College via consultation@strodes.ac.uk or East Berkshire College via consultation@eastberks.ac.uk.