

# Solihull College & University Centre and Stratford-upon-Avon College



# BECOMING A GOVERNOR



Solihull College  
& University Centre

Stratford-upon-Avon  
College





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Working together with



# About the College

## Overview of the College

Solihull College & University Centre is a large General Further Education College situated in Solihull in the West Midlands. It has three sites, in North Solihull and South Solihull and in Stratford-upon-Avon. The merger between Solihull College & University Centre and Stratford-upon-Avon College in February 2018 was seen as one of the best managed in the country.

We have over 10,000 students and a core population of 16–18-year-olds, the majority of which come from Birmingham. Apprenticeships and Higher Education provide excellent pathways for our students.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection result in May 2024, has once again been rated as “GOOD” across all categories – including Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, and Personal Development, with an additional ‘strong’ judgement for contribution to meeting skills needs. The College’s quality of teaching and learning is excellent, and our financial health is good. We have a very good reputation locally, regionally, and nationally. Our student enrolment numbers are healthy and growing. Student satisfaction, staff satisfaction and employer feedback are extremely positive.

The College was one of the first to win an Institute of Technology (IoT) bid in 2019 and was successfully appointed as lead provider for the West Midlands and Warwickshire Local Skills Improvement fund (LSIF), the largest LSIF in the country. In 2023 the College won a Centre of Excellence World Skills Award, in recognition of the quality of our careers support, and we were admitted into the Chartered Institute for Further Education. Several other awards have been won, including the ‘Best Education, Training and Professional Development’ provider at the Chamber Awards.

Ofsted report can be found here:  
<https://www.solihull.ac.uk/ofsted-report/>



# Responsibilities of the Corporation

## The Corporation

The Corporation is responsible for:

- establishing the College’s strategic direction;
- monitoring and challenging College performance against the agreed strategy and key performance indicators;
- maintaining the overall framework of policies and procedures within which the College operates; and
- ensuring students and apprentices are safe.

Our diverse Corporation is made up of 19 Governors from a wide range of professional backgrounds including education, finance, public service, private sector, and small business. College staff and students are also represented.

The Corporation adopts a carver style structure And has three Committees:

- Audit & Risk Committee;
- Remuneration Committee; and
- Search and Governance Committee.
- Financial Oversight Group (3 times per year)

Governors are expected to attend a high majority of 7 Corporation meetings a year and two development days on Saturday, and to complete mandatory training. In addition, there are opportunities to contribute to special interest groups, visit student focus groups, participate in learning visits and attend regular celebrations of success. Governors spend on average two days per month on college business.



# Role of a Governor

## Time Commitment:

- An ability to attend 7 meetings (in person) of the Corporation a year, each lasting 3 hours, for full details of meeting times please visit our website.
- A willingness to undertake preparation for the meeting, which will include reading the reports in relation to the agenda that are distributed one week in advance of the meeting;
- A willingness to be appointed to Committees of the Corporation and attend 3-4 additional meetings a year, each lasting 1–2 hours. The Corporation has 3 committees which are usually conducted on Teams: Audit & Risk, Search and Governance and Remuneration;
- An ability to take part in ad hoc Special Interest Groups that are established by the Corporation to consider specific projects.
- A willingness to identify an individual area of specific interest and become the link governor with that area by visiting or receiving information to enable you to understand the area in more detail.
- A willingness to participate in at least two half-day Governor Development events per year. These take place on a Saturday morning.
- A willingness to take part in and complete induction and other training. The induction process will include induction meetings with the Chair, the Director of Corporate Governance, Risk and Compliance and Principal / CEO, as well as other key senior managers to discuss areas such as Funding and Finance, the Skills Agenda and Accountability Statement, Curriculum and Quality, HR, Safeguarding, EDI.

It will be expected that the administrative induction process is completed within 3 – 6 months, including the completion of the DBS process.

- A willingness to complete an annual self-evaluation process with the Chair and Director of Corporate Governance, Risk and Compliance to review impact and set actions to consolidate and improve.

## Governors are required to:

- Complete and update a Register of Interests
- Accept and observe the requirements of the Governor's Code of Conduct
- Declare that they are eligible to be a Governor.
- Comply with DBS checking procedures.
- Hold Executive Officers to account.
- Undertake and achieve Safeguarding, Prevent and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training.

Full details of the current corporation and link governors are available here  
<https://www.solihull.ac.uk/about-us/college-governance/>

# What Personal Qualities are required?

- A commitment to education and lifelong learning and to the role of Solihull College & University Centre as the principal provider of educational opportunity in its locality and a key contributor to the regional economy;
- An ability to work positively with others and debate issues, whilst maintaining a constructive atmosphere;
- An ability to adopt a strategic perspective;
- An ability to listen to other viewpoints and express ideas in a clear manner; and
- A commitment to the promotion of equal opportunities.

# What Skills/Experience are required?

- Management experience, preferably at a strategic level in a medium sized or large organisation;
- Experience of team, partnership, or other collaborative working; and
- Some vacancies may require specialist expertise in, for example, audit/accountancy; financial management; human resource management; law; property and estates matters. This is to ensure that the Corporation has a balance of skills and experience.

## What specialisms we are keen to recruit from?

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion / SEND
- Property
- Curriculum and Quality (FE)
- Law
- Professionally qualified Finance Expert / Audit
- Sustainability

# What's in it for me?

- Make a positive contribution to the local community.
- Understand how Further Education works and its importance to the local economy.
- Help to shape the delivery of skills to meet the needs of the local area.
- Gain experience of finance and risk in a different sector.
- Develop your understanding of, and skills in, governance.
- Meet professionals from outside your employment sector.
- Gain access to a wide variety of skills and experience from other board members who operate at different levels.
- Provide an opportunity to gain Board level experience and work closely with colleagues in committees to gain in-depth understanding of issues.
- Become involved in reviewing strategy and setting strategic direction.



# Vacancies

From time-to-time vacancies arise for Governors of the Corporation. The Corporation is keen to maintain a balance of experienced and newer Governors to gain the full benefit of such a mix. If you would like to be considered as a Governor, please contact the Director of Corporate Governance, Risk and Compliance in the first instance for an informal discussion. The Search and Governance Committee is responsible for matching potential governors against the personal qualities required and the role description for a Governor. In due course, the committee will select a small 'panel' to meet with prospective Governors and report back to the committee. If successful, the appointment will be recommended to the Corporation.



**INSPIRING**  
**Motivating others to excel**  
We recognise and celebrate achievement, and empower staff and learners to exceed their perceived potential.



**INNOVATIVE**  
**Transforming our ideas**  
We seek continuous improvement, and use innovation to adapt to change.



**COLLABORATIVE**  
**Working together to achieve shared goals**  
We operate as one team, valuing the contribution each of us makes.



**CARING**  
**Making a difference**  
We care about the wellbeing of our staff, learners and communities by trusting, listening to, engaging with and supporting each other.



**RESPONSIBLE**  
**Making things happen**  
We are open, honest, and take full responsibility, individually and collectively, for our decisions, actions, performance and results.



**RESPECTFUL**  
**Welcoming others into our college community**  
We celebrate difference and diversity. We value others and recognise that their thoughts and feelings are as important as our own.

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and Stratford-upon-Avon College



**Director of Corporate Governance, Risk and Compliance**

**Sam Bromwich**

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