

College graduates mark the end of an era

✖ The last students to graduate from three of Edinburgh's biggest colleges will do so in a series of ceremonies this week, marking the end of an era and heralding the arrival of a new Edinburgh College which will begin its new life on Monday 1 October 2012.

More than 900 students from Edinburgh's Telford College, Jewel & Esk College and Stevenson College Edinburgh will attend separate ceremonies at Usher Hall, which celebrate their achievements across a range of courses.

The graduations come ahead of the merger between the three colleges which will take place on Monday, and the new Edinburgh College will become the largest student body in Edinburgh, accommodating more than 35,000 students.

Brian Lister, Interim Principal of Edinburgh College, said:- "Graduation is always a special time, as it gives us a chance to celebrate the various achievements of all our students, but this year they have greater significance, as these students will be the last ever to graduate from each college.

"As this chapter ends for the students of the three colleges, the ceremonies are also a chance for us to look back on the successes of each college as a whole and what they have done individually for the further education sector in Edinburgh.

"The creation of the new Edinburgh College will allow us to build upon the foundations of excellence already set by Edinburgh's Telford, Jewel & Esk and Stevenson College

Edinburgh and create an unrivalled further education experience for students in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

“The College itself will become a ‘centre of excellence’, building on the existing strengths of the three colleges to foster growth, opportunity and economic development.

“All of the 2011/12 graduands have worked exceptionally hard to pass their courses and the ceremonies are a mark of their excellence – I wish each and every one of them the best of the luck in their chosen career or education path.”

The new Edinburgh College will be the biggest student body in Edinburgh/Scotland, employing around 1,300 staff to deliver the very best education and training to students.

Edinburgh College will consist of four campuses across Edinburgh and The Lothians; Granton (formerly Edinburgh’s Telford College), Sighthill (formerly Stevenson College) and Milton Road and Midlothian (both formerly Jewel and Esk College).

Stevenson College Edinburgh’s ceremony took place on Monday 24th September at 7pm and this is to be followed by Edinburgh’s Telford College tomorrow 27th September 2012 at 7pm and finally the ceremony for Jewel & Esk College will be held on Friday, 28th September at 4pm.