

Outstanding Success for Cheshire Colleges

November has been a successful month for Cheshire Colleges, two have recently been awarded grade one in their Ofsted inspections and another has just received Learning and Skills Beacon status.

Date of issue 8 December 2006

Publication number NWR - 011

November has seen outstanding success for three Cheshire Colleges. Macclesfield College and Reaseheath College in Nantwich, both achieved grade one in their Ofsted inspections and Sir John Deane's College, Northwich has been awarded Learning and Skills Beacon Status.

Both Macclesfield College and Reaseheath College received outstanding grades, Macclesfield being awarded four out of a possible five top grades and Reaseheath gained a fantastic five out of five top grades. Feedback on the colleges was extremely positive. Macclesfield was praised for having a high attendance level, outstanding leadership and management, good teaching, a wide range of provision, and good and improving overall success rates.

Feedback on Reaseheath was particularly impressive including very high pass rates for all ages and levels, an outstanding range of provision, inspirational leadership and highly effective management, and a positive and supportive culture, aspiring to excellence.

Sir John Deane's College was awarded with their Beacon status at a ceremony in London on 29 November by the Quality Improvement Agency for Lifelong Learning (QIA). Learning and Skills Beacon status recognises excellent colleges and providers that deliver high quality teaching and learning in the post-16 education sector, supported by effective leadership and management. Beacons will work with the QIA to help improve the performance of colleges and other providers in the sector.

Sir John Deane's College has become one of the 99 other learning providers nationally to be awarded Beacon status and join South Cheshire College as the second in Cheshire.

Liz Davis, Director of Area for the Learning and Skills Council in Cheshire and Warrington said:

"I warmly congratulate all the staff at the three colleges who have worked so hard to reach this level. I'm particularly pleased with the high standards achieved and the quality of their provision. The LSC is keen to encourage all those delivering education and training to aspire to excellence and I'm delighted that learners in Cheshire are benefiting from the high quality approach and excellent achievements of these colleges."

The future of further education in Cheshire and Warrington is definitely looking very positive, with two colleges holding Learning and Skills Beacon status and a further two judged as outstanding by Ofsted. The other four colleges in the area are also doing well and working on improvements with the Learning and Skills Council and through the Cheshire and Warrington College Consortium.

Ends

Photo xxx

Media contact Debbie Cooke, Regional Press Officer LSC North West on 0161 261 0434.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Learning and Skills Council

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational 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 by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

Top Level Messages

- We plan and invest in high quality education and training for young people and adults that will build a skilled and competitive workforce.
- We help employers to get the training and skills they need for their business.
- We are transforming the further education sector to meet the needs of employers and the local community.
- We are committed to improving learning opportunities for everyone.