

# NEWS

## ***Exciting Opportunities Ahead***

Adult Education College Bexley is in talks with Bexley College about the exciting possibility of closer collaboration.



So what does this mean?

The discussions could see Adult Education College join together with Bexley College leading to a new combined community education venture that will benefit learners and offer more opportunities.

### **Economy of Scale**

In response to the economic climate and the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, it is likely that we will be faced with continued changes in funding.

While the two successful colleges remain popular, both have been looking at how a more cost effective and long-term level of service could be achieved.

By joining forces the two colleges present a strong and compelling economic option.

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How will it work?

The concept is supported by both sets of Governors, but now the real work needs to be done to work out the feasibility and practicalities. This process will begin in May followed by a full and in-depth analysis that will show how viable the plans might be.

Once this initial stage is complete, there will be full consultation with learners, staff and the local community.

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What will it mean to me and my course?

Certainly for the time being you won't see any change in the service and courses available to you.

In the future however, there are some real gains - a broader range of courses; shared facilities could mean greater access to up-to-date equipment and teaching spaces; the opportunity of combining some courses could ensure their viability; and easier access to courses and more co-ordinated progression routes will all contribute to the continuation and expansion of first class learning opportunities for Bexley residents.

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Why is it good news?

This presents an exciting opportunity, amid the downturn, to preserve the best from both Colleges. By working together we can offer greater choice to ensure the needs of local learners are met; improve the range and location of courses; and sharing costs will mean that the largest proportion of funding is spent on learners and courses. All this will help to build a more secure future for adult learning in Bexley.