



PRESS RELEASE

June 25th 2008

HRH The Princess Royal Opens University Campus

HRH The Princess Royal visited Weston College last week (23rd) to officially open the University Campus.

Principal and Chief Executive Dr Paul Phillips greeted the Princess along with the chairman of North Somerset Council, Cllr Ian Porter, Town Mayor Cllr Andrew Horler and Weston MP John Penrose.

Countless college staff and students, local residents and children from Windwhistle and Beckett primary schools also welcomed the Princess as her helicopter landed in the field surrounding the campus.

The Princess then took a guided tour through the campus' excellent facilities, enjoying pre-arranged activities such as a mock court trial, highlights from the Creative Arts Summer show and a forensic science experiment examining bones from a mock crime scene. Forensic student Laura Seller, 17, said: "She was lovely; it was surprising how much she talked to us."

Fashion students Jordan Paul, aged 20, and Imogen Howat, aged 17, were excited to meet the Princess. Imogen said: "I was slightly nervous about meeting her but I really enjoyed it." Jordan agreed, saying: "She was very talkative and asked us lots of questions. She seemed really interested in our work."

She then met with key staff, students and local dignitaries for a buffet and drinks reception where she was presented with a posy by A level student Rosina Smith and Creative Arts Technician Rob Davies.

When unveiling the plaque to declare the site officially open, the Princess said: "The University Campus is a terrific investment in education in Weston. The raw materials were already in place before the campus was built, with excellent staff and pupils who responded well. Thank you for investing in the future of these young people."

Principal Dr Paul Phillips said: "We were delighted to welcome the Princess to the Campus and excited to have shown her the excellent facilities, resources and learning environment we provide to our students. The visit went really well, and I am really impressed with the students." He added: "When the Princess visited our Knightstone campus, she expressed a great amount of interest in the plans for the University campus so I am glad she was able to see it now it is up and running."

When asked what the Princess thought of the campus, he said: "The Princess realised the campus benefits the whole community and was very interested in our plans for two new campuses, another in Weston and one in the Nailsea or Portishead area. This new Weston campus will be dedicated to technology, as I feel this is what is missing."

The new, purpose-built university campus, which opened to students in September 2007, provides some of the best teaching facilities and educational resources in the South West. The site houses state-of-the-art facilities such as electronically

interlinked recording studios, ceramics and textiles studios, dedicated science laboratories and specialist facilities for digital music production.

The £13 million development accommodates more than 800 students and is the home of Arts, Media and Design, Music, a Sixth Form Centre and Degree Level education delivered in partnership with Bath Spa University.

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