

We are one

A Celebration of the RNN Group



We are one

Welcome to this celebration of our first year as the RNN Group, which began on 1st February 2016 with the formation of the new Group through the merger of Rotherham College and North Notts College.

This partnership has created a substantially larger and well-resourced organisation, allowing us to better support the education needs of those living and working within our communities across South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire.

We also recognised that employers within our region and beyond were looking for a training partner capable of meeting the full range of their skills requirements, contributing to a growth in productivity and success. To provide this, we created RNN Training, which draws on the expertise and experience of our colleges to provide Apprenticeships and training solutions across the region, working alongside our existing four subsidiary training businesses.

A year on, we welcomed a further merger with Dearne Valley College, located in Wath-upon-Deerne, on 1st February 2017. Dearne Valley College serves the local townships and a successful enterprise zone on the northern edge of Rotherham, as well as employers in Barnsley and Doncaster, expanding the breadth and depth of our services.

Increasingly, to meet national, regional and individual employers' skills needs, we will offer further higher-level education and training. We are expanding our already significant degree-level provision and professional training courses, and offering the advantages of degree and higher Apprenticeships to individuals and employers. We will create new career-developing opportunities for those in work, and exciting progression routes for students achieving A-Level equivalent and lower level education with us.

A year on from our formation, I hope you enjoy reading about our continuing success story, and that we can help you to achieve your success stories too.



John Connolly
Chief Executive





RNN Group in numbers

£50m

Annual turnover

16,000

Learners Annually

5,000

Are Full-Time Students

4,000

Are Apprentices

We are... providing accessible higher education and skills

As a key priority, the RNN Group is continuing to increase opportunities for everyone to access university-level education and higher-level skills locally and flexibly across the region.

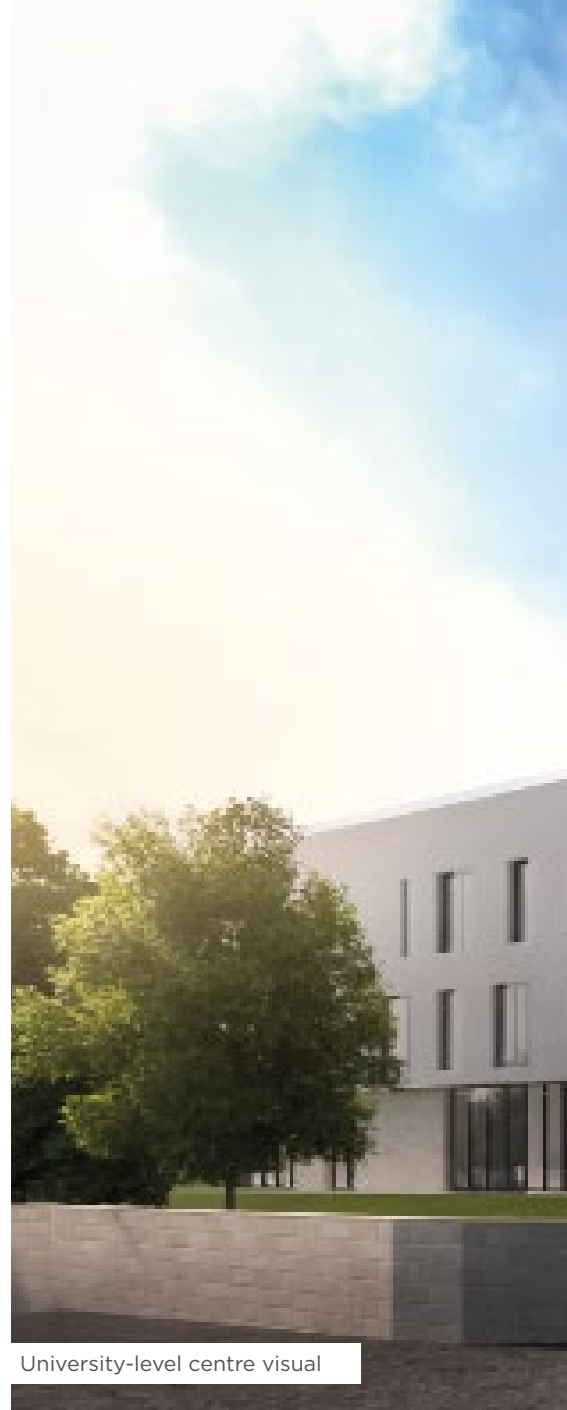
The Group's university-level offer is continually expanding, delivering courses suited to the growing industries that undergraduates are aiming for, and responding to employer demand for specific higher-level skills training, with many exciting developments in the pipeline.

A new University-level Centre in Rotherham

Plans for a new, dedicated university-level centre in Rotherham Town Centre will go ahead thanks to £3.5m of funding provided by the Sheffield City Region. The RNN Group is investing the remainder of the funding for the new £10.5m facility, which will be built on the grounds of the former NHS site on Doncaster Gate in Rotherham, minutes from the College's Town Centre Campus.

The centre, which is scheduled for completion during autumn 2018, is set to increase higher-level training opportunities for learners and employers, delivering a planned 50 University-level courses by 2020. It will offer students and businesses greater access to Higher Education, including Degree Apprenticeships, in areas including Engineering and Construction, Creative and Digital, Care and Early Years, and Leadership and Management, among many others.

The expanding Higher Education offer within the RNN Group will allow learners increased access to flexible, full and part-time options, with courses validated by major universities.



University-level centre visual





Rotherham College Graduation

Hundreds of Higher Education Students Celebrate their Achievements at Graduation Events

Over the autumn of 2016, nearly 400 students were joined by proud families and friends, with their mortar boards and robes to officially graduate from their university-level studies. Students from Rotherham College, North Notts College and Dearne Valley College graduated with a range of prestigious qualifications under their belt, including Foundation Degrees and full Degrees, with bright futures, successful careers and further study ahead of them. The graduation ceremonies took place within the colleges' local communities, and welcomed key college staff members and VIPs.

We are... upskilling workforces

We maintain and develop key partnerships with employers from across the region, from small and medium enterprises to national and international businesses, to enable their workforces to prosper, and to support economic growth.

There have been some positive developments within this area for the RNN Group, including a strengthened partnership with the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce and involvement in other business advisory boards, as well as fantastic successes in Apprenticeships and work-place training from our subsidiary training organisations.

Rotherham College Students Recognised in NHS Awards

Two Rotherham College apprentices were acknowledged for their exceptional contribution to the health care sector in the Rotherham Foundation Trust's 2016 'Proud Awards'. Zoe Chew, who is studying Clinical Healthcare Support, won Adult Learner of the Year, whilst Simone Davis, completing an Apprenticeship in Clinical Health and Social Care, won the Apprentice of the Year award. Colleagues, families, carers and patients are invited to nominate members of NHS staff who they feel have demonstrated dedication and professionalism within their role. The awards generated over 300 nominations and have been well received in the local community. The Proud Awards were held as part of a week-long celebration to mark the achievements of Trust employees.

RNN Group Supports Economy as Part of Key Business Groups

The RNN Group is continuing its vision of supporting and encouraging business growth and success, by playing key roles within the regions business groups. It plays a strong part in the Rotherham Together Partnership (RTP), a business and public sector grouping that was forged to develop the economy and social fabric of the Borough. The Group's representatives contribute through the RTP's Leadership Group, Business Growth Board, Town Centre and Employment and Skills Groups.

In North Nottinghamshire, The Group is a member of the North Notts Envoys business group, with representation from our Chief Executive on the local 'Place Board', which provides business leadership, and promotes the area.



RNN Group Become Patrons of the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber

The RNN Group is furthering its work to make valuable contributions to the regional business community and support growth and business excellence, by becoming official patrons of the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce. The Group was also the official headline sponsor for the 2016 Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber Business Awards, an event recognising the success and achievements made by organisations throughout the region.

Alongside this, the Group's Apprenticeship and business training organisation, RNN Training, sponsored the prestigious 'Business Growth' award, which was won by public relations and media training company, Capital B Media.

We're pleased to be the headline sponsor again for the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber Awards 2017.



Emily Barker



Bradley Lucas

RNN Training Forges Apprenticeship Partnership with Stelrad

RNN Training has secured a partnership with South Yorkshire manufacturing company, Stelrad, who are responding to the upcoming Apprenticeship Levy with a plan to train the learners in many areas of the company. The first step has seen the recruitment of six Apprentices as Product Technicians. RNN Training will continue to work with Stelrad on a rolling, yearly recruitment of Apprentices to support the growth of the business and its workforce.

Apprenticeship Success Celebrated with Prestigious Awards

RNN Training celebrated the annual National Apprenticeship Week with a number of events and awards that were announced online and recognised the fantastic achievements made by current Apprentices.

Five Apprentices scooped awards, with four presented with 'Highly Commended' awards and one Apprentice received the RNN Training Apprentice of the Year award for 2017.

Electrical Installation Apprentice, Adam Wegrzyn of Lindrick Electrical Ltd received the top award for his dedication to his own success and that of his employer, and going above and beyond what is expected of him as an Apprentice.

RNN Training also held a number of drop-in events to educate students from within the RNN Group colleges about the benefits of Apprenticeships as a potential progression route.

RNN Training Apprentices Receive Recognition at 2016 Regional Awards

Two Apprentices from the RNN Group celebrated high praise and recognition in 2016's Rotherham Apprenticeship Awards organised by the Rotherham Advertiser and local businesses.

Molly Charlesworth was the runner-up within her category, after completing a Level 2 Business Administration Apprenticeship at Sheffield-based tourist attraction, Magna. After impressing her employers during her training, she secured herself a permanent role as a Sales Co-ordinator at the venue.

Jack Hopkinson received the runner-up award upon completing his Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools Apprenticeship in a local primary school, making huge strides with his employers, and leaving a lasting impression on the school's pupils. Jack has since progressed to studying on the Foundation Degree in Early Childhood Studies at Dearne Valley College, whilst securing full-time work at another primary school.

Rotherham College Students Achieve Business Success through Youth Enterprise Scheme

Two former Rotherham College students have embraced their entrepreneurial talents to successfully launch their own businesses, supported by their College tutors and the Rotherham Youth Enterprise scheme. Former Business student, Adam Price, has now opened his own model shop, 'Dynomodels' with guidance from his tutors, and first showcased his products to the public with a stall at the annual Rotherham Show, secured by the Rotherham Youth Enterprise.

Fellow Business student, Alex Whittaker, also wanted to gain a sneak peek into the world of enterprise, and took part in a Rotherham Youth Enterprise challenge to present a business idea to judges, pitted against other student teams. Alex's business plan of upcycling unwanted household items into gifts secured her team the first place trophy and the 'highest scoring team' award.



Stelrad Apprentices



Ben Eccles

We are... supporting economic growth



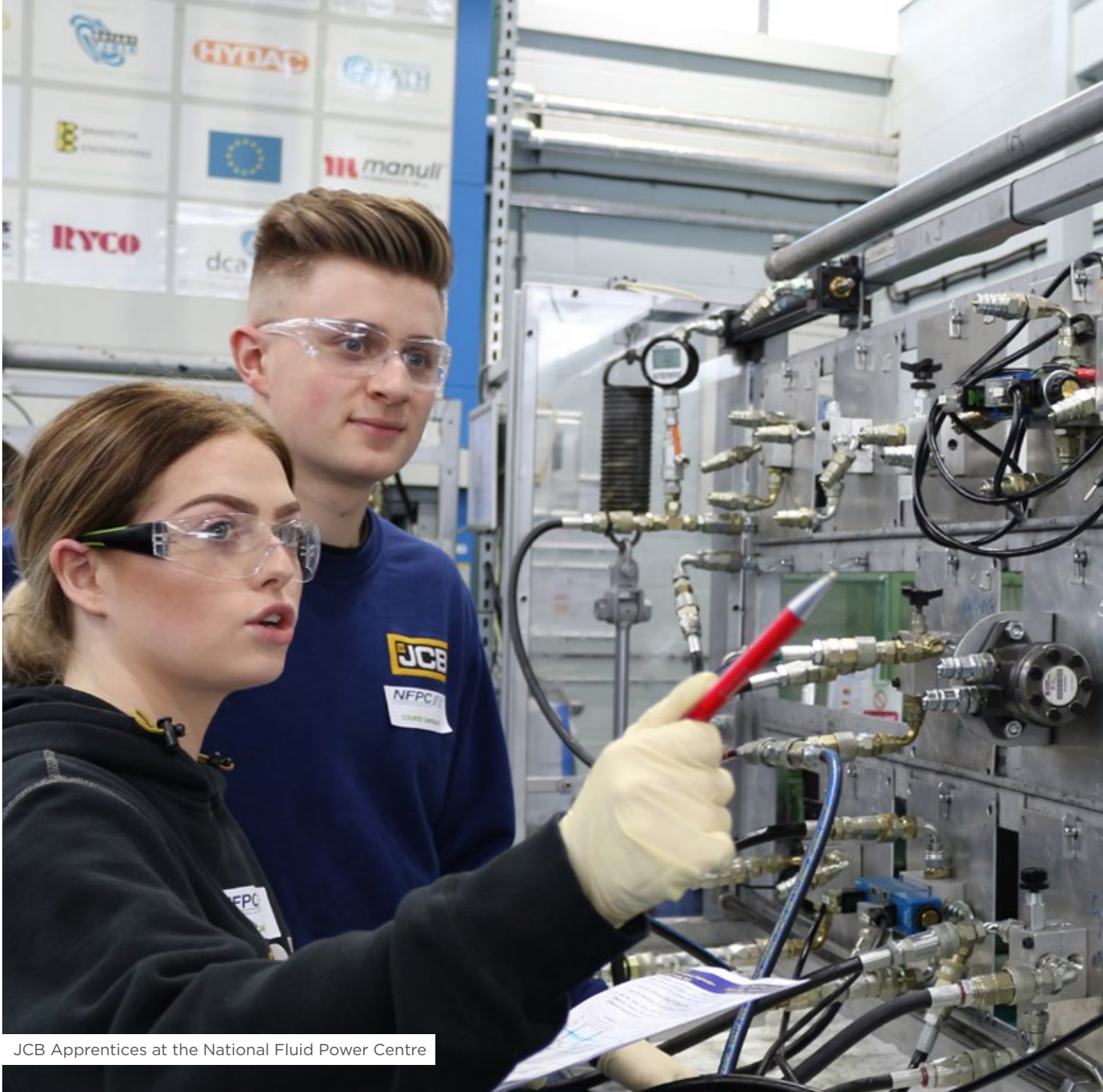
Adam Wegrzyn



Jack Hopkinson



Edina Henderson



JCB Apprentices at the National Fluid Power Centre

We are... creating apprenticeship opportunities



Apprentice's Catering Career Goes from Strength to Strength

RNN Group subsidiary business, Charnwood Training is celebrating the success of a current Apprentice whose career is going from strength to strength. Catering Apprentice, Conan Brooks began on a Level 2 Professional Cookery Apprenticeship with Charnwood Training, who specialise in the Hospitality sector. Eager to gain as much experience as possible, he took the opportunity to work alongside his manager to plan and create a canapé menu to be served at an event at Downing Street. Keen to continue his success, Conan also took the initiative to contact the Michelin Star Raymond Blanc restaurant in London and secured himself an invaluable work experience with them. Conan has now progressed into a role at a restaurant in Edwinstowe whilst studying for his Level 3 Hospitality and Leadership qualification and was recognised with an Apprenticeship Award in 2016.

National Fluid Power Centre Chosen as JCB Academy Provider

The National Fluid Power Centre, a subsidiary of the RNN Group, are working with the JCB Academy, contributing to the training of the Academy's advanced Apprentices. The NFPC is the UK's leading provider for specialist training in hydraulics, pneumatics, electronics and controls. The National Fluid Power Centre (NFPC) also held an Industry Conference and Exhibition in February 2017, with over 90 exhibitors attending from across the industry, offering an excellent opportunity for networking. The NFPC offered technical lectures delivered by experienced training Engineers, tours of the company's practical facilities, and the opportunity to talk to the NFPC's industry partners in the exhibition pavilion.

Aston Training Apprentice Presented with Prestigious National Industry Award

Former Aston Training Apprentice, William Lamb, who completed his Intermediate and Advanced Apprenticeships in Hairdressing was announced as the 'Newcomer of the Year' for 2016 at the British Hairdressing Awards. William was presented with the award, which was sponsored by national hair brand Schwarzkopf, at the British Hairdressing Awards show at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

Create Skills Support the Express Group to Grow Workforce

RNN Group subsidiary training provider, Create Skills, is celebrating a successful partnership that has led to the growth of web and digital firm, Express Group's workforce. Create Skills has now recruited four Apprentices for the Yorkshire-based printer repair and parts company, for various Apprenticeship roles including Business Administration and IT. All four of the Apprentices recruited and trained by Create Skills have since secured themselves permanent roles at the Express Group, growing the company's workforce with specially-trained young talent.



National Fluid Power Centre

We are... contributing to our local communities

The RNN Group prides itself on having a positive impact on our local communities.

Our students regularly utilise their new skills to carry out developments in the community, raise vital funds and awareness of charities and social issues, and host fantastic community events.

Nottinghamshire Children and Families Partnership Introduces New Healthy Family Service

The Nottinghamshire Children and Families Partnership have introduced a new Healthy Family Service in 2017, which offers support for children aged 0-19. The new service will give parents the flexibility to weigh their own children at Sure Start Children's Centres and individual appointments will be on offer for parents seeking advice about the health or development of their child. This streamlined service will also offer consistency, as support workers will now not automatically change when a child reaches its fifth birthday.

Celebrities Dig Deep for Charity 'Workshop's Got Talent' Event

North Notts College staff member and former student, James Clarke is celebrating a successful fundraising evening which saw North Nottinghamshire's finest talent perform in front of a 600-strong audience at the 'Workshop's Got Talent' event in 2016. The event saw prizes donated by celebrities including Ant and Dec, and Peter Andre. Event organiser James suffers from a rare eye condition that leads to loss of vision, and created the event to raise funds for the charity that fights for a cure, with a fantastic total of £5,750.



Workshop's Got Talent





College Hosts Town's Annual Christmas Celebration at Rotherham Minster

A partnership between the RNN Group and Rotherham Music (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council) saw a festive Christmas celebration take place at the Rotherham Minster. The Rotherham College Academy Choir opened and closed the show, with performances from local schools in front of parents, staff and VIPs.

Charity Fun Run



The Sick Children's Trust



We are... supporting local organisations

Thousands of Pounds Raised for Charity by RNN Group Colleges

Over the past academic year, students from across the Group's colleges have organised and staffed a huge range of charity fundraising events that have raised over £6,000 for various charitable organisations including Rotherham Hospice, The Sick Children's Trust, MIND and Bluebell Wood Hospice.

Alongside the funds raised, students have campaigned to raise awareness and support for a huge number of issues including highlighting teenage homelessness, hosting food banks to support the local Salvation Army, and collecting Christmas gifts for children living in poverty, both at home and abroad.

Language Courses Supporting Learners to Achieve Their Employment Goals

Two adult learners who are completing work-place training qualifications in Logistic Operations at Wilko have been provided with a stepping stone to progression after also achieving their English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications. Daniel Kuwik and Signe Vilcane felt that it was necessary for them to improve their English to continue to progress within the company, and since completing the qualifications, Daniel has now achieved a promotion to Section Leader at Wilko, and Signe is now delivering new staff inductions in her role.

North Notts College Construction Students Build Stage for Local Infant School

A class of construction students put their new skills to the test, in a project that saw them refurbish a disused area of Prospect Hill Infant and Nursery School's playground to create an outdoor stage to host children's performances. The project not only benefitted the children, but allowed the students to put their knowledge to use whilst gaining fantastic experience for their course.



Comic Relief Bake Sale



Signe Vilcane

We are... recognised for our success and achievements

Whether we are celebrating students becoming entrepreneurs or progressing to higher-level study, or recognising our staff for their commitment, we love to share the fantastic achievements from across the RNN Group to inspire the next generation of learners.

The past year has seen many stories of students, Apprentices and staff members overcoming personal barriers and demonstrating dedication to achieving their goals and are recognised both locally and on a national level.

Former RNN Group Chair of Governors Honoured with MBE

The former Chair of Governors at Rotherham College and the RNN Group has been honoured with an MBE in the New Year's Honours. Ken Barrass, who was a Governor and Vice Chair at Rotherham College for 12 years prior to becoming Chair in 2011, has been given the award for services to Further Education. Ken played a key role during a major period of development at the college, with £20m invested in facilities for students, including the construction of the Wentworth Building, and an improvement of its Ofsted grade to 'good with outstanding features.' He also worked with the Board and leadership of the college to forge a merger in 2016 with North Notts College to form the RNN Group.

Dearne Valley College Student Presented with National Award at London Ceremony

A student from Dearne Valley College was awarded with a prestigious national award at a presentation event in London. Bethany Pritchard was presented with the 'BTEC Student of the Year for Health and Social Care' award by Radio 1 Presenter, Gemma Cairney, for her dedication to volunteering for dementia charities, and overcoming personal barriers to achieve success on her course. Bethany is now working towards gaining a University place to study Mental Health Nursing to reach her dream career.



Ken Barrass, MBE

BTEC Health and Social Care Student of the Year, Bethany Pritchard



We are... award winning students and staff



Staff Awards: Curriculum Team of the Year



Staff Awards: Support Team of the Year

RNN Group Staff Achievements Recognised at Awards Event

The RNN Group held an awards ceremony in January 2017 to highlight the hard work and achievements made by staff throughout the initial merger of Rotherham College and North Notts College. The Group held its staff awards events in January, recognising a year of achievements since the merge of the colleges in 2016. The event paid tribute to the departments that have offered outstanding contribution in support roles, the curriculum and student experience, whilst it also provided the opportunity to show appreciation to individuals, through awards such as 'Unsung Hero' and 'The Person Who Makes Me Smile'. Hosted at the Mercure hotel in Sheffield and sponsored by Doncaster Sheffield Airport, the awards night featured performances from Worksop's Got Talent 2016 winner Verity Lee-Varley.

Students Achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals at National World Skills Show

Rotherham College Media Make-up students demonstrated their fantastic talent and determination to succeed by securing the gold, silver and bronze medals at the World Skills UK 2016 competition. Level 3 student, Emily Smith won gold for her creation, which included making an intricate headdress, whilst student Vanessa Dawson entered the Fashion and Photographic make-up category, coming second place for her masquerade-themed design, and Gemma Lewis won bronze for her Olympic-themed nail art. The Media Make-up department were also chosen to attend the event on behalf of the sector to perform demonstrations of their skills to aspiring young people. Their success led to Rotherham College being placed 8th out of over 100 providers in the competition league table.



Amy Walker



Emily Smith



Meagan Day



Vanessa Dawson

Rotherham College Alumni Achieves Entrepreneurial Success

Former Rotherham College student, Amy Walker secured the 'Most Determined to Succeed' accolade at Rotherham Council's Young Entrepreneur Awards, following the launch of her Yorkshire preserves business, 'Ye Olde Yorkshire Preserve Shoppe'. The former Travel and Tourism student overcame a number of personal barriers, including bullying and managing her Dyslexia, to launch the business that creates a range of jams, preserves and fudges, with her products shipping as far as Canada. Amy is now continuing to build her business and is using her experiences to deliver aspirational talks in local schools.

North Notts College Named 'East Midlands FE Provider of the Year' at Diversity Awards

The National Centre for Diversity named North Notts College as the FE Provider of the Year for the East Midlands, at their annual FE Sector Diversity Awards evening in Birmingham. The event is designed to recognise organisations and individuals who demonstrate outstanding commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.



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