

ROCHDALE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

BEST IN CLASS

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME FROM PRINCIPAL

I am delighted to bring you the latest edition of our newsletter. The Autumn term in sixth form colleges are always hectic with new students settling into college life and second year students working on university applications.

This academic year has started with the tremendous 'buzz' and energy that typifies RSFC. The enrolment of new students has been remarkably successful. We have had over 700 first year students join us and the College is at capacity with 1200 young people studying here.

There is no doubt the 'buzz' is in no small way due to the excellent A-Level and AS-Level performance achieved in August. The produce of last year's hard work and dedication of students and staff resulted in not only the College being graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted but the College

being placed second nationally in the Department for Education Value Added Performance tables. This is a real feather in the cap for students and staff.

The atmosphere on results day was superb (you may have seen our students on ITV's Daybreak!) and it gave me great pleasure to see the smiles on the faces of our students.

This edition will detail some of the great things that continue to happen at RSFC for the benefit of our fantastic students!

JULIAN APPEYARD
PRINCIPAL



2012/2013

BEST IN CLASS

"Teaching is energetic and often inspirational and builds students confidence to achieve their potential."

RSFC APPOINTS NEW DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

RSFC welcomed Ruth Szolkowska, from Manchester, as Deputy Principal of the Ofsted awarded "Outstanding" College.

Ruth brings with her a wealth of management and leadership experience, having worked at Runshaw College in Leyland for seven years as Assistant Principal for A-Levels, Head of The Business School and Head of Pastoral Care. Looking forward to her new role Ruth said: "I have already been made so welcome by all the students and staff and am looking forward to focusing on quality and serving the local community to raise expectations and outcomes." Ruth's background is in Business and Accounting and in her spare time enjoys spending time with her family and when she gets chance she likes to use her creative skills with textiles.

Julian Appleyard, Principal added: "It is such an exciting time to be joining Rochdale Sixth Form College as not only have we set the bar high with last year's A-Level results, but we're now the second college in the UK to be classified as outstanding across the board since the new Ofsted vigorous inspection regime that came into force in September 2012. We are delighted to welcome Ruth to the College and are looking forward to working together to maintain our high standards."



TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL VISITS TO INSPIRE FUTURE POLITICIANS

In May RSFC welcomed a Senior Civil Servant to talk to students about the inner workings of Government and careers in Whitehall.

Kate O'Neill, Senior Policy Advisor on Social Mobility for Nick Clegg, visited us to talk to A-Level Government and Politics students. Kate talked about the life of a Civil Servant

and their relationships with cabinet ministers. Giving insights into many of the current hot topics in politics like UKIP and Scottish devolution, Kate then took part in a question and answer session with the students.

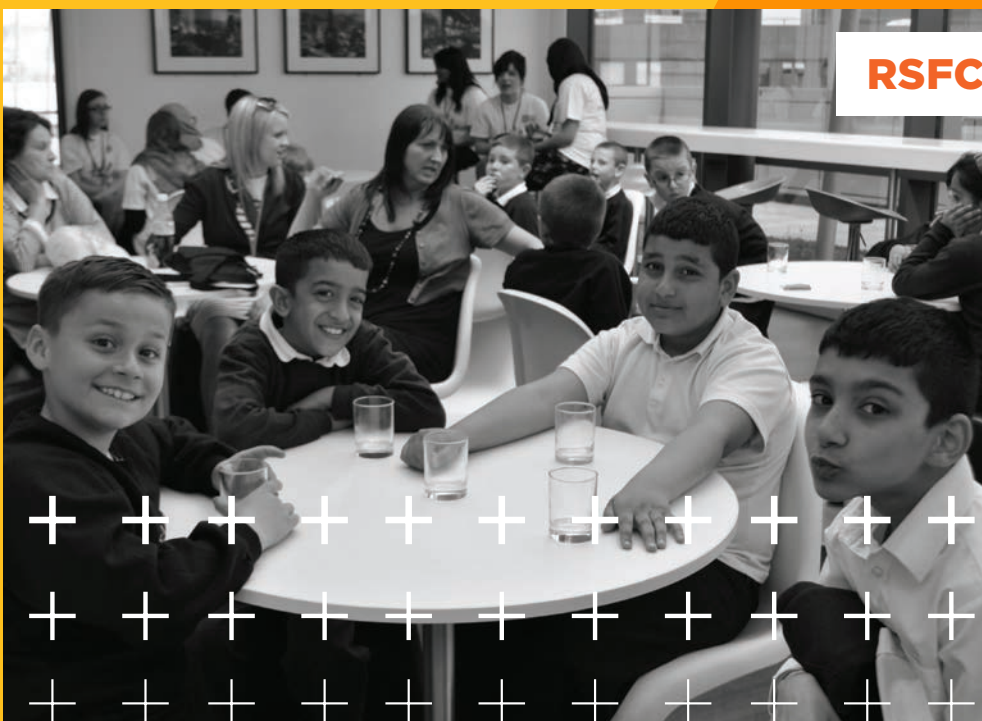
James Davidson, Personal Progress Tutor and Teacher of Government & Politics commented, "The students were enthralled by Kate's presentation and it gave them a great insight into how the government functions and the role that the civil service plays. Many of the students came away saying they'd been inspired to explore the career opportunities that civil service has to offer."

COLLEGE STUDENTS LEAD THE WAY FOR COMMUNITY CHOIR

A group of talented students from RSFC led a choir procession across Rochdale. Following a nationwide public vote the Rochdale Pioneers Museum and Touchstones, Rochdale won the Museums at Night competition and their prize was to bring the Zusammen Choir to Rochdale. Zusammen means 'together' and the drop-in choir consisted entirely of members of the general public and community groups who came together to sing for the one night only.

The students were joined by various community bands and choirs and performed a mix of contemporary and old songs. James Moore and Nathan Hobson performed on guitar to mark the special event.

James Reeve, teacher of Music Technology, said: "We were delighted to get involved with the Zusammen choir project in Rochdale. The group of students really enjoyed it and were a credit to the College."



RSFC OPENS ITS DOORS TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

We recently welcomed 60 children from Meanwood Primary School as part of a class project. The Year 4 class came to the College as part of their studies into ambitions and careers. Students were on hand to show the class the College's facilities and answer their questions on further education.

The excited pupils were keen to know if they would have to wear a uniform, how many subjects they could choose from, how many classrooms there were and how much homework they would have to do if they chose to go to college. After a busy afternoon the children were treated to juice and cookies at the on-site Starbucks.

Julian Appleyard, Principal, said: "We were delighted to be able to welcome the children from Meanwood Primary School as part of their class project. They were very well behaved and asked lots of good questions of our students. We hope to see a large number of them again when they leave school and start further education."

ROCHDALE STUDENTS TACKLE REGENERATION

27 students took to the streets of Greater Manchester to look at regeneration projects of towns. The AS Level Geography students visited different parts of Manchester and Salford to compare the on-going regeneration projects taking place in the cities with those in Rochdale.

The students were able to assess the success of strategies in Salford Quays, The Triangle, Castlefield and Eastlands as part of their geographical studies. Whilst in Manchester, the students even got the chance to tour the velodrome and watch cyclists on the circuit and BMX track. In Rochdale the students looked at the excellent progress being made on the Number One Riverside project as well as the new transport interchange, Touchstones and the Town Hall. They then carried out field work to assess the flood risk of the river Roch.

Graeme Dymond, Geography teacher, said: "Field work plays a vital part of the students' course. The tours of Manchester, Salford and our own town of Rochdale gave the students the chance to put theory into practice ahead of their exams."

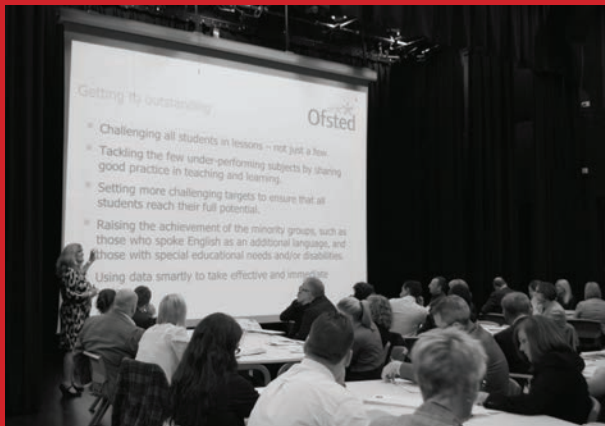


RSFC EDUCATES OTHER INSTITUTIONS

At the end of the last academic year we welcomed education leaders from across the UK to teach them about the College's secrets to success. Principals, teachers and college administrators from as far away as the South East and the North East gathered for a series of talks and workshops.

RSFC which was opened in 2010 to tackle A-Level underachievement in the borough attained grade one across the board in a recent Ofsted inspection. Attendees were able to listen to a speech from our Principal, Julian Appleyard and Beverley Barlow a Senior Inspector from Ofsted. Julian said: "After the announcement that we had been graded outstanding under the new Ofsted framework we were contacted by a number of other schools and colleges in the country to share our story.

"We thought the most productive way to do this would be to host a one day conference to share best practice and help other institutions try and emulate our success."



Applied Science students at Rochdale Sixth Form College welcomed renowned biologist John Schollar, from Reading University, to find out more about DNA analysis as part of their studies.

Using state of the art equipment - usually reserved for university students and scientists, John was able to give 40 A Level students a unique insight into cutting edge techniques behind DNA profiling and genetic fingerprinting.

Students were even able to build up a profile of their own DNA by swirling liquid around their mouths and spitting the contents into a cup. The liquid, which contained their cheek cells, was then amplified using a Polymerase Chain Reaction machine.

The sample was then analysed using a method called gel electrophoresis. Forensic scientists use this process to help identify crime suspects and it is also used in paternity tests and to help diagnose genetic diseases.

Laura Harrison, Applied Sciences teacher, said: "Applied Science is all about making science 'real' and linking to the world of work. It is important that students receive a varied experience in their studies and bringing in industry experts adds an extra dimension to how they approach the work that they need to cover."

STUDENTS GET A TASTE OF SIXTH FORM LIFE

Nearly 1000 local high school students sampled what it would be like to study at RSFC in June 2013 as the College opened its doors for a series of taster days.

Prospective students from Siddal Moor, Holy Family, Wardle, Middleton Technology, Oulder Hill, Hollingworth, Matthew Moss and Falinge Park High Schools got an insight into A-Level life at Rochdale Sixth Form College. Students chose four subjects that they'd like to study at A-Level and attended classes to get a real insight into college life. In between taster sessions they also had the chance to look around the College to check out the state-of-the-art facilities on offer as well as chatting to support staff and teachers.

Julian Appleyard, Principal at Rochdale Sixth Form College, comments: "We always enjoy meeting prospective students to show them our fantastic facilities and give them a real taste of life here".

"Choosing where to study for A-Levels is an extremely important decision and through taster days like this we're able to give students a greater understanding of the options available after GCSE's. We hope to welcome many of them back here in September 2014!"



TALENTED STUDENTS SHOWCASE ART WORK AT COLLEGE EXHIBITION

Art students were given a taste of the glamorous art world when the College hosted its own exhibition.

More than 80 AS and A-Level students showcased their art work at a private exhibition at the College for parents, teachers and governors to enjoy. They were treated to a visual display of fine art, textiles and photography from the students who were also on hand to talk through their inspiration and thinking behind each piece. Art Teacher, Stephanie Green commented: "The exhibition was a huge success and

our students can be very proud of the work that they have produced during their studies."

"It was great to see so many parents, governors and fellow teachers sharing in the students' success."

Rochdale Sixth Form College offers a comprehensive Art & Design AS and A-Level course, which includes fine art, photography and graphics modules.



MATTHEW MOSS STUDENTS VISIT COLLEGE

More than 50 Year 11 students experienced what it would be like to study here at Rochdale Sixth Form College recently as they attended a mini taster day.

The prospective students from Matthew Moss High School were given a tour of our facilities before attending Maths and English master classes, giving them a real insight into what to expect at A-Level.

The students then took part in a 'speed dating' activity which allowed them to ask a number of current Rochdale students any burning questions. The support staff and teachers were also on hand to chat about day to day college life. The taster day culminated in a trip to the College's Starbucks café for refreshments.

"Choosing where to study for A-Levels is an extremely important decision and through taster days like this one we're able to give students a greater understanding of the options available after GCSE's. We hope to welcome many of them back here in September 2014!"



COLLEGE STUDENTS VISIT OLD TRAFFORD

A group of students recently visited Manchester United's stadium, Old Trafford, to find out how footballers use nutrition and technology to reduce sporting injuries.

The trip supported their Sports Science studies and students were amazed by the amount of science that is involved when taking part in a professional sport.

The group were introduced to the sophisticated technology used in football training, with the club demonstrating how large amounts of data collected using GPOS trackers are used to assist coaches in picking the team. Students also learnt about the importance of a high protein and carbohydrate diet while training and how

it is tailored to each player. They were then treated to a stadium tour which included a trip to the directors' lounge, dressing rooms and a peek at the new state of the art pitch.

Nichola Morrish, Science Teacher said: "We are very grateful to Manchester United for allowing us the fantastic opportunity to go behind the scenes. First hand access to real life sports science examples will enhance the students' studies and allowed them to see how the theory is put into practice."



THESE FANTASTIC RESULTS REALLY DEMONSTRATE THE HARD WORK OF BOTH THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

A-LEVEL RESULTS - 99% PASS RATE!

This year's A-Level students are celebrating their outstanding results, after achieving a 99% pass rate, above the national average - for the second year running.

The fantastic results follow our 'Outstanding' classification from Ofsted earlier this year, only the second sixth form college to achieve this in the country. 91% of students who applied to university have had confirmed places. Among the students celebrating is Rhiann Canavan, who achieved four A*'s in Maths, Chemistry, Physics and Extended Project and two A's in Further Maths and General studies - and will be going on to study Physics at Birmingham University.

Student Gem O'Reilly, a talented singer/songwriter achieved two A's in English Literature and Language and a D in Spanish and will be taking a break from her studies to pursue her singing career and push her album launch. We are also celebrating our first aspiring Dentist, with Aqsa Sajid (who achieved four A's in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and

Physics) who will be studying Dentistry at The University of Manchester.

Many subjects, including Mathematics and English Language beat sixth form national benchmarks and a number of students are pursuing apprenticeships with companies including BT, The Royal Navy - and Chris Wain who achieved two A's in Applied Business and PE and a B in ICT, will be training as a 'Product Genius' at BMW.

Julian Appleyard, Principal commented: "These fantastic results really demonstrate the hard work of both the students and teachers and I'm so glad that our students have achieved the results, and university places they deserve. The average A-Level results per student has increased by almost one and a half A-Level grades, which is just brilliant. This is the second bit of good news for Rochdale Sixth Form College this year, after passing our first Ofsted inspection with flying colours, and achieving the 'Outstanding' classification in all areas."



OFFICIALLY OUTSTANDING

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