

20 April 2010

Press Release

EDUCATION SECRETARY ED BALLS PRAISES CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE'S SUPERB FACILITIES

Secretary of State Ed Balls visited Cambridge Regional College today and praised the facilities as “among the best I have seen anywhere”.

He talked to young mechanics in the new motor vehicle workshop, tried his hand at a spot of hair colouring in the trainee hair salons and chatted to young catering apprentices – before turning waiter to deliver the completed dishes to customers in the restaurant.



Secretary of State Ed Balls learns the secret of good hair colouring

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, who had asked to visit a “successful example of investment in funding”, was obviously impressed with the College’s new £23million development and spent longer than planned talking to staff and students.

His surprise arrival in The Park restaurant, part of the College’s commercial operation, also delighted customers, who found themselves being served by a Government minister rather than a student waiter.



Ed Balls serves customers in The Park restaurant

Afterwards, Mr Balls praised the College facilities and the students. “Cambridge Regional College is doing a fabulous job for the young people of Cambridge,” he said. “I was very impressed with the College. It has among the best facilities I have seen anywhere.”

Mr Balls was accompanied by Labour parliamentary candidate Daniel Zeichner, who described the College as “an inspiration” and promised to return to book himself in for a haircut in The Park salons before the election.

College Principal Rick Dearing, who showed Mr Balls around the College, said: “It was really good to host the Secretary of State Ed Balls who visited the College’s superb practical vocational facilities and talked to many of our great students, as well as to customers in the restaurant and hair salons.”

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact Lynn O’Shea, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has around 3,500 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest Train to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region.