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## PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 09/04/2020

TITLE: North Kent College accredited by ground-breaking dual career scheme

CONTENT: North Kent College is leading the way with supporting talented athletes in education in England, having been accredited by an innovative Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) initiative.

The Sport England-backed programme supports young sportspeople on the talent pathway to have the opportunity to gain qualifications alongside their sporting pursuits, follow other interests, as well as further their personal development.

Referenced within the Education section of Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson's Duty of Care in Sport Review published in April 2017, Accreditation shows that a college or university has the ability to support students following a dual career route. Backing the scheme, she said:

"I believe we have a duty to help young people to achieve their potential, whilst prioritising their welfare, wellbeing and education. For the vast majority of athletes, skills and formal qualifications are needed to help them find alternative careers, either alongside their sporting activities or once their sporting days are over.

"For me the TASS Dual Career Accreditation Scheme is a vitally important measure to ensuring all athletes have the chance to pursue an education and enjoy a more well-rounded approach to life."

As a Dual Career Accredited Site, North Kent College will be an important extension of the network of universities that already partner with TASS, delivering core support services to more than 600 student-athletes each year.

Meanwhile for North Kent College, the recognition of becoming a TASS Dual Career Accredited Site is expected to be beneficial by attracting a greater number of talented athletes and building connections with other local sporting institutions.

TASS National Director, Guy Taylor, said: “We’re delighted to be awarding TASS Dual Career Accreditation to colleges and universities across England.

“Dual career support is at the forefront of what TASS does and that’s why the Accreditation Scheme is so important for us in recognising those institutions who place precedence on their athletes’ education too.

“We hope that the academic flexibility policies put into place for the Accreditation will begin to develop an effective and lasting dual career structure within each institution.

“Congratulations to the successful institutions and we look forward to working alongside many more outstanding colleges and universities in the near future.”

**ENDS.**

For further information, please contact Claire Shearwood Burton 01322 629582

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

##### About NKC

North Kent College offer an extensive range of Further Education, Higher Education, Access to Higher Education, Apprenticeships, Part-time courses and Training for Businesses. We provide young people with the next step after their GCSEs as an alternative to A Levels and a route to University or a career. We also have opportunities for people who are looking at studying at an undergraduate level, or who want to change career path or up-skill for career progression.

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##### About TASS

TASS is part of the SportsAid family – we’re funded by the National Lottery through Sport England with a brief to help young sportspeople juggle the demands of sport and education.

Since 2004 we’ve supported more than 6,000 sportspeople - enabling talented student-athletes across the country to fulfil their academic and sporting potential.

TASS is recognised globally as a leader in ‘dual career’ and has worked with and advised bodies as diverse as the IOC, EU and many government and sporting organisations.