



MARCH 2024

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

THE PROPOSED MERGER OF
KINGSTON MAURWARD COLLEGE
& WEYMOUTH COLLEGE



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Your views are important.

Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College
are proposing to merge.

The aspiration is to create a single, financially robust, responsive, and ambitious Further Education (FE) institution that will be effectively placed to serve Dorset's education and training requirements.

This document outlines the merger proposal and the foreseen benefits to students, staff, employers, and wider communities.

The Colleges welcome all views on the proposal and invite you to share your feedback as part of the public consultation – please see page 29. All responses will be carefully considered and will contribute to shaping the final proposal.

We are delighted to be working together to develop a new college for the region.



Through the merger of Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College, we will create a new, ambitious college, generating aspiration and inspiration for learners, improving social mobility, and delivering generational change for our local communities.

The vision is to unite the very best aspects of our institutions. The proposed merger will offer a more cohesive, innovative blend of land-based, academic, and technical education; the college will provide a local, strategic, place-based solution for post-16 education, training, and skills in Dorset.

We will establish a clearer proposition for our communities and stakeholders, create new and enhanced opportunities, and enable learners to reach their potential within inclusive and inspiring learning environments.

We are keen to hear your views on our vision for the future of our colleges and invite you to participate in the consultation.



Robert Lasseter
Chair of the Corporation,
Kingston Maurward College



Steve Webb
Chair of the Corporation,
Weymouth College

6 month overview of proposed college merger



27 March

Public consultation begins.



27 June

Consultation outcome published.

30 April

Public consultation closes.



1 August

Proposed merger date.



Dorset, UK

The two colleges are located approximately 10 miles apart from each other.



Kingston Maurward,
Dorchester DT2 8PY



Cranford Ave,
Weymouth DT4 7LQ





Kingston Maurward College

History

Kingston Maurward College has a history dating back to 1949, when it first opened as an agricultural college. The College had grown and developed over the past 75 years, becoming the sole land-based college in Dorset and serving upwards of 800 full-time students in subjects as diverse as animal welfare, science, and horticulture to equine studies, welding, and blacksmithing.

Courses and Programmes

The College offers a diverse range of land-based courses and programmes in areas such as agriculture, wildlife, ecology and conservation, floristry, military preparation, sport and fitness, and other related subjects.

Short, full-time, and degree-level courses are offered at Kingston Maurward College. Full-time qualifications include diplomas and T Levels ranging from Levels 1 to 3. Degree-level qualifications cover a mix of HND, HTQ, and BSc programmes accredited by Bournemouth University and the Open University. Foundation Learning courses progress from Entry Level 2 to Level 1.

Kingston Maurward College programmes equip students with theoretical knowledge and practical skills relevant to land-based industries. The College is celebrated for its hands-on, practical learning. Students can gain real-world industry practice through work placements and work experience.

Kingston Maurward College
DT2 8PY

01305 237 580
enquiries@kmc.ac.uk
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www.kmc.ac.uk/college

Campus and Facilities

The inspiring Kingston Maurward College campus is set in a stunning 750-acre estate near the historic county town of Dorchester. The site is complete with an impressive Georgian mansion house, working farm, and dairy.

The institution has some of the best facilities of any land-based college in the country, including an animal science centre, indoor and outdoor equestrian arenas, plant production units, agri-tech facilities, laboratories, and workshops.

The state-of-the-art University Centre and Rural Business Hub were financed by the government's Getting Building Fund (which supports higher education and local businesses).

The College also boasts a sports field, a five-acre lake, a gym, and practical training areas for agricultural and land-based studies.

The College also boasts the Kingston Maurward Animal Park - a vital learning resource for students and a recreational destination for visitors. The Park is home to a broad variety of animals that provide students with essential hands-on learning opportunities.



Recognition & Vision

Kingston Maurward College was inspected by Ofsted in 2022 and received a "Good" grade overall. The College employs a set of core values - inspire, challenge, and care - that support a mission to serve the needs of land-based and allied industries in Dorset and the South West.

Students at Kingston Maurward are inspired to achieve their potential and thrive in an academically stimulating and caring environment.

They benefit from exciting learning experiences and high-quality facilities within a vibrant, commercial rural estate.

Supportive Environment

Supporting students in making informed decisions that are right for them as individuals is fundamental to Kingston Maurward's mission and strategic plan. The College helps students achieve high-quality education and career outcomes.

Some students may need additional support to pursue a course - help which the College endeavours to provide wherever possible. Kingston Maurward College has a large Learning Support department that works across the institution. A team of well-qualified and experienced Teaching Assistants and Learning Support Tutors support all students with Special Education Needs or Disabilities (SEND).



WEYMOUTH COLLEGE

History

Weymouth College dates back to 1913, with the modern education institution we know today formed in 1985. Despite expanding and evolving over the years to meet the educational and training needs of Dorset, the College remains committed to developing essential skills and experiences in the local community across diverse subjects and industries.

Courses and Programmes

Weymouth College is ambitious and high-performing while remaining inclusive and accessible. Students benefit from challenging teaching standards and a wide range of courses. Teachers are passionate about their subject areas and inspire students with enthusiasm and expert knowledge.

Traditional A Level programmes offer a pathway to higher education. Students achieved an outstanding 100% pass rate in 2023, demonstrating the College's excellent academic performance. Industry-relevant vocational courses are also delivered, from Foundation Level to Level 4/5, including BTECs, Diplomas, NVQs, and T Levels.

In collaboration with local businesses, Weymouth College apprenticeships equip students with practical skills and classroom learning that meet industry needs and fulfil career ambitions. The apprenticeship achievement rate is 14% above the national average. The College also offers 13 university-level courses that provide key skills for varied professions, in partnership with awarding bodies, the University of Plymouth and Pearson.

Weymouth College

DT4 7LQ

01305 761 100

igs@weymouth.ac.uk

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www.weymouth.ac.uk

Campus and Facilities

Offering a vibrant campus just a stone's throw from the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, Weymouth College continues to make improvements that ensure students receive the most from their educational journey. Exceptional facilities are designed to offer students the best start in their future careers.

Modern facilities are built to industry standards, including Centres of Excellence in Motor Vehicle, Engineering and Construction and Building Services. Each is kitted with the latest equipment thanks to funding from the Department for Education, including the recent Local Skills Improvement Fund.

The new Tyneham building is equipped with a mock hospital ward and children's nursery. These exceptional facilities replicate real-world environments that offer hands-on experiences and valuable sector skills.



The campus also includes a professional theatre, kitchens and restaurant (with industry-standard equipment), and a modern Higher Education Centre offering university-level qualifications.



Recognition & Vision

Ofsted inspected Weymouth College in 2020 and awarded a "Good" grade overall.

The College's vision is to transform the lives and economic prosperity of local people by providing access to learning delivered to the highest standards. The College has consistently delivered excellent outcomes for its learners.

A commitment to academic excellence, hands-on learning, and community engagement

creates an environment where students can unleash their potential and be inspired for a future of success.

Students have the opportunity to engage and learn from industry professionals or participate in exciting events and trips throughout the year. These activities are both curriculum and non-course based, as well as incorporating weekly sports activities and clubs.



Supportive Environment

The Student Services team provides information, advice, help and support at every stage, sensitively and in confidence.

The team works closely with teaching staff to ensure an effective support system for each student, according to individual needs.

There is a wide range of support for all students with additional needs, from learning difficulties and SEND to mental health issues and special examination requirements. A safeguarding culture is actively promoted within the College. Immediate access to the Safeguarding Team is available to all students and staff.



The Merger

Existing students will continue to study at their current campus of course delivery. The merged college will have a turnover of around £24 million and employ over 600 staff. Annually, the college would be responsible for the education and training of more than 2,200 students aged 16-19, over 350 apprentices, and over 500 adults. Additionally, the college will work with a breadth of employers and key stakeholders across the Dorset region and beyond.

Why should the colleges merge?

Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College, situated approximately 10 miles apart, collectively serve the county of Dorset with a full range of post-16 provision. Historically, the two colleges have operated collaboratively, offering a complementary range of courses. Both College Corporations believe that a merger will be in the best interests of its students, staff, employers and wider stakeholders and will bring the following benefits:

For students and apprentices

- The establishment of a strong and financially sustainable organisation that can invest in high-quality teaching and learning and an excellent learner experience. The college will have the financial capacity to protect and grow specialisms.
- An integrated approach to High Needs provision for young people and parents/carers in Dorset will create a local strategic coherent Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) offer, ensuring that EHCP/SEND/High Needs learners have a clear understanding of the Dorset Council Local Offer for post-16 education.
- Transitional arrangements for young people in Dorset Local Authority will improve by introducing a single co-ordinated approach for learners and families.
- Increasing the quality of education across the colleges and improved outcomes for learners.
- A joint, strategic, 'Dorset' approach to curriculum design and development will ensure clear progression routes from entry level to honours degree for all learners.
- The new merged college will ensure a sustainable property strategy is in place, to further develop and maintain the outstanding facilities.
- The merger will support a broader course offer for students and apprentices of all ages.
- As a merged college, enrichment activities will be more extensive and accessible, drawing on areas of expertise from each current college.
- Ongoing investment in curriculum innovation, employer-enhanced curriculum delivery and high-quality learning environments.
- Students and apprentices will have access to a broader range of resources across the newly merged college.



For Staff

- Enhanced job security through being part of a larger, more influential college, which will achieve increased financial resilience.
- Staff will have access to a broader range of resources across the newly merged college.
- Staff will be able to share best practices across the new organisation, supported by key local and national partners.
- Increase opportunities to work with employers to upskill and inform the development of curriculum and teaching and learning, to keep skills current.
- Providing increased development and progression opportunities for staff within a larger college.

For Employers

- The amalgamation of employer and partnership engagement activity will provide the opportunity to widen the current scope and introduce new growth and business development opportunities.
- Improved, cohesive, centralised approach to education, skills, and training for the local business community.
- More collaborative opportunities to co-design and develop a broader range of provision, positively impacting future curriculum, addressing Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) skills priorities, and supporting local economic development.

- Ability to influence a wider number of work experience and industry placement activities, which will strengthen the pool of potential employees in the future. Collaboratively addressing the labour skills gap and meeting employers' training needs to support local economic growth.
- The newly merged college, as a larger organisation, will be better placed to bid for skills programmes to support the development of skills in Dorset.

For the Community

- A college best placed to contribute to the development of local communities.
- A college committed to raising aspirations and increasing participation amongst young people and adults.
- A viable and sustainable college partnership serving Dorset.
- An organisation committed to partnership, working with strategic stakeholders to support local educational, economic, and social priorities.



Kingston Maurward College: Statutory Notice Further and Higher Education Act 1992

Notice is hereby given by the Corporation of Kingston Maurward College (Dorchester DT2 8PY) in accordance with the Further Education Corporations (Publication of Proposals) (England) Regulations 2012, of the proposal for the transfer of the property, rights and liabilities to the Corporation of Weymouth College (Cranford Ave, Weymouth DT4 7LQ) and the subsequent dissolution of the Corporation of Kingston Maurward College.

Dissolution of the Corporation of Kingston Maurward is proposed in order that it may merge with Weymouth College. The date proposed for the dissolution of the Corporation is 1 August 2024.

All students at Kingston Maurward College who have not yet completed their course of study by the date of the proposed dissolution will continue their education in the merged college on the same campus where they studied immediately prior to the dissolution of the Corporation of Kingston Maurward College. This will affect approximately 900 students: 800 16-18-year-olds (FE learners) and 100 adults.

A copy of the consultation document on this proposal is available at: <https://www.kmc.ac.uk/college/merger/>

The consultation period runs from 27 March to 30 April 2024.

All responses and representations must be received by the closing date through:

- completing the online response form at: <https://www.kmc.ac.uk/college/merger/>
- or email to merger@kmc.ac.uk

A summary of the feedback from the dissolution notice consultation and the outcome will be published on 27 June 2024 on the Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College websites.



The governing boards invite you to share your views on the presented merger proposal.

The following questions can be answered using the online feedback forms at:

www.kmc.ac.uk/college/merger

www.weymouth.ac.uk/potentialmerger

You may also email your responses to

merger@kmc.ac.uk or merger@weymouth.ac.uk

All responses must be received by 30 April 2024 to be considered as part of the consultation process.



Your name

Postcode

Your organisation (if applicable)

Please select the category(ies) which best describe/s you:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kingston Maurward College student | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/carer/guardian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weymouth College student | <input type="checkbox"/> School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prospective student or parent/carer/guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Other FE institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kingston Maurward College staff | <input type="checkbox"/> HE institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weymouth College staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Private training provider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade union representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Employer/local business |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Government body |

Other

1. Do you support the merger? (please circle one answer)

Yes / No

2. The proposed merger of Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College will deliver the best provision of education for the region

(please circle one answer)

Agree / Disagree / Unsure

2.1 If you answered 'Agree', what advantages do you see from the proposed merger?

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2.2 If you answered 'Disagree,' what disadvantages do you see from the proposed merger? What alternative arrangements would you suggest?

.....

2.3 If you answered 'Unsure,' please tell us why.

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Any personal information you provide to Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College as part of the consultation process will only be used for the purposes of acknowledging your participation and/or responding to any queries you submit at your request. Personal information will not be published as part of the outcome of the consultation; only anonymous comments and responses will be made public. Any personal information you provide will be kept for six months and then destroyed in a secure manner.

You retain the following rights:

- The right to access your personal information, using the College's Subject Access Request process.
- The right to have inaccurate personal information changed.
- The right to restrict the processing of your personal information.
- The right to object to the processing of your personal information.
- The right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office in relation to how Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College have processed your data. You can do this at: www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint

If you have any questions about the ways in which we use your personal information, please contact the relevant Data Protection Officer:
Kingston Maurward College: jonathan.worth@kmc.ac.uk
Weymouth College: phil_templeton@weymouth.ac.uk
or alison_lydon@weymouth.ac.uk



THANK YOU