# Capital City College appoints apprenticeship expert Debbie Houghton to drive innovation and partnerships



Capital City College (CCC), the largest further education institution in London, has appointed Debbie Houghton as its new Group Principal Apprenticeships, Partnerships & Innovation, effective this month. Debbie Houghton brings over 25 years of extensive experience in the further education sector, with a particular emphasis on apprenticeship provision and business development. Prior to joining CCC, she was Interim Director of Work-Based Learning at Gower College Swansea, a well-regarded further education institution in Wales known for its high A-level pass rates and community education projects.

Houghton's career spans a progression from lecturer to executive leadership across several colleges, most notably an eight-year tenure at Bedford College Group, where she held the role of Executive Director for Apprenticeships, Business Development & Commercial. Her academic background includes completing a Senior Leadership and Management Degree Apprenticeship, which culminated in earning an MBA with Merit and a Distinction in the End Point Assessment. This experience underpins her advocacy for apprenticeships not only as career pathways but also as strategic tools for leadership development. She has been active at national levels, engaging with government officials to influence apprenticeship policy.

Debbie Houghton expressed enthusiasm about her new role at Capital City College, highlighting the institution’s strategic central London location as an ideal platform to expand and innovate apprenticeship and training programmes. She said, “What drew me to this role is the chance to lead transformative initiatives that connect education with industry to deliver real impact.” With family roots in East London, Houghton also described the appointment as a personal homecoming, adding a layer of community commitment to her professional ambitions.

Angela Joyce, Chief Executive of Capital City College, welcomed the appointment as an important step in advancing the college’s mission. She emphasised that Houghton’s extensive background and passion for apprenticeships and workforce innovation align perfectly with the institution’s goals to serve students and employers alike. Joyce noted that under Houghton’s leadership, CCC aims to strengthen employer partnerships, better meet employer needs, and broaden opportunities for learners throughout London.

The strategic intent behind this appointment reflects broader trends in further education, where colleges are increasingly prioritising apprenticeship schemes and business collaborations to address skill shortages and workforce development. Capital City College’s position as London’s largest further education provider places it at the forefront of these efforts, offering learners accessible pathways to employment and career progression through practical and innovative training solutions.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://london-post.co.uk/capital-city-college-appoints-debbie-houghton-as-new-group-principal/), [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gower_College_Swansea)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://london-post.co.uk/capital-city-college-appoints-debbie-houghton-as-new-group-principal/), [[2]](https://bedfordcollegegroup.ac.uk/community-news/leading-by-example/), [[3]](https://bedfordcollegegroup.ac.uk/about/news/the-apprentice-youre-higher-ed/), [[5]](https://bedfordcollegegroup.ac.uk/about/the-bedford-college-group-board-of-governors/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://london-post.co.uk/capital-city-college-appoints-debbie-houghton-as-new-group-principal/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://london-post.co.uk/capital-city-college-appoints-debbie-houghton-as-new-group-principal/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://london-post.co.uk/capital-city-college-appoints-debbie-houghton-as-new-group-principal/), [[6]](https://www.weymouth.ac.uk/studying-with-us/careers/meet-our-team/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://london-post.co.uk/capital-city-college-appoints-debbie-houghton-as-new-group-principal/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://bedfordcollegegroup.ac.uk/community-news/leading-by-example/> - Debbie Houghton, Executive Director of The Bedford College Group, completed a Senior Leadership and Management Degree Apprenticeship, earning an MBA. This programme enhanced her strategic leadership skills and provided practical experience of studying through work as an apprentice. In her role, she promotes apprenticeships as a viable career path and has engaged in discussions with government officials to shape the future of apprenticeships. She holds a Master of Business Administration (Leadership Practice) with Merit and achieved a Distinction in the End Point Assessment of the degree apprenticeship.
3. <https://bedfordcollegegroup.ac.uk/about/news/the-apprentice-youre-higher-ed/> - Debbie Houghton, Executive Director of Apprenticeships, Business Development, and Commercial at The Bedford College Group, undertook a Senior Leadership and Management Degree Apprenticeship, culminating in an MBA. This initiative aimed to set an example of embracing learning at all organisational levels. Her role involves advocating for apprenticeships as a career route and enhancing promotional opportunities. She has participated in high-level meetings to discuss the future of apprenticeships and holds a Master of Business Administration (Leadership Practice) with Merit, achieving a Distinction in the End Point Assessment.
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gower_College_Swansea> - Gower College Swansea is a further education institution in Swansea, Wales, formed in 2010 by merging Gorseinon College and Swansea College. It offers a range of further education and training courses across multiple campuses, including Gorseinon, Tycoch, Jubilee Court, Llwyn y Bryn, and Sketty Hall. The college reported a 99% A-level pass rate in 2021, surpassing the Welsh national average. It also runs charitable projects, such as the Kenya Community Education Project, which supports over 120 pupils at Madungu Primary School in Kenya.
5. <https://bedfordcollegegroup.ac.uk/about/the-bedford-college-group-board-of-governors/> - The Bedford College Group Board of Governors comprises individuals from diverse backgrounds, including education, business, and community sectors. The board oversees the group's strategic direction and governance. Notable members include Alasdair Simmons, a qualified accountant and project manager; Richard Dimbleby, with extensive experience in further and higher education; and Cathy Barr, with a background in teaching and educational leadership. The board's collective expertise contributes to the group's mission of delivering high-quality education and training.
6. <https://www.weymouth.ac.uk/studying-with-us/careers/meet-our-team/> - Weymouth College offers a diverse range of courses across various disciplines, including A Levels, Applied Science, Business, Catering & Hospitality, Computing and IT, Construction & Building Services, Creative & Visual Arts, Engineering & Automotive, Hair & Beauty, Health, Social Care & Early Years, Music, and Sport & Public Services. The college provides apprenticeships in sectors such as Accountancy & Bookkeeping, Business & Administration, Catering & Hospitality, Construction & Building Services, Engineering & Automotive, Hair & Beauty, and Health, Social Care & Early Years.
7. <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/our-alumni/for-alumni/alumni-groups/the-bedford-society/committee-members/> - The Bedford Society Committee at Royal Holloway, University of London, comprises alumni who actively engage in promoting the college's heritage and fostering connections among former students. Committee members include Dr. Claire Gobbi Daunton, Chair, who studied history at Bedford College; Professor Gavin Drewry, who lectured in politics and public administration; and others who have contributed significantly to the college's community and development. The committee plays a vital role in maintaining alumni relations and supporting the college's ongoing initiatives.