West Nottinghamshire College Group

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

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Nevil Croston

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN **NEVIL CROSTON**

It is hard to find the superlatives to describe the achievements of the college yet again in 2014/15. Whilst the operating environment for all colleges continues to be challenging, this college has gone from strength to strength and staff and students have continued to shine and achieve.

Perhaps the crowning glory for the college towards the end of 2014 was the completion of a £40m investment in facilities for college students and the community. These facilities are amongst the best in the country and are already making a tangible difference to students' learning and to community aspirations. The Engineering Innovation Centre, in particular, will provide the all important skills to an industry so desperately in need of qualified entrants. As a board, we are very proud of all that the college has achieved but, in particular, are immensely proud of the world-class resources our students can now enjoy.

Other areas of the college group also performed very well. It is pleasing that bksb, the longest standing of our subsidiary companies, continues to be the market leader in its field of education, sold to over 2,000 organisations worldwide. The beginning of 2015 saw their expansion into the Indian market with the opening of a new centre in Chandigarh.

In September 2014, the college as sponsor opened the first studio school in Nottinghamshire. Close links with industry, coupled with a different way of learning, means that in its first year the school has made a positive difference to the lives of its students. Employers and parents alike have really embraced the studio school concept and the potential it has to make our young people employable.

Nevil Croston Chairman

Employability is very much at the heart of what the college is about. From teaching in a classroom to activities outside of formal learning, everything is geared towards making students ready for the workplace. It is always so pleasing when you see the efforts of teaching and support staff, and the commitment of the students, repaid in the success of the students themselves. You will read a handful of stories from the college alumni in this report. These few case studies really do go to show how our students go on to perform at the very pinnacle of their industries. Indeed, 2014 reminded us of that fact more than any other year as we celebrated our 60th anniversary at Derby Road with the publication of a commemorative book and a very special event for the college's students past and present.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the college's continued success as much as I have. We are a great college because of the dedicated people that work and study here, and the governors and partners that support the college along the way. We are a great collection of bright and committed people working tirelessly for the benefit of our community and I am immensely proud to serve as Chairman of the Board of Governors.

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE – DAME ASHA KHEMKA DBE

It is with a huge sense of pride that I present West Nottinghamshire College Group's annual report 2014/15.

This last year has been another landmark year on our journey. We have completely transformed our estate, providing an iconic gateway to the local area, opened a new centre for engineering innovation and have been given the approval to build a university centre which will open in 2016. This will be the realisation of a community ambition - a University Centre for Mansfield and Ashfield that will inspire people to study at this level and provide our communities with the skills needed for prosperity.

Our exceptional financial management coupled with our ambition and leadership place us firmly on the map as one of the most successful colleges in the country. This strong position allows us to continue to invest in our local provision to give people a truly world-class learning opportunity.

It is not just within our college that we have seen ourselves excel this year. Our subsidiary companies have remained market-leaders within their field and it was a particularly proud moment when bksb, our renowned software for the assessment of English, Maths and ICT, opened an office in my home country of India. There is so much potential in India to expand our business and we are already starting to see the fruits of our labour. Our ventures further afield also saw the opening of a Construction Training Centre in partnership with the Cordia Institute. Based in rural Sanghol, it is already starting to make a difference to India's ambition to train 500 million people by 2022.

Our second subsidiary company Vision Apprentices has continued to lead the way in the provision of apprentices. With more than 12,000 apprentices studying with us each year, we are at the forefront of this crucial Government agenda.

As one of the largest and most successful colleges in the UK, our strength lies in our ability to plan properly, anticipate change and respond positively. This is why I am confident together we can weather any challenges that lie ahead. A single focus on providing the very best for our communities, our students and our businesses will continue to guide all aspects of our business into the future.

Thank you for being with us on our incredible journey so far. Without the support of partners such as yourself our achievements would not be possible.

I am immensely grateful to our Governors for their wisdom and firm strategic steer, to my team for working with passion, enthusiasm and commitment and to our students for being quite simply brilliant!

Dame Asha Khemka DBE Principal and Chief Executive



"Our exceptional financial management coupled with our ambition and leadership place us firmly on the map as one of the most successful colleges in the country."

Dame Asha Khemka DBE

OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES

It has been another busy and successful year for the college group, featuring accolades, exciting new ventures and landmark celebrations.

In January 2014, our principal was named a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire. She became the first Indian born in 83 years to receive this highest civilian honour.

Dame Asha added two further prestigious accolades later in 2014 – presented by former Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and Prime Minister David Cameron respectively. In October, Dame Asha was one of just three recipients of an inaugural Dadabhai Naoroji Award, which recognises individuals whose outstanding achievements have strengthened relations between India and the UK. Dame Asha won the education category for championing the role UK colleges can play in supporting India's skills agenda.

Just weeks later, she was named 'Woman of the Year' at the GG2 Leadership Awards for her outstanding work and commitment to providing a fair education for all. Dame Asha was presented with the acclaimed prize from Mr Cameron at a glittering gala event in London attended by a diverse and powerful audience of high-achievers from the fields of entertainment, politics, media and industry. The coveted GG2 awards are presented to leading members of the Asian community who have made a considerable contribution to their respective fields.

Speaking of her Woman of the Year accolade, Dame Asha said:

"I have dedicated a lifetime to inspiring and encouraging young people to succeed and realise their true potential; I feel a deep sense of responsibility to give something back to the country that has done so much for me. "I dedicate this award to the hundreds of young people I see every single day and will continue to nurture their amazing potential with the same hunger and determination as ever."

This hugely-eventful year saw the college branching out into secondary education with the opening of Vision Studio School – a new type of school for 14 to 19-year-olds that is bridging the gap between education and employment.

The pioneering school – the first of its kind in Nottinghamshire – opened in September 2014 at our former Chesterfield Road campus.

It currently caters for 250 students from Years 10 to 13 who study vocational qualifications in either engineering or health and care alongside core GCSEs combined with regular work placements with employer partners.

The college-sponsored school was officially opened in November by national ambassador for studio schools, Lord Karan Bilimoria, who unveiled a commemorative plaque before meeting students, staff and employers on a guided-tour of its facilities.

Meanwhile, as we embarked on the next phase of the college's exciting journey following the completion of our multi-million pound building programme, we toasted the 6oth anniversary of the Derby Road campus by bringing together some of the characters who shaped its unique history.

Students, staff and governors from 1954-2014 gathered for a special evening of celebration of the site's diamond anniversary and the launch of a limited-edition book, 'Celebrating Sixty Years', which featured their colourful stories and anecdotes of the college throughout the decades.

Guest of honour was 88-year-old Roy Broadley, who studied at the former Mansfield Technical College on Chesterfield Road in the early 1940s before going on to teach engineering at the newly-built Derby Road site in 1954. Other contributors and guests included former principals Don Mackenzie and Jim Aleander, who led the college from 1974-1994 and 1994-2001 respectively, along with Dame Asha, who said:

"There is certainly something highly symbolic about the college celebrating the 6oth anniversary of the Derby Road campus in the same year that we completed our £40m building programme ; and the book illustrates perfectly how the college – and society – has changed over the years."

In February 2015, global engineering icon Professor Lord Bhattacharyya gave his seal of approval to our new £5.8m Engineering Innovation Centre.

It came as the founder of the highlysuccessful Warwick Manufacturing Group officially opened the state-of-the-art building on Oddicroft Lane, Sutton-in-Ashfield, that is training the next generation of engineers and technicians.

After touring its workshops and high-tech teaching spaces, meeting with students and employers in the sector, Lord Bhattcharyya said:

"The facilities are second-to-none and the students are getting the cutting-edge, technical education they need to take with them to university or into the workplace.

"It's brilliant what the college has done and this example should be replicated all over the country."



Former student-turned-tutor Roy Broadley at our 6oth anniversary celebrations.



Students from Vision Studio School and West Nottinghamshire College with Lord Bilimoria.



Dame Asha receives her Dadabhai Naoroji Award from the then Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, joined by UK India Diaspora Champion Priti Patel MP and Minister of External Affairs of India Sushma Swaraj.



Dame Asha accepts her Woman of the Year award from Prime Minister David Cameron at a glittering gala event at the Westminster Park Plaza Hotel, London.



Lord Bhattacharyya tours the Engineering Innovation Centre with students and staff.

Dame Asha became the first india born in living memory to receive the DBE in January 2014. She was presented with her award by HRH Prince of Wales in March of the same year.

OUR STUDENT POPULATION

Nationally, the college trained 31,694 students in 2014/15 of which:

3,416	were 16-18 year-olds studying on campus		
6,299	were over 19 studying full or part-time		
1,245	were community-based learners		
512	were studying at Higher Education level		
12,717	were apprentices		
7,505	were employees trained in the workplace		
	of our students were considered to be particularly vulnerable (students who are care- leavers, young carers, or young people with some form of criminal record).		
	of our student body came from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities		
	of our student body had declared some form of disability or learning difficulty		



OUR FINANCIAL OUT-TURN

The college returned a surplus of 5.7% of its turnover. This performance places us in an unrivalled position in our sector.





OUR GREATEST STRENGTH LIES IN OUR PEOPLE

We are the second largest employer within our local area. We were named the 14th best place to work in the public sector and have been an IiP employer since 2010.





For the second year running the college underwent the Stonewall Equality Index, which gauges how well the college does for its lesbian, gay and bisexual employees. The college improved in ranking by an impressive 148 points to finish 143 out of 397 organisations, narrowly missing a place in the top 100. In its sector, the college was placed in the top 20 of all educational organisations that entered.



EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY FOR EVERYONE

A key touchstone of the college's strategic vision is the achievement of excellence. Progress on this journey last year was good, with the college improving success rates across all streams.

Overall classroom-based success rate was 82%.

Timely success for apprenticeship provision at 66% is 12% above the national rate. Overall success at 77% is 9% above the national rate.

Other workplace learning success rates at 96% are 9% above national rates.

Our satisfaction ratings are high:





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ALCON DURING THE REAL



College toasts exam success

We recorded another great year of A Level results in August 2015, with an overall pass rate of 98.8% – once again above the national average. Furthermore, 42% of passes and Skills' status – a national accolade for were at grade A*-B – up 11% on the previous year. Once again, many students secured a place at their preferred university – such as Lindsay Hill, from Mansfield, who achieved a clean sweep of A* grades in English language, history and psychology, complemented by an A grade in her Extended Project Qualification.

"I'm really relieved as I didn't think I'd get anywhere near these results! It means I can study history at the University of Leeds, which was my first choice."



College commended

The college was commended for its dedication to promoting health and wellbeing. We retained our 'Healthy FE the work we do to promote healthy living amongst students and staff.

Working in partnership with the NHS, councils and other bodies, we provide students with a year-round programme of information events and activities informing them how to make positive healthier lifestyle choices.

These include sexual health tutorials, smoking cessation support and advice on healthy eating.



Decorating duo on national stage

In November 2014, painting and decorating students Anna Lodge and Frankie Hawson put their talents to the test in the national finals of top trade competition, SkillBuild. It came after they earned a chance to battle it out against trainee tradespeople across the UK by winning gold and silver respectively in the East Midlands regional heats earlier that year. Despite narrowly missing out on national glory, their efforts were commended by curriculum manager for construction crafts Mike Wynn, who said: "Anna and Frankie have set the bar high for other learners to aspire to, and are two very good role models for the college."



Life's sweet for award-winning apprentice

College-trained apprentice Jodie Adcock scooped a top accolade at the food manufacturing 'Oscars'.

Jodie won the inaugural Young Talent of the Year award at the Food Manufacturing Excellence Awards for her work as a production line manager at Thorntons, in Somercotes, Derbyshire.

Her achievements were recognised in front of hundreds of industry guests at a glittering ceremony at the Park Lane Hilton in London, in November 2014.



Sophie's design is out of this world

A former student's 3D designs skills earned her a prestigious prize win. While studying interactive media in 2014, Sophie Rack entered a competition to design a 3D spaceship to feature in sci-fi film Space *Command*. She came in the top five, which saw her scoop a package of state-of-theart media software, which she uses to help further develop her creative skills while studying a computer games modelling and animation degree at the University of Derby.



Construction celebration

Students on construction-related courses were congratulated for their successes and achievements over the past year. A special awards ceremony at our construction centre in June 2015 saw Simon Meadows, chairman of the Construction Action Group of Employers (CAGE) North Nottinghamshire, present trophies and certificates to students who had achieved excellence on their courses, triumphed in skills competitions or overcame adversity to be successful in their vocational areas.

Student of the Year awards went to Joshua Tideswell (brickwork), Ben Talbot (carpentry and joinery), Stefan Hubble (painting and decorating), Andreas Koullapis (electrical installations), Stephen Armstrong (plumbing), and Joshua Dennis (construction and the built environment), while 35-year-old Stuart Peach picked up the plastering British Gypsum Learner of the Year award.

Head of construction and building services, Julian Walden, said: "It represented the culmination of a fantastic year that has seen students develop and grow as individuals while gaining the all-important skills and qualifications to be successful in industry."



Hair and Beauty Management while also working part-time as a beauty therapist in our Revive salon and spa – was presented with the accolade at a glittering 'medals for excellence' ceremony at the Derby Roundhouse attended by proud family and tutors in April 2014.

It came after she excelled on her previous course - the NVO Level 3 in Beauty and Spagaining distinctions throughout her studies.

Jessica said: "I was really surprised but also very proud to hear I'd been chosen for this award."





Jessica's stunning award-win

A student and staff member in the college's

EDUCATION AND TRAINING THAT LEADS TO POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Our ambition, as set out in our strategic vision, is that our provision should not only enable students to achieve but progress to their next steps – whether this is university, further study or work. A qualification from the college should be a passport to future success.





* intended destination



Inspirational Rolls-Royce visit

Exciting careers with aerospace giant Rolls-Royce were showcased to A Level students in July 2015. It came during an industry visit to the company's Learning and Career Development Centre, Derby, which saw students learning about the the wide range of jobs available to bright new talent and the entry requirements for would-be employees.

Accounting, business and law student Avi Mann said: "It's great that an organisation the size of Rolls-Royce wants to invest in young people and engage with us. The business is absolutely huge, with many different types of career options, so the visit definitely confirmed to me how much I want to work in the world of corporate industry."



Enterprising students

Students shared their enterprising career ideas with business leaders in London.

Anna Lodge, Rebecca Harrington, Paul Mellors and the then-president of the college's Students' Union, Will Jordan, were guests at the E2Exchange's Entrepreneur Leaders' Breakfast at the House of Lords.

E2Exchange is a community of entrepreneurs, investors and business directors which runs more than 40 events each year to enable like-minded individuals to connect. Its honorary president is Sir Richard Branson. The would-be entrepreneurs outlined their business plans to the delegates and received invaluable feedback and suggestions.



Talking politics with Conservative peer

Conservative peer Baroness Byford spoke to A Level students about the role of the House of Lords in decision-making. After learning about the legislative process, students quizzed the politician about life at Westminster and how the House of Lords conducts business

Sociology, business and law student Simon Davis, said: "Baroness Byford gave us a great insight into Parliamentary activity in the House of Lords and different aspects of decision-making within government. This will be beneficial when I'm writing one of my assignments because I'd like to train to become a barrister after university."



Leading entrepreneur inspires students

Award-winning entrepreneur Rami Ranger MBE shared his inspirational success story with students. Mr Ranger, who began his life in a refugee camp in India, moved to the UK in the 1970s and worked his way up from a range of jobs including car-washer and working in a fast-food restaurant to becoming chief executive of two of the UK's fastest-growing companies – Sun Mark and Sea, Air & Land Forwarding. Students asked him how he had thrived in sectors ranging from international marketing, distribution and beverage manufacturing.

Said Mr Ranger: "The students appear to be very committed and are working diligently. My advice to them is keep confident throughout your studies, work hard and you'll reap the rewards."



Recipe for success

Renowned chef Sat Bains gave hospitality students his unique insight into what it takes to succeed in the restaurant business. The two Michelin starred chef – a well-known face on hit BBC television shows Great British Menu and Saturday Kitchen – spoke about his route into cooking before sharing tips on how students could achieve their career aspirations.

He also praised the college's approach to preparing students for employment by giving them real-life industry experience in our fine dining restaurant, Refined.

Sat said: "The students are doing real work associated with running a restaurant. It's one of the best approaches to training you can take."



Actor sets the scene

Television star Rik Makarem inspired budding actors at the college when he visited in October 2014. Rik, best known for his role as Nikhil in ITV's Emmerdale and for appearing in hit sci-fi show Torchwood, delivered acting workshops to musical theatre and

Students also had the opportunity to speak to Rik about the best ways of securing work in the industry after graduating from their studies

Rik said: "I've been overwhelmed and encouraged by these energetic and openminded students. I'd advise the students to commit whole-heartedly to their acting dreams and they will achieve them."

MANY OF OUR STUDENTS GO ON TO ACHIEVE **GREAT THINGS** AFTER LEAVING COLLEGE.



Shaun Wheatcroft - digital media marketing executive at global media company

Shaun studied the Level 1 Business and Administration in 2006, returning in 2008 to do A Levels in English language, history, politics and general studies. His excellent grades saw him progress to gaining a firstclass joint honours degree in journalism and English language at De Montfort University, Leicester. He now works as a digital media marketing executive at Confetti Media Group - part of the consortium behind Notts TV; Nottingham's very first local TV station - and says college set him on the road to a rewarding career.

"I look back on my time at college with great fondness. The tutors were exceptional and it's a great environment to learn in. I still regularly catch up with a few of my former favourite tutors who inspired me, including John, Vlad and Kristina.

"While at college I undertook various work *experience positions at local newspapers* including the Mansfield Chad and the Newark Advertiser. This helped me gain vital experience for the future and led to me writing for the Nottingham Forest match day programme and football match reports for the Chad."

Sean insists his A Level studies developed his writing skills and equipped him with the knowledge for university-level study - eventually leading to his current role at Confetti Media Group.

"I'm the social media lead for Notts TV, Confetti College, Antenna Media Centre, Constellations and Spool, and also work on various marketing campaigns for the different brands.

"I love what I'm doing and, after furthering my experience, I'd eventually like to start my own social media consultancy business.

"I learnt so much during my time at West Notts and it's put me in a great position in the world of work."

performing arts students.



Jason Holland – creative director at top 10 website

Jason studied the First Diploma in Art and Design from 1989-90, followed by the twoyear HND in Graphic Design. He went on to study a degree in graphic design at the University of Northumbria, graduating in 1997. Jason is now the creative director of Underwired.com – a leader in web-based customer relations management and credited as being one of the world's top 10 most influential websites. He works with clients such as Virgin, McCain, Bupa and Sony. Jason credits the college with nurturing his talents and teaching him much more than just vocational skills.

"Life at college was all about self-motivation. I was trying to support myself, living on my own in a bed-sit in Mansfield, as well as studying.

"There were plenty of distractions but the college helped me set clear goals, which kept me on target.

"It also taught me how to deal with a variety" of characters and personalities, which ended up being an essential skill in my job and as a founder member of the two agencies I have owned."

Jason has remained in close contact with the college, where he shares his knowledge with multimedia students in the Create building.

"In recent years I have returned to do some half-day lectures and seen a space to work in that is both heavenly and inspirational; and I've met some great students who I've kept in touch with.

"Also, with lecturers like the extremely passionate Lee Hazeldine injecting their knowledge and giving guidance, I feel the college is continuing to grow and improve from already high standards."

DEVELOPING OUR LOCAL WORKFORCE

The college is very much at the heart of its community and local regeneration. We work with a range of partners to ensure that our provision meets the needs of the local economy and is aligned as much as possible with local priority sectors.

8,023 of students from the D2N2 area studied a vocational qualification with us. Of those **76%** studied in an industry area earmarked as a priority by the LEP, the City Growth Deal and the local district councils. This represents an increase of **5%** against the previous year – here's what they studied:





6,379 local employees – who work in 1,089 small or medium sized businesses – beniffited from the scheme.



Priority area

Total vocational

Proportion of vocational delivery in prio

Academic year

	13/14	14/15
	9,592	8,023
rity sectors	71%	76%



House of Lords celebration for star apprentices

Some of our top-performing apprentices were praised at a prestigious House of Lords reception in July 2015.

The 29 apprentices – drawn from the college group's crop of more than 12,000 across the country – were commended at our fourth annual 'celebration of apprenticeships' in recognition of their hard work and achievements. The high-profile event was hosted by Professor Lord Patel of Bradford OBE, who joined Dame Asha, Sherwood MP Mark Spencer and Ashfield MP Gloria De Piero in presenting engraved glass trophies and certificates to the award-winners from the college, Vision Apprentices and partner training providers.

Keynote speaker was Minister of State for Small Business, Industry and Enterprise, Anna Soubry MP, while other guests included Mansfield MP Sir Alan Meale and senior figures from the further education and skills sector.

Mark Spencer MP said: "The wealth of apprenticeship opportunities at the college is fantastic. For my constituents to have such a great facility on their doorstep is brilliant; not only for the local economy but for employers who are looking for young people with great skills."



A window of opportunity for apprentices

We helped Nottingham firm Hillarys to invest in its workforce by recruiting six new apprentice team leaders. The company – which produces made-to-measure blinds, curtains and shutters – hired the trainees through our subsidiary company, Vision Apprentices. It followed a successful preemployment event to prepare the candidates – who were all unemployed – in applying for the vacancies, which included help with interview techniques.

The apprenticeships take 12-18 months to complete and will give them the opportunity to progress within the company.

Team leader apprentice Jose Dias, 24, said: "I'm getting trained-up while I work – it's great. I'd love to continue working here and maybe get promoted in the future."

Manufacturing manager Kevin Salmon said: "Our six new apprentices have a great mix of skills and fit in really well with the business, so I have every confidence in them."



AIMING HIGH

Each year, the college provides Higher Education to over 500 young people and adults. Our commitment is to increase participation in Higher Education to equip our community with the higher-level skills that employers tell us they so desperately need. Our provision is founded on exceptional partnerships with the University of Derby and Birmingham City University.



College celebrates double graduation

University-level students celebrated their achievements at our Higher Education graduation ceremonies in November 2014, which saw 237 students graduate in front of proud family and friends. Ryan Bromyard, who studied the BA (Hons) (Top-up) Sports Studies, was named Principal's Student of the Year at the morning ceremony for developing his own coaching expertise at both grassroots and elite level. BA (Hons) Business and Management graduate Annette Willoughby received the honour at the afternoon ceremony for identifying guest speakers to inspire her and her fellow classmates.

Annette said: "My tutors have been very encouraging during my studies and since doing this course I've begun a Masters' Degree in Heritage Management, which I'm studying part-time over two years.

"Life at college has been a life-changing experience and I believe you get a much better experience than at a conventional university."



UK quality mark for HE provision

The college received the official stamp of approval from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) following a review of our HE provision in June 2015. A team of reviewers judged that our academic standards, quality and enhancement of student learning opportunities, and quality of information all meet UK expectations. They highlighted our extensive range of support services for students and dedicated resources to support a distinctive Higher Education learning environment as areas of best practice.

Dame Asha said: "Retaining QAA's quality mark means students can be confident that studying a university-level course at the college will provide them with a fantastic educational experience and a valuable qualification to enhance their futures.

"Above all, I am really proud that the college's commitment to supporting and working with students has been recognised by reviewers, as this is such a distinctive part of what we offer."



New university centre moves step closer

Our ambitious plans to bring a £6.5m stateof-the-art university centre to Mansfield got the green light, following planning approval by the district council and funding from the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership.

This means our long-held aspiration to build a flagship facility for delivering our alreadysuccessful Higher Education provision is finally set to become a reality.

The scheme will see the creation of a modern three-storey building boasting inspirational teaching and learning space, IT suites, 100seat lecture theatre and science lab. It is all aimed at widening participation in higherlevel study while providing the skills needed to support D2N2's plan for growth and job-creation.

The new Vision University Centre is planned to open in September 2016. It will accommodate those studying Higher Education qualifications including HNCs, HNDs, foundation degrees and full-honours degrees, along with higher apprenticeships and part-time professional qualifications.

Dame Asha said: "This is about making Higher Education more accessible to the communities of Mansfield and Ashfield, and providing employers with the vocational skills and talent pool to grow their business."



"Life at college has been a life-changing experience and I believe you get a much better experience than at a conventional university."

Annette Willoughby

A REPUTATION AS A LEADER AND NOT A FOLLOWER

The college has a growing reputation as a leader within the further education and skills sector. In 2014/15 our reputation spread overseas, thanks to some exciting developments a little further from home.



College group in pioneering Indian venture

The launch of two ambitious overseas ventures meant 2015 will be remembered as a milestone in the college group's international development.

Subsidiary company bksb marked its expansion into India by opening a head office and training centre in the northern city of Chandigarh.

Officially opened in January, its new headquarters in the prestigious Taj Hotel Chandigarh enables the market-leading company – operating in India as Skills Anytime – to showcase its e-learning products to the sub-continent.

Guest of honour at the launch was Justice Mahesh Mittal Kumar, Former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir, and Indian actor and singer Nav Sidhu, who spoke about the importance of good English language skills to India's youth.



Helping to build India's future

The college has formed a partnership with the Indian-based Cordia Group of Educational Institutes to create a vocational training centre in the rural village of Sanghol, specialising in masonry, carpentry, plumbing, painting and decorating.

Using its vast experience in the construction sector, the college has designed the training programmes to be offered at the new centre – part of Cordia Group's campus of educational institutes on the Chandigarh-Ludhiana highway – as well as training the tutors that will deliver them.

Dame Asha Khemka DBE, college group principal and AoC India Chair, said: "I am immensely proud we have the opportunity to contribute to the ambitious skills agenda which will underpin India's continued success."



Sharing expertise globally

Educational standards and expertise from across the globe were the topics for discussion when we welcomed His Excellency Mr Ranjan Mathai, the High Commissioner of India to the UK, in June 2015.

The diplomat visited the college on a factfinding mission, which involved touring our state-of-the-art engineering and construction facilities. He met with the college's executive team, governors, business leaders, students and employers that we work with including Midlands Aerospace and Center Parcs.

Mr Mathai was accompanied by First Secretary (Education) Mrs Madhu Sethi and the Consul General of India in Birmingham, Mr Jitendra Kumar Sharma.

Praising our facilities and approach to training, Mr Mathai said: *"I was particularly impressed by the industrial training in engineering and construction at the college.*

"It's great to see close relations with businesses who help ensure the course content and the work undertaken is constantly updated to meet employers' needs."



3D celebration

Interactive media students learned more about the exciting world of 3D animation and computer-generated imagery.

They were inspired by some of the industry's leading experts, courtesy of the college's first-ever Create Expo – a celebration of world-renowned graphics software, LightWave 3D, used in blockbuster movies including Jurassic Park, Titanic, The Dark Knight and The Amazing Spider-Man.

Held at our state-of-the-art Create building, the event brought together major figures from the LightWave community for a series of talks and demonstrations on why they use the revolutionary graphics package.

It was hosted by internationally-respected artist Lino Grandi, 3D content and character technology lead at LightWave 3D Group.

The college is believed to be the only one in the UK that teaches LightWave.

Mr Grandi said: "I think it's amazing that the college teaches LightWave. And the facilities are just incredible. The students here can't fail to be inspired."

"I was particularly impressed by the industrial training in engineering and construction at the college."

His Excellency Mr Ranjan Mathai, the High Commissioner of India to the UK

INVESTING IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

September 2014 saw the culmination of a £40m investment in world-class facilities for learning with the completion of the major transformation of the Derby Road campus, along with the opening of a bespoke centre for engineering. By 2016 and the opening of our university centre, our investment will total £50m.



College completes £40m transformation

2014 will be remembered as a landmark year for the college, as we celebrated the completion our £40m building programme.

Hailed as a "once-in-a-generation investment" in education and skills, the multi-million pound redevelopment has seen the introduction of specialist facilities for teaching and learning that are the envy of the sector. The ambitious scheme – which began with the creation of our flagship construction campus in 2008 – was finalised with the addition of our state-of-the-art £5.8m Engineering Innovation Centre and contemporary £2.3m Visual Arts and Design Centre in September.

Meanwhile, the re-cladding of the six-storey tower and remaining buildings at the Derby Road campus was finalised – rejuvenating the visual appearance of our main site and creating an iconic gateway into Mansfield.

It meant Dame Asha had delivered on her promise to bring "world-class buildings and facilities" to the area.

The transformation was praised by Mansfield MP Sir Alan Meale, who said: *"The college remains at the heart of the community and its contribution is a constant source of energy that will guarantee our future generations' success."*



Creative hub for tomorrow's artists

The college transformed a former workshop building into a contemporary creative hub boasting state-of-the-art studios and workshops, modern teaching space, and bright and airy exhibition areas.

Our new Visual Arts and Design Centre features studios for art, textiles, fashion, design and manufacture, screen-printing and graphic design. There are also workshops for 3D, woodwork, metalwork and ceramics, plus a photography studio, darkroom and digital suite.

The centre is preparing students for careers ranging from graphic designer, artist and professional illustrator to fashion designer and photographer. It accommodates almost 250 students on courses from introductory to diploma-level, with many progressing to Higher Education either at university or at art colleges across the country.

Steve McAlone, head of creative industries and digital technologies, said: "*This* fantastic facility signals the next stage in the development of our art and design curriculum. It offers vibrant and exciting opportunities to study a range of creative arts programmes in a purpose-designed building with up-to-date facilities, equipment and resources."



Engineering centre will plug skills gaps

The Engineering Innovation Centre provides students with some of the best vocational training facilities in the East Midlands.

It will produce highly-trained technicians in specialist fields while helping plug skills gaps across a range of sectors including manufacturing and advanced automation.

The building, in Sutton-in-Ashfield, boasts dedicated workshops for electrical, electronic and mechanical engineering, fabrication and welding, and motor-vehicle maintenance.

Supported by local employers, it accommodates more than 600 students per week including full-time learners, apprentices and those studying Higher Education programmes.

Head of engineering, Brian Malyan, said: "The Engineering Innovation Centre is purposelydesigned to equip students with both the technical skills and the ability to adapt to technological advancements by moving between engineering disciplines.

"Increasingly, employers are demanding their workforce is both highly-trained and flexible, so these are key parts of preparing students for the jobs market." "Our world-class buildings and facilities are providing students and employers with unrivalled education, training and learning opportunities."

Dame Asha Khemka DBE



























MORE THAN JUST A COLLEGF

\bigcirc APPRENTICES



Vision Apprentices is a recruitment and employment service that supports the growth of apprenticeship opportunities for both employers and applicants. Established in 2010, it was one of the leaders in the Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA) pilot scheme and continues to support employers with the flexibility to 'host' apprentices rather than employ them directly, while still reaping the rewards of having them working in their business.

Vision Apprentices works nationally to source excellent apprentices to meet the needs of business – offering a full end-to-end recruitment service that makes taking on an apprentice as easy as possible.

- Since September 2014, Vision Apprentices has supported 2,500 people into jobs.
- 79% of people employed through the Vision Apprentices ATA move on to fulltime employment.
- 98% of candidates using its new, bespoke application process like the system and say it's easy to use.

Vision Apprentice, 16-year-old Daniel Leader, said: "I love the fact I have a sustainable job and income while also furthering myself as a person and learning new skills. Choosing an apprenticeship was the best decision I ever made."





Established within the college more than 20 years ago, bksb is now the UK's numberone provider of Functional Skills and GCSE assessments and resources. The company supports over 80% of FE colleges in the UK, almost every prison and thousands of other clients including schools, training providers and private sector organisations. Further afield, bksb's first subsidiary company – Skills Anytime – was opened in India in January 2015, and the company also sells versions of its software to organisations in Africa, Asia, Australasia and Europe.

This year, bksb was selected as a finalist in the Bett Awards and Education Resources Awards, highlighting its success and status in the UK. bksb also has an excellent reputation for providing outstanding training and events – with more than 400 practitioners attending The Skills Conference 2015, which has grown to become the UK's largest event of its kind for discussing, debating and sharing ideas to improve English, maths and

bksb's managing director, Harvinder Atwal, said: "English, maths and IT skills are so fundamental to all individuals – shaping their confidence, educational success and career prospects. We believe passionately that their importance should be at the top of the national education agenda."





The Inspire and Achieve Foundation was founded in 2008 by Dame Asha. Based in Mansfield and Ashfield, it helps disadvantaged and disengaged young people who are classed as NEET (not in education, employment or training) to take positive steps.

The work of the foundation is vital for tackling local youth unemployment – and it is having great results, with 70% of the young people it works with progressing into education, employment or training as a direct result of its assistance.

Almost 125 young people living in Mansfield and Ashfield have benefitted from the foundation's services in the past year. Of the 62 who have already progressed to a positive destination, 22 secured employment and 40 moved into education or training.

The foundation works very closely with the college's Ashfield Centre, which provides courses to young people who may not be ready for a larger college environment or who struggled in compulsory secondary education. Since its formation, the foundation in partnership with the centre has helped close to 500 young people get their lives back on track.



Graded 'outstanding' across-the-board by Ofsted in 2012, Butterflies Day Nursery provides the highest standards of early years care and education. Giving it top marks in all 17 inspection categories, Ofsted commented on its "excellent staff team who are highlymotivated, have an excellent understanding of child development and meet all children's needs outstandingly."





createtheatre



Launched in January 2012, Create Theatre is a ground-breaking venue for local and touring performing artists and travelling theatre companies. This popular, small-scale venue has established a reputation for leading the local area's contemporary arts scene – making theatre available to a wide audience through a diverse range of genres, from drama and children's theatre to comedy, musical performances and fringe theatre.





Revive launched in April 2013 and provides some of the best hair, beauty, spa and complementary therapies facilities in the region. Open to the public, it sees students working alongside tutors and industry professionals to provide a range of treatments and experiences – preparing them for their future careers. Part of the college's £11m Lifestyle Academy, it was officially opened in November 2014 by hairdressing legend Toni Mascolo OBE - cofounder of TONI&GUY - who said: "It's clear the students are building the foundations of their own careers within these wonderful facilities."

VISION STUDIO SCHOOL

STUDENTS EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE THRIVING AT THE STUDIO SCHOOL...



A new type of school for 14 to 19-year-olds of all abilities, Vision Studio School offers students a unique way of learning that combines the classroom with the workplace.

Sponsored by the college, it opened in September 2014 at our former Chesterfield Road campus in Mansfield and is the first school of its kind in Nottinghamshire – and one of only 39 in the country.

Smaller than most mainstream schools, it bridges the gap between education and the world of work through a specially-developed curriculum.

In addition to the core GCSEs of English, maths and science, students study vocational qualifications in either engineering or health and care.

These are delivered through project-based learning and regular work placements with partner employers including Swiftool, Tyler Brothers, Lindhurst Engineering, Hall-Fast Industrial Supplies, National Tyres, King's Mill Hospital, Jigsaw, Reach and Portland College.

Students wear smart, business attire rather than a traditional uniform, and follow a gam-5pm working day to mirror that of many workplaces.

They also receive talks by industry professionals, while the school's links with the college provide access to some of the best vocational training facilities in the country such as our £5.8m Engineering Innovation Centre.



Caring Jenni's "dream" placement

Jenni Allen says enrolling at the studio school was the "best decision" she ever made.

That's because it enabled her to embark on a work placement with Reach – a charity that provides courses and activities to people with learning disabilities.

Having gained a BTEC Level 2 in Health and Social Care at college, Jenni chose the studio school for the Level 3 Extended Diploma so she could benefit from a long-term work placement.

The 18-year-old now helps run fitness sessions, cookery classes and other activities at the Mansfield-based charity.

Her week also involves classroom-based study at the school including sessions by health and social care professionals.

It is this mix of traditional study and onthe-job preparation for employment that is enabling Jennie to really thrive.

"I always go home with a smile on my face, feeling I've achieved something," she said.

"And I've formed great connections with staff and service-users. It's been my dream work placement."

Tracy Radford, director of services at Reach, said: "The work placements give students a real appreciation of the demands of employment and help them to make informed decisions about their future career.

"I think all young people should have this type of experience."



Ashley engineers bright future

The opportunity of a high-quality work placement and chance to access state-ofthe-art engineering facilities were the main attractions for teenager Ashley Haywood.

Rather than go to sixth-form, Ashley was convinced the studio school was the ideal place to continue his education.

"I really liked the idea of the work placements rather than being in a classroom all day, with some occasional engineering work," he said.

The 17-year-old is now on the second year of his placement with local firm Lindhurst Engineering while working towards his Level 3 Extended Diploma in Engineering.

Along with academic study at the school, he attends theory and practical lessons at the college's Engineering Innovation Centre.

"The school has designed things so you learn mainly from your placement, which helps with your coursework because you can apply the theory to the actual job," he said.

Lindhurst Engineering's managing director, Martin Rigley, was so excited about the concept of the new school, he joined its board of governors.

"It's enabling young people to develop the skills to become the craftsmen and technicians that we need, and it sends out the positive message that we are a business that's thinking about the future," he said.



"The work placements give students a real appreciation of the demands of employment and help them to make informed decisions about their future career."

Tracy Radford, Reach

Velcome to your

Study core GCSE subjects maths, science) whiles from real work publics Learn in a public

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OUR GOVERNING BODY



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