



## Why volunteer?

There are many reasons cited by Board members as to why volunteering is beneficial, these include:

- The chance to give back
- Intellectual stimulation
- Social engagement
- Personal and professional development

We hope you will achieve all of these and will support you to do so.

The Bedford College Group are keen to ensure that the next generation are inspired by great leaders who believe in our purpose of helping individuals, communities, and society flourish through education by raising aspirations and reducing inequality to create a sustainable future.



We are recruiting now to widen participation across the governance structure and support the natural succession of our boards and committees.

We offer a range of roles to suit different commitment levels, which include:

- Corporation members
- Independent committee members and non-executive directors of our subsidiary companies, Bedford College Services Limited and Bedford College Professional Services Limited
- Co-opted committee members
- Independent members of Curriculum and Quality local groups



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# Who are we?

## Community

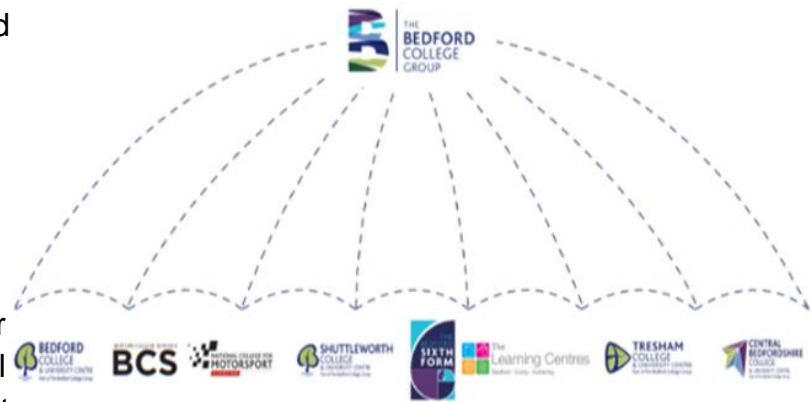
89% of TBCG's students live in the South East Midlands region, with 83% residing in just four local authorities; Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and North Northamptonshire.

The Group is viewed as a major strategic asset within these authorities and works in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure the economic, social and skills needs of each community is met through its broad curriculum spanning further education, apprenticeships, workforce training and higher education.

We are the largest college group in the South East Midlands, and the seventh largest (by income) in the country, with over 18,000 students each year attending one of our six colleges across Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. The Bedford College Group comprises Bedford College, Central Bedfordshire College (CBC) and Tresham College, located in Bedford, Corby, Dunstable, Kettering, Leighton Buzzard and Wellingborough. The Group also has Shuttleworth College, a specialist land-based college near Biggleswade and

The Bedford Sixth Form, the only dedicated A Level provision in Bedford, an additional Sixth Form in Corby opening in September 2023 and the National College for Motorsport

in addition, to widen accessibility to education and training, the Group also has community-based Learning Centres in Bedford, Corby and Kettering.





## Strategic aims

Our strategic plan outlines our aims to achieve our purpose and vision of being the best and most authoritative post-16 education provider in the South East Midlands, supported by three key strategic themes:

- Educational and community leadership;
- Educational sustainability; and
- Financial sustainability.

Educational and Financial sustainability are fundamental if we are to serve our communities for the long term. In addition, our goal of educational leadership will need to embrace community leadership, recognising the interplay between education, other public sector services, the need to help regenerate economies post-Covid, and the need to move towards a new zero economy.

Our subsidiary companies are a critical part of the structure, overseen by independent boards but with vital roles in achieving the TBCG's strategic aims.

## Values

The Bedford College Groups' purpose is to help individuals, communities, and society flourish through education by raising aspirations and reducing inequality to create a sustainable future. This is achieved through a relentless focus on community needs which drives our curriculum provision, determines our people and sets our budget priorities.

To guide our approach are our six core values:

- Valuing teamwork
- Improving continuously
- Student centred
- Inclusive
- Open and caring
- Nurturing educational excellence





## Structure

We have expanded our Governance structure to now include Curriculum and Quality Local Groups for Bedford, CBC and Tresham.

## We are looking for:

- External Governors for the Board
- Independent members of the local Curriculum and Quality groups
- Non-executive directors for our subsidiary boards

For more information:

## What is involved?

Similarly, to most private and public sector boards, Corporation Board members are collectively responsible for setting the Group's strategic direction, monitoring its achievement, overseeing financial sustainability and ensuring legal and regulatory compliance. The Board is not involved in operational issues which are delegated to Senior Managers. The Corporation Board delegates some oversight to committees and, in 2023-2024 is looking to add local groups to support curriculum and quality oversight.

## What experience is required?

We invite applications on the basis of the specific skills and experience that can be offered to the Board, this may be in a wide range of areas, including but not limited to; further education expertise; digital transformation; sustainability; finance; HR; change management; and community engagement.

## What is the time commitment?

Time commitments for the roles vary, but estimates based on current experience are:

- Corporation board members 70 to 120 hours per year (board meetings, committee meetings, strategy days, development and paperwork)
- Co-opted committee members/Independent members of curriculum and quality local groups - 40 to 50 hours per year (meetings, strategy/development day and paperwork)

Flexibility in commitments can be discussed prior to the appointment.





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# Application process?

## Contact

For an informal chat or more information, please contact the Group Director of Governance:

Rachel Nicol  
rnicol@bedford.ac.uk  
01234 291003

## Apply here

[Vacancy Link](#)

## How do I apply?

You can find our job description, person specification, and application on our website.

[Click here to find our current opportunities.](#)

## What happens next?

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a panel interview week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> September.

Our board is expanding, and we're constantly seeking new members. We're flexible with interview dates, so contact our Group Director of Governance to learn more about joining.

## Safer Recruitment

As part of the statutory guidance on Keeping children safe in Education, colleges/training providers are advised to make arrangements for an online search as part of due diligence on shortlisted candidates for safer recruitment purposes. The searches are aimed to assist in identifying things said or done that may harm the organisation's reputation or make the candidate unsuitable to work with children and young people.

## Appointment

Appointment is subject to Board approval following an interview with members of the Governance Committee.