

Digital Strategy

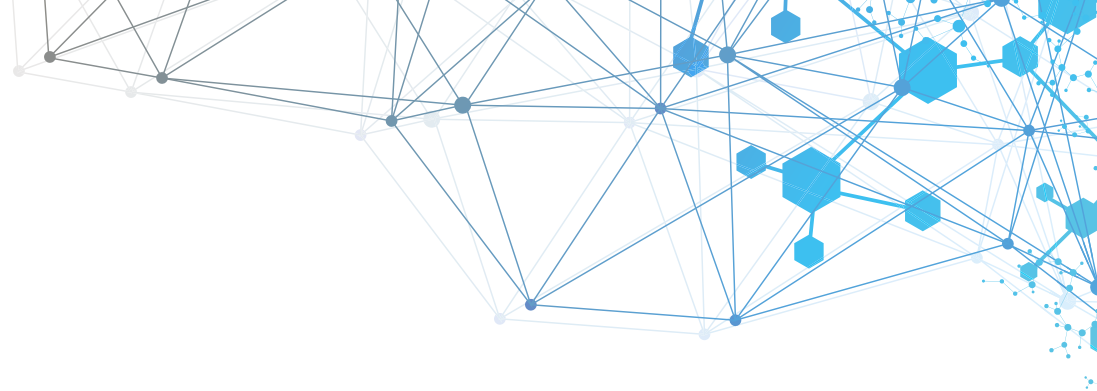


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Our ambition...



***“65% of children starting Primary School will have jobs that don’t exist today”
(World Economic Forum)***

While we can’t accurately predict the future, we can be sure that in ten years the world will look very different from how it looks today.

Changes in technology, demographics, digitisation, automation, and demand for personalisation all have the potential to reshape the landscape in which we operate. This can disrupt the scale and nature of skills demand and the types of jobs that may be available to shape the economy.

At West College Scotland, we will ensure that the College has the digital capacity and capabilities to deliver in a modern economy. This involves using data to provide intelligence and insight that will help to shape curriculum ambitions and business processes.

// Digital isn’t optional. Digital transformation is a global phenomenon, happening at pace across our economy and is a core driver of productivity and inclusive economic growth. //

Keith Brown, Cabinet Secretary Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Scottish Government

Providing a positive digital experience for all students, with appropriately skilled and qualified staff and a digital infrastructure that is fit for purpose now and in the future.

Inspirational and Innovative remains the overall ambition for the College in describing the environment and experience for both students and staff.

Future Skills

Scotland's digital sector contributes around **£5.25 billion** to the Scottish economy and is forecast to be the fastest growing sector in Scotland by 2024

90% of all jobs require digital skills

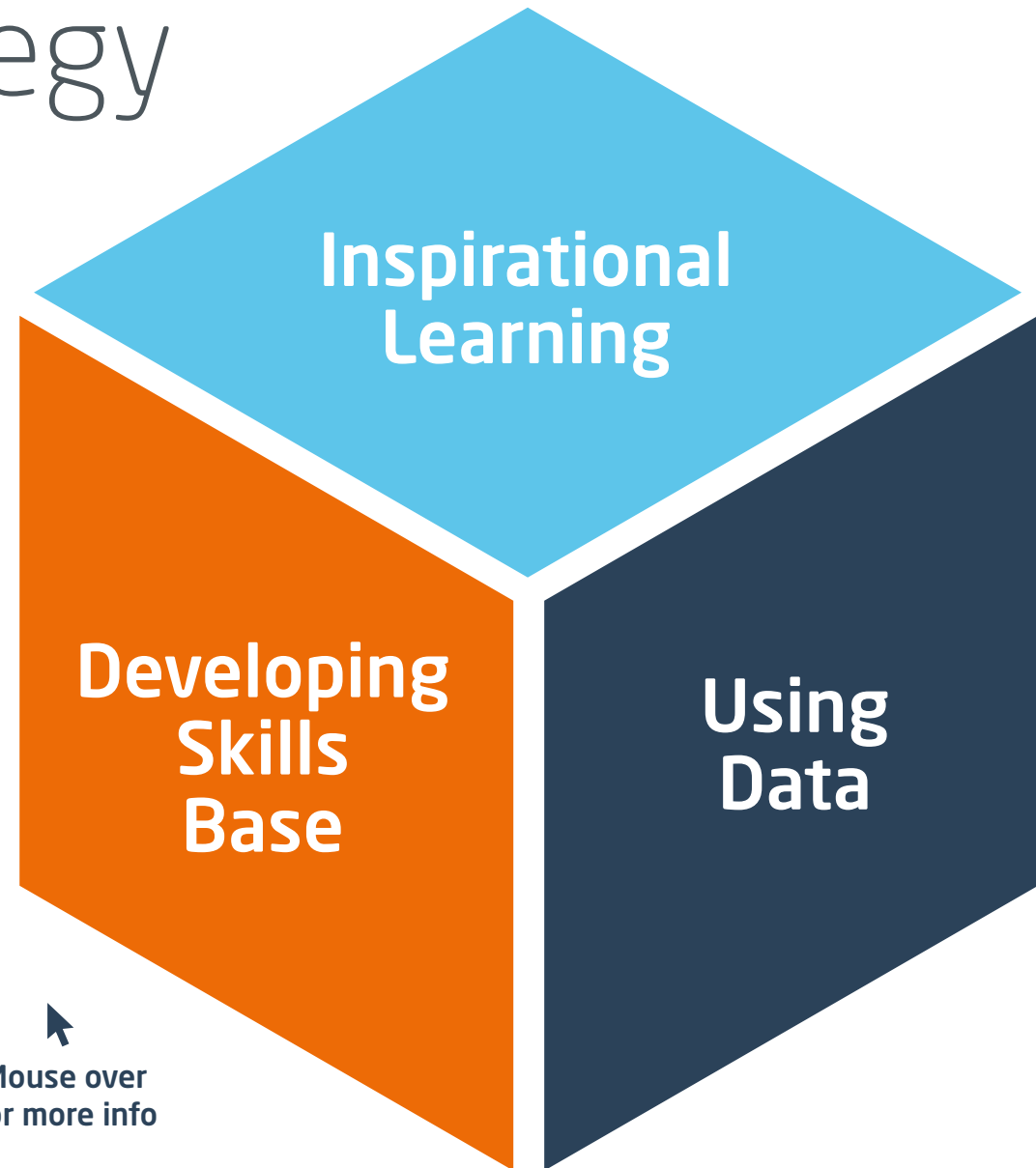
All industry sectors report a digital skills shortage

The digital sector provides **11,000** job opportunities each year

West College Scotland 'Our Workforce, Our Future' research shows that of those employers with a skills gap in their workforce **61%** listed digital skills as a priority

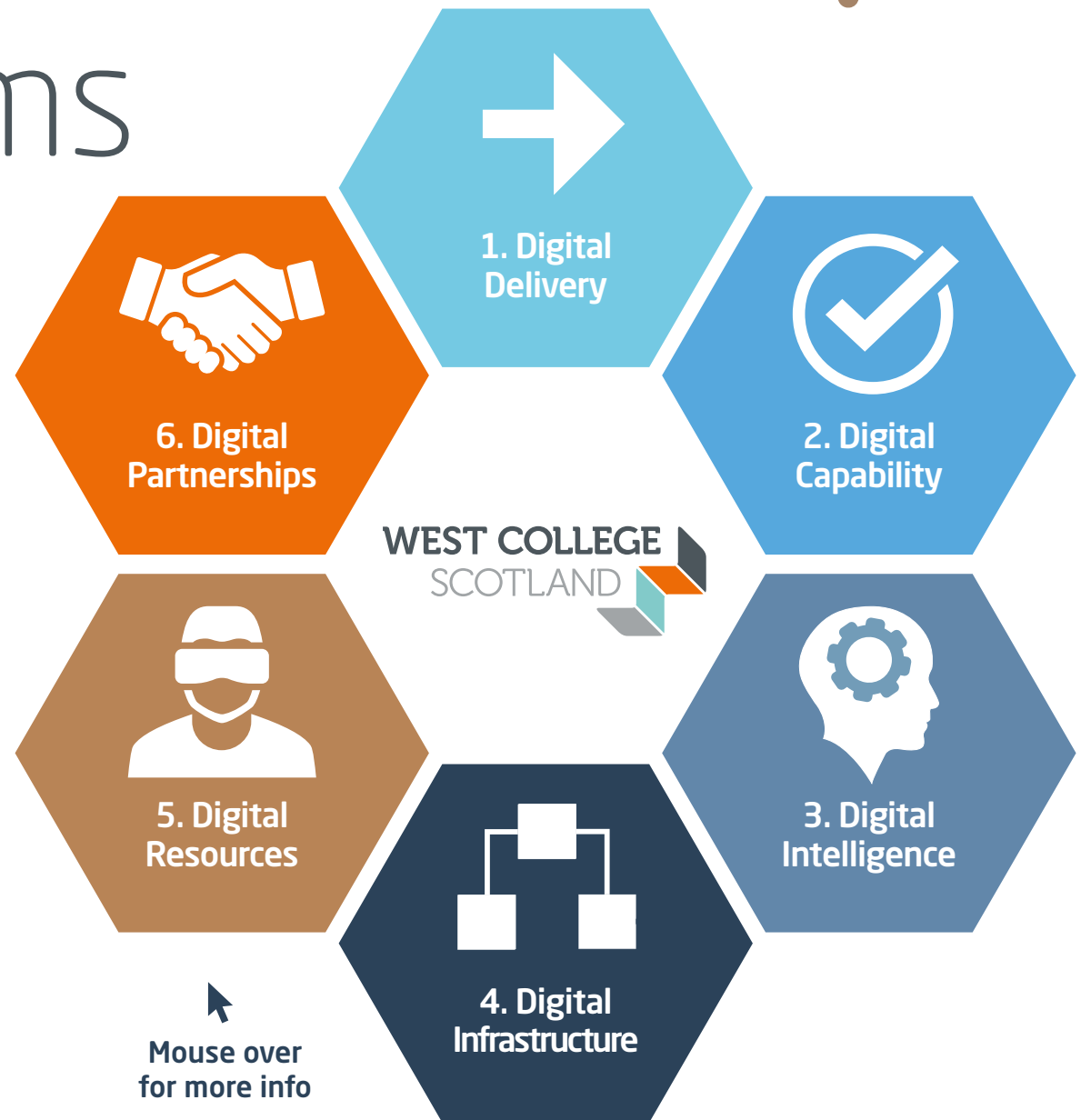
Supporting our corporate strategy

As framed in our Corporate Strategy, our digital success will ensure:



Mouse over
for more info

6 Key strategic aims



Digital Pledges; what our success will look like in 2025



Aim 1. Digital Delivery

We will have reimagined our curriculum so that digital innovation and delivery is incorporated across all modes and levels.



Aim 2. Digital Capability

We will have attained a skills and confidence level across our student and staff that ensures digital practice is a norm.



Aim 3. Digital Intelligence

We will be deriving business intelligence and analytics easily and freely from the data we collect across the organisation



Aim 4. Digital Infrastructure

We will ensure that our digital infrastructure will have evolved to meet our digital ambition



Aim 5. Digital Resources

We will ensure that our processes and service offerings will be digitally designed and delivered



Aim 6. Digital Partnerships

We will be recognised for our digital engagement across our Region and wider networks

Case Study: Coding Clubs

West College Scotland is at the forefront of promoting and delivering STEM and digital skills, and improving access to digital technology to learners.

The College's sector leading approach to delivering STEM activities has been recognised by the STEM Foundation who have awarded the College the STEM Assured Standard. West College Scotland has also been recognised as a Microsoft Showcase School, the first FE College in the UK to be selected and the only educational establishment in Scotland to receive the accolade.

West College Scotland successfully accessed funding to deliver extracurricular computing science projects to engage and inspire Scotland's next generation of digital makers. In partnership with our Local Authorities, we are supporting the delivery of Coding Clubs in secondary schools, primarily targeting S1 and S2 pupils to fulfill the key component of the Scottish Government's Digital Skills Investment Plan. This project is specifically designed to inspire more young people, specifically females, to pursue a career in STEM.



Our Digital Xtra Project launched coding clubs aimed at encouraging high school pupils to become involved in coding



Case Study: Digital Innovations

WCS was a partner in the Carevolution project, which was an Erasmus+ project bringing together partners from Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, and Scotland. Along with our partners, we developed new curricular materials for homecare workers across Europe, to address the integrated homecare needs of elderly people.

Following this, our Care Sector along with our Innovative Learning Team, collaborated to develop a proposal building on the original project. By securing funding from the Ufi Charitable Trust's VocTech Seed programme. We developed a mobile training app for homecare workers. The mobile training app is called Homecare in your Pocket (HIP).

The main benefits are:

- Learning relating to the new aspects of homecare work will be accessible to the dispersed homecare workforce
 - Bitesize learning materials will enable on-the-go learning, in recognition of the time pressures faced by homecare workers
 - Up-to-date enhanced homecare training available in an interactive and visual format.
 - Our Care and Learning Technologies staff are working closely together to maximise digital input.
 - We are working with a group of expert advisors, and have MOUs in place with UWS, SSSC, and HRM Homecare.
 - Our HND Graphic Design students are working on a live client project to design the logo, icons, home screen, and promotional materials for the app.
 - Video content for the app will be created by our TV team based at our Greenock Campus.
- The plan is for the app to be free at point of use to homecare workers, with investment sought from key sector stakeholders.
 - A secondary target audience is unpaid carers, as we recognise that the information provided will also be valuable to those who are, for example, caring for relatives.



***Richard
Lochhead, Minister
for Further Education,
Higher Education and
Science, meeting the
App development
team.***

Case Study: STEM Champions



**STEM
champions
learning
programming
using gaming
technology**

West College Scotland worked in partnership with the Scottish Out of School Care Network funded by the Scottish Government, to create and deliver training for those who work in the Out of School Care (OSC) Sector.

Introduction to Creative Computing was devised to introduce OSC staff to working with new technology to enable them to become STEM Champions for their service. The aim of the course was to introduce digital activities to the people with whom they work.

Learners, most of whom had little programming experience, were taught how to create games using Raspberry Pi and Scratch software

Once completed, the learners then delivered these sessions to the young people they were working with in their OSC setting. This has had a positive impact on students' understanding of the use of digital technology and STEM.

STEM Champions, most of whom had little programming experience, learned how to create games using Raspberry Pi, Micro:bits and Scratch software. This supported the Champions to engage in an introductory level of STEM activities allowing them to deliver interactive sessions to the local networks who provide out of school care.

Case Study: Digital Integration

As a primary partner in the SFC funded national collaborative FUTUREquipped project we have supported the exploration of the potential for Scotland's colleges to support business innovation through collaboration with the Innovation Centre programme by working closely with Construction Scotland Innovation Centre and the Digital Healthcare Institute, supported by DataLab and Censis.

Staff and students involvement in the project has allowed the College to scope and inform future skills and therefore curriculum needs required to meet the anticipated integration of digital health and care technology into homes. The impact of which will support skills development for the future workforce ensuring they are equipped with the appropriate skills required given the ageing population.

***WCS
collaboration
with Innovation
Centres to support
skills development
for the future
workforce***





DIGITAL
PARTICIPATION
SIGNATORY 



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