



## PRESS RELEASE: MORLEY COLLEGE LONDON AWARDED GRANTS BY THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

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Morley College London is excited to announce that it has been successful in being awarded two generous grants from the Mayor for London and the London Economic Action Programme (LEAP) through their Skills for Londoners Capital Fund.

The grants, £1.1 million from the Capital Investment Fund and a further £200,000 from the Small Projects and Equipment Fund, will contribute to a £3.5 million investment in modernising and enhancing Morley's buildings and facilities. The entrances to the College and its Gallery will be transformed so that they are fully accessible, a lift will be installed in the art block giving access to all floors, new teaching and social spaces will be created along with a centralised student advice hub, and a specialised internet radio studio will be established to serve both the College and the local community. At the same time the College will be able to pursue its digital inclusion plans by extending its specialist technology for programmes serving the creative industries, and ensuring the students it serves in community settings have access to the same excellent learning resources as those at the College.

Speaking about what the award of these grants will mean for the work of the College, Chair of Governors at Morley Peter Davies said: "We are thrilled that the Skills for Londoners Capital Fund will be supporting Morley's plans for the future. Morley has for too long been seen as a 'hidden gem' within the educational sector and these developments will help ensure that what we provide serves the skills needs of an increasing number of Londoners ever more effectively."

The Skills for Londoners Capital Fund programme is managed by the Greater London Authority and funded by the LEAP. Chaired by the Mayor on London, the LEAP made available £114m of funding for investment into estate and equipment for London's skills providers over the next four years. The aim of this fund is to:

- respond to current and future skills requirements of employers and learners, improve quality of provision and learner satisfaction, progression and success rates
- support increased levels of apprenticeship delivery and/or progression to the highest levels of vocational and technical study
- establish strong and innovative partnership with employers and local stakeholders.

This fund forms part of the £434 million funding allocation to LEAP from Government to invest into the Capital's regeneration projects and help create jobs, support businesses and encourage growth.

Speaking about Morley's development plans, Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills Jules Pipe said: "The Mayor and I are committed to helping Londoners gain the skills that they and the capital's businesses need. This investment will help provide a first-class environment in which learners can make the most of their talent."

**Note to editors:**

Morley College London is one of the UK's largest and oldest specialist providers of adult education. Founded by Emma Cons in 1889 to address the learning needs of the working class people of Waterloo and Lambeth, Morley was the first institution of its kind to admit both men and women on an equal footing, and aimed to make education accessible to people who were less fortunate socially and financially. This sense of mission and spirit of inclusion towards the most disadvantaged in society has been a guiding principle in everything Morley has done throughout its history, and its original philanthropic, charitable foundation continues to be a distinguishing feature of the College to the present day.

Today the College offers nearly three thousand courses at all levels, from part-time personal development courses to Access to Higher Education diplomas and HNDs. The College recently took over the management of the Stockwell Community Centre to extend its educational reach in Lambeth even further.

For further information, please contact Morley College London's PR and Marketing Officer by phone on 020 7450 1803, or by email on [leah.holmes@morleycollege.ac.uk](mailto:leah.holmes@morleycollege.ac.uk). A selection of high resolution images is available from the Morley Media Centre at [www.morleycollege.ac.uk/media-centre](http://www.morleycollege.ac.uk/media-centre).