

**GATESHEAD  
COLLEGE**



# JOIN OUR TEAM.

**Director of Curriculum and Skills**

DODD PARTNERS  
— BOARD & EXECUTIVE SEARCH —



# HELLO.

Thank you for your interest in the role of Director of Curriculum and Skills.

As far as teams go, you won't get much better than Gateshead College. We genuinely care about each other, and all share a purpose to give our students the employment edge, an industry inspired education that combines high quality learning with real world skills.

This means putting everything we've got into making sure our students are the most employable. From bringing industry expertise into the classroom and working hand in hand with businesses, to delivering the highest quality teaching and supporting students to develop personally as well as professionally, we're all about creating experiences that will set learners up for life.

We're a responsible organisation which values you and the contribution you'll make. You'll get to work with brilliant people who put students first, will be supported to develop your skills and will have opportunities to pursue work that interests you.

We prioritise health and wellbeing, your work life balance will be respected, and you'll be listened to. Our inclusive culture means you're valued for being yourself and diversity is celebrated. We care about being part of our community and want to do our bit to make it better for everyone so we're working hard to reduce our environmental impact and take actions to make a positive difference including working on projects with local partners and supporting charities.

We all contribute to our students' success and take pride in their achievements, no matter what our role, and it's this shared effort and ambition that makes the college such a lovely place to work; we hope you'll consider joining us.



Good luck.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Alexander  
Principal & CEO



Thank you for your interest in joining our college.

I'm incredibly proud to be the Chair of Governors and even prouder of what this college achieves every single day. Gateshead College is rooted in its community, but its impact is wide reaching. Over the decades, we've supported hundreds of thousands of learners, built lasting partnerships and proved time and again that education really can change lives.

Last year, we celebrated our 80th anniversary, In 1945, we opened the doors of Gateshead Technical College with a bold vision to create opportunity for others, to help them to build a better life for themselves and their communities and to support businesses to thrive.

Eight decades have passed but our core purpose remains the same. We focus not just on the big numbers, but on the smallest too. The one life we can change. The one business we can help. Our teams work hard to give every learner the chance to succeed with real-world experiences inspiring role models and tailored support. For us, it's about more than qualifications; it's about the confidence, skills and opportunities that make a real difference.

As we look forward to the next 80 years, it's an ideal time to join us to help us to shape what comes next.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this position.



Michael Williams  
Chair of the Board of Governors

# WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE STAND FOR.

Gateshead College has been around since the 1940s. From then to today, we've been helping people get the skills and qualifications they need to get on in work and life. It's a special place to work and learn. We care about each other, are passionate about what we do and are proud of what our students achieve.

Our purpose, values and strategic plan were developed with the people who make up our community – our learners, staff and partners.

You can read it in full [here](#).



We value and promote diversity, inclusivity and mental health and wellbeing.



Employee Voice Certified



Better Health at Work Award  
Maintaining Excellence



PROUDLY ACHIEVED



November 2024

# OUR PURPOSE.

To develop skilled, confident learners who succeed in work and life.

# OUR VISION.

To be at the heart of a thriving community, helping people to achieve their full potential and gain the employment edge.

# OUR VALUES.

Our values are what make us, us.

Along with our ethos of employment edge, they guide how we behave and go about our work day to day.

- Respect others
- Take responsibility
- Have courage
- Be creative
- Work together

# OUR ETHOS.

## Employment Edge

Industry inspired education that combines high quality learning with real world skills helping all learners, whatever their age, background or starting point to develop the confidence, personal and professional skills to be successful.

Gateshead College learners will have the best chance of getting a job, starting a business and progressing in their career; an employment edge that will set them apart.

# OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES.



## LEARNERS.

To support and inspire every learner to make the most of their talents, skills and opportunities. We will encourage them to work hard and enjoy their time with us.



## PEOPLE.

To be the place where people want to work, feel valued and share a passion to help our learners succeed.



## **PARTNERSHIP.**

To work in partnership with organisations, businesses and communities to create the best opportunities for our learners.



## **SUSTAINABILITY.**

To be a resilient organisation which takes positive action to address climate change, creating a better environment for our learners, our people and future generations.

# WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WORK WITH US.

## What our staff say:

Employee Engagement Survey results show:  
**Our eNPS (employer net promoter score) is +39.**

This is 38 points higher than the education sector benchmark and shows how likely our people are to recommend Gateshead College as a good place to work to their friends and family. This makes us really happy!

**89%**

of staff feel that  
the college is  
inclusive.

**83%**

of staff feel  
they can be  
themselves at  
work.



**"I class Gateshead College as my second family as it's such a supportive environment and everyone's there for each other. My favourite part of working here is seeing the students grow in confidence and watching them flourish during their time at college"**

Reald, Library staff member

# What our students say?

**94.5%**

of students say they are challenged to achieve the best of their ability.

**97.1%**

of students say people of all cultures and backgrounds are valued here.

**96.4%**

of students say the college is a safe place to learn.

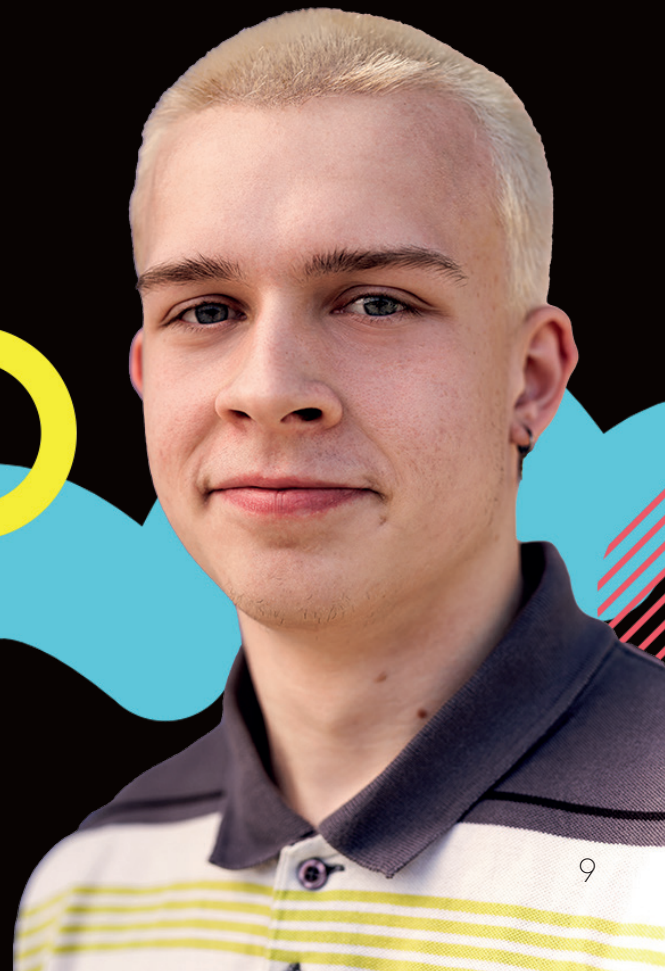
**"The style of teaching and the assignments have really prepared me for university and I can't wait to start my degree."**

Katie, Access to Science student



**"The college staff are brilliant; they gave me the confidence to audition for Ballet Rambert and I'm thrilled to have been offered a place."**

Finley, Dance student.



# OUR CAMPUSES.

**We have four different campuses across Gateshead with world class facilities including:**

Relaxed social spaces

Training kitchens

Botanica Salon

200-seat theatre

Music recording studios

Two floor learning centre

Three restaurants

Starbucks

Science labs

83m indoor athletics track

4G artificial and grass pitches

Boxing suite

Cardio gym

Pole vault, long jump and throw area

Sports science facilities

Workshop space for each trade

Mechanical maintenance workshops

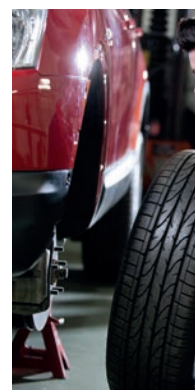
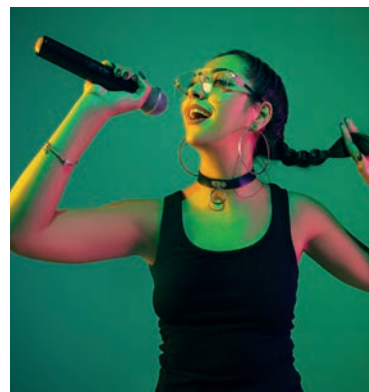
Welding and fabrication workshops

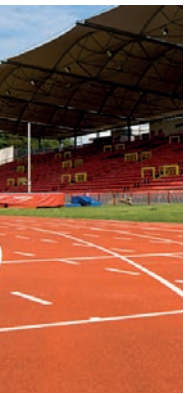
Spray paint booths

CNC and CAD machines

Dance studios

Health care lab






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**Baltic Campus**  
 Quarryfield Road  
 Gateshead  
 NE8 3BE




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**Academy for Sport**  
 Neilson Road  
 Gateshead  
 NE10 0EF




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**Skills Academy  
 for Automotive and  
 Engineering**  
 Kingsway South  
 Team Valley  
 Gateshead  
 NE11 0SH




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**Skills Academy  
 for Construction**  
 Eighth Avenue (off  
 Kingsway South)  
 Team Valley  
 Gateshead  
 NE11 0JL

# OUR GORGEOUS REGION.

## A lovely place to work & play.

United by seven iconic bridges across a bustling quayside, Newcastle and Gateshead form a single, diverse and extremely vibrant place to visit and live in the North East of England.

You've got everything from centuries-old history and heritage, breathtaking architecture and impressive innovation to a roaring nightlife. You can experience a night on the Toon and be wowed by excellent culture and events all year round – showstopping theatre, comedy and live music that sits alongside the clubs, cocktail bars and independent breweries.

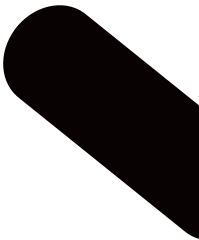
This is a passionate city bursting with Northern pride and world-class sport at iconic venues. Outside the striking city centre you don't need to travel far to reach a stunning coastline and rugged countryside.

Eight miles out of the city centre is Newcastle International Airport with Tees Valley airport also nearby. By train, the city is about 1.5 hours from Edinburgh or Leeds, 3 hours from London Kings Cross and 3 hours 20 from Birmingham New Street. From the North Shields Ferry Terminal you can sail to Holland, Norway and Scandinavia.

Living in the North East will help you enjoy that work/life balance. You get more for your hard-earned money and don't have to choose between city lights, seaside sights, rolling countryside or travel connections world-wide. You can have it all.

To find out more about what the region has to offer explore further [here](#).

Click [here](#) to find out what it's like to live in the North East.





Gateshead College, Baltic Campus.



Enfields Kitchen, Baltic Campus.



# THE JOB.



## Role:

## Director of Curriculum and Skills

As Director of Curriculum & Skills, you will play a central role in shaping the college's educational and skills offer, ensuring it is ambitious, relevant and responsive to the needs of learners, employers and the region.

Working as a key member of the Executive Team, you will support the development and lead the delivery of a high-quality curriculum aligned to local, regional and national skills priorities, informed by labour-market intelligence and strong employer partnerships. This is a role with real influence: driving curriculum alignment and innovation, strengthening quality and performance, and supporting the college's readiness for inspection through strong planning, assurance and continuous improvement. You will provide strategic leadership to curriculum teams, work closely with employers, partners and stakeholders, and help translate the college's Strategic Plan into impactful learning and skills outcomes that enable learners to thrive in work and life.



# BENEFITS.

- 38 days annual leave plus bank holidays.
- Highly competitive salary.
- Flexible and hybrid working.
- Free onsite parking.
- Relocation support available.
- Mental health and wellbeing support, with 24/7 access to an employee assistance programme and counselling services. All staff can self refer for up to 8 face to face counselling sessions per issue and access online sessions for dependants, and up to 8 sessions of couples' counselling for themselves or dependants, per annum.
- Career average pension with the Local Government Pension Scheme or Teachers' Pension (where applicable). Employer pension contribution rates range from 19.5% – 28% depending on the scheme.
- Travel support including discounted public transport and cycle to work scheme and free parking.
- Retail and travel discounts.
- Volunteering days.



## Learning and Development:

All staff have access to continuous professional development (CPD) and opportunities to keep learning and growing throughout your career here. You'll also take part in three Staff Development Days each year – dedicated time away from your usual day-to-day work to build skills, reflect, connect with others, and focus on wellbeing.

# MEET THE TEAM.

You'll be joining the college's Executive Team who have overall responsibility for the strategic leadership of the organisation.



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## **David Alexander**

Principal and Chief Executive

David joined the college in 2021 and has more than 25 years' senior-level experience in further education. He currently serves as a member of the CBI North East Regional Council and chairs the Gateshead Strategic Partnership, which brings together representatives from the public sector, business community, voluntary organisations, and government agencies to develop shared plans and co-ordinate activities that make a positive difference for everyone in Gateshead.

David is a passionate advocate for lifelong learning and its power to create opportunities and transform lives for the better. He is also an eternal optimist, being a supporter of Hamilton Academical Football Club.

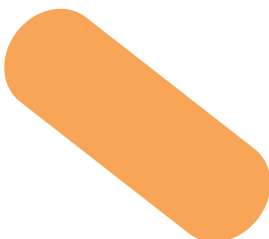


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## **Chris Toon**

Deputy Principal - Curriculum and Quality

Chris is responsible for ensuring that every learner and apprentice has a great experience. A trained maths teacher, much of his teaching career was helping those for whom mainstream education had failed and he has seen first-hand how education can change people's lives and life chances. A keen cyclist, most weekends are spent on the Northumbrian countryside or coastline. He proudly serves as an appointed governor at Gateshead NHS Trust, chairing the remuneration committee and is also a trustee for the Carers Trust Tyne and Wear.





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**Vicky Cross**

Interim Director of Curriculum and Skills

Vicky is Interim Director of Curriculum and Skills, with executive responsibility for ensuring provision aligns to national, regional and local skills priorities. Passionate about building opportunity in the North East through education, she has lived and worked in Paris before returning to Gateshead to raise a family and build a career in Further Education. Keen to keep a toe in her roots as an A Level Business teacher, she continues to support the AQA assessment team, contributing to the development of qualifications and assessments. At heart, she is passionate about people and building strong, values-led relationships.



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**Nadine Hudspeth**

Director of Brand and Learner Experience

With executive responsibility for brand, marketing and communications, student services, corporate planning and sustainability, Nadine's passionate about education that goes beyond qualifications and improves life chances for everyone. She's a Trustee for Ascent Academies Trust, a multi-academy trust of SEND schools, Chair of the Education and Skills Committee for the North East England Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Women's Leadership Forum. Her daughter is a Gateshead College alumni and outside of work her greatest pleasures in life are family, friends, fitness and dogs.



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**Vicki Casey**

Director of people and OD

Vicki is responsible for shaping and developing the People, Organisational Development, Health and Safety and Equality Diversity and Inclusion functions. She has held positions at the University of Sunderland and Durham University. She's passionate about supporting organisations to develop people strategies and structures to create a culture of high performance, trust and inclusivity.



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**Ivan Jepson**

Director of Business Development and Planning

Ivan is responsible for leading business development activity and developing an innovation culture enabling ideas to be applied to the operations of the college. Joining the Board in 2011 whilst working at Northumbrian Water, Ivan took the opportunity to become a member of the team to truly make a difference to people's lives.



# OUR RECRUITMENT PROCESS.



## How to Apply

Dodd Partners are supporting Gateshead College with the recruitment for this role.

To apply, please provide the following:

- A covering letter outlining your suitability for the role and how you meet the Essential Experience criteria set out in the Person Specification, including details of your current remuneration.
- A comprehensive CV detailing your career history, key responsibilities and achievements.

Applications should be emailed to Dodd Partners at [contactus@doddpartners.com](mailto:contactus@doddpartners.com) and clearly marked with reference number DP3152.

The closing date for applications is 9.00am on Monday 7 April 2026.

If you would like an informal conversation about the role, please contact John Dodd on **07545 431 848** or **01244 738 450**, or email [johndodd@doddpartners.com](mailto:johndodd@doddpartners.com).

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### We hope you decide to apply.

Once your application has been submitted, it will be anonymised and shortlisted against a clear set of criteria to ensure a fair and transparent process.

If you're successfully shortlisted, you'll be contacted to arrange an initial interview. You'll receive full details about the interview format in advance. The structure of the day may vary depending on the role you've applied for, and senior appointments may include engagement with members of the college's Board of Governors.

If you require any reasonable adjustments at any stage of the process, please let us know using the contact details provided in the candidate pack (or via the agency, if applicable).

Whether you're successful or not, you'll receive a follow-up call with the outcome and an offer of feedback.

We want everyone to have a positive experience during our recruitment process, so you may also receive a short survey. Your feedback really helps us continue to improve.

Good luck – we look forward to hearing from you.



**@GATESHEADCOLL**



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