

Going For Gold Strategy Proposal – FEDEC Colleges

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Competitions provide learners with a valuable opportunity to benchmark their skills at both national and international levels, while also enhancing their employability.

To support this, **Skills Week (week commencing 24th November 2025)** will be introduced as a key stage in the student preparation journey. It will allow learners to develop their skills and mindset ahead of **Competition Week (week commencing 26th January 2026)**.

Skills Week will serve as an intensive preparation period, delivered within each learner's home college. It will align competition readiness with Life Skills and Progress tutorials, helping to build resilience, self-confidence, and employability.

Relevant curriculum areas will work from a WorldSkills-approved brief and mark scheme to prepare learners for Skills Week. These materials will have been reviewed and quality assured by the FEDEC colleges group and WorldSkills Quality & Standards Managers.

We propose that each FEDEC college takes the lead on at least one brief, mark scheme, and competition, acting as the lead/host institution. These resources will then be shared across all FEDEC colleges to ensure a consistent and standardised approach to assessment during Skills Week.

WorldSkills will provide a bespoke tracker to help measure learner outcomes against national benchmarks.

Each college will run Skills Week concurrently, with winners progressing to the inter-college Competition Week.

Competition Week will be hosted by the lead/host colleges for each subject area, on a rotational basis (to be confirmed). This approach will allow lead/host colleges to showcase their facilities and collaborate with other FEDEC colleges in supporting WorldSkills applications for the March, registration of interest and April, entry.

Next Steps:

- FEDEC colleges to nominate a person as the competition lead for their college and share contact details with Rebecca Leech and David Warnes.
- Rebecca Leech to arrange a planning meeting with the nominated competition leads to confirm dates and hosting arrangements by 30th June.
- Hosting Colleges to speak with and utilise Stakeholder connections for Sponsoring Prizes for the Competition Week.
- Curriculum teams to prepare briefs and mark schemes using the WorldSkills Learning Hub and other helpful resources, ready for the start of the academic year (dates to be confirmed by competition leads).

- Quality assurance to be carried out by WorldSkills Quality & Standards Managers (Colin and Chris).
- FEDEC Centrally managed Website to host the Competition pages.

Federation of Essex Colleges - Member Organisations:

- Chelmsford College
- Colchester Institute
- The Sixth Form College Colchester
- Adult & Community Learning (Essex County Council)
- Harlow College
- New City College Epping Forest College Campus
- South Essex College
- USP College
- Writtle University College

June 2025

Planning Meeting
Competitions Leads and roles assigned
Lead/Host College Assigned for Curriculum & Brief/Mark Scheme planned

September 2025

Curriculum Delivery Starts
Competition Based Learning using Brief provided by Lead/Host College
Preparation for Skills Week

November 2025

Skills Week (w/c 24th November)
Concurrent competitions taking place within home-college using the same brief/mark scheme as all 9 colleges
Winners go forward to the Inter-College Competitions Week

January 2026

Competition Week (w/c 26th January)
Rota Basis of Competitions taking place at Lead/Host College.
Winners go forward for World Skills Entry

Examples: <https://www.kentfurthereducation.org/skills-competitions-1>

<https://www.fenews.co.uk/education/london-puts-on-its-largest-skills-competition-in-a-decade/>