

RNN Group

Employer and Community

Newsletter

Edition 16

July / August 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.

- **Massive Funding Boost for South Yorkshire Construction Employers**
- **CSCS Testing and Forklift Truck Training**
- **National Fluid Power Centre Update**
- **RNN Group Leaders**
- **Skills for Employment**
- **Employer Partners - Our Students Need You!**
- **Useful Publications**
- **Latest News & Blog**
 - RNN Group Celebrates Students with Special Award
 - New Employer Academy Launched with A-Training to Support Aesthetics Careers
 - Making Our Websites More Accessible with Recite Me
- **Recommend a friend / employer**
- **Our Social Media Platforms to follow**

Massive Funding Boost for South Yorkshire Construction Employers

The construction industry is growing fast, but finding skilled, site-ready talent remains a major challenge.

At the RNN Group, we are helping local businesses bridge this gap by making it easier—and more affordable—than ever to recruit the next generation of tradespeople.

We are proud to support local businesses with dedicated apprenticeship pipelines specifically for Bricklaying, Joinery and Plastering.

If you are looking to expand your workforce or upskill a new recruit, now is the absolute best time to act. By combining UK Government incentives with CITB Apprenticeship Grants, eligible employers can unlock staggering financial support—potentially up to £11,500 per apprentice to offset training and salary costs.

Why Hire a Bricklaying or Plastering Apprentice Now?

Substantial Financial Backing:

Access up to £11,500+ in stacked funding, including CITB attendance/achievement grants and government hiring incentives (subject to eligibility criteria).

Minimal Training Costs:

Smaller non-levy paying businesses receive 100% government training funding for younger apprentices.

National Insurance Savings:

Pay 0% Employer National Insurance contributions for apprentices under the age of 25.

Site-Ready Skills:

Our purpose-built facilities at Dearne Valley and Rotherham College ensure learners get rigorous, hands-on practical training so they can add immediate value to your projects.

Don't let a lack of time or paperwork hold you back. Our dedicated apprenticeship team will handle the heavy lifting, guiding you smoothly through the digital apprenticeship service and CITB grant claims. Spaces for our upcoming cohorts are filling up fast.

If you are interested, just send us your contact details and we will get in touch by emailing Kulbir Kaur on kulbir.kaur@rnnngroup.ac.uk or by phoning: 07713 319111



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



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.](#)

[Click for the NFPCs recent update, visit:](#)



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](#)

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](#)



[Click to read more](#)



[Click to read more](#)

Employer Partners

Our Students

Need You!

Careers Support October 2026 and March 2027

Twice a year, the RNN Group holds Careers and Skills weeks for its learners as part of their induction programme in October and National Careers Week in March.

We hold workshops, fairs, sessions, mock interviews and guest speaker slots for learners to find out more about the world of work and engage them in their next step.

If you would like to support with hosting a short workshop on your business, have a stall at our March event, engage learners in some short sessions on power skills or do some mock interviews, please contact

lucy.barnwell@rnngroup.ac.uk

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](#)



Latest News and Blog

RNN Group Celebrates Students with Special Award

The Jenny Worsdale Award has been awarded to three students across the RNN Group who have transformed their lives whilst being at college despite barriers in their way.

[The RNN Group](#), (made up of [Rotherham College](#), [North Notts College](#), [Dearne Valley College](#) and [University Centre Rotherham](#)), has celebrated a former inspiring RNN Group Governor by launching the Jenny Worsdale Award in RNN Group's 10th Anniversary Year and awarding three students (one from each College) with a trophy, certificate and prize money to mark this award.

Jenny Worsdale a former chair who passed away in recent times, believed that education could and does transform lives and believed that further education plays a pivotal role in this. Her whole career in education had been working in disadvantaged communities. She said she was privileged to see such transformations first hand. She knew the barriers and challenges faced by many learners, socio-economic factors, low aspirations and lack of engagement with pre-16 education. She also recognised the opportunities available locally and regionally when people can be supported to overcome the barriers and grow in confidence.

2026 Winners!

**Rotherham College:
Yeekam Law**

**North Notts College:
Matthew Daggett-Hall**

**Dearne Valley College:
Hope Staniforth**

**Yeekam Law
from Rotherham College**



[Story continued on next page](#)

Matthew Daggett-Hall from North Notts College



Matthew at North Notts said,

"Coming here has been the best thing that's happened to me. I've gone from being at home and not doing anything to achieving things I never thought possible. Winning this award is amazing."

Matthew's lecturer Daryl said:

"Since joining the Plumbing department from Project-Based, Matthew has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to his studies. He has shown a consistent drive to master both the practical and theoretical elements of the course, and his progress has been remarkable. Matthew is currently among the top five students in his cohort to have completed all practical assessments, allowing him to advance ahead of schedule to level 2 work. His academic performance is equally impressive, having passed his first eight theory exams with high marks.

Beyond his technical skills, Matthew's personal growth has been a highlight since being with us. Despite struggling with significant anxiety, his confidence has grown immensely. He is punctual, his attendance has improved tremendously since the start, and he is a true pleasure to teach.

I am incredibly proud of his achievements. Transitioning from a specialised programme like Project-Based into a technical trade can be a massive hurdle, especially when dealing with anxiety. Seeing him not just cope, but thrive and move ahead of his peers, is a testament to his hard work."

Hope Staniforth from Dearne Valley College



Hope's tutors and mentors have witnessed her remarkable growth since the beginning of her educational journey. The impact Hope has made on the College community is best expressed by the educators who have walked alongside her journey:

"It has been a pleasure to work with Hope in her role as Student Ambassador. Hope has provided outstanding information, advice and guidance to visitors, applicants and parents at College events and tours."

Hope also supported me to deliver numerous sessions in Primary schools. Her knowledge about not only the Animal Care and Land-based department and industry, but also the College itself was delivered in an informative, approachable, and professional manner."

Hanna Wright, School Liaison and Events Team Leader said,

"I am so pleased that Hope applied for the Student Ambassador role as she has not only increased my knowledge about the syllabus, but I know that she has inspired so many others by delivering in such an understandable way."

Emma Stevens, Animal Care and Land-Based Lecturer said,

"Hope was very shy and timid when she first started with us on the BTEC; she was quite isolated and wouldn't talk to many other learners, and she was quiet and lacked confidence. She has since developed her confidence, and she has made loads of friends on the course. If she is unsure of things, she will ask now, and she even got an interview and got a job on the Animal Care unit as an Animal Care technician!"

Latest News and Blog

New Employer Academy Launched with A-Training to Support Aesthetics Careers

Following the launch of a new Employer Academy with A-Training, North Notts College beauty students are gaining direct insight into the growing aesthetics sector. Designed to strengthen learner progression, the partnership will also support future curriculum development across Higher Education courses within beauty education.

Directors Chris Wade and Laura Sexton from A-Training recently led specialist sessions focused on aesthetics, highlighting professional development opportunities available for current beauty students.



Industry Insights

During the campus visit, beauty therapy learners explored the technical skills and knowledge currently sought by employers across the sector. Key competencies covered included advanced skin treatments, anatomy and physiology, consultation techniques, and wider professional practice.

Presenters also reinforced the message that “Skin is In”, reflecting the growing focus on advanced aesthetic procedures. Learners were encouraged to continue developing their technical skills and professional confidence as they prepare for careers in the industry.

Speaking about the partnership, Chris Wade said:

“North Notts College is the best college, and that’s why we’re choosing to work with you. We want you to be as successful as we are and carry the baton.”

Shaping Curriculum

Uniting learners, educators and industry experts, the Employer Academy model successfully aligns course design with current commercial expectations. Through this partnership, A-Training provides specialist expertise to ensure college training directly reflects modern workplace requirements.

Commenting on the launch, Hair and Beauty Curriculum Manager at North Notts College, Karen Connolle, said:

“Partnerships like this Employer Academy are vital in ensuring our learners are fully prepared for the realities of the aesthetics industry. Working directly with employers gives students invaluable insight, confidence, and clear progression routes into their future careers.”

Moving forward, students will benefit from exclusive masterclasses, hands-on workshops and industry engagement activities. These practical initiatives help learners understand clear progression routes and real-world workplace expectations.

Latest News and Blog

Making Our Websites More Accessible with Recite Me

At RNN Group, we're committed to making our websites accessible and welcoming for everyone. That's why we've introduced the Recite Me accessibility toolbar across our websites, giving visitors the ability to personalise their online experience and access information in the way that works best for them.

Whether you're exploring our courses, applying for an apprenticeship, looking for career opportunities or finding information about our campuses, Recite Me provides a range of tools designed to make our websites easier to use.

What is Recite Me?

Recite Me is an accessibility and language support toolbar that allows users to customise how website content is displayed and experienced. With just a click, visitors can activate a range of features to improve readability, comprehension and navigation – no downloads or additional software required.



Text to speech



Translation



Text Styling & Customisation



Focus Tools



Reading Aids



Settings



[Story continued on next page](#)

How Does It Help?

Listen to Website Content:

If you prefer listening rather than reading, the text-to-speech feature can read website content aloud. This is particularly helpful for people with visual impairments, dyslexia, literacy challenges or anyone who finds listening easier than reading.

Translate into Your Preferred Language:

Our websites – and application forms – can now be translated into more than 100 languages, helping visitors whose first language isn't English to access important information about courses, enrolment, apprenticeships and student support.

Personalise Your Reading Experience:

Everyone reads differently. Recite Me allows you to adjust text size, fonts, colours and contrast to create a reading experience that suits your individual needs and preferences.

Improve Focus and Understanding:

Additional tools such as a reading ruler, screen mask, magnifier and plain text mode help reduce distractions and make content easier to follow, supporting users who may have dyslexia, ADHD or other cognitive differences.

Access Our Websites on Any Device:

Whether you're using a desktop computer, tablet or smartphone, the accessibility toolbar is available whenever you need it, making it easier to access information wherever you are.

Supporting an Inclusive Digital Experience

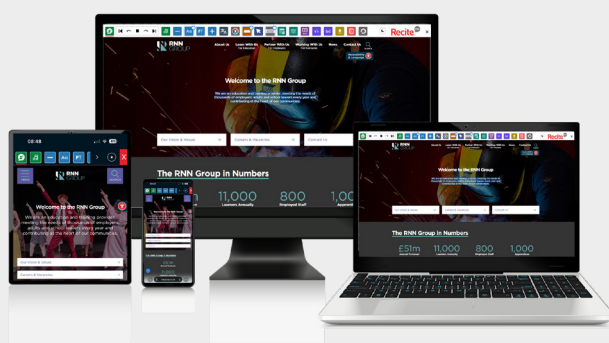
Accessibility is about ensuring everyone has equal access to information and opportunities. By introducing Recite Me, we're making it easier for prospective students, current learners, parents, employers and our wider community to engage with RNN Group online.

Visitors can use the toolbar to browse courses, complete applications, explore apprenticeships and access support services in a way that works for them.

Try It Today

If you visit any RNN Group website, you'll find the Recite Me accessibility toolbar ready to use. Simply select the accessibility icon and choose the tools that best suit your needs.

We're proud to continue improving our digital services and making our websites more accessible for everyone, because everyone deserves an inclusive online experience.



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**

 **Dearne Valley College**

 **North Notts College**

 **University Centre Rotherham**

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

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