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education
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collective

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People Select Committee
2 March 2026



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Bede Sixth Form College, NETA & Stockton Riverside College

2 March 2026

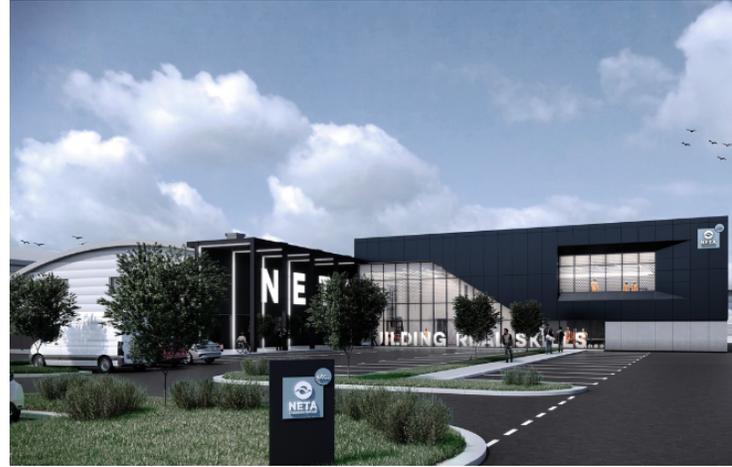


Our Stockton Sites



Stockton Riverside College

- Opened in 2003
- Thornaby-based
- £3m capital investment since 2022 – aviation fuselage due in 2026
- General FE college supporting 14-15, 16-19 and 19+ learners.
- College of Sanctuary
- Strong outreach and youth engagement - King's Trust TEAM programme supporting over 4,000 young people



NETA Training

- Opened in 1975
- Portrack-based
- Moving to Thornaby in 2026 - £14.7m investment (Town Deal) £3m capital investment since 2022 – aviation fuselage due in 2026
- Supports 6000 learners annually
- Engineering focus



Bede Sixth Form

- Opened in 1972
- Billingham-based
- £2.4m annexe opened in 2023 for additional classrooms and wellbeing spaces
- Bede Institute of Sporting and Education (ISE) Academies in Football, Basketball, Rugby, Netball – coming soon...Cricket
- 100% pass rate in 17 subjects, 98% overall.

School Engagement – Schools

Stockton Borough:

- Abbey Hill (ALL)
- All Saints (Y9,10,11)
- Egglescliffe (ALL)
- Grangefield Academy (ALL)
- Ian Ramsey (Y9,10,11)
- Ingleby Manor (Y9,10,11)
- Northfield (Y9,10,11)
- Northshore Academy (ALL)
- Our Lady & St Bede (ALL)
- Outwood Bishopsgarth (ALL)
- St Michaels Catholic Academy (ALL)
- St Patricks (ALL)
- Thornaby Academy (ALL)
- Westlands Academy (ALL)

Out of Borough

- Acklam Grange (ALL)
- Carmel College (ALL)
- Catcote Academy (ALL)
- Dyke House (ALL)
- Education Village (ALL)
- High Tunstall (ALL)
- HHTS (ALL)
- Hummersknott Academy (ALL)
- Hurworth House School (ALL)
- Invested Education (ALL)
- King Edwin School (ALL)
- Longfield Academy (Y9,10,11)
- Macmillan Academy (Y9,10,11)
- Manor Community Academy (ALL)
- Outwood Riverside (Y9,10,11)
- Outwood Acklam (ALL)
- Outwood Eston (Y9,10,11)



School Engagement – Core Activities

Core Activities – Start Each September

- Presentations (Bede / SRC / NETA / Etc. cross-college)
- Lunch Drops / Careers Corner
- Parents' Evenings & Advice Evenings
- Campus Tours (1-1 + group)
- Careers Fairs (in-school + large events)
- Mock Interviews
- Explorer Days (full-day immersive experiences)
- Careers In... days
- Application Workshops / Y10–Y11 Transition Support

Every stage of the student decision-making journey is supported — awareness, guidance, experience and transition.



School Engagement – Numbers (2025)

11,213 Students across all year groups in the Stockton Borough

3000 Accessed dedicated Y10 / Y11 assemblies in the Stockton Borough

1964 Y10 students access our SRC and Bede Explorer Days (could be duplicated)

Every year, all school contacts are manually updated.

Every term the school dedicated Student Recruitment Officer makes contact to offer Information, Advice & Guidance to school students.

Every month, a newsletter shared with Careers contacts to pass on to pupils.

School Engagement – Key Themes

Academic & Technical Pathways

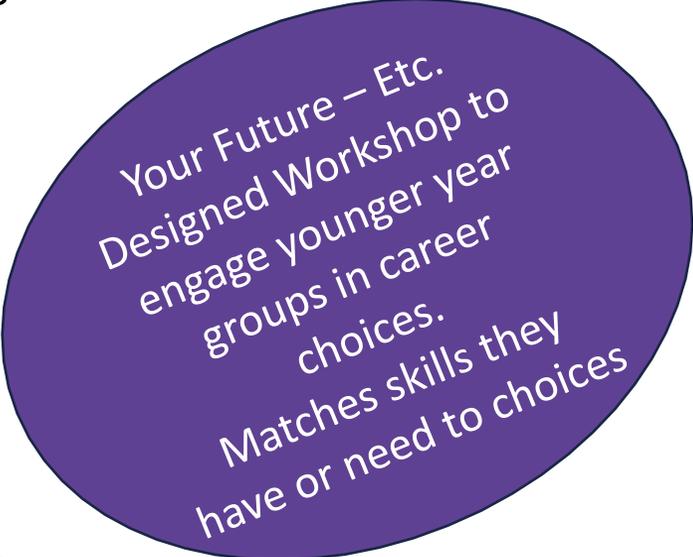
- A-Level pathways
- Vocational and T Level routes
- Apprenticeships
- NETA engineering pathways
- Construction, Health & Early Years, STEM, Esports, Policing, Performing Arts

Careers Education & Guidance

- Post-16 choices
- Preparing for work
- Application sessions
- Apprenticeship workshops
- Revision support (“Revision Fest”)

Parental Engagement

- High-volume attendance during autumn term
- Multi-college representation at some schools
- Provided clarity on pathways, application windows & support available

A purple oval callout containing white text, tilted at an angle. The text describes the purpose of a workshop designed to engage younger year groups in career choices, matching skills to those choices.

Your Future – Etc.
Designed Workshop to
engage younger year
groups in career
choices.
Matches skills they
have or need to choices



School Engagement – Feedback

What students loved

- Interactive and fun sessions that made subjects “come alive.”
- Friendly, supportive staff who made them feel welcome and confident.
- Real insight into courses & careers, helping them picture their future.
- Mixing with other schools — built confidence and excitement.

Impact on choices

- “This made me want to apply.”
- “Gave me a new perspective on post-16 options.”
- “Very helpful for choosing my future career.”

Standout moments

- Esports gaming, hands-on construction tasks, health & early years experiences.
- Sensory rooms, tech demonstrations, uniformed services tasters.

Open Events YTD Comparison

October, November, February (May is still to take place):

	Student Attendance 2022/23	Student Attendance 2023/24	Student Attendance 2024/25	Student Attendance 2025/26
Bede Sixth Form College	484	523	508	761
Stockton Riverside College	378	445	429	537
NETA	172	146	127	170
Total	1034	1114	1064	1468

42% increase in student attendance at open events from 2022/23 – Year to Date

Active Applications YTD Comparison

	Active Applications YTD 2023/24	Active Applications YTD 2024/25	Active Applications YTD 2025/26	Active Applications YTD 2026/27
Bede Sixth Form College	595	828	804	992
Stockton Riverside College	574	681	786	900
NETA	248	150	197	332
Total	1417	1659	1787	2224

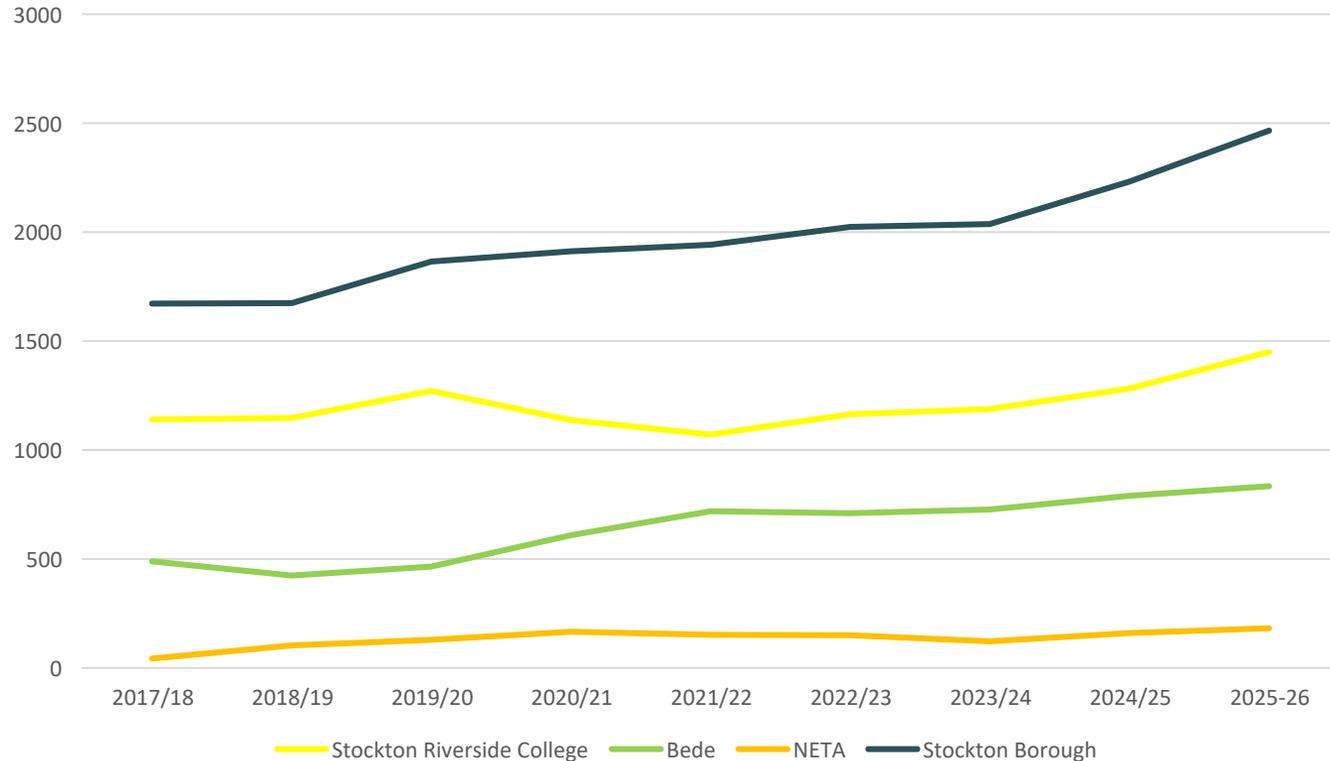
24.4% increase in active applications
 6.64% increase in Stockton school leavers in 2026 (Vector)

57% increase in active applications
 10% School leavers between July 2023 (2299) and July 2026 (2535)



Enrolment Data – Forecast to July 2026

Stockton Borough Student Recruitment - Government Funded



Funded learners

- 14-15
- 16-19
- 19+EHCP

For Stockton, **10.5%** growth from the previous year **despite -0.8%** demographic decline in school leavers in 2025 (Vector)

6.64% increase in Stockton school leavers in 2026 (Vector)

Etc. enrolments include include 695 students from 'out of borough' representing inward investment of **c£4.5m**

We have worked as part of FE+ to map provision across Tees Valley

We provide impartial advice and guidance so the **'Right Learner is on the Right Course, with the Right Provider'**.



Challenges

Current space pressures:

Bede: Managed capacity – Mark White Annexe - and flexed in year

NETA: New facility at Teesdale to manage demand and build capacity

SRC: At capacity in some areas, flexed in year and moved support service staff outside better utilise space

No external space for temporary external classrooms

- Etc. operates the only Further Education college in Stockton providing only Technical Education
- Employer demand is driving the balance between academic and vocational training
- Workshop space at SRC is a premium and we are having to build further capacity over the summer

Future Need:

- Strategic planning to create sustainable, yet flexible, post-16 vocational choices for Stockton learners
- Flexible and sustainable – place marketing for demand, without restricting choices



Stockton Sixth Form College

Post-16 Education Partnership

2 March 2026

School Engagement & Recruitment Activity

2025-26 Academic Year

150+ scheduled school
engagement events

89.4% year-on-year increase
in active applications

Engagement Activities

- Year 11 & Year 10 assemblies
- Lunchtime drop-in sessions
- Parents' evenings & careers fairs
- Mock interview programmes
- Revision support events
- Year 9 & 10 careers guidance
- Campus tours & taster sessions

Marketing Activities & Associated Metrics

Key Metrics

89.4%
YoY Application Growth

86%
Open Evening Attendance Growth

48.26%
Website Traffic Growth (2024-25)

Marketing Activities

- **School Liaison Programme**
150+ scheduled events including assemblies, drop-ins, careers fairs, and parents' evenings
- **Open Evening Series**
Three high-impact events with improved student experience and conversion
- **Alumni Engagement**
Regular sessions with successful graduates (e.g., Imran Anwar - entrepreneurship)
- **Industry Partnerships**
AvGen (aviation), NHS placements (T-Level Health), engineering employers (T-Level Engineering)
- **Digital Marketing**
Enhanced website performance, social media, and digital campaigns
- **LSIP Alignment**
Provision aligned with Tees Valley Local Skills Improvement Plan priorities

Industry Partnerships & Skills Development

AvGen Partnership

Aviation operations pathway working with industry partner AvGen to provide students with real-world experience in aviation engineering and operations.

T-Level Engineering

Industry placements with engineering employers providing hands-on technical skills development aligned with employer needs and sector requirements.

T-Level Health

NHS placements giving students clinical experience working in hospital wards and healthcare settings, preparing them for careers in the health sector.

Local Skills & Strategic Alignment

Local Skills Improvement Plan Alignment

SSFC provision directly supports Tees Valley LSIP priorities through curriculum design and employer partnerships in key growth sectors:

Health & Care

T-Levels, NHS placements

Advanced Manufacturing

T-Levels Engineering

Digital Sectors

Computing, IT pathways

Collaborative Co-Creation with Employers

Working with employers to co-create curriculum, ensuring our provision meets local labour market needs and provides students with the skills required for employment and progression.

Alumni Engagement & Careers Support

Alumni Inspiration

Regular alumni engagement connecting current students with successful graduates who have built careers locally and nationally.

Recent example:

Imran Anwar (Alt Labs) entrepreneurship talk inspiring students about business development and career pathways in enterprise.

Careers & Guidance

Comprehensive information, advice and guidance provision supporting students through:

- Raising awareness of sectors and companies in Stockton
- 1-to-1 careers guidance sessions
- Employer engagement events
- Industry speaker programmes
- Work experience placements
- Labour market information



POST-16 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP WORKING PARTY

Stockton-on-Tees Student Retention Initiative



PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

Working Together to Keep Students Local

A communications and marketing initiative spanning the post-16 partnership workstreams including industry engagement, careers provision, transitions, and enrichment programmes.

- Promote equitable access to local post-16 education providers
- Develop compelling messaging about the benefits of studying locally
- Create a compelling case for school heads to support local providers
- Showcase career opportunities aligned with growth sectors in the borough



DATA COLLECTION

Student Insights & Feedback

Data collection from the transitions group from students who left the borough and returned to study at local colleges is currently underway. Results will provide valuable insights into retention factors and attraction points.

- Focus groups scheduled with returning students
- Mystery shopping comparison with competitor colleges. Middlesbrough College mystery shopping has taken place with QE lined up for 18th February.
- Analysis of messaging that attracted students back to the borough
- Full findings report expected March 2026



WHAT WE'VE DONE



Completed Initiatives

The working party has established key foundations for promoting local post-16 education and understanding student choice factors.

- Created framework mapping current engagement activity with parents and schools
- Identified growth sectors and businesses
- Developed place brand messaging showcasing Stockton's 'live, work, play' proposition. Suggested adding 'Study' to this.
- Staff toolkit in draft mode.



WHAT'S PLANNED

In Progress & Next Steps

Building on our foundations, we're developing resources and evidence to make a compelling case for keeping students in the borough for post-16 education.

- School engagement toolkit showing local education offer for all staff
- Alumni success stories profiling local people who built careers in Stockton
- Digital ambassadors advocating for Stockton
- Postcards directing prospecting student to the Post 16 Brochure
- Glossary of terms for Post 16 Brochure making understanding of key terms easier to understand
- Stockton Post Secondary Pre-Open Event planned in September giving young people and parents a chance to get ahead in one convenient location

