

RNN Group

Employer and Community

Newsletter

Edition 11

September / October 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 four campuses of career-focused further and higher education in South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire alongside our partner organisation, the National Fluid Power Centre and outdoor centre at Idle Valley. 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 through vocational courses up to Level 7 including T Levels, Apprenticeships, HN Flex, HNCs and HND, HTQs, traditional degrees and others - to ensure we support the LSIPs, employers and the needs of our local economy to develop 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 Webinars
- Chamber Means Business Event - 18th September
- Business Breakfasts - 30th September and 1st October
- Employer Awards Lunches for 2025
- Skills for Employment
- Get Involved with our Induction Programme
- Fun Corporate Sports Day 'Thank you' at Dearne Valley College
- Launch of CSCS Testing and Warehousing and Logistics Hub
- 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 Breakfasts

We continue with our popular and successful business breakfasts for 2025 holding our next ones 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.



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!

We have launched our 2025/2026 programme.

[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 next events will be held on 9th October for recent few months' winners to enjoy an autumn themed lunch menu, and then 11th December for September to December winners to enjoy a Christmas lunch in our fine dining restaurant, the Wharnclyffe.



[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](#)



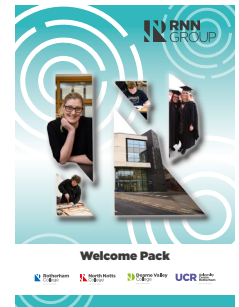
[Click to read more RNN Group Prospectus](#)



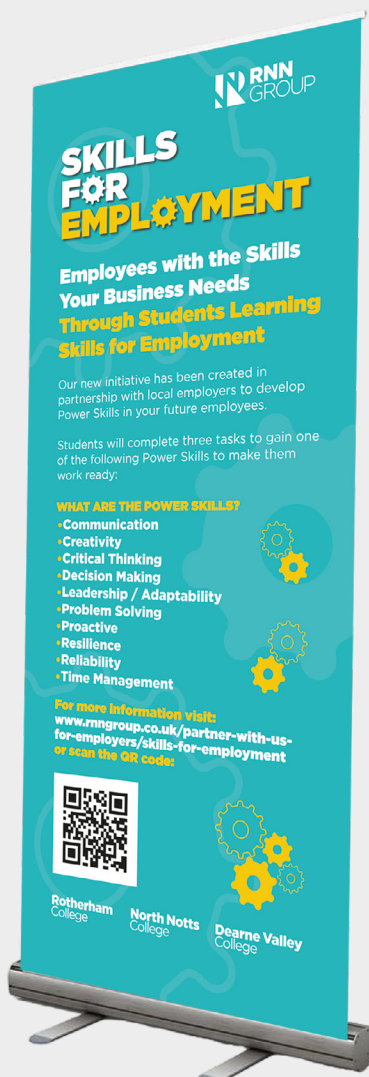
[Click to read more RNN Group Commercial Office Space and Pricing information.](#)



[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.

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.

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

Get Involved with our Induction Programme

The academic year has started and to ensure our learners receive a good induction and feel part of our Group, we are having an eight week induction programme for all our new learners starting in September which spans September and October following its successful launch in 2024.

There are eight weeks of useful information, support and opportunities for our new and returning learners which are broken down as follows:

Week 1- Introductions, tours, getting to know peers and College and College life

Week 2- Sign up to activities week with lots of enrichment activities available for learners to take part in

Week 3 - Check in Week with our learners

Week 4 - Swap Don't Drop: we encourage learners to swap courses rather than drop college altogether

Week 5 - Careers and Skills week - workshops, fairs and sessions on careers and skills

Week 6 - Wellbeing week

Week 7 - Higher Skills and Education week - a chance for learners to see what's available when they finish their Level 2 and / or Level 3 courses

Week 8 - Celebration Week - a round up of the last eight weeks as well as celebrating the first eight weeks of college and the half term holidays around the corner

For organisations, Week 5 is key!

If you want to get involved with supporting us at the Careers Fairs we have on that week listed below,

Please email Lucy Barnwell at lucy.barnwell@rnngroup.ac.uk.

We have opportunities for you to lead sessions and workshops too on power skills and careers development.

**Tuesday 30th September
@ North Notts College
10.00am - 2.00pm**

**Wednesday 1st October
@Rotherham College
10.00am - 2.00pm**

**Thursday 2nd October
@ Dearne Valley College
10.00am - 2.00pm**

Launch of CSCS Testing and Warehousing and Logistics Hub

Launch Event

Monday 20th October 2025
10.00am

This year we have a new course offering Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Testing & Warehousing & Forklift Truck Training.

RNN Group is proud to be offering Warehousing & Forklift Truck Training & CSCS Testing and are the only provider to be offering this.

Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Testing

The CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) test is a crucial assessment for individuals working in the UK construction industry which is why following the opening of our four million pound Construction Centre, we are offering CSCS testing.

It evaluates a worker's knowledge of health, safety, and environmental practices on-site. Passing the test ensures that individuals understand how to operate safely and responsibly, helping to reduce accidents and injuries.

Holding a valid CSCS card demonstrates competence and professionalism, often serving as a mandatory requirement for site access. This not only protects the worker but also promotes a culture of safety across the industry. Ultimately, CSCS testing is essential for maintaining high standards and ensuring a safer working environment.

Level 2 Warehousing & Forklift Truck Training (*Funded Course)

RTITB (Road Transport Industry Training Board) sets industry leading training standards specifically designed to change behaviour and make measurable improvements to efficiency.

Our training courses offer training to RTITB standards that indicate that a person has completed a specific course and passed the standardised practical and theory test, demonstrating their ability to operate lift trucks safely and effectively.

Benefits

Sector Work Based Academies: Promoting these programmes is a proactive approach to skills development as well as addressing industry needs and it is a valuable offering for learners.

Close Work with JCP: We are working in collaboration with Jobcentre Plus (JCP) which is crucial for reaching a wider audience and ensuring that training opportunities are available to those who need them most. It also streamlines the process for learners.

Targeted Training: The focus on Warehouse courses and Forklift truck training demonstrates an understanding of local job market demands and provides learners with practical, in-demand skills.

Guaranteed Interviews: This is a significant incentive for learners and a key factor in the programme's success. It provides a clear pathway to employment.



Logistics
TRAINING CENTRE

For more information contact us by telephone on 07812 611591 or email: natalie.white@rnnngroup.ac.uk.

Key and relevant industry leads will be sent an invite to this event in due course.

Fun Corporate Sports Day

'Thank you' at Dearne Valley College

Do you and a few members of your company fancy trying your hand at some drone sports and racing, F1 racing, axe throwing and archery?



We'll look no further than our RNN Sports Day!

**Friday 3rd October
9.00am - 1.00pm**

**Breakfast,
refreshments
and lunch
*All Included***

We are holding this at the end of our Careers and Skills week to say thank you to the first ten companies who we work with to sign up with four per team.

There will be awards presented to businesses too so **email Lucy.Barnwell@rnngroup.ac.uk** to find out more or book your place!



Chamber Means

Business Event

Why not catch up with us at the Chamber Means Business Event.

**Thursday 18th September
at the New York Stadium!**

**We will be there to talk to businesses
about our education and training offering!**



Latest News and Blog

T Level Triumph at RNN Group

T Level students are celebrating at RNN Group after achieving an excellent set of T Level results following results day on Thursday 14th August..

Rotherham College and North Notts College part of the RNN Group (made up of campuses also including Dearne Valley College and University Centre Rotherham (UCR)) have gained results including 2 Distinctions, 19 Merits and 17 Passes.

RNN Group started doing T Levels in September 2023 with Digital, Construction (Onsite Construction for Bricklaying and Joinery), Education and Childcare, and Health, and then expanded a year later with Animal Care and Management, Business (Management and Administration), Engineering (Building Services Engineering for Construction [Plumbing and Heating and Electrical Installation] and Maintenance Installation and Repair [Mechatronics and Processing and Control]), and the Foundation T Level too in September 2024.

“I’m really excited because I’ve already made uni friends, so having that and also starting a new chapter is so exciting because now I finally get to start my teaching career, which is something I’ve wanted since I was young.

After a lot of stress, to finally know that I’ll be able to go to university is amazing. I wouldn’t be here without the T-Level course.”

Jess, Level 3 Education and Early Years T-Level student

Each T Level is equal to three A Levels and is a more practical journey into the working world with 4 days in the classroom and one day in the relevant industry building up skills for employment which employers are finding invaluable.

A distinction equals 3 A’s at A Level, a merit 3 B’s and a Pass 3 C’s so our learners have achieved so much as the first learners within the Group to complete the new two year programme.

Tracey Mace-Akroyd, Deputy CEO and Principal of the RNN Group said,

“I am so proud of all of our learners across all of the T Level departments and campuses for all the hard work they have put into these courses and their achievements showcase this so well.

“Our staff have worked tirelessly to guide and support our T Level learners over the last two years and have embraced T Levels and the educational journey they take our learners on wholeheartedly which we can see in the delivery of these amazing results.

“T Levels provide learners with a meaningful industry placement, where they put skills learnt in the classroom into action which means that employers get early sight of the new talent in their industry which is win-win for everyone involved: students, educational institutions, employers and our local economy.”

[Click to find out more about T Levels](#)



Latest News and Blog

Hardworking Students Gain Better GCSE Results at RNN Group

Students are celebrating at RNN Group after achieving better GCSE results this year following results day on Thursday 21st August.

As England's percentage of passes falls again this year, Rotherham College, North Notts College and Dearne Valley College students' part of the RNN Group (made up of campuses also including University Centre Rotherham (UCR)) have gained a pass rate up nearly 3% on 2024's results.

RNN Group offers students the chance to do their English and maths GCSEs alongside their vocational qualifications whether BTEC, Level 3 or T Levels to ensure they do not miss out on the opportunities that Maths and English GCSE Passes offer them.

GCSE Maths and English are seen as "gateway qualifications" as they are required for further education as well as jobs and apprenticeships. Many employers see maths and English as proof of basic skills such as problem-solving, numeracy, communication, and comprehension; a lot of apprenticeships require at least a pass in both to apply.

Not only that, but they are needed for university entrance. Almost every university course, no matter the subject, expects at least a GCSE pass in maths and English. Even creative degrees (like art or drama) still require them, because they show you can handle core skills.

Finally, they offer life skills beyond school; Maths helps with money, budgeting, measurements, data, and logical thinking and English helps with writing applications, communicating clearly, and understanding complex information.

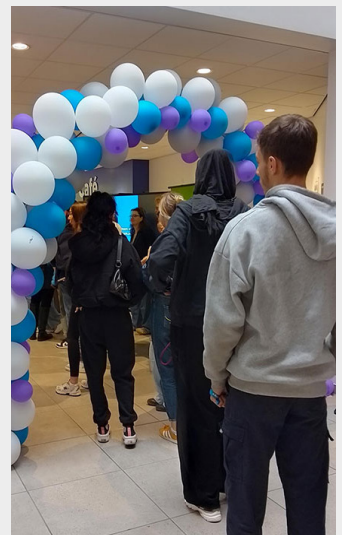
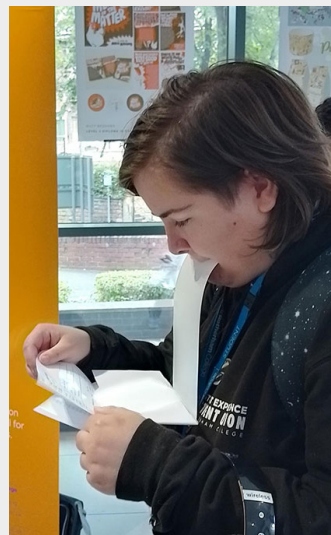
Tracey Mace-Akroyd, Deputy CEO and Principal of the RNN Group said,

"I am so proud of all of our learners for all the work they have put into these GCSEs and their achievements today showcase this.

"Our staff have worked hard to guide and support our learners with these important GCSEs which we can see in the delivery of these results.

"Maths and English GCSE's are vital for learners; they are gateway qualifications which are needed for further education courses, Higher Education degrees and skills courses at university, jobs, careers and also - most importantly - give life skills too, all of which give young people and adults opportunities to be personally and professionally successful and happy."

[Click for more information about Maths and English courses](#)

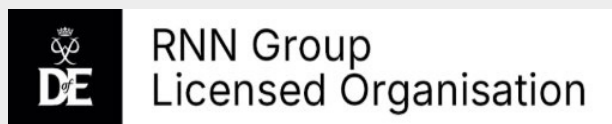


Latest News and Blog

Duke of Edinburgh's Award: RNN Group Becomes Licensed Organisation

In an exciting new development, RNN Group has officially been accredited as a licensed organisation for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Starting week commencing 29th September, students aged 14 to 24 across all campuses will be able to pursue the award alongside their studies.



Speaking about the achievement, Emma Swearman, Health and Wellbeing Lead at RNN Group, said:

“Becoming an Approved Activity Provider means our students can truly take part in everything the Duke of Edinburgh's Award offers. It's a brilliant chance for them to learn new skills, grow in confidence, and prepare for whatever comes next in their lives.”

Read about students who recently completed their Bronze Award at North Notts College.

Completing the DofE Award is a proven way for students to stand out on university applications and CVs, demonstrating leadership, commitment, and resilience to future employers and educators.

Beyond recognition on applications, the DofE Award equips students with real-world experience that builds character and determination. These qualities help pave the way for success in both further education and future careers.

Ready to take the first step?

Current RNN Group students can apply by completing the expression of interest form before 19th September.

[Click to find out more about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#)



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.](#)

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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

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Dearne Valley College

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Phone: 01709 513355

University Centre Rotherham

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National Fluid Power Centre

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