

13 April 2010

Press Release

## **LEADING POLITICIAN VINCE CABLE VISITS CRC'S SMARTLIFE CENTRE**

**Vince Cable, the Liberal Democrat Shadow Chancellor, visited CRC's SmartLife Centre in a high profile pre-election visit to help launch his party's election campaign.**



Principal Rick Dearing describes CRC's modern methods of construction to Vince Cable

The politician, one of Parliament's major figures, spent time talking to Principal Rick Dearing and students working at the Centre to find out more about CRC's 'green' building initiatives.

Mr Cable, who described the Centre as “enormously impressive”, was accompanied by his party’s parliamentary candidate for Cambridge, Julian Huppert, as he toured the building, studied construction methods taught there and chatted to young carpenters.



Julian Huppert, centre, with CRC students Daniel Clark, Jack Caro and Ben Childs

Followed by TV news crews, he told reporters that the skills being taught at Cambridge Regional College were essential to the area’s future.

“It is very impressive,” he said. “Most people associate Cambridge with the University and rightly so. I am a product of it and proud of it, but nonetheless there are thousands of young people who need proper vocational training.

“There’s also a need for people to put up homes because this is an expanding part of the country, and we need new technologies. This place combines all these different elements - good high-quality vocational training combined with a commitment to sustainable building.

“This is a rapidly growing area, with rapidly growing employment and a rapidly growing population sucking people in, and of course they need homes. The skills which are being taught here are absolutely essential to the area’s future.”

Mr Cable met 17 year-old carpentry students Jack Caro, Ben Childs and Daniel Clark, who described building methods taught at the College and told him about the emphasis placed on sustainable building in the SmartLife Centre.

Afterwards, Mr Cable chatted over coffee with Rick Dearing and Vice Principal Chris Sherwin, describing the Centre and the skills taught there as “enormously impressive”.

**- ends -**

### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

For more information, please contact Lynn O’Shea, PR & Events Co-ordinator, 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 Train to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region.

The SmartLife Centre, a pioneering project led by Cambridgeshire County Council in partnership with Cambridge Regional College, is a showcase for environmental building.