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DUCHESS TO OPEN NEW SIXTH FORM FACILITY IN HOLBEACH

HER Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester GCVO is to open the brand new vocational sixth form facility at the George Farmer Technology and Language College in Holbeach.

On 6 November, the Duchess will officially open the new facility at Park Road, which has been constructed to further extend the vocational provision at the college.

Funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the new vocational facilities in the new two-storey building include workshops for motor vehicles, hair and beauty salons, as well as classrooms for business studies, health and social care and childcare.

Other new facilities that will form part of the tour include a new built environment department which accommodates pipe work operations; bricklaying; joinery, construction and electrical installation courses.

Head teacher, Steve Baragwanath, said: "We are thrilled to welcome the Duchess to open our new facility. We have suffered from a shortage of vocational courses available in the locality. These new facilities will enable our students to become familiar with the latest industry equipment and develop the skills needed to get the best start in their chosen careers."

So far, 96 students have taken advantage of the courses on offer. The new facilities promise excellent teaching and learning facilities including state-of-the-art equipment and access to work experience with local employers as well as extra curricular sport and social activities including a pool table and fitness suite.

Nick Rashley, area director LSC Lincolnshire and Rutland, said: “Students will now be more able to opt for training which is clearly linked to the world of work. This new facility is part a major programme to increase vocational training in rural Lincolnshire to address local skills shortages.”

Local companies supporting the new facility include Langwith Builders Ltd, who is closely involved with the construction courses and LJ Create Ltd, the UK’s leading supplier of training systems for vocational learning, who have kindly donated a brand new Toyota Aygo for the AutoLAB facility.

The visit will include a tour of the facilities including the construction workshop, the hair and beauty salons and the motor vehicle workshop in the sixth form block. In the main school hall the Duchess will unveil a commemorative plaque to formally open the new facilities and sign the visitor’s book. The Duchess will be presented with a posy by 17-year-old sixth form pupil, Marcus Wilson.

Ends

Notes to Editors

HRH will be greeted by Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Mr Anthony Worth and his wife, Jenny and will go on to meet:

- High Sheriff of Lincolnshire Mr John W Lockwood & Mrs Judith Lockwood
- Chairman of Lincolnshire County Council, Councillor Ian G S Cartwright MBE & Mrs Elizabeth Cartwright
- Chief executive of Lincolnshire County Council, Mr Tony McArdle
- Chairman of South Holland District Council, Mr Francis Biggadike & Mrs Freda Biggadike
- Chief executive of South Holland District Council, Mr Terry Huggins & Mrs Jill Huggins
- Member of Parliament for South Holland & The Deepings, Mr John Hayes & Mrs Susan Hayes
- Executive head teacher of Holbeach & Crowland Secondary Federation, Mr Steven Baragwanath

Mr Baragwanath will present:

- Chair of governors of Holbeach & Crowland Secondary Federation, Mr Christopher Penney
- Chair Learning and Skills Council East Midlands Regional Council, Mr Roger Begy OBE
- Deputy head teacher, George Farmer Technology & Language College, Miss Sheila Page
- Head teacher, The St Guthlac School, Crowland, Mrs Jo Fletcher

George Farmer Technology & Language College is an 11-18-specialist college, albeit in a selective area. The college has grown to accommodate approximately 800 pupils. The college works in partnership with the St Guthlac School in Crowland under the umbrella of 'The Holbeach & Crowland Secondary Federation'.

Learning and Skills Council (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. www.lsc.gov.uk

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