

The Rt. Hon Damian Hinds MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Department of Education  
1 Horse Guards Road  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

26 June 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

**RE: An Open Letter on the Implementation of the Augar Review**

As college leaders, we are pleased that the Augar Review understands the importance of a more coherent tertiary system. It makes many positive recommendations that will support the economy by upskilling and reskilling the adult population of England, through investment in more flexible higher, technical and professional education and training, answering calls from business and in direct response to the pending challenges of technological change and Brexit.

The report and the recommendations are based on sound analysis of the current state of further and higher education in England. It also sets out the compelling need for a fairer society which works for everyone, based on a strong economy in which businesses can be even more productive. It recognises the role that further education colleges must have in aligning the skills system with the needs of the economy, and in delivering high quality alternatives to traditional three-year residential bachelor's degrees as well as enabling more adults to progress to intermediate skill levels. It understands that employers and communities need more high quality technical and professional education and training, industry standard facilities, expert staff and the unique curriculum that colleges already provide. It sees colleges as the key vehicle for the flexible, local delivery of national strategies, supporting industrial policy, productivity, skills development and genuine social equity. It clearly acknowledges that all this requires real investment.

In many respects, the Augar Review represents a wider emerging consensus across England. We are sure that you will agree with us and other key stakeholders that further education colleges have been neglected, and that there is now a growing appreciation of their unique role, value and potential. What we now need are decisions and commitments: with your political leadership, support and resolve, colleges will be able to build on what they already do to reach more employers and more adults and make the differences our economy and society need.

Our concern is that, having waited so long, the key weakness of the Augar Review might prove to be its timing. It has emerged at a moment when its insights and proposals might easily be lost. That is why we are urging you to make the investment in upskilling and reskilling the whole of the adult population in England a priority in your

spending decisions this autumn, and to implement the Augar recommendations promptly.

We stand ready, individually and collectively to deliver; eager to meet the challenges and excited at the prospect of helping to achieve a fairer society and successful future for our nation.

Yours sincerely

Cc. The Rt Hon. Philip Hammond MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer

## **ESTABLISHMENT**

Abingdon & Witney College  
Activate Learning  
Ada National College for Digital Skills  
Askham Bryan College  
Birmingham Met College  
Barking and Dagenham College  
Barnet & Southgate College  
Barnsley College  
Basingstoke College of Technology  
Bath College  
Bedford College  
Berkshire College of Agriculture  
Bexhill College  
Bishop Auckland College  
Bishop Burton College  
Blackburn College  
Blackpool and The Fylde College  
Bolton College  
Boston College  
Bournemouth and Poole College  
Bradford College  
Bridgwater and Taunton College  
Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College  
Brockenhurst College  
Brooklands College  
Brooksby Melton College  
Buckinghamshire College Group  
Burnley College  
Burton & South Derbyshire College  
Bury College  
Buxton and Leek College

## **PRINCIPAL/CEO**

Di Batchelor  
Sally Dicketts  
Mark Smith  
Tim Whitaker  
Cliff Hall  
Yvonne Kelly  
Darren Mephan  
Yiannis Koursis  
Anthony Bravo  
Laurel Penrose  
Ian Pryce  
Gillian May  
Karen Hucker  
Natalie Davison-Terranova  
Bill Meredith  
Fazal Dad  
Bev Robinson  
Bill Webster  
Jo Maher  
Diane Grannell  
Chris Webb  
Andy Berry  
William Baldwin  
  
Di Roberts  
Christine Ricketts  
Dawn Whitemore  
Karen Mitchell  
Karen Buchanan  
Dawn Ward  
Charlie Deane  
Len Tildsley

Calderdale College	John Rees
Cambridge Regional College	Mark Robertson
Capel Manor College	Malcolm Goodwin
Capital City College Group (WKCIC)	Roy O'Shaughnessy
• City & Islington College	Andy Forbes
• College of Haringey, Enfield & N E London	Kurt Hintz (Interim Principal)
• Westminster Kingsway College	
Carmel College	Kim Caplin
Central Bedfordshire College	Mike Hill
Chelmsford College	Ali Hadawi
Cheshire College South & West	Andy Sparks
Chesterfield College	Jasbir Dhesi
Chichester College Group	Julie Richards
Cirencester College	Shelagh Legrave
City College Norwich and Paston College	Jim Grant
City College Plymouth	Corrienne Peasgood
City Lit	
City of Bristol College	Jackie Grubb
City of Wolverhampton College	Mark Malcomson
Colchester Institute	Richard Harris
College of West Anglia	Malcolm Cowgill
Coventry College	Alison Andreas
Craven College	David Pomfret
Croydon College	Gill Banks
Darlington College	Joanne Sherrington
Derby College Group	Caireen Mitchell
Derwentside College	Kate Roe
DN Colleges Group	Mandi Stravino
• Doncaster College	Chris Todd
• North Lindsey College	Anne Tyrrell
Dudley College of Technology	Kathryn Brentnall
Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College	Mick Lochran
East Coast College	Lowell Williams
East Durham College	Karen Redhead
East Kent College Group	
East Riding College	Stuart Rimmer
East Surrey College Group	Suzanne Duncan
East Sussex College	Graham Razey
Eastleigh College	Mike Welsh
Easton & Otley College	Jayne Dickinson
Exeter College	Clive Cooke
Fareham College	Jan Edrich
Farnborough College of Technology	Jane Townsend
Fircroft College of Adult Education	John Laramy
Furness College	Andrew Kaye
Gateshead College	Virginia Barrett
Gloucestershire College	Mel Lenehan
	Andrew Wren
	Judith Doyle
	Matthew Burgess

Grantham College  
Greater Brighton Metropolitan College  
Hadlow College  
Halesowen College  
Harlow College Group

- Harlow College
- Stansted Airport College

Hartlepool College  
Hartpury University and Hartpury College  
Havant & South Downs College  
Havering Sixth Form College  
HCUC Group

- Harrow College
- Uxbridge College

Heart of Worcestershire College  
Hereward College  
Herefordshire, Ludlow and North Shropshire College

Hertford Regional College  
Highbury College Portsmouth

Holy Cross College  
Hopwood Hall College

Hugh Baird College

Hull College

Isle of Wight College

Itchen Sixth Form College

Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College

Kendal College

Kensington & Chelsea College

King Edward VI College

Kingston Maurward College

Kirklees College

Lakes College

Lancaster & Morecambe College

Leeds City College

Leeds College of Building

Leicester College

Paul Deane  
Nick Juba  
Graham Morley  
David Williams  
Karen Spencer

Darren Hankey  
Russell Marchant

Mike Gaston  
Paul Wakeling  
Laraine Smith  
Pat Carvalho

Stuart Laverick  
Paul Cook  
Ian Peake

Tony Medhurst  
Stella Mbubaegbu  
Daveth Frost  
Julia Heap  
Yana Williams  
Michelle Swithenbank  
Debbie Lavin

Alex Scott

Tony Day  
Kelvin Nash

Andy Cole

Uly Lyons

Luke Rake

Marie Gilluley

Chris Nattress

Wes Johnson

Colin Booth

Derek Whitehead

Verity Hancock

Lincoln College Group

- Gainsborough College
- Lincoln College
- Newark College

London South East College's Group

Loughborough College

LTE

- The Manchester College
- UCEN Manchester

Macclesfield College

Gary Headland

Sam Parrett OBE  
John Doherty  
John Thornhill  
Lisa O'Loughlin  
Michael Walsh  
Rachel Kay

Mid Kent College  
 Middlesbrough College  
 Milton Keynes College  
 Moulton College  
 Myerscough College  
 National College for High Speed Rail  
 NCG
 

- Carlisle College
- Kidderminster College
- Lewisham College
- Newcastle College
- Newcastle Sixth Form College
- Southwark College
- West Lancashire College

 Nelson & Colne College  
 New City College  
 New College Durham  
 New College Stamford  
 New College Swindon  
 Newbury College  
 Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group  
 Newham College London  
 NESCOL  
 Northampton College  
 North Hertfordshire College  
 North Kent College  
 North Warwickshire & South  
 Leicestershire College  
 Nottingham College  
 Oaklands College  
 Oldham College  
 Peterborough Regional College  
 Petroc  
 Plumpton College  
 Preston's College  
 Reaseheath College  
 Richard Huish College  
 Richmond & Hillcroft Adult & Community  
 College  
 Richmond Upon Thames College  
 Riverside College, Halton  
 RNN Group
 

- Rotherham College and North  
Notts College
- Dearne College

 Runshaw College  
 Salford City College  
 Sandwell College  
 Scarborough TEC  
 Selby College

Simon Cook  
 Zoe A Lewis  
 Julie Mills OBE  
 Ann Turner  
 Alison Robinson  
 Clair Mowbray  
 Chris Payne  
 Grant Glendinning  
 Andy Dobson  
 Asfa Sohail  
 Tony Lewin  
 Gerard Garvey  
 Annette Cast  
 Denise Williamson  
 Amanda Melton  
 Gerry McDonald  
 John Widdowson  
 Janet Meenaghan  
 Carole Kitching  
 Iain Wolloff  
 Karen Dobson  
 Paul Stephen  
 Frances Rutter  
 Pat Brennan-Barrett  
 Kit Davies  
 David Gleed  
 Marion Plant  
 John van de Laarschot  
 Zoe Hancock  
 Alun Francis  
 Rachel Nicholls  
 Diane Dimond  
 Jeremy Kerswell  
 Lis Smith  
 Marcus Clinton  
 John Abbott  
 Gabe Flint  
 Robin Ghurbhurun  
 Mary Murphy  
 Jason Austin  
 Simon Partington  
 Michael Sheehan  
 Graham Pennington  
 Ann Hardy  
 Phil Sayles

ShIPLEY College	Nav Chohan
Shrewsbury Colleges Group	James Staniforth
Solihull College & University Centre	John Callaghan
South and City College Birmingham	Mike Hopkins
South Devon College	Stephen Criddle
South Essex College	Angela ODonoghue
South Gloucestershire and Stroud College	Sara-Jane Watkins
South Staffordshire College	Claire Boliver
South Thames College Group	Peter Mayhew-Smith
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Thames College</li> <li>• Carshalton College</li> <li>• Kingston College</li> </ul>	
Southampton City College	Sarah Stannard
Southport College	John Clarke
Sparsholt College Group	Tim Jackson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andover College</li> </ul>	
SK Group	Monica Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Helens College</li> <li>• Knowsley College</li> </ul>	
Stanmore College	Sarbdip Noonan
Stephenson College	Nigel Leigh
Stockton Riverside College Group	Phil Cook
Stoke on Trent College	Denise Brown
Strode College	Katy Quinn
Suffolk New College	Viv Gillespie
Sunderland/Northumberland College	Ellen Thinnesen
Swindon College	Steve Wain
Tameside College	Jackie Moores
Telford College	Graham Guest
The City of Liverpool College	Elaine Bowker
The College of Richard Collyer	Sally Bromley
The Cornwall College Group	Elaine McMahon
The Northern College	Yultan Mellor
The Sheffield College	Angela Foulkes
The TEC Partnership Group (formerly the Grimsby Institute Group)	Gill Alton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education</li> <li>• Scarborough TEC</li> </ul>	Debra Gray
The Windsor Forest Colleges Group	Ann Hardy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Langley College</li> <li>• Strode's College</li> <li>• Windsor College</li> </ul>	Kate Webb
Trafford College Group	Lesley Davies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trafford College</li> <li>• Stockport College</li> </ul>	
Truro and Penwith College	David Walrond
Tyne Coast College	Dr Lyndsey Whiterod CBE

Unified Seevic and Palmers College  
United Colleges Group

- City of Westminster College
- College of North West London

Vison West Nottinghamshire College  
Wakefield College  
Walsall College  
Waltham Forest College  
Warrington & Vale Royal College  
WCG/Warwickshire College Group  
WEA  
West Herts College  
West Kent and Ashford College  
Weston College  
West Suffolk College  
Weymouth College  
West Thames College  
Wigan and Leigh College  
Wiltshire College & University Centre  
Wirral Met College  
WMC – The Camden College  
Yeovil College  
York College

Dan Pearson  
Keith Cowell

Andrew Cropley  
Sam Wright  
Jatinder Sharma  
Joy Kettyle  
Nichola Newton  
Angela Joyce  
Ruth Spellman  
Gill Wogan  
Graham Morley  
Dr Paul Phillips CBE  
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Nigel Evans  
Tracy Aust  
Anna Dawe  
Amanda Burnside  
Sue Higginson  
Helen Hammond  
John Evans  
Lee Probert