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Press Release

THE DUKE OF YORK MARKS COMPLETION OF £23M COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT

Prince Andrew chatted to students as he toured Cambridge Regional College's newest building yesterday and told them their skills could take them anywhere in the world.

The Prince, who was at the College to unveil a plaque marking the completion of its £23million Science Park development, spent a relaxed hour and a half looking round the Catering, Hair and Beauty Academy and meeting students and staff.



Prince Andrew discovers the secrets of creating masks in Media Make-Up

He visited the Media Make-Up and Hairdressing studio, had a look round the Graduate Hair Salon and then went on to see the kitchens before having lunch in the Bistro, prepared and served by students.

During the meal, which included warm rib eye of beef and a tower of cupcakes, he was joined by CRC Principal Rick Dearing, Academy head Celia Weir, civic dignitaries, and four students – beauty therapist Katie Wright, a member of the UK WorldSkills squad, Laura Nicolas, a winner in the regional UK beauty skills competition, Ashleigh Atkin, a member of the UK Skills hairdressing team, and student chef Hannah Lenton.

To mark the day, a special cocktail, Royale Sunshine, was created in honour of the Duke by Catering student Adam Carey. And he also received a gift – a beautiful Venetian face mask designed and made at the College and presented by Media Make-Up student Laura Nichols.

It was the second visit to Cambridge Regional College for the Duke of York – he last came in 2004, when he officially opened the Arts and Music facilities – and as he unveiled the plaque he joked: “It is a great pleasure to be back here. I must have done something right to be asked to open two buildings!”

Watched by around 20 members of the press and large numbers of staff and students, the Prince said that travelling around the world as the UK’s Special Representative for International Trade and Investment, it was clear how important skills were.

He told students: “You have a skill that is useable not only inside the UK but worldwide. And the training and the opportunities you are getting here are going to give you the opportunity to take those skills and deploy them not only in the UK but anywhere.

“I offer my encouragement to you in the effort you are doing to become a skilled person, and I wish you every success in your endeavours. I look forward to meeting one or two of you around the world.”

Principal Rick Dearing said the royal visit had gone extremely well, and he was particularly pleased that students had played such a high profile role during the day.

“We’re absolutely delighted and very honoured that the Duke came to the College to mark the completion of our single campus development and view our superb new facilities,” he said.

“This is recognition of CRC’s vital role in providing excellent vocational education both for young people in the Cambridge region and its corresponding effect on the local community.”

The College’s first development on the site was opened by Her Majesty The Queen in November, 1993.

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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.