

RNN Group Employer Newsletter

Edition 8

May / June 2025

Welcome

Welcome to our bi-monthly RNN Group E-Newsletter. This newsletter aims to ensure we communicate key information that is happening within the Group to employers and local partners so that you are up to date with all our latest news and activities.

As you will know, RNN Group works in partnership with schools, employers and local organisations to continually ensure we are leading and delivering on innovation and skills in our communities. It includes five campuses of career-focused further and higher education in South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire alongside our partner organisation, the National Fluid Power Centre. We educate school leavers, undergraduates, employees and those re-joining the workforce with a focus on ensuring learners leave equipped with the necessary skills to join or re-join the workforce.

Our focus is on skills development – T Levels, Apprenticeships, HTQs and others – to ensure we support the LSIPs, employers and the needs of our local economy to ensure a better and more prosperous future for our communities.

Jason Austin
CEO & Principal
RNN Group



In this edition, there are bite-size pieces of information on each section with more detailed information included in links if you would like more information.

- **FREE Lunchtime Webinars**
- **Business Breakfast - 5th June @ NFPC**
- **Employer Awards Lunches for 2025**
- **Skills for Employment**
- **Useful Publications**
- **Latest News & Blog**
- **Recommend a friend / employer**
- **Our Social Media Platforms to follow**

Save the Date!

RNN Group

*Employer Awards
And Celebration*

27th november 2025

**New York Stadium, Rotherham,
6.00pm -9.00pm**

Business Breakfast

We continue with our popular and successful business breakfasts and held our second of 2025 on Thursday 5th June at the National Fluid Power Centre.

We heard from AMION who are currently developing an evidence-led Skills Audit for Bassetlaw, with business insights playing a crucial role in shaping their findings and recommendations, ensuring that businesses and organisations have the access to the right talent and training opportunities to thrive

Our next ones are being held on:

Tuesday 30th September 2025

8.30am - 10.00am

at The National Fluid Power Centre (NFPC)

Wednesday 1st October 2025

8.30am - 10.00am

at University Centre Rotherham, BCR

These business breakfasts will be followed by our careers fairs at each campus for employers to speak directly with learners as part of our Careers and Skills Induction Week.

For more information or to book on email shartley@rnnngroup.ac.uk

FREE Lunchtime Webinars

RNN Group runs a monthly lunchtime and evening webinar series which is totally free.

These webinars are for adults, employers, partner organisations, school's careers leads, Headteachers, prospective and current learners and parents who might be interested in some or all of the topics that we will be running.

Sessions have been run on Apprenticeships, T Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications, Distance Learning, Community Courses and Adult Skills Courses to name a few!

[Catch up on our free lunchtime webinars here.](#)



RNN Group Employer Award Lunches: 2025

Last year we launched a monthly award to formally recognise our amazing employers and how much they align to the four values of the RNN Group.

Our recent winners - Oldham Engineering, Benchmark Group and Sue Chessman of Kuttin Kru - are invited to a special lunch at the Wharncliffe in October to receive their certificate in person from Jason Austin, RNN Group's CEO and Principal.

[Click to read more RNN Group Employer Award Lunches 2025](#)



Useful

Publications for Businesses

We have a number of publications that businesses might find interesting and helpful especially in these areas:

Commercial Lets and Office Space
Adult Training Courses
Apprenticeship Information
RNN Group Information

[Click to read more from our publications](#)



[Click to read more RNN Group Prospectus](#)



[Click to read more RNN Group Commercial Office Space and Pricing information.](#)



[Click to read more RNN Group Apprenticeships for Employers.](#)



[Click to read more Adult Learner welcome pack.](#)



Skills for Employment

During Autumn 2024, we launched Skills for Employment to our learners and employers.

During Autumn 2024, we launched Skills for Employment to our learners and employers. This is an employer backed and driven initiative for learners to gain the transferable skills they need to succeed in employment and for employers to recruit learners with these vital employability skills.

For more information about Skills for Employment and how you can get involved as a business, click here:

[Click to read more informations about skills for employment and how you can get involved as a business](#)

Latest News

RNN Group Students Transform Community Garden

A powerful partnership between RNN Group students and Esh Construction has helped revitalise a community garden for Lighthouse Homes – a Rotherham-based charity supporting men facing homelessness, poverty, and substance abuse.

The redevelopment project, completed in time for spring, aims to boost mental wellbeing and encourage outdoor activity for the residents of the 17-bed hostel on Westgate, which offers 24/7 support for men aged 18 and over.

A dedicated team of students from the RNN Group volunteered their time and skills to support the project. They worked alongside industry professionals from Esh Construction to upcycle benches, install sleepers, lay paving, and create a sustainable green space that will benefit residents for years to come.

Patience Middleton, an RNN Group student who took part in the project, said:

“I have really enjoyed participating in practical activities on site, as it has allowed me to work outside of my comfort zone and given me valuable knowledge and skills by working with industry specialists.

Completing this project with the Esh team has given me an insight into how to work together to complete a project, and I feel confident that I can take what I have learnt on site into my future career.”

Martin Haigh, Support Manager at Lighthouse Homes, expressed his gratitude for the collaborative effort:

“The provision of a quiet green space is an essential part of what we offer to our residents in Rotherham. We are very grateful to Esh Construction for the work done and the way they did it. They minimised disruption and were polite and courteous at every contact we have had with them.”

Megan Roberts, Social Value Manager at Esh Construction, added:

“The facilities at Lighthouse Homes are incredible. Their work to help young men in the local community is invaluable, and the new garden will provide them with the opportunity to further enhance the support that they offer.

Esh is committed to delivering social value initiatives like this one in the local areas where we are operating. The work that we do is long-term, to create a legacy, and we hope that the new garden will provide support to the residents for many years to come.”

Rotherham Council also praised the partnership. Councillor Sarah Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, said:

“We are extremely grateful for the work that Esh Construction and the RNN students have completed for the residents at Lighthouse Homes, as the benefits they will gain from the new garden are endless.

Lighthouse Homes, as evidenced by this particular project, is really important to us. We have a rough sleeper and homelessness strategy for the borough, and Lighthouse Homes make an important contribution to this.”

This project reflects the power of community collaboration and the value of hands-on learning for students.

It not only enhanced a vital local service but also gave RNN students an opportunity to build skills and contribute to lasting social impact in their town.



Latest News

HN Flex: A new Approach to Higher Education

HN Flex is a new, modular higher education offering, designed to make higher-level learning more accessible, customisable, and career-focused.

It enables learners to study individual units from BTEC Higher National qualifications at Levels 4 and 5 across more than 40 subject areas, including engineering, computing, business, and creative industries.

This flexible model is ideal for professionals looking to upskill, individuals transitioning careers, or those who prefer a more incremental approach to education.

Learners can enrol in stand-alone units, combine units for CPD (Continuing Professional Development), or work towards full qualifications like the HNC (Higher National Certificate) or HND (Higher National Diploma).

Upon completion of each unit, learners earn a Certificate of Unit Credit (CoUC), which can be used to build toward a full award in the future.

Learners can choose from several pathways

- Study stackable units within a single BTEC Higher National qualification, with the opportunity to progress to a Higher National Certificate (HNC) or Higher National Diploma (HND), achieving a Certificate of Unit Credit (CoUC) upon completion.
- Combine up to four units from different BTEC Higher National subjects as standalone short programmes. While these units cannot be combined to create an HNC/HND, students have the opportunity to progress to a full HNC/HND, focusing on a single subject discipline, having banked the units studied.
- Complete individual units of CPD as and when required.
- Complete only units required for professional body or vendor accreditation.

For educational institutions, HN Flex offers the ability to attract a broader student base, including adult learners and professionals seeking targeted skill development. It also facilitates stronger partnerships with local employers by addressing specific workforce training needs.

What we offer at the RNN Group

From September, RNN Group's Higher Education offering at the University Centre Rotherham includes HN Flex courses including in Business, Construction, Digital and Engineering, alongside HTQs, HNCs, HNDs, Higher and Degree Level Apprenticeships and traditional degrees including a Masters option in Teaching alongside the PGCE option (both full or part time) too.

HN Flex will provide learners with a versatile and accessible route to acquire higher-level skills in a manageable format, supporting both immediate professional goals and long-term educational aspirations.

For more information, ring us on 01709 722806, email us at ucr@rotherham.ac.uk or come along to our Open Event to find out more on Wednesday 25th June to talk to staff about your options.

[Click to find out more about HN Flex](#)

[Click to find out more about HE qualifications](#)



Latest News

Rotherham is Wonderful – Rotherham Rising

A Town Embracing Culture, Children's Voices and Community

Rotherham, a town often discussed in the context of its past struggles, is writing a new chapter – one rooted in regeneration, resilience, and real community spirit.

Nestled in the heart of South Yorkshire, Rotherham is steadily emerging as a hub of cultural heritage, green innovation, and inclusive growth.

Rotherham's transformation

Over the past few years, Rotherham has undergone a quiet transformation. Major investments in infrastructure, education, and the arts are helping to reshape the town's image and future. The Forge Island development, for instance, is bringing a state-of-the-art cinema, new restaurants, and a modern hotel to the town centre – a symbol of ambition and pride.

The rejuvenation of the High Street and the restoration of historic buildings have also begun to create a new vibrancy in the town centre.

Sustainability

Beyond bricks and mortar, Rotherham is becoming known for its commitment to green initiatives. The town is part of the "South Yorkshire Net Zero" push, with projects that support sustainable transport, clean energy, and local nature conservation.

These efforts not only improve the quality of life for residents but position Rotherham as a forward-thinking community ready for the challenges of the future.

Education and innovation

Education and innovation are thriving too. The University Centre Rotherham is attracting students from across the region, offering accessible higher education and pathways into high-skilled careers.

Meanwhile, Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP), located on the town's edge, continues to grow as a national centre for research and industry collaboration, hosting global names like Boeing and Rolls-Royce.

Our community

But perhaps Rotherham's greatest asset is its people and its children! In a bold and inspiring move, Rotherham is making history as the UK's first Children's Capital of Culture – a unique initiative designed to put young people at the heart of the town's cultural future.

Launched with support from the UK Government's Towns Fund and Arts Council England, the programme empowers children and young adults to shape, create, and lead cultural activities across the borough. From music and theatre to digital arts, film, and heritage, young voices are driving the conversation about what culture means today and what it can be tomorrow.

The initiative includes a year-round programme of events, workshops, and festivals, all co-designed by local youth. It offers training, mentoring, and real-world opportunities in the creative industries, giving participants the skills and confidence to lead change in their communities and beyond.

Rotherham's Children's Capital of Culture is more than a title – it's a statement of belief in the power of young people to transform the places they live. It's also a model for how towns across the UK can invest in youth-led regeneration, culture, and pride of place.

In Rotherham, the future is being written by the next generation – and it's full of creativity, ambition, and hope. With continued investment, creativity, and the dedication of its residents and children, Rotherham is rising – and it's a real story worth celebrating.



What's

Happening?

To keep up to date with all that is happening across the Group and the Colleges, click on the relevant news pages below.

RNN Group News and Events

[Click to read more RNN Group News](#)

[Click to read more RNN Group Blog](#)

Recommend

Us

Why not recommend friend / employer who might benefit from the RNN Group and the information included in this as well as the courses and programmes we have to offer.

Email: enquiries@rnnngroup.ac.uk

[Click to read more about the course and programmes we have to offer.](#)

Follow Us

Don't forget to follow our social media platforms



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Ofsted

Good
Provider

Rotherham College
North Notts College
Dearne Valley College
University Centre Rotherham
and
National Fluid Power Centre

Part of
RNN GROUP

 **Rotherham College**

 **Dearne Valley College**

 **North Notts College**

 **University Centre Rotherham**

 **NFPC** Integrated Systems Engineering
Hydraulics • Pneumatics • Electronics

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