

18 October 2010

Press Release

## **QUAKERS BRING THEIR MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP TO CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE**

**Cambridge Quakers have been spreading the message of friendship in a three-day visit to Cambridge Regional College.**

The group, who were celebrating National Quaker Week, set up a colourful stall in the middle of the College and invited students and staff to describe what friendship meant to them.



The messages were placed on a Friendship Tree, marking the diversity of ideas and perceptions about friends and relationships.

Patricia Wyman, the College's Quaker Chaplain, said the event had gone extremely well, with hundreds of students being asked about their thoughts on friendship.

“During National Quaker Week, we wanted people to think about how they fit into society and spend some moments thinking about the diversity of friendship,” she said. “Friendship means different things to different people and it can be thought-provoking to explore all those differences.”

The Quakers – more formally known as the Religious Society of Friends – work locally and globally for social justice, to support peacemakers and care for the environment. Their visit to CRC was aimed at educating staff and students about the beliefs and history of the movement, which began in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

They are among the many religious groups invited into the College to talk to students and encourage them to learn more about each other. The College’s Multi-faith Chaplaincy provides information and support for students of all faiths, and holds regular events to celebrate different beliefs and affirm Equality and Diversity throughout the College community.

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#### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

For more information, please contact Lynn O’Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email [loshea@camre.ac.uk](mailto: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 work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.