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ROYAL VISIT FOR LOUTH COLLEGE

LOUTH was in the spotlight this week when Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal flew in by helicopter to open the brand new Wolds College in North Holme Road

One of eight schemes across the Lincolnshire Wolds being funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the college will deliver high quality teaching and learning for up to 200 16 to 19-year-olds in the area.

During the visit, The Princess Royal enjoyed a tour of the facilities including the brickwork and plastering workshops; motor vehicle workshop and hairdressing and beauty therapy salons where she chatted to teachers and students.

The Wolds College project has been made possible by a collaboration of partners which include schools accommodating 11-16 year-old and 11-18 year-old learners, special schools, further and higher education providers, local authorities, Connexions Lincolnshire and the local business community.

Chair of the programme management board, Dr Chris Rolph, said: "The Princess took a real interest in the areas and chatted extensively to students. She was impressed with the facilities and the design of the building and had a good understanding of the collaborative partnership that has made this project possible.

Following the tour, The Princess Royal was invited to unveil a commemorative plaque and was presented with a posy by 18 year-old Megan Quinney-Newland, a student of St Bernard's Special School.

Chairman of the LSC East Midlands Regional Council, Roger Begy, who accompanied the Princess Royal on the tour of facilities, said: "It's brilliant for everyone that local schools and colleges have come together to make this project happen.

"Students now have the chance to develop their careers locally which will enable them to learn, live and work in The Wolds. Employers will also benefit as they will have a ready market of local, well trained and skilled staff available."

The college boasts a state-of-the-art learning environment which enables students and teachers to access learning materials online when they are not onsite. Capita .ict and sister company Capita Symonds designed and implemented the IT infrastructure for the college.

The Capita team also implemented an innovative IT link to the heating and ventilation systems so that they can be managed remotely if required. This means the college can easily control the building's temperature and energy use when the management team are not onsite, helping contain energy costs.

Graham Cooper, head of marketing at Capita, said: "We wanted to ensure students and teachers were given the best environment possible for learning. It is important that the technology implemented in schools and colleges today will inspire the workforce of tomorrow."

Roger added: "The Princess was just wonderful. She is a great champion of rural areas and fully understood the benefits that this facility can bring to the young people of Louth."

Ends

Notes for Editors:

- 1: The college will be owned and managed by Wolds & East Education Trust (WEET).
- 2: The other schemes being funded by the LSC are:

Birkbeck School, North Somercotes

300m² flexible work space for use by around 60 post-16 students, with a study area, a teaching area for functional maths and literacy, and an area supporting the school's creative and media diploma specialism.

Cordeaux School, Louth

Improvements to the ICT infrastructure to develop the delivery of the engineering diploma, with an emphasis on CAD/CAM and electronics.

De Aston School, Market Rasen

90m² vocational classroom with facilities dedicated to the teaching and learning of construction – both brick/concrete work and joinery - creating an additional 16 learning places.

King Edward VI Grammar School, Louth

Refurbish and equipping of two spaces totalling around 100m². This includes a study area, ICT facility and video conferencing for use by up to 50 students studying a mix of academic courses.

Monks' Dyke Technology College, Louth

A 100m² room for hospitality and catering, three rooms of 60m² each for health and social care. The facility brings hospitality and catering skills to Louth for the first time.

St Bernard's Special School, Louth

A 60m² vocational classroom for use by a small number of post-16 learners from schools in the area wanting to study health & social care at Level 1

Tennyson School, Mablethorpe

A new facility for the delivery of two vocational areas – travel & tourism and health & social care.

- 3: The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.
Visit www.lsc.gov.uk/inourhands or call 0800 011 30 30 for more information.
- 4: Capita is the leading supplier of information systems to the education sector, providing a range of software and services to schools and local authorities to help raise standards and reduce administration. Capita.ict is the division of the company that provides ICT help for schools by offering a huge range of products and services from telephony, VOIP and wireless to network design, educational consultancy and management information systems support. Capita.ict has particular expertise in new build and Buildings Schools for the Future projects.

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