



Annual Report

2009/10

transforming lives through learning...

...inspiring young people, adults
and employers through world-class
learning and challenging them to
fulfil their potential for the benefit of
their communities.



“

We are absolutely delighted with the Ofsted report. This is a fantastic outcome for the College and reflects the hard work and commitment that we put into improving our students' life chances.”

Sue Griffiths
Principal

Contents

- 4 A Quick Glance
- 6 Principal's Report
- 8 Chair of Governors' Report
- 10 Ofsted Highlights
- 12 IQER Highlights
- 14 The College's Successes
- 30 Looking Forward
- 32 Facts & Figures
- 34 Financial Accounts

A Quick Glance

For 2009/2010 the College promised to action the following points
- here's our progress against the aims

Provide opportunities to develop students' entrepreneurial skills



Give students opportunities to take part in international activities



Make sure that progression routes are clear



Expand the work-based learning provision available



Work with employers in innovative ways



Establish the Foundation Learning Tier



Bring cohesion to the Wakefield College 6th Form provision



Strategic Priorities

Our Strategic Priorities for 2009/12, remain

Strategic Priority 1 - To inspire people to learn

Strategic Priority 2 - To be a great place to work

Strategic Priority 3 - To develop an outstanding reputation

Strategic Priority 4 - To plan and deliver exceptional buildings

Strategic Priority 5 - To be financially strong

Principal's Report



I am absolutely delighted to see that students at Wakefield College have once again achieved excellent results in both A and AS level qualifications. Our students have once again excelled with this great set of results.”

Sue Griffiths
Principal



Welcome to the 2009/2010 Annual Report for Wakefield College. This report contains the financial information you would expect to find in an Annual Report and a look back at some of our highlights and achievements over the past year.

Top of the list of significant events last year was the College's Ofsted inspection. We know that we do an excellent job for our learners and we were delighted when the Ofsted Inspectors recognised our achievements, awarding us a rating of Outstanding or Good in 22 of the 23 areas they inspected.

The College was also visited by QAA reviewers for an Integrated Quality and Enhancement Review (IQER) of our Higher Education provision. The reviewers commented favourably on many aspects of our HE work including our flexible approach to assessment which enables it to be tailored to the particular learning needs of students, and our excellent links with employers which give students live projects and other realistic, work-based assessment.

The year has seen a tremendous amount of hard work from all our staff and students. Our A-level results exceeded 95% for the sixth year running and are testament to the hard work of students and staff alike. The College's Sixth Form offers a range of options that is unrivalled in the region and to see such sustained success levels is very gratifying.

Whilst we are rightly proud of all our achievements, we are determined to continue to deliver the very best education and training we can for the people of the Wakefield District and we will seek to build upon the successes of this year as we look to the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sue Griffiths,
Principal

Chair of Governors' Report



The results achieved by our students are a testament to the high standard of teaching across all areas of the College.”

Cath Orange,
Chair of Governors



It seems that as each year goes by Wakefield College gets busier and busier. And despite getting busier, the College manages also to continue to improve its delivery for all stakeholders, which is an excellent achievement.

The recognition by Ofsted and the positive comments from IQER echo the views of the Governing body - Wakefield College is an excellent college that serves its stakeholders and its District extremely well. The continued success the College delivers at all levels is testament to the hard work of all its staff and students. The College is very proud of its higher education provision and of its sixth form and A level provision, but it is equally proud of the success of its students at all levels in the College and of its Apprenticeship programme which continues to go from strength to strength.

My fellow Governors and I are immensely proud of the College and the good work it does. This Annual Report will give you a small flavour of the College and of the diversity of its output; it is an organisation that continues to deliver against its strategic priorities which will ensure it continues to offer tremendous value for the District and for its students through all the changes that are happening in the Further Education sector.

C. Orange.

Cath Orange,
Chair of Governors

Ofsted Highlights



Governors are thrilled with the inspection outcomes released today. The recognition of the dedication, passion and excellence of staff is very heartening.”

Cath Orange,
Chair of Governors

Wakefield College was praised for its work by Ofsted inspectors when they visited the College in Spring. Staff and students were celebrating after getting a seal of approval from Inspectors who highlighted our “outstanding approach to working with partners, safeguarding, and equality and diversity.”

The week-long inspection praised the College’s engagement with the wider community and rated as “outstanding” its work with partners to develop the curriculum and respond to local needs, such as the 14-19 partnership work to reduce NEET levels.

A level pass rates, which at 97.8% are above the national average, were described as “Outstanding” and inspectors complimented the College for its outstanding support for learners to improve their economic and social well-being and for the highly effective action it takes to prepare learners for employment and progression to higher education.

Our ICT provision achieved the highest possible rating - a grade one, with inspectors describing outcomes for learners as “Outstanding”.

The inspection team also praised the Principal and Board of Governors for their role in providing “very strong strategic leadership and direction which has ensured that the College is very well positioned to secure its future ambitions.”

The promotion of safeguarding was also rated “Outstanding” as was equality and diversity with the report stating: “The College is highly socially inclusive and makes all efforts to remove barriers to learning and contributes significantly to local regeneration.”

Wakefield College was rated “Outstanding” or “Good” in 22 of the 23 areas it was assessed in and achieved an overall rating of “Good”.

IQER Highlights



HE staff from Wakefield College can once again be justifiably proud of their success. The results achieved in the IQER are testament to the hard work and commitment they demonstrate on a daily basis.

Dr. Judith Foreman,
Director of HE

Good practice

The Developmental engagement team identified the following areas of good practice in the College's management of student assessment:

- the close working relationships with awarding bodies which contribute significantly to the quality of assessment processes
- the flexible approach to assessment which enables it to be tailored to the particular learning needs of students
- the excellent links with employers in several curricular areas which are used to provide students with live projects and other forms of realistic work-based assessment
- the HE Development Group which provides a valuable forum for developing and sharing good practice in areas including assessment
- the wide range of methods and media used for providing assessment feedback to students which reflects the diverse circumstances of the College's students.

The College's Successes in 2010



16 Maths whiz kid triumphs in national competition



17 'A stars' in their eyes...



18 skillsXchange link with Kazakhstan continues to grow...



19 National Apprenticeship Week 2010



20 Amalgamate Exhibition



21 College students revamp Wildcats' website...



22 Wakefield College's 'NEET' (Not in Education, Employment or Training) work receives national recognition...



23 V-Talent drives yellow fever at College



24 Wakefield students grill election hopefuls



25 College wins quality mark



26 Wakefield wins prestigious AoC Beacon Award



27 Logistics Training Centre



28 College lecturer's work receives international recognition...



29 Wakefield College named best public sector employer in Yorkshire and Humber...



Maths whiz kid triumphs in national competition

A talented A Level International student from the Sixth Form Academy at Wakefield College came top of the class for his age group in a national maths competition in July. Eighteen year old Nguyen Thanh Binh, originally from Vietnam, achieved a 2nd Diploma in the Durham University Distant Mathematics Challenge.

The competition, designed by Durham University's Dr Vitaliy Kurlin, aims to promote and identify the mathematicians of the future. The competition examined entrants in a number of maths related disciplines including geometry, trigonometry, positive integers, and functional equations.

Binh also achieved gold in the Wakefield College maths challenge and completed AS further maths in addition to his other AS Levels. Next year he will be embarking on studying further maths independently and undoubtedly has a bright future ahead of him.



'A stars' in their eyes...

A-level students from Wakefield College's Sixth Form Academy once again came up trumps after the class of 2010 achieved a stunning set of results with overall pass rates exceeding 95% for the sixth year in succession. The results compound the Ofsted inspection which judged A-level success rates to be outstanding.

This year saw sixteen subjects achieve 100% pass rates, including Biology, Law, Psychology, Business Studies and Sociology. A-level Art & Design recorded a 100% pass rate for the ninth consecutive year whilst both A-level Mathematics and Media Studies delivered the maximum pass rate of 100% for the sixth year in a row.

Amongst individual successes, Duc Trung Pham achieved the new A* grade in Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics and a further A in Chemistry. Emma Almond picked up a double A* in Health and Social Care and a further A in Psychology.

Students at AS level also achieved an improved overall pass rate as AS Film Studies students achieved a 100% pass rate for the seventh successive year.

Wakefield College's A-level results regularly top A-level league tables amongst general FE colleges in West Yorkshire.



skillsXchange link with Kazakhstan continues to grow...

Our Director of Skills, Steve Eley, looked the part when he was presented with a Kazakh robe and hat during his visit to Kazakhstan. The visit to the region was part of a strategic partnership between the College and Kazakhstan's Almaty College of Construction.

Steve was joined by tutor John Evans and four students from the BTEC National Diploma in Construction on the week-long visit to the Central Asian nation. The students delivered a lesson to learners and staff at Almaty College on sustainable development and visited museums and other attractions to learn about Kazakh culture.

During the visit, discussions were held about future staff and student exchanges, and plans to map the Almaty College's curriculum with that of the skillsXchange were also looked at.

The relationship with Kazakhstan is another step in increasing College international partnerships - the College already has a dedicated office in China, while staff and student exchanges have also taken place with partners from Russia, Vietnam and India.



National Apprenticeship Week 2010

Young people from local schools were given hands on experience of becoming bricklayers, motor mechanics, joiners and hairdressers at Wakefield College during National Apprenticeship Week in February when they attended short taster days at the skillsXchange.

Our apprenticeship taster days give a flavour of the countless benefits of studying for an apprenticeship at the College. Apprentices gain a nationally recognised qualification, hands-on experience in the workplace and industry relevant skills. Wakefield College offers a wide range of apprenticeships including Accounting, Carpentry and Joinery, Business Administration, ICT, Catering, Hairdressing, Hospitality, Motor Vehicles and Plumbing.



Amalgamate Exhibition

The Amalgamate exhibition was a sonic arts/electroacoustic exhibition held at Westgate Studios Wakefield.

The venture was a collaborative sonic arts exhibition which saw BTEC Higher National Diploma in Music Performance students team up with Westgate Studios as part of the Art Walk Wakefield to create sonic compositions inspired by the work of the resident artists. The exhibition ran from the 26th May to the 2nd June 2010 and received rave reviews from visitors and critics alike.



College students revamp Wildcats' website...

In June a team of web developers from a popular web design course at the College put their skills to the test by redesigning the Wakefield Wildcats' website. The new website, which went live in June, was completed by students Tim Stringer, Greg Carrick and Sam Harris who all successfully completed the Foundation Degree in Web Design at our Thornes Park Campus.

The revamp of the website www.wakefieldwildcats.co.uk, which took more than six months to complete, forms part of the portfolio the students are asked to produce as part of their assessment.

Francis Stephenson, the Wildcats' Director of Operations, said: "Web design is constantly changing and we wanted to be at the forefront of the new developments. Wakefield College and the Wildcats have recently launched a Media Partnership and the initiative to re-vamp the Wildcats' website came out of the discussions about the Partnership. We're absolutely delighted with the end result and we believe that our fans will be equally pleased with the site which is both attractive on the eye and user friendly. This just goes to prove that firmly based partnerships within Wakefield can produce excellent results for the end users and we hope that the College are just as happy with the Wildcats' new website as we are."



Wakefield College's 'NEET' (Not in Education, Employment or Training) work receives national recognition...

The pioneering NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) work Wakefield College does with disadvantaged people in the District was recognised when staff and students were invited to the House of Commons for a colleges' reception. The Employment & Vocational Education NEET Transition (EVENT) project, supported by the European Social Fund, Skills Funding Agency and Wakefield Council has been acknowledged for the innovative ways it is re-engaging with hard-to-reach young people.

The College's work has been highlighted in a publication - The State of Colleges - which sets out the innovative work colleges across the country do to help upskill and educate millions of individuals.

Students Andrew Catterall, Simon Russell and Gemma Wooley were accompanied by staff members Shirley Aston and Angie Wilby from the College and Ellis Burton from Wakefield Council for the visit to the capital.



V-Talent drives yellow fever at College

Emma Wray, the College's vTalent Coordinator, instigated Yellow Fever at the College for the Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal. Leading by example, dressing top to toe in yellow throughout the week, Emma and the College's vTalent volunteers helped raise vital funds for the cancer charity. The College Executive Team wore yellow during their weekly meeting to reinforce the fundraiser.

Emma explained: "Our students are volunteering to fundraise for Marie Curie Cancer Care as a way of giving something back to the community. Fundraising is a great way to encourage students in the College to volunteer their time for an extremely worthwhile cause."



Wakefield students grill election hopefuls

While the country was gripped with the televised leaders' debates, young people from across the Wakefield District came face to face with their local politicians during a pre-General Election Question Time event at Wakefield College. Representatives from the district's main political parties took questions on a range of domestic and national topics including the NHS, education, public sector spending, law and order and international policies.

Mary Creagh MP (Labour) was joined by Anthony Calvert from the Conservatives, David Smith from the Liberal Democrats and Miriam Hawkins from the Green Party to take questions from an audience made up of staff and students from Wakefield College and pupils from other local schools.

The College's Government and Politics lecturer, David Green, chaired the event which proved a lively affair with students from the College and other local schools grilling the election hopefuls on a number of key topics including public sector spending, law and order, foreign policy and the expenses scandal. College students were accompanied by their counterparts from Wakefield Girls' High School, Wakefield City High, Ossett High, St Wilfreds and Cathedral High School for the debate.



Logistics Training Centre

The Logistics Training Centre, run by Wakefield College's commercial training arm, Services to Business, was opened in April this year.

Based at the Aire and Calder Industrial Park in Castleford, the new Centre will provide training facilities for people working within or wishing to work within the fork lift and warehousing industries. The Centre will provide courses and training for both employers and individuals who need to progress their mechanical handling, equipment, logistics, health and safety and operations management skills. Individuals will also be given hands on experience of operating fork-lifts, cherry and reach pickers too. West Yorkshire has one of the worst records in the country for fork-lift truck accidents, and by opening this Centre the College is responding directly to the needs of customers and helping to develop a skilled, competent and safe workforce.



Wakefield wins prestigious AoC Beacon Award

The College won a national Beacon Award at the end of 2009, securing the Excellence in the Use of Technology Award for its 'Excellence @ IT' initiative. The Award, sponsored by BECTA, recognised the College's innovative use of technology throughout learning, with the overall aim of improving the management and quality of learning right across the College. The Awards were announced at a ceremony hosted by comedienne Shappi Khorsandi at the Association of College's Annual Conference in Birmingham.

The judges were impressed by the way the technology has been embedded into all parts of the College's work, and the College's skillsXchange facilities were described as 'state of the art', providing an exceptional experience for students and staff. The overall philosophy of 'small steps – one direction' led to great improvements, including increased effectiveness, efficiency and student performance.

The UK-wide Beacon Awards provide national recognition for excellence and innovation as well as acknowledging the talents of staff at all levels. They highlight the breadth and quality of education in the College sector.



The Frank Buttle Trust

College wins quality mark

Wakefield College's widening participation work was recognised after becoming one of the first colleges in the country to be awarded the Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark for Care Leavers in Higher Education. The kite mark is awarded to those institutions that go 'the extra mile to support students who have been in public care'.

As part of its widening participation work, the College set up a number of initiatives to help care leavers. Students have access to welfare, counselling and financial support including the College Hardship Fund, as well as help in finding appropriate accommodation for the duration of their course.

The College also developed a number of strategic partnerships with other organisations within the District to help vulnerable individuals. These include the Wakefield Leaving Care Team, Wakefield Council's Family Services, West Yorkshire Connexions and the Raising Educational Attainment for Children and Young People in Care (REACH) team.

Wakefield College Director of Higher Education, Dr. Judith Foreman, said: "This is a real step forward in our widening participation strategy, and we are very pleased to be working with partners on this important initiative to support care leavers in achieving their full potential through higher education."



College lecturer's work receives international recognition...

The pioneering work of a Wakefield College lecturer has received international recognition. Khalid Al-Tahat, who teaches in the College's IT department, saw his paper 'Using Alice for Teaching Object-oriented Programming for Novice Programmers' published in a leading textbook. Khalid was also asked to present his work at a prestigious international technology convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in September 2010.

Programming is widely seen as one of the most challenging subjects to teach individuals new to IT. However, thanks to Khalid's new methodology, the process is set to become easier.



Wakefield College named best public sector employer in Yorkshire and Humber...

There was an air of jubilation amongst staff at Wakefield College when it was named one of the 'Best Places to Work in the Public Sector' at a glittering awards ceremony in London. The College was placed 1st in the Yorkshire and Humber region and 30th nationally in the prestigious list which also included universities, councils, primary care trusts and other public bodies.

The survey, run by Best Companies in conjunction with The Sunday Times, ranked the best public sector employers across the country. It looked at a number of different factors which influence levels of job satisfaction. The results highlighted the scope for personal growth amongst workers as one of the College's strongest points. Principal, Sue Griffiths, said: "To be named as Yorkshire's leading public sector employer is a fantastic accolade. There is huge job satisfaction associated with working here at the College. It's literally about transforming lives through learning - and seeing our students excel in their chosen field is what inspires all our staff".

Looking Forward



To be named as one of the country's leading public sector employers is a fantastic accolade. There is huge job satisfaction associated with working here at the College. It's literally about transforming lives through learning - and seeing our students excel in their chosen field is what inspires all our staff."

Sue Griffiths,
Principal

As we look to our plans for the 2010/2011 academic year the College faces the changing FE landscape from a position of relative strength and with a bullish, positive attitude. The development of the Wakefield campus has begun and Phase One will be well under way through 2011 with impressive and imaginative plans for the building's facade and for its student and staff space.

The newly established Leeds City Region, of which Wakefield is a key constituent, offers some challenges but also a wealth of opportunities for the College. Our partnerships go from strength to strength and we will continue to seek relationships like our recent agreement with Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust.

Changes in Government funding for FE and HE are challenges for the sector, but at Wakefield College they are characterised as opportunities. We will grasp the nettle and develop our services for the benefit of our communities, putting learners at the centre of all our plans.

Facts & Figures

Our People

711

At 31 July 2010, the College employed 711 staff/544 FTE.

2%

Number of staff from an ethnic minority

66/34

Female to male staff ratio

3%

Number of staff who disclosed a disability

45

The average age of College staff

Our Learners

11,189

Number of learners the College enrolled during 2009/10

3947

Total number of full-time students

303

Number of HE qualifications achieved

7005

Number of vocational qualifications achieved

1031

Number of academic qualifications achieved

32.4%

Full-time learners from a Wakefield postcode

45%

Part-time learners from a Wakefield postcode

63.5%

Number of learners who were 19+

6.8%

Number of learners who were from an ethnic minority (compared to a local ethnic minority population of 5.9%)

Student numbers by level of study

LEVEL	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	% OF STUDENTS
Pre Foundation	230	2.1%
Foundation	1136	10.2%
Intermediate	3887	34.7%
Advanced	3783	33.8%
Higher Education	911	8.1%
Leisure/Recreation	1242	11.1%
Total	11,189	100%

Financial Report

Income & Expenditure Account - 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010

Income	2010 £000s	2009 £000s
Funding body income	21,775	20,703
Tuition fees and education contracts	2,421	2,341
Other grants and contracts	688	501
Other income	759	1,078
Endowment and investment income	112	75
Total Income	25,755	24,698
Expenditure		
Staff costs	17,734	17,107
Other operating expenses	6,017	6,114
Depreciation	2,387	2,019
Interest and other finance costs	615	361
Total Expenditure	26,753	25,601

Balance Sheet

	2010 £000s	2009 £000s
Fixed Assets	53,118	54,718
Current Assets	9,400	9,501
Net current assets	6,439	5,395
Total assets less current liabilities	59,600	60,157
Provisions for liabilities	(3,577)	(3,879)
Net assets excluding pension liability	56,023	56,278
Net pension liability	(10,570)	(12,501)
Net assets including pension liability	45,453	43,777
Deferred capital grants	4,328	4,741
Revaluation reserve	19,729	20,579
Total reserves	41,082	38,992
Total	45,453	43,777

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Links

The full Wakefield College accounts are available online at: www.wakefield.ac.uk/annualaccounts/

For additional information please visit:
www.wakefield.ac.uk

