

For Immediate Release

New college to host first open events

The new Haywards Heath College will be opening its doors to future students for the first time this Autumn.

The college, which opens in September 2020, will be hosting a series of open events to offer prospective students and their families an opportunity to meet staff, find out about their educational opportunities and see the progress being made at the building.

The first is set to be held on Thursday 24 October from 4.30pm to 7pm, closely followed by an open morning on Saturday 16 November, 10am to 1pm.

Visitors will be able to see some of the campus facilities and advisors will be on hand to help answer queries about careers, progression and how to apply.

There will also be a number of activities in the sports hall and science labs to showcase the college in action.

Paul Riley, Principal of Haywards Heath College, will be welcoming visitors with a presentation that introduces the new college and explain the timetable of the college development, as well as outlining the vision that it aims to achieve.

He said: "Our open events are an important way for students in the local area to discover all that Haywards Heath College has to offer.

"We will be running a diverse curriculum in a great set of dedicated facilities and we are looking forward to opening the doors for the first time in October.

"Although work is ongoing on the site, we are excited to be able to show our future students how we are building a fantastic learning environment in which they will be able to thrive.

"This is the first in a number of planned activities taking place at the campus, with further open days and community events planned and we look forward to meeting students, their parents and local residents over the next few months."

Haywards Heath College, which is part of the Chichester College Group (CCG), will be offering a wide selection of A-level and vocational courses, as well as apprenticeships to students in the Mid Sussex area.

CCG has been working closely with Sir Nicholas Soames, Member of Parliament for Mid Sussex, and Mid Sussex District Council, West Sussex County Council and other local stakeholders to ensure the college provision meets local needs.

Councillor Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Leader of Mid Sussex District Council said: "It's great news for young people living in Mid Sussex that Haywards Heath College is opening next year.

"It gives them the opportunity to further their education locally and removes the inconvenience and cost of making long journeys to facilities outside the district.

"There is a clearly established need for post-16 education facilities in Mid Sussex and we've fought hard to ensure that this college is brought back into use. It's fantastic that prospective students will be able to visit the college next month as part of these informative Open Day events".

Shelagh Legrave OBE, Chief Executive of CCG, added: "We are very much looking forward to meeting our future students and local residents to discuss and demonstrate the high quality educational opportunities that will be available to them at Haywards Heath College.

"This is a very exciting time and we are grateful for the support we have received from the local community, Sir Nicholas and our colleagues at Mid Sussex District Council as we move ever closer to the college's opening, which is now less than a year away."

Information about courses, including a guide for applicants, can be found on the college website (www.haywardsheath.ac.uk).

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Notes to editors

About the Chichester College Group

The Chichester College Group (CCG) is the largest college group in Sussex.

Through our colleges, we educate and train more than 20,000 full and part-time students every year.

CCG covers four main sites, Chichester College, Crawley College, Brinsbury College and Worthing College, with a fifth – Haywards Heath College – opening in September 2020.

It also has an extensive portfolio of successful commercial businesses which operate alongside the colleges, including a chain of childcare nurseries (First Steps Childcare), Anglia Examinations and Chichester English Language School, as well as sports and conferencing facilities.

Our vision is to change lives through learning, and it is our aim to significantly improve the learning opportunities, experience and environment for students across the region - combining our commitment to inclusivity and excellence.

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