



Hereward College
Promoting individual achievement

Come on board

Join our mission to improve life chances for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities

As a pioneering provider of further education for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities for more than 50 years, Hereward College is relentless in the pursuit of successful outcomes for all our students.



Unlike many other colleges within the FE sector, we have a very specialist focus. Due to this, we have what could best be described as a national catchment and currently provide education and training to around 400 young people aged 16+ and employ 300 staff.

Our learners study across a range of curriculum pathways through a breadth of levels and the college provides valuable additional opportunities such as access to work experience, career support and the chance to develop skills for independent living.

Employment and independence are central to our mission at Hereward College.

We manage a supported internship programme with employer partners including Whitbread, Severn Trent Water, Evtec Automotive, Warwick Conferences and SES Engineering Services, enabling our young people to gain experience in the workplace within a supported environment.

In 2024/25, 47% of our graduates who had employment as a target gained paid work – TEN TIMES the national average for adults with learning disabilities*. A further 32% progressed to voluntary work or preparation for employment.

Our Strategic Plan 2025–28 sets out ambitious priorities focused on learner-centred excellence, innovative teaching and learning, strong employer partnerships and sustainable growth.

George Trow
Chair of the College Corporation

“Leaders are highly ambitious for all their learners. They have a clear strategic vision to ensure that learners are supported to achieve their very best. Leaders place a particularly strong focus on life after college including meaningful and sustainable employment for learners.”



Ofsted inspectors rated the college ‘outstanding’ for high needs in June 2023.

* Source: BASE - Employment Rates for People with Disabilities 2021-22 base-uk.org/employment-rates



Wheeler Dealers star Mike Brewer in a visit to our media studio in February 2026.

Do you share our passion for improving the life chances and opportunities of our learners?

We are seeking an experienced individual to serve as **Chair of the Audit Committee.**

This is an important Board leadership role with responsibility for overseeing:

- Financial assurance and risk management
- Internal and external audit
- Governance, compliance and accountability
- Cyber security and organisational resilience
- Value for money and financial sustainability

The successful candidate will work closely with governors, senior leaders and auditors to ensure

the college maintains the highest standards of governance and financial oversight as it delivers its ambitious Strategic Plan.

We are particularly interested in hearing from individuals with senior-level experience in:

- Audit
- Finance
- Risk and assurance
- Governance
- Regulatory or compliance environments

Experience within education, public sector or charitable organisations would be advantageous but is not essential.

“I think many people might think that being a governor is a bit dry – board papers and compliance and sitting round a table. But actually what you are doing is making decisions that really make a difference to people’s lives. Just seeing how people are overcoming challenges gives me reflection for how I tackle my life and the challenges that I face. I think that’s made me a better person.”

Jenny Rohde, governor



Watch Jenny’s interview with media student Nathan.



Ellie Northhall from SES Manufacturing tests out a VR headset in our new Job Shop.



CEO & Principal Paul Cook MBE with guests from SES Manufacturing in the engineering workshop.

We are also looking to attract local business or community leaders to join our corporation board as full or co-opted members.

Your role will be to offer additional insight and professional expertise to support and challenge our decision-making processes and ensure that as a college we are continuing to provide the best service possible to the communities which we serve.

As a board member you will ensure that our SLT and wider staff team are supported in their continuous mission to deliver high-quality, individualised provision for our learners, support their families and retain our outstanding national reputation.

The first attribute all candidates will have to demonstrate is a passion for improving the life chances and opportunities of our learners – a golden thread that runs throughout our board.

Given the varied, yet specialist nature of our provision, we would welcome applications from individuals with experience gained from a range of appropriate professional backgrounds.

These include SEND, safeguarding, teaching, auditing and legal occupations. This expertise could have been gained through professional roles linked to social care for young people, residential provision, legal frameworks and related sector policy development.

We are also seeking to increase the diversity on our board to better reflect our student cohort and the

wider community in Coventry and Warwickshire. Applications from local community leaders, particularly from diverse backgrounds, would be well received.

Candidates do not necessarily need to have boardroom experience as we will support them with a full induction process. In terms of time commitments for board members, there is a need to dedicate not more than six hours per month to the role.

Paul Cook MBE, CEO & Principal of Hereward College, said: “We have a really special atmosphere across the organisation. New staff, new governors and all of our visitors to the college tell me how struck they are by the atmosphere and the way this place makes them feel.”

**“What’s special about Hereward?
It’s the uniqueness and the learners
that we attract. Being able to
observe their development and
their individual journeys. You won’t
see that journey anywhere else.”**

Natalie Williams, current governor



Want to find out more?

Serving on the Hereward College Corporation Board is a voluntary role which offers you a highly rewarding opportunity to broaden your portfolio of experience.

We will provide you with ongoing training and professional development and will support you to take on further roles within the board, such as sub-committee chair or vice chair, as you develop in the governor role.

You will be part of a forward-thinking organisation and you will gain experience working alongside our senior leadership team and board members from a wide variety of backgrounds.

“We are a solid community here. In joining Hereward, you will get a real personal experience of making a big difference.”

Simon Crick,
current governor

For an informal discussion please contact Director of Governance Verna Mills at verna.mills@hereward.ac.uk or call **024 7642 6133**.

hereward.ac.uk  /hereward-college