

EDUCATION and VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The area increasingly demands a world-class education and training infrastructure to support the skill needs and work ethic required to develop a prosperous, knowledge-based economy.

Gateshead Council works in partnership with major local, regional, national and international organisations to ensure that businesses receive highly motivated and flexible people with the right skills for the job.

Gateshead Council is committed to raising educational standards and achievement throughout the Borough. There have been tremendous improvements made over the last few years and the Council will continue this process by creating inspirational 21st century learning environments in all its schools.

The Gateshead Lifelong Learning Partnership is a local planning and coordinating group with close links to the Tyneside Learning Partnership. It ensures that a coherent learning provision is made available throughout Gateshead to meet the current and future needs of young people, adults and employers. The Partnership seeks to identify and address gaps in provision, maximise new learning initiatives, eliminate unnecessary duplication of provision and coordinate the activities of partner members in order to maximise funding for learning targeted at all sections of the Gateshead community.

Gateshead Early Years – Development and Childcare Partnership was set up in 1999 as part of government policy for childcare and early year's education. It aims to ensure that there is high quality affordable childcare for children aged 0-14 and free early education places for all four year olds and 81 per cent of three year olds whose parents want one

Schools The Council's schools have done dramatically better than schools across the rest of the country in 2004, with more than six in ten of the borough's youngsters gaining at least five higher graded GCSEs.

Results	Gateshead %	N E %	England %
5 GCSEs A* to C	61.3	48.3	51.5

Results	Gateshead %	N E %	England %
KS3 Level 5 Maths	73	70	73
KS3 Level 5 Science	67	63	66

DfES (provisional figures, October 2004).

The Private Finance Initiative will be used to develop schools with the aim of them becoming a valued resource at the heart of their communities.

Gateshead City Learning Centres promote and develop new and exciting ways of learning through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The CLC combines state-of-the-art facilities and expertise to provide learning opportunities to a network of local schools (primary and secondary), businesses and the communities at widespread locations throughout the borough..

Huge benefits are being gained from collaborations that will transform teaching and learning for people in school, at college, at work and in their communities.

Education Business Link is a joint service provided by Gateshead Council, the Gateshead Lifelong Learning Partnership and more than 650 local businesses working together to raise the hopes and achievements of young people through business links activities.

- To ensure young people in Gateshead enjoy positive work-related learning experiences.
- To prepare young people for the opportunities, challenges and culture of work.
- To create greater awareness and understanding of business throughout schools
- To create greater awareness and understanding of learning issues by business
- To create greater commitment and investment in links between education and business

Vocational Training - There is an extensive network of private and public sector training organisations that provide employers with a superb range of training provision. Rising skills in the region mean that the area offers investors a potential workforce with a higher level of general work-based skills and industry recognised qualifications.

Universities – There are five large universities in the Region – Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland, Durham and Teesside.

In 2003/2004 over 90,000 students attended full and part-time courses with over 15,000 people graduating from the five universities.

Knowledge House is a collaborative service offered by the five universities and the Open University in the North. The universities services are available to all companies, organisations and individuals to gain access to expert solutions for developing ideas and solving problems.

Further Education Colleges – Tyne and Wear has six main FECs spread across the region operating from multiple campuses and giving easy access to educational resources no matter where you are in Tyne and Wear.

Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, City of Sunderland, Tyneside and South Tyneside Colleges have formed the G6 Partnership to work with key figures in education, business and government to promote Tyne and Wear as a centre of excellence, to share best practice and work to introduce education innovation.

Key Points

- Gateshead Council is committed to raising educational standards and achievement
- Gateshead school results above national average
- Lifelong Learning Partnership co-ordinating learning and skills programmes
- Education Business Link delivering important vocational education support
- An extensive network of public and private sector training organisations provide vocational training
- Local colleges provide full range of further education programmes
- Regional Universities working to provide expert skills, knowledge, facilities and support to businesses