3 August 2020

Dear [name]

On 1 August 2020, Peterborough Regional College and New College Stamford merged to form the new **Inspire Education Group** alongside University Centre Peterborough. Through this merger, Peterborough Regional College will now be known as **Peterborough College** and New College Stamford as **Stamford College**.

This is the culmination of many months of work behind the scenes to create a combined further education and higher education group that will serve Peterborough, Stamford and the surrounding areas.

**Introducing the Inspire Education Group**

Inspire Education Group (IEG) is the result of a positive and deliberate strategy to deliver a strengthened proposition to our local communities, in a climate where the stability of individual colleges is likely to be challenged in the future.

We recognise the strengths and opportunities that can be created by coming together as a single, larger, more robust college group with one vision, a relevant and more responsive curriculum and an absolute focus on quality, standards and excellence.

Together as a group, we now have over 1,250 staff, 8,500 Further Education students, 800 Higher Education students and 1,400 apprentices, meaning our IEG community is nearly 12,000 strong. This growth in size, coupled with an annual income of approximately £44 million, creates many more opportunities for us all.

The merger will allow further development of existing links and brings together two strong organisations to form a partnership of equals. It will allow both colleges to preserve their distinctiveness while building on the individual strengths of each college.

The benefits of this collaboration are clear. Not only will it allow continuous growth of a broader and more responsive curriculum offer at both campuses, it will provide greater capacity to develop further education, apprenticeships and higher education provision and give more opportunity to invest in students and our communities. We have no doubt that together, we will enhance the potential of our students both during their time with us and into their futures.

**Our mission and purpose**

At our core is an ambition to change lives. We will work to empower people of all ages and backgrounds to transform their lives through education. We believe that education is more than qualifications – that it provides opportunities and adds value to the futures of individuals and the communities in which they live.

We believe that everyone has the right to access and experience high quality education without barriers, and that anyone can realise their potential with the appropriate support and guidance. Lastly, we believe this can be achieved through a dynamic, engaging, stimulating and employment focussed curriculum that not only educates, but enriches lives.

Over the coming months we will work to raise awareness of our mission and core purpose with students, staff, stakeholders, and the wider public. It will take some time for us to fully align our new branding, values and joint vision across our sites as well as our online presence, but we look forward to rolling this out gradually.

**Inspire Education Group leadership appointments**

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that Janet Meenaghan has been formally appointed IEG CEO and Principal of Stamford College while Rachel Nicholls has been formally appointed IEG Deputy CEO and Principal of Peterborough College. Both Janet and Rachel have been in these roles on an interim basis for the past few months to ensure that we had the right top-level leadership in place to drive through essential decisions prior to the merger.

Janet and Rachel have previously worked closely together for a number of years at New College Stamford and they have both been instrumental in improving education standards in several different colleges. We hope you will join with us in congratulating them on their appointments.

Thank you for your continued support to help us reach this exciting stage in our journey to transform lives through inspirational education and training.

If you would like to know more about the Inspire Education Group and its work in the Peterborough and Stamford area, please get in touch by emailing either:

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Yours sincerely



Ian Jackson

*Chair, Inspire Education Group*

