

Activity Round-up

Welcome to the third Higher Futures Activity Round-up, a briefing newsletter designed to highlight some of the most interesting and innovative activities taking place across the partnership. It's not possible to capture everything here, but if you think an important activity is missing, let us know and we'll try to include it next time. The information in this Round-up is taken from partner activity reports submitted to Higher Futures.

Curriculum development

- **Sheffield Hallam University** and **Rotherham College of Arts and Technology** are working together with employers to develop a Foundation Degree in Materials Technology for September 2009 entry.
- **The University of Sheffield** has begun business planning for a new Foundation Degree in Creative Industries and Landscape, Heritage and Conservation.
- **Chesterfield College** and **Rotherham College of Arts and Technology** have been assessing the scope for working together on developing further Foundation Degree options and units to meet employer demand.



Supporting progression

- **Sheffield Hallam University** has been developing a range of top-up routes to its Sustainable Communities Foundation Degree, including Housing, Planning, Environment and Geography courses.
- **North Nottinghamshire College** has seen a substantial increase in students applying for higher education courses.
- **Sheffield Hallam University** worked with employers to design a pilot for very experienced Level 3 learners to fast-track onto the EYPS (Early Years Professional Status) course via the Early Years Foundation Degree.



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Sharing best practice

- **Barnsley College** is looking to set up a networking group of early years departments to share best practice across the partner institutions.
- **Doncaster College** has forged strong relationships internally with tutors, facilitating the exchange of relevant information.
- The Engineering Sector Development Officer based at **Rotherham College of Arts and Technology** has been working with IAG and Transition Officers across the partnership to offer sector-specific advice and guidance at student group sessions.

Putting learners first

- **Chesterfield College** held summer HE workshops, offering information on higher education, finance, Foundation Degrees and the Higher Futures sectors.
- **Dearne Valley College** organised 'twilight sessions' for Level 3 care students to attend while they were on placement.
- **Longley Park Sixth Form College** brought in external speakers to deliver workshops, including one on preparing personal statements.
- **Rotherham College of Arts and Technology** held a HE Finance Evening for students and parents, in conjunction with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.
- **The Sheffield College** has produced memory sticks, pre-loaded with Higher Futures information, which were given to students during induction sessions.
- **Thomas Rotherham College** hosted an awards evening for BTEC sport students, with prizes presented for outstanding achievement.
- **The University of Sheffield** has delivered progression opportunity awareness sessions to students in all of Higher Futures' priority sectors.
- Mentoring activity has gathered pace at **Dearne Valley College, Chesterfield College** and **Northern College**, with all three successfully recruiting mentors to the programme.
- Work is underway between **Rotherham College of Arts and Technology, Sheffield Hallam University, the University of Sheffield** and Sheffield Local Education Authority to identify learners on the new Engineering Diploma who would benefit from Higher Futures' advice, support and information on progression pathways to HE.

Spreading the word

- **Chesterfield College** has been working with programme managers to identify ways of raising awareness of the Early Years Foundation Degree within the local private, voluntary and independent workforce.
- **Barnsley College** held an employers' wine tasting event at the Brooklands Hotel to raise the profile of Higher Futures.
- **Chesterfield College** has developed a marketing plan for three new Engineering Foundation Degrees, including an open day held in September.
- **Barnsley College, Chesterfield College, Doncaster College, the Sheffield College** and **the University of Sheffield** have added a Higher Futures web presence to their websites.