

# RNN Group

# Employer and Community

# Newsletter

## Edition 14

March / April 2026

## 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 - both on campus and through distance learning - 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.**

- **RNN Group celebrates 10 Years!**
- **Employer Awards Event April 2026**
- **Apprenticeship Week & National Careers Week 2026**
- **CSCS Testing and Forklift Truck Training**
- **Bridge Skills Hub - Bridging the Skills Gap**
- **RNN Group Leaders**
- **FREE Lunchtime Webinars**
- **Skills for Employment**
- **National Fluid Power Centre Update**
- **Useful Publications**
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  - Why transferable skills matter more than ever.
  - Free Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) Launches in Worksop.
  - Intercollege Competition Showdown
- **Recommend a friend / employer**
- **Our Social Media Platforms to follow**

# RNN Group

## Celebrates 10 Years!

### RNN Group Celebrates 10th Anniversary Year

RNN Group is celebrating its 10th Anniversary this year following the merger of Rotherham College and North Notts College in 2016, followed by Dearne Valley College a year later.

[RNN Group](#) (made up of campuses including [Rotherham College](#), [North Notts College](#), [Dearne Valley College](#) and [University Centre Rotherham \(UCR\)](#) built in 2018) was part of a shared ambition that colleges in South Yorkshire and North Notts could do more together.

Over the last decade, the RNN Group, leading on innovation and skills in our communities and as an anchor institution, has continued to grow to become one of the region's major education providers and is a cornerstone of our communities where talent is nurtured, employers are supported and futures are shaped.

We've brought together people, campuses, systems and cultures that have strengthened our position as a dynamic and innovative education and skills organisation with a clear purpose: to unlock opportunity, drive economic growth and support social mobility across South Yorkshire and North Notts.



Some of the Group's greatest achievements include: A successful regional merger, expanding access to [higher education](#) to local communities with the University Centre Rotherham and links with [The Bridge Skills Hub](#) in Worksop, development of its infrastructure including [Construction Centre](#), T Level and HTQ facilities, collaborating with employers, driving regional skills growth, championing inclusivity and equity, strengthening community engagement and valuing and developing staff.

Most importantly, we are proud to serve the region, our local communities and our learners of all ages who make our job and work so rewarding. It is because of them that we exist.

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**Jason Austin, CEO & Principal,  
RNN Group said,**

***"I am truly proud to lead the RNN Group which has brought together people, campuses, systems and cultures that have strengthened our position as a dynamic and innovative education and skills organisation with a clear purpose: to unlock opportunity, drive economic growth and support social mobility across South Yorkshire and North Notts."***

***"We will be celebrating our 10th anniversary throughout the year starting with our 10th Anniversary Celebration and Staff Awards Event at the end of this month as our staff are the heart and soul of our organisation and without them, we could not have achieved everything to date."***

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[For more information on RNN Group please visit: https://www.rnngroup.co.uk/.](https://www.rnngroup.co.uk/)

# Employer Awards Event April 2026

Save the Date!



**RNN Group Employer Awards Celebration is being held on **Thursday April 23rd** at the Wharncliffe!**

## We will be having awards in the following categories:

RNN Group's Business of the Year Supporting RNN Apprenticeships

RNN Group's Large Business of the Year (51 plus employees)

RNN Group's Subcontractor of the Year

RNN Group's 'Skills for Employment' Business of the Year

RNN Group's Employer Partner of the Year

RNN Group's Innovative Business Partner of the Year

RNN Group's Employer Academy of the Year

RNN Group's Community Focused Business Partner of the Year

RNN Group's New Business partner of the Year

RNN Group's Most 'We are Inclusive' Employer

RNN Group's Small Business of the Year (50 and under employees)

RNN Group's Employer of the Decade



# Apprenticeship Week & National Careers Week 2026

**The two weeks were really successful!  
We had webinars and our annual  
apprenticeship awards during National  
Apprenticeship Week and business  
breakfasts, careers fairs and workshops  
during National Careers Week!**

During National Apprenticeship Week, We were delighted to welcome [Anthony Impey MBE](#) to a special event before the awards dinner from 5-6pm in the Wharncliffe. Small businesses who have apprenticeship challenges attended to speak with Anthony about their experiences.

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



## CSCS Testing and Forklift Truck Training

**Our Logistics Training Hub is up and running! In it 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 our courses](#)



**Logistics  
TRAINING CENTRE**

# Bridge Skills Hub -

# Bridging the Skills Gap

**North Notts College delivers a variety of Higher Education (HE) courses at The Bridge Skills Hub, located in the heart of Worksop town centre. Whether you or your employers are looking to switch careers, retrain, or further your/their education, our committed tutors will be there to help every step of the way.**

With courses from level 3 up to level 6, The Bridge Skills Hub is the perfect place to begin university education.

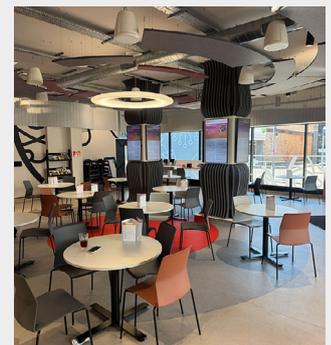
Our degree courses are accredited by top universities, meaning you can access the same high-quality education, without having to pay travel or accommodation expenses!

We boast strong industry links in the local area and this is reflected in the diversity of the courses we have on offer across health, childcare, and business.

**For more information read some blogs on the Bridge Skills Hub:**

[Click to read our blog Worksop 2025: A Town at a Crossroads - And a Comeback Where Clean Energy Meets Skills, Opportunity and Hope](#)

[Click to read our blog Wonderful Worksop - Bridging the Higher Skills Gap at the Bridge Skills Hub](#)



# 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](#)

# 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.](#)



# Skills for Employment

Skills for Employment is an innovative new learning approach to Power Skills / transferable skills 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 Worksop 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

## Why transferable skills matter more than ever.

At [RNN Group](#), we believe education should prepare learners not just for their first job, but for a lifetime of opportunities.

As we mark [National Careers Week](#) this March, we are proud to champion transferable skills as the foundation of employability, progression and resilience.

To ensure our students leave not just qualified but career-ready, we've created a new [Skills for Employment programme](#) where learners achieve gold standard certification in ten key transferable skills.

So, here's a look at what transferrable skills are and why they matter more than ever in modern workplaces.

### What are transferable skills?

Transferrable skills, or employability skills, are what truly shape long-term career success. They're the skills that travel with you throughout your career and can be applied across various industries, job roles and career stages.

#### Transferrable skills include:

- Communication
- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Decision making
- Leadership, adaptability or flexibility
- Problem solving
- Proactive and shows initiative
- Resilience
- Self-management, hard-working and reliable
- Time-management

### What is the Skills for Employment programme?

Across [our Colleges](#), students are developing industry knowledge, technical expertise and hands-on experience. But employers consistently tell us that what makes the real difference in their workforces is these transferrable skills that can't always be taught in classrooms.

That's why we've developed our Skills for Employment programme where students from across our Colleges can work towards certification in a choice of ten transferable skills.

To achieve certification, students need to have three lots of evidence per skill from real contexts, either from their time in college or on work placement. This approach means students can show measurable, verified development in the skills that employers value most. Learners are building a portfolio or proof rather than just claims.

By combining technical excellence with employability skills certification, we are ensuring our students leave us confident, credible and ready to succeed wherever their career journey takes them next.

[Story continued on next page](#)

# Latest News and Blog

## Six ways transferable skills improve career prospects

### 1. They increase employability

Employers aren't just recruiting qualifications; they're looking for capable, work-ready individuals.

Whichever industry you work in, transferrable skills will always be valuable, particularly communication, leadership, problem solving and time management. By evidencing them in real settings, our students show they are ready to contribute from day one and are capable beyond just one specific job function.

#### **Example:**

A Level 3 or [T Level](#) Business student who can demonstrate strong communication skills by speaking with customers and supporting them with a query on a work placement immediately stands out compared to someone who only lists "good communicator" on their CV.



### 2. They make career changes easier

Careers rarely follow a straight line. Many people change roles, switch sectors, move into management, or even start their own business.

Transferable skills act as a bridge between opportunities. These skills create flexibility and reduce the risk of being seen as inexperienced when stepping into something new.

#### **Example:**

A [Health and Social Care](#) student moving into a supervisory role can draw on leadership, organisation and communication skills developed during placement, even if the new role involves different technical responsibilities.

### 3. They future-proof careers

Technology, industries and job titles evolve quickly and those technical skills you learn can soon become outdated as tools and systems change.

What doesn't change is the value of human capability. Skills such as critical thinking, adaptability and leadership remain relevant regardless of technological advances. They help you stay competitive in a fast-changing labour market.

#### **Example:**

A Digital student may learn specific software this year, but in five years that platform may change. Their ability to learn quickly, solve problems and work effectively in a team will still be essential.

# Latest News and Blog

## 4. They strengthen promotion and leadership potential

Technical expertise may secure a first role, but its transferable skills that will drive career advancement into supervisory and management roles.

When considering promotions, employers look for people who can communicate clearly, make sound decisions, motivate others and manage projects. If you can demonstrate these skills, employers are more likely to view you as leadership material.

### **Example:**

*An Engineering apprentice who demonstrates initiative by leading a small improvement project on placement is already showing leadership potential, something employers actively look for when considering future progression.*

## 5. They improve interview performance

Transferable skills are what will make you stand out from other candidates who only focus on technical qualifications.

Our Skills for Employment programme ensures students have a portfolio of real evidence to draw from, making applications more compelling and credible. Students who can evidence transferable skills perform more strongly at interview because they can give clear, structured examples that show your impact beyond your qualifications and demonstrate your versatility.

### **Example:**

*Rather than saying, "I work well in a team" a student can explain how they coordinated a group assignment, resolved a disagreement and met a tight deadline, demonstrating teamwork, communication and time management in action.*

## 6. They build professional confidence

Understanding and developing your transferable skills builds self-awareness and confidence.

Confidence fuels ambition and ambition drives achievement. Students who recognise their strengths are more likely to take on leadership roles, network confidently, negotiate effectively and present their value clearly.

### **Example:**

*A Construction student who has evidenced problem-solving and initiative during placement is more likely to volunteer for responsibility on-site and position themselves as someone ready to progress.*



National Careers Week

# NCW

# Latest News and Blog

## Free Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) Launches in Worksop.

Starting this spring, families around Worksop can join a **FREE Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme**, run by [North Notts College](#) (part of [RNN Group](#)) with funding from [Nottinghamshire County Council](#).

Across school holidays, children can enjoy a mix of learning, play, and physical activities while also receiving healthy, nutritious meals.

Hosted at [The Bridge Skills Hub](#) with [Bassetlaw District Council](#), the programme provides a structured space for young people to build confidence and explore new experiences. Sessions run from 9 am until 3 pm on [select dates](#) during Easter, summer, autumn, and winter term breaks. Attendance is free for children aged 9 to 16 who live in Nottinghamshire and receive free school meals.



Participants explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) while discovering career pathways that inspire future ambitions. Creative projects and physical activities are also a key focus, including outdoor sessions run in partnership with the [National Trust](#) at Clumber Park. Specialist staff support every child, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), to ensure they can fully benefit from all experiences.



[Story continued on next page](#)

# Latest News and Blog

Each day, [Fusion Energy Café](#) serves nutritious meals, with an accredited sports dietitian leading workshops on balanced eating to show how food fuels energy. Children gain practical knowledge about healthy eating, including tips for making better choices in everyday life. Cooking sessions give them skills they can practise at home, helping to build positive habits that last beyond the programme.



While children take part in activities, parents or carers can explore local community resources and learn about services available in the area. Drop-off and collection times allow them to meet staff, ask questions, and access advice on health, wellbeing, or financial matters. Families can also join other local events together, enjoying activities that bring the community to life.

**[Enzo Guarini, Curriculum Manager at North Notts College, commented on the programme:](#)**

*“The HAF programme at The Bridge Skills Hub goes beyond a holiday club. It strengthens skills, inspires students, and gives families access to food, exercise, and meaningful enrichment.”*

**[Cllr Darrell Pulk, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods at Bassetlaw District Council, added:](#)**

*“We are pleased to be able to support the RNN Group, who are hosting the free Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, by providing The Bridge Skills Hub as a venue.*

*“We remain committed to promoting good mental and physical health for all through our Vision 2040 and this project supports this for young people and their families.”*

Families are encouraged to [register online](#) for upcoming sessions.

Full timetables and activity updates are available on the site.

# Latest News and Blog

## Intercollege Competition Showdown

**What happens when students from Grimsby Institute, Hull College, Doncaster College and our Colleges across the RNN Group (made up of Rotherham College, North Notts College, Dearne Valley College and University Centre Rotherham (UCR) gather under one roof?**

You get a high-octane day of professional rivalry, incredible craftsmanship, and a glimpse into the future of our industries!

Hosted at the Grimsby Institute's amazing campus, this year's Intercollege Competition was more than just a contest – it was a celebration of vocational excellence.

The energy at Grimsby was palpable from the moment we arrived. Every corner of the campus was buzzing with activity as students from a vast array of disciplines prepared to go head-to-head. The facilities provided the perfect backdrop for a professional-grade experience, pushing our learners to step up and treat the day like a true industry event.



### Showcasing diverse talent

It wasn't just about one trade; it was a total takeover. We saw a stunning variety of skills on display, including:

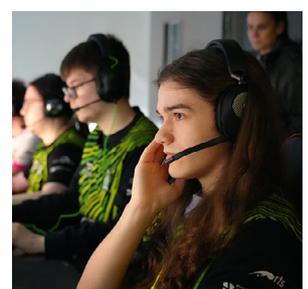
**Creative Arts:** [Photography](#), [Media](#), [Performance and Music](#) students brought the stage and studios to life.

**Service and Care:** [Hair and Beauty](#), [Nails](#), and [Health and Social Care](#) learners demonstrated precision and empathy under pressure. At the same time, our [Catering and Hospitality](#) students produced culinary excellence.

**Trade and Tech:** [Construction](#), Plumbing, Electrical, [Engineering](#) and Motor Vehicle students tackled complex technical builds.

**Modern Frontiers:** [Sports](#), [Games Design](#) and [Esports](#) competitors proved that strategy and physical prowess are equally vital in the modern world.

**Core Essentials:** In a true test of logic and communication, students also competed in [Maths and English](#) challenges, proving that these fundamental skills are the backbone of every professional career.



[Story continued on next page](#)

# Latest News and Blog

## Dedication under pressure

The rounds were far from easy. Judges set rigorous standards, mirroring the expectations of real-world professional environments. However, what truly stood out wasn't just the final products, but the professionalism and dedication of the learners.

Even when faced with challenging briefs or tight deadlines our students remained focused, representing our College with pride. This competition serves as a powerful reminder of why we do what we do: to give learners the platform to prove they are ready for the workforce.

A massive shoutout to our Esports, Maths and English, Health and Social Care, and Motor Vehicle teams for dominating the field and taking home first place in their department competitions!



## Why competitions matter

These events are a vital part of the learner journey. They offer:

**1. External Validation:** By moving outside the comfort zone of their classrooms to be judged by industry standards.

**2. Networking: Building** connections with peers and tutors within those subject areas from 3. Grimsby, Hull and Doncaster.

**Confidence:** Proving to themselves that their skills hold up against other peers from around the region.

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*"It was a highly positive and productive day, with both students and staff gaining significant value from the experience and from collaborating with peers across three partner colleges. While we did not secure the overall trophy this year, achieving first place in five categories is a strong outcome and reflects the commitment, preparation, and talent demonstrated by our learners and teams."*

*Opportunities like these competitions provide learners with far more than a chance to showcase their talents. They build confidence, develop teamwork, strengthen communication skills, and inspire a healthy sense of achievement. Just as importantly, they foster collaboration across departments and colleges, creating a strong community spirit that benefits both students and staff alike."*

***Katie Asgari - Curriculum Manager***

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We are incredibly proud of everyone who took the challenges head-on and showed the region exactly what our students are capable of!

[Click to find out what courses are available at RNN Group campuses.](#)

## 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@rnn.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@rnn.ac.uk)

## 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**

Website: [rotherham.ac.uk](http://rotherham.ac.uk)  
Email: [info@rotherham.ac.uk](mailto:info@rotherham.ac.uk)  
Phone: 01709 362111

#### **North Notts College**

Website: [nnc.ac.uk](http://nnc.ac.uk)  
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Phone: 01909 504500

#### **Dearne Valley College**

Website: [dearne-coll.ac.uk](http://dearne-coll.ac.uk)  
Email: [learn@dearne-coll.ac.uk](mailto:learn@dearne-coll.ac.uk)  
Phone: 01709 513355

#### **University Centre Rotherham**

Website: [ucr.rotherham.ac.uk](http://ucr.rotherham.ac.uk)  
Email: [ucr@rotherham.ac.uk](mailto:ucr@rotherham.ac.uk)  
Phone: 01709 722806

#### **National Fluid Power Centre**

Website: [nfpc.co.uk](http://nfpc.co.uk)  
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