

STRODE COLLEGE PROSPECTUS



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



PART OF **UCS**
COLLEGE
GROUP

WELCOME

Welcome to Strode College, now part of the UCS College Group, we're so pleased you're considering your future with us.

Strode is renowned for academic excellence, creativity, and community spirit. Whether you're interested in A Levels, T Levels, Apprenticeships, higher education, short leisure courses, or professional and technical training, you'll be supported by passionate teachers, excellent facilities, and a college environment designed to help you thrive.

We're here to support you every step of the way, helping you grow in confidence, gain new skills, and achieve your goals. At Strode, we believe in your potential and are committed to empowering you to make the most of every opportunity.

Make the most of your time here, ask questions, get involved, and believe in yourself. We can't wait to see what you'll achieve. This prospectus is just the beginning. Explore what's on offer, imagine where it could take you and know we'd love to be part of your next journey.

We are looking forward to welcoming you.

Sam Reilly

Principal, Strode College



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INTRODUCING... UCS COLLEGE GROUP

Transforming Lives

UCS College Group is the new name for a bold and ambitious partnership between five respected institutions: Bridgwater, Cannington, Strode and Taunton Colleges, and University Centre Somerset. Together, we've created a future-focused education group that combines the strengths of each college to deliver greater benefits for students, families, employers, and communities.

Each College will remain rooted within its local community, but being part of a large college group will unlock even more; you'll be part of the UCS College Group family with more...

Opportunities: You'll have access to great support, from academic to sport, all shaped around your goals.

Employer links: Your course is built with employers to help you get ahead in the world of work.

Great facilities: From theatres and sports labs to training kitchens and workshops, you'll study in spaces that mirror real world workplaces.

A supportive community: You'll be part of a local college community that will work with you to help you achieve your goals and ambitions.

This is more than a new name, it marks a new chapter. A commitment to collaboration, innovation, and opportunity, and a promise to grow stronger together, think bigger, and create an education system that works for everyone.

For further
information,
scan here:



UCS

COLLEGE GROUP

TRANSFORMING LIVES



University
Centre
Somerset

DEGREES FOR REAL LIFE



BRIDGWATER
COLLEGE
BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



CANNINGTON
COLLEGE
BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



STRODE
COLLEGE
BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



TAUNTON
COLLEGE
BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST

STRODE COLLEGE

Rooted in Heritage, Thriving Today.

From its early roots in classical education to its evolution as a forward-thinking College, Strode has remained committed to serving its community. For over 124 years, the College has adapted to meet the needs of learners and employers, shaped by population growth, social policy, and changing expectations of education.

The story of Strode is closely tied to the Clark family, whose sheepskin slipper business transformed the town of Street. As Quakers, the Clarks placed community, equality, and education at the heart of their values. They invested heavily in the local area, supporting housing, welfare, and learning opportunities for workers and their families. Their influence in education can be traced back as early as 1804, laying the foundations for what would eventually become Strode College.

Today, Strode offers a wide range of opportunities, from A Levels and T Levels to professional and technical training, apprenticeships, adult learning, and university-level study. Students benefit from expert teaching, modern facilities, and a welcoming environment that supports every ambition. At the heart of College life is the Strode Theatre, a renowned arts venue that reflects the College's creativity and community spirit. Strode blends a proud tradition with a bold vision for the future.



For further
information,
scan here:



FACILITIES

Dynamic spaces that inspire, challenge and build confidence.

At Strode College, our facilities are designed to support your learning, spark your creativity, and prepare you for the future. Whether you're in a health ward, science lab, art studio, IT suite or workshop, you'll be using equipment and spaces that reflect real-world environments.

We've invested in modern, well-equipped classrooms and specialist areas for everything from media and photography to sport and health. Our science labs and digital facilities enable you to explore ideas in depth, while our Learning Resource Centre and quiet study zones give you space to focus and grow independently.

For those studying creative or practical subjects, you'll have access to studios, editing suites and collaborative spaces that bring your projects to life. And when it's time to take a break, our welcoming social spaces and on-site café make college life enjoyable and well-balanced.

At Strode, you'll find everything you need to succeed, all in one inspiring place.

For further
information,
scan here:



AWARD-WINNING RECOGNITION

Celebrating excellence, achievement, and impact.

Strode College is proud to be recognised nationally and regionally for the quality of its education, outstanding student experience, and contribution to the community. Our awards reflect the passion, dedication, and innovation that drive everything we do, from outstanding teaching and industry-led learning to meaningful partnerships with employers and community organisations.

Student success at the annual Art Exhibition and Student Awards, Strode Theatre's triumph at the 2025 Cinderella Awards, the nationally recognised CyberFirst Silver Award, and our CEO's CBE in the King's Honours all celebrate the achievements of our students, staff, and community. Recognition for apprenticeship delivery, sustainability initiatives, employer partnerships, and student support further demonstrates our commitment to excellence in every area of college life.

Being award-winning is about more than trophies; it is a mark of trust and quality for our learners, families, communities, and employers.



RESULTS AND SUCCESS

Celebrating achievement and inspiring ambition.

At Strode College, success is about unlocking potential, academically, personally, and professionally. Every year, we celebrate the achievements of our students, from outstanding A Level, T Level and vocational results to creative accomplishments, competition wins, and impressive university and career destinations.

Strode has a long-standing reputation for academic excellence and high standards. But success here goes beyond results. We're proud to support learners as they grow in confidence, develop new skills, and discover what they're truly capable of.

Whether you're progressing to higher education, an apprenticeship, employment, or further training, we're here to help you take the next step with purpose and pride.

Success is shared and celebrated across the College, in lessons, performances, exhibitions, and events and through the stories we showcase online and in the wider community.

To explore our latest achievements and student destinations, visit our website and see how far a Strode education can take you.



For further information, scan here:



SPORT

Opportunities for All through Sport and participation.

As part of UCS College Group, we are proud to be recognised as one of only a handful of colleges nationwide to achieve England Football's prestigious 3-star accreditation, a mark of excellence that highlights the strength of our football provision and the pathways available to our students. This recognition reflects the outstanding quality of our programmes, with many of our athletes going on to represent the England Colleges National Teams, showcasing their talent on a national stage in gymnastics, trampolining and securing scholarships with Bristol City FC and Aberdeen Utd.

Team UCS College Group's sporting success is built on strong partnerships with elite clubs including Bristol Bears, Bridgwater United Women's FC, and Team Bath Netball, giving students the chance to train alongside professionals, learn from industry experts, and access development opportunities that prepare them for the highest levels of competition.

We are committed to inspiring the next generation of athletes through sports development days, which allow prospective students to experience our high-performance programmes, exceptional facilities, and the unrivalled support available at UCS College Group. As a TASS (Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme) registered college, we ensure that talented individuals are supported to achieve both academically and athletically, enabling them to fulfil their potential without compromise.



ACCREDITED
COLLEGE ★ ★ ★
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL



acc
sport

For further
information,
scan here:



EMPLOYERS

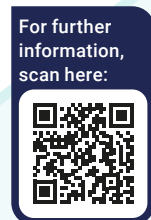
Driving growth and innovation through expert partnerships.

At UCS College Group, employers are central to delivering education that makes a real difference. By working in partnership with local, regional, and national employers, we ensure our courses meet the needs of industry and prepare students for the modern workplace.

These collaborations bring clear benefits, students gain access to high-quality work placements, apprenticeships, live briefs, and hands-on experiences that build confidence, skills, and employability. Staff remain connected to evolving industry trends, embedding current knowledge and practice into every course.

For employers, working with UCS College Group means access to a motivated and skilled talent pipeline, alongside opportunities to shape the curriculum around future workforce demands.

Together, UCS College Group and its employer network drive innovation, support economic growth, and strengthen key sectors. Most importantly, they create opportunities not only for students, but for the wider community, by developing the next generation of professionals, creatives, and leaders.



UNIVERSITY CENTRE SOMERSET



Degrees for Real Life!

At this stage while you're choosing a college, you may not be thinking as far as university. But it's worth knowing that university-level study is available right here in Somerset when you're ready.

University Centre Somerset (UCS) is part of the UCS College Group, and it offers Higher Education courses, including degrees and apprenticeships, at Bridgwater College, Cannington College, Strode College and Taunton College.

You'll be studying with expert lecturers who know the industry and what it takes to succeed. Class

sizes are relatively small, so you get more support, more time with your tutors, and a learning experience that really works for you.

Our degrees are awarded by top universities like The Open University, UWE Bristol and the University of Plymouth. We also offer professional qualifications and apprenticeships in areas that local employers are looking for, so you're building a future that's actually going somewhere.

So, while university might feel a long way off now, just know it's within your reach, and closer than you think.

SUBJECTS INCLUDE:

- Agricultural Management
- Animal Management, Ecology & Conservation
- Computing & Digital Technologies
- Construction & Civil Engineering
- Early Childhood Education & Care
- Electrical & Electronic Engineering
- History, Archaeology and Heritage
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Makeup Artistry, Prosthetic FX & Wig Making
- Mechanical Engineering
- Motorsport
- Nuclear Engineering
- Nursing, Health & Care
- Psychology
- Sports Science & Coaching
- Teaching & Training.



For further information, scan here:



SUSTAINABILITY

Inspiring change, protecting our planet, and shaping a greener future together.

Sustainability is more important than ever and at Strode College, it's at the heart of everything we do. We understand our responsibility to protect the environment, reduce our carbon footprint, and inspire future generations to make positive, conscious choices.

From eco-friendly buildings and waste reduction initiatives to sustainable travel options and green spaces across the College, we're committed to creating a better future. At Strode, we recycle a wide range of materials including plastic bottles, glass, batteries, spectacles, light tubes, mobile phones, computers, and cables. Staff rooms are equipped with compost bins for tea bags and fruit and vegetable peelings are used to create compost for our College garden, our vibrant spaces are designed to encourage biodiversity and wellbeing.

But sustainability isn't just about recycling, it's about education, creativity, and action. Staff and students have worked with Oxfam to raise awareness of the climate crisis, while our end-of-year art shows have placed sustainability centre stage, inspiring creative responses to one of the world's greatest challenges.

Through education, practical action, and innovation, we aim to equip every learner with the knowledge and values needed to make a difference. Together, we can build a greener, fairer future.



For further information, scan here:



COMMUNITY MINDED

Connecting, supporting, growing together, and creating opportunities for everyone.

At Strode College, community isn't an add-on, it's who we are. We're more than just a place to study; we're a driving force for opportunity, creativity, and progress across Somerset. From volunteering and fundraising to collaborating with employers, schools, and organisations, everything we do is about making a lasting, positive impact.

Our learners and staff contribute far beyond the classroom, raising funds for important charities, supporting local initiatives, and gaining real-world experience through projects that benefit the wider community. Recent highlights include creative collaborations with local businesses and the NHS, innovative work with Route1 Advocacy to support vulnerable children, and showcasing student talent at county-wide events such as the Somerset Business Awards. Former students have even gone on to achieve remarkable community impact, such as raising thousands for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

We also provide inclusive learning opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds, helping to upskill the workforce and drive positive change. By hosting events, offering accessible education, and building strong partnerships, we strengthen the region we proudly serve.



For further
information,
scan here:



UCS COLLEGE GROUP ADVANTAGE

The UCS College Group Advantage is our promise to help every student go further, achieve more, and feel ready for whatever comes next. Built around seven key areas; Excellence in Action, Leadership and Management, Career Readiness, Growth Mindset and Resilience, Personal Empowerment and Wellbeing, Digital Confidence, and Global Citizenship and Sustainability.

It gives you the tools, experiences, and mindset to succeed. By developing these qualities alongside your course, you'll not only gain a recognised qualification, but also the confidence, skills, and resilience to thrive in higher education, the workplace, and the wider world. You'll benefit from real-world experiences, greater independence, and the ability to adapt to challenges, while building leadership skills, self-belief, and a clear sense of purpose.

The UCS College Group Advantage ensures you leave not just qualified, but fully prepared to take on new opportunities with confidence.

For further information, scan here:



EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

- I strive for high standards in all areas of learning
- I reflect on my progress and use feedback to grow
- I have volunteered, supported fundraising initiatives, or contributed to my community.

GROWTH MINDSET AND RESILIENCE

- I step out of my comfort zone to solve problems and manage pressure effectively
- I communicate clearly, thinking critically, and apply numeracy with confidence
- I am self-confident, adaptable and resilient.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- I can manage my time, meet deadlines, and prioritise effectively
- I take ownership of my success, understanding what is required to achieve on my course
- I show initiative, and demonstrate a positive, solutions-focused approach to learning.

CAREER READINESS

- I have used career planning tools to explore my future options
- I have taken part in events and activities linked to my chosen career
- I've developed a career plan in discussion with my tutor or careers adviser.

PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT AND WELLBEING

- I know how to look after my own social, emotional, financial, and mental health
- I know how to stay safe and healthy, both offline and online
- I know what to do if I am concerned about the safety or wellbeing of others.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

- I understand and uphold British Values
- I act independently and responsibly
- I am aware of climate change, global challenges, and I contribute to positive change.

DIGITALLY CONFIDENT

- I know how to develop and apply my digital knowledge
- I use a wide range of digital tools to support my learning
- I understand the benefits and risks of AI and how to use it responsibly.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT COURSE

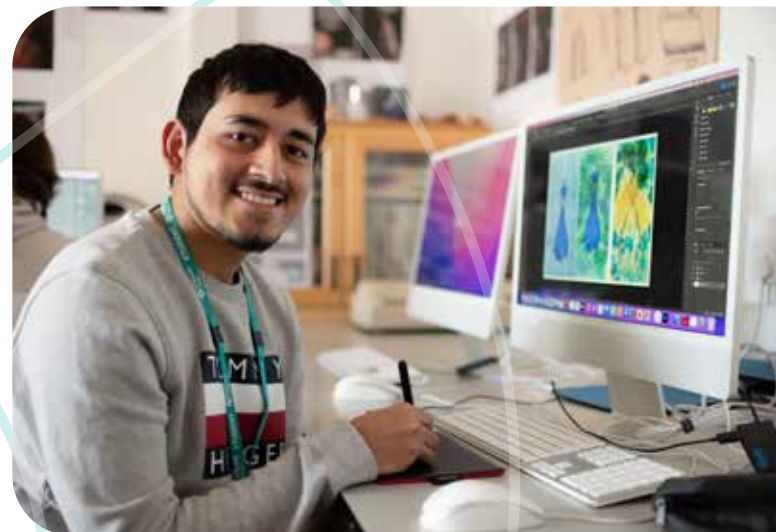
Shape your future, find your path, passion, and purpose.

Whether you're leaving school, returning to education as an adult, progressing to higher-level study, or developing skills for your workforce, choosing the right course is an important step towards your next goal.

At Strode College, we offer a wide range of pathways to suit different learning styles, ambitions, and career plans. These include A Levels, T Levels, Technical and Professional qualifications, Apprenticeships, adult short courses and university-level study. Each pathway offers unique opportunities, from gaining hands-on experience to preparing for further study or advancing in your career.

Our experienced staff are here to guide you through your options and help you make an informed choice. By selecting a course that suits your needs and aspirations, you'll gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to take your next step, whether that's university, employment, career progression, or personal development.

For further information, scan here:



COLLEGE LIFE

A journey of growth, opportunity, and unforgettable experiences.

College life is about so much more than just gaining qualifications, it's about discovering who you are, exploring your passions, and building a future full of potential.

From the moment you join, you become part of a vibrant, supportive community where every student is encouraged to get involved, try new things, and make lasting memories. With a huge range of clubs, societies, sports, enrichment activities, and volunteering opportunities, there's something for everyone, whether you're into books, football, chess, or fundraising for great causes.

Through tutorials and the UCS College Group Advantage programme, we will help you develop key life skills, look after your wellbeing, and prepare for life beyond college.

Our Students' Union, Learner Voice, and College Chaplains ensure your voice is heard and your values are respected. College life at Strode helps shape confident, capable, and well-rounded individuals, ready for whatever comes next.

For further information, scan here:



LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Turn passion into opportunity and gain experiences that go further.

At Strode College, education isn't confined to the classroom, it's brought to life through meaningful experiences that inspire, challenge, and prepare you for what's next. From university visits and creative showcases to career talks, enrichment activities, and subject-based trips, you'll gain the knowledge and confidence that only real-world learning can offer.

Our enrichment and extension programmes give you the chance to develop your talents in areas such as enterprise, STEM, performing arts and leadership. These opportunities are designed to push your potential, broaden your thinking, and help you stand out from the crowd.

At Strode, success is about more than qualifications. It's about discovering what drives you, growing your voice, and making connections that last. Whether you're aiming for university, a creative career, an apprenticeship, or something entirely new, we'll help you go further.

Because at Strode College, learning doesn't stop at the classroom door, it's just the beginning.



For further information, scan here:



SUPPORTING YOUR LEARNING

Strong support, brighter futures helping every learner thrive.

College is a time of personal and academic growth, and the right support can make all the difference. At Strode College, we provide a complete network of care to help you overcome challenges and succeed both in and out of the classroom.

Our pastoral team is here to guide you through college life, offering advice and a listening ear whenever you need it. Wellbeing, counselling and mental health services provide professional support, while our Additional Learning Support team offers tailored strategies to ensure learners with specific needs or disabilities can achieve their goals.

We also provide practical support, including bursaries, scholarships, and study skills guidance, easing financial pressures and helping you stay focused on your studies.

This holistic approach supporting you academically, emotionally, and practically builds independence, confidence, and readiness for the future, giving every learner the foundation for lifelong success.



For further
information,
scan here:



ENGLISH AND MATHS

Essential skills for life, learning, and your future.

English and maths are essential skills that support success in education, employment, and everyday life. At Strode College, we ensure that every learner has the opportunity to strengthen these core skills, because they open doors to further study, career opportunities, and personal growth.

Strong English skills help you communicate confidently, from writing reports to presenting ideas, while maths equips you with the problem-solving and analytical skills that employers value in every industry.

If you haven't yet achieved a grade 4 or above in GCSE English or maths, you'll study these subjects alongside your main course, with expert support to help you develop confidence and achieve your goals.

Whether your ambition is university, an apprenticeship, or employment, a solid foundation in English and maths will give you the tools to succeed now and in the future.

For further
information,
scan here:



APPLYING TO COLLEGE

Own your future, your journey starts here.

When you've decided what you'd like to study all you need to do is apply! It's very straightforward, apply online and you'll be here in no time at all.

We'll email you and occasionally send a letter, text message or call, please provide an email address you check regularly (preferably your personal email, not school email). Please let us know if your details change.

Once you've applied, you'll be invited for an interview; this is to ensure you've chosen the right course, for us to get to know you and your plans and, for you to get to know us.

Depending on the subject, you might be asked to prepare something, in advance, to support your interview. If applicable, this will be requested in the interview invitation.

Soon after your interview, if you're successful, we'll email you with an offer of a place. Secure your place by either responding to your email or by calling us to accept your offer.

Remember! To avoid disappointment, it's important to apply early to secure your place.

From application to enrolment, our friendly team will guide you every step of the way.



For further
information,
scan here:



GETTING HERE

Your journey to success starts now.

BY BUS

Students travel to Strode College from across Somerset. We work with Somerset Council to ensure there is sufficient public transport available and that it operates efficiently for our students.

All routes used by students travelling to College are classed as public services. They run to a published timetable and are also used by members of the public.

BY CAR

If you choose to drive, we have free parking for 500 cars with a number of spaces allocated for disabled parking and mopeds.

BY BICYCLE

Those who cycle have the use of both covered and uncovered cycle parks.

BUS ROUTES



For further information, scan here:



COME AND EXPERIENCE STRODE COLLEGE FOR YOURSELF.

Join us at an open event, taster day, or book a college tour. Simply scan the QR code to see upcoming dates and secure your place, registration is essential.

For further
information,
scan here:



Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this prospectus is fair and accurate at the time of print (September 2025). We make every effort to publish up-to-date information on our website.

UCS College Group reserves the right to amend information at any time.

Thank you to all the students and staff who have granted permission for images and quotations to be reproduced in this publication.

As part of the college groups commitment to sustainability, this prospectus has been produced from FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council) paper and printed using vegetable-based inks. The FSC® promotes the responsible management of the world's forest. FSC® paper originates from forests managed with consideration for the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations.



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