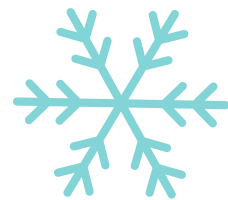


RNN Group

Employer and Community

Newsletter



Edition 12

November / December 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.

- Launch of our Logistics Hub for CSCS Testing and Forklift Truck Training
- FREE Lunchtime Webinars
- Employer Awards Lunches for December 2025
- Apprenticeship Week February 2026
- RNN Group Leaders
- Skills for Employment
- National Fluid Power Centre
- Useful Publications
- Latest News & Blog
- Recommend a friend / employer
- Our Social Media Platforms to follow



 **RNN GROUP**

Launch of our Logistics Hub for CSCS Testing and Forklift Truck Training

Last month we launched our Logistics Training Hub where we have new course offerings including 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.

[Click to read more about the event](#)

[Click to read more about our courses](#)

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.](#)



Employer Awards Lunches - December 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 event will be held on 17th December 2025

For December's lunch, our recent few months' winners will enjoy a Christmas lunch in our fine dining restaurant, the Wharncliffe.

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



Apprenticeship Week

February 2026

It's National Apprenticeship Week from Monday 9th to Friday 13th February 2026.

We will be having our annual Apprenticeship Awards during the week on Wednesday 11th February at the Wharncliffe and celebrating our amazing apprentices and you -our employers - that week and at the dinner.

We will also be having webinars throughout the week as well as inviting employers in to speak with learners on Tuesday and Thursday at our campuses as well as former apprentices too!

For more information, or to offer to support, please email Jgodsell@rnnngroup.ac.uk

[Click for more information about Apprenticeship week](#)

[Click for more information about RNN Group Apprenticeships.](#)

RNN Group Leaders

RNN Group has extended its Leadership in recent months with new Directors of Campus for Rotherham and Dearne Valley as well as Inclusive education, Estates and IT.

[Click to find out more about who is leading the RNN Group](#)

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](#)



National Fluid

Power Centre (NFPC)

The NFPC is a hidden gem within the RNN Group. As a world class approved training provider in Workshop supported by in excess of 60 national and international companies who form the NFPCs advisory and strategic planning group, the NFPC is the UK's No.1 training provider for Integrated Systems Engineering, offering its services to over 300 major companies both across the UK and Internationally.

The NFPC is a BFPA certified CETOP Education Centre and is an approved training provider for many 'blue chip', industry leading corporations. The Centre employs Training Engineers who have many years of Industry experience, offering support and advice to all who attend our Training Courses.

[Click for more information, or to book onto courses.](#)



Useful

Publications for Businesses

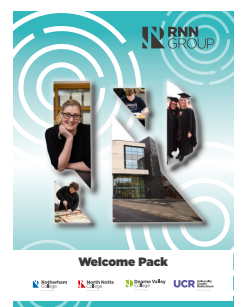
We have a number of publications that businesses might find interesting and helpful especially in these areas:

- 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](#)



Latest News and Blog

RNN Group launches Employer Academy Collaboration with Chamber

The RNN Group welcomed Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce as its newest Employer Academy this week in the area of business administration and launched the partnership at one of its Autumn Business Breakfasts held on Wednesday 1st October in the RNN Group's University Business Centre.

RNN Group is proud to team up with Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce alongside our other Employer Academies: Brunton Shaw, c-learning, Europa Engineering, Equans, Everlast, Marshalls, Esh Construction, Henry Boot, LimeTree Nursery, Marshalls, Mears, Momentous Football Academy, Nexus, Prem-tech, RMBC, Rotherham Titans, South Electrical, Spa at Ye Olde Bell, Thornbury Animal Sanctuary, Wentworth Woodhouse and Wrights Renewables, with this initiative which brings together learners, educators and employers to establish long term partnerships that will inspire the next generation into specific industries.



Employer Academies

Employer Academies enable learners, educators and employers to identify collectively the necessary knowledge, skills and behaviours which are essential for success in industry and this collaboration allows us to ensure employers influence our curriculum to deliver a future workforce that develops practical skills and experiences that employers need in their employees.

The benefits are numerous for companies including leading on a number of activities for our learners such as masterclasses, workshops, site visits, volunteering opportunities and industry placements; alternatively, businesses can run projects and competitions that our learners can take part in, testing their knowledge and skills in a real business context.

The Employer Academies also offer businesses the opportunity to recruit from our pool of talented and ambitious learners, giving employers the chance to choose their future workforce from the local area.

Not only that, employers gain access to a range of training and promotional opportunities including online staff training packages, webinars supporting student experience and promotion of their organisation.

Shane Young, Operations Director, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, said,

"We are delighted to be partnering with the RNN Group as an Employer Academy."

"We have a fantastic relationship with the Group and work with them on many initiatives and events so to finally have this Employer Academy Partnership is win-win for us both."

Jason Austin, CEO and Principal commented,

"I am delighted to welcome Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber as an Employer Academy Partner as we have a long-standing relationship with them through the Chamber and they have had some apprentices with us too."

"Employer Academies are the result of the RNN Groups investment toward consistently improving skills and job opportunities for learners and employers. By involving employers in the design and delivery of our curricula, we are showing our integrity to further align our strategy with employer needs by ensuring our learners develop modern and sector specific skills for success."

"A central feature of our sector specific academies will be the opportunity for employers to become an active member of our new initiative. In time, with an academy for each of our subject areas, employers can become an integral part of our comprehensive and collaborative approach to academic and hands-on learning and progression onto securing employment."

"We look forward to working with the Chamber in this initiative in the coming months and year to ensure an inclusive approach to developing this academy."

Find out more

[Click for more information on our employer academies](#)

To discuss becoming part of this initiative contact:

**James Godsell
Director of Employer Partnerships
07896 984983 or email jgodsell@rnnngroup.ac.uk.**

Latest News and Blog

NFPC Industry Open Day Exhibition 2025

Aspiring engineers were invited to the National Fluid Power Centre (NFPC) Industry Open Day in Worksop on 22 October, which ran from 9:30 am until 3:30 pm.

Over 50 exhibitors showcased innovations in fluid power, motion control, automation, and related technologies. Attendees joined technical lectures from industry leaders, explored practical training facilities, networked with professionals, and discovered career development opportunities. A complimentary lunch was provided, followed by an open forum and prize draw.

Speaking on the day, John Savage, Managing Director of NFPC, said: "This will be a great day to network and discuss the latest technology with these leading national and international companies. Attendees have the opportunity to look around NFPC and see our latest investments in digital technology and performance monitoring, as well as meet my staff and discuss training needs. We look forward to welcoming you!"

Look out for next years event around October 2026!



Latest News and Blog

A Sea of Orange: Supporting the NHS Autumn Memory Walk

We were incredibly proud to serve as a sponsor for the recent NHS Autumn Memory Walk organised by three local hospital charities: Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity, Barnsley Hospital Charity, and Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital Charity.

It was a poignant and powerful event that brought the community together for a truly fantastic cause.

The day began as participants gathered at Manvers Lake, signing in to walk and receiving a beautiful, vibrant orange t-shirt. This simple garment quickly became a personal canvas, as people used them to write messages, names, attach a photo or write short tributes to the loved ones they were walking for.

The event featured an energetic blend of music and activity, starting with Live music was provided by Blu Crew as people first arrived and collected their shirts, while Shockwaves Radio kept the energy high for those who stayed by the lake when the walk started.

Sarah from Mission Nutrition delivered a fantastic warm-up session to get everyone warm and ready before the walk. This combination ensured a lively atmosphere with something for everyone of all ages who came to participate.

As the attendees set off on their circuit around the lake, the scene was both lovely and sombre as a visible sea of orange flowed around the water's edge, creating a moving symbol of collective remembrance and support. It was a powerful demonstration of community spirit and a reminder of the vital work the NHS does every single day.

A lasting tribute from our students

Our commitment went beyond sponsorship. We were thrilled to see the talent and dedication of our own students from Rotherham shine through. As our students designed and crafted a giant wooden sculpture, which served as a focal point for reflection and memory.

The inspiration for the final design

Ben's inspiration was originally a heart to show the idea of care and love. He included shapes that curved into the middle to show unity and give a series of rows that people could hang their memories from different heights - Ben was aware that the sculpture needed to be accessible to those who couldn't necessarily reach very high.

The design was selected from around 40 designs due to the sculptures clear message and feel, plus the fact that it could be constructed to be safe and functional, and it can be folded down and re-used.

The design and creation of the sculpture
Ben initially sketched the design onto two large sheets of MDF. The components were then cut by Kev, who also routed the edges to achieve a curved finish. During construction, Kevin realised the initial structure was too top-heavy. This prompted an immediate design adjustment: the height was reduced, and the shape evolved into an abstract form, resembling a blend of a butterfly and a heart.

Once cut, the entire design was spray-painted red to symbolise love and warmth. Finally, hooks were added, a stabilising bar was fixed to the rear to secure the two sides of the sculpture, and a base was attached, allowing it to be either freestanding or secured with ground anchors.

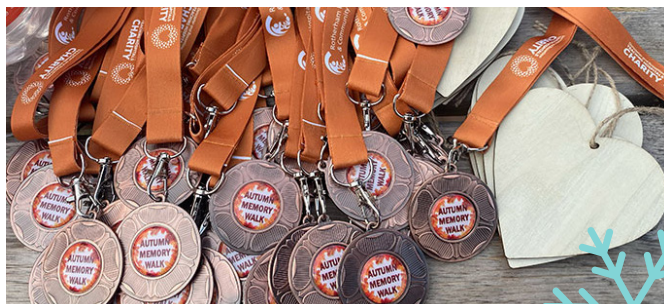
Throughout the day, participants were invited to hang memories or heartfelt messages to their loved ones onto the tree's branches. This created a beautiful, evolving tribute - a physical representation of the memories held by everyone present. We are so proud of our students for designing and making such a meaningful piece.

A quote from Visual Arts tutor Richard Lyon:

"The NHS memory walk sculpture has been an exciting brief for students to work on. Having a live client-led brief takes learning beyond the classroom and provides students with valuable experience of real-world projects."

Ben's design brought together some key ideas and functionality really well, and it's been fantastic to see Ben's design featured for such a worthwhile cause and be so well received."

We are truly happy to have been a part of this wonderful day. The NHS Autumn Memory Walk was an overwhelming success for a fantastic cause, and it underscored the importance of coming together to remember, celebrate, and support those who need it most.



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

Follow Us

Don't forget to follow our social media platforms



[Click to follow RNN Group on Facebook](#)



[Click to follow RNN Group on X](#)



[Click to follow RNN Group on Linked In](#)



[Click to follow RNN Group on YouTube](#)

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

Website: rotherham.ac.uk
Email: info@rotherham.ac.uk
Phone: 01709 362111

North Notts College

Website: nnc.ac.uk
Email: contact@nnc.ac.uk
Phone: 01909 504500

Dearne Valley College

Website: dearne-coll.ac.uk
Email: learn@dearne-coll.ac.uk
Phone: 01709 513355

University Centre Rotherham

Website: ucr.rotherham.ac.uk
Email: ucr@rotherham.ac.uk
Phone: 01709 722806

National Fluid Power Centre

Website: nfpc.co.uk
Email: enquiries@nfpc.co.uk
Phone: 01909 504539