

Announcement – BSix

The Board of BSix Sixth Form College are delighted to announce that BSix has made an ‘in principle’ agreement to merge with New City College. BSix and New City College are both Ofsted-rated “Good” colleges. BSix is a sixth-form college based in Hackney and New City College is a larger college of further education with campuses in East London, including Hackney, and Essex. Following the merger, sixth-form education will continue at BSix’s Upper Clapton campus in Hackney within the NCC group.

The Board have been considering the long-cherished autonomy of BSix for some time with the best interests of current and future students and members of staff at the forefront of discussions. The decision to become part of a larger organisation affords BSix the best opportunity to build upon the many gains made over the past six years while maintaining certain distinct BSix characteristics.

Once the benefits of merger were accepted, New City College quickly emerged as the obvious partner. Lengthy discussions and a thorough process of due diligence have revealed many more common elements of purpose and policy than might have been thought to exist between a multi-site further education college and a relatively small sixth form college. Both institutions are convinced of the mutual advantages to emerge from a formal coming together which will unify college-based provision in Hackney and facilitate the development of an ever-more coherent and responsive curriculum to complement that available in school sixth forms.

The merger will leave BSix financially stronger and more resilient than at present, better able to support appropriate staffing levels, to invest in the estate and to enhance the range and quality of learning facilities and resources. Staff pay and conditions will be protected, and continuity of management and governance will help ensure a smooth transition. It is expected that two members of the BSix Board will join the Board of New City College.

Whilst able, as part of NCC, to benefit from economies of scale and to draw upon a huge reservoir of expertise and experience, BSix will retain both the core values and organisational culture which have served it well in recent years. Keen to give to, as well as take from the merged entity, BSix staff and students can look forward to sharing ideas and practices which will contribute to the future development of New City College.

There are still several steps to take before the merger is finalised. These will include a public consultation and final Board approvals. Subject to necessary consents and authorisations, it is expected that the merger will become effective on 1 August 2024 in time for the new academic year.

Kevin Watson, Principal, BSix Sixth Form College