

Adam Smith College News

FUTURE SKILLS CENTRE

WORLD-CLASS INVESTMENT FOR FIFE

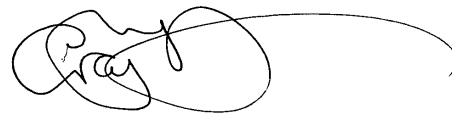
The new Future Skills Centre at the College's Stenton campus brings together state-of-the-art Engineering, Construction and Science facilities under one roof, providing a seamless integration between these specialisms and also establishing Adam Smith as a leading centre for Renewables and Alternative Energy education and training.

The Future Skills Centre will deliver first-class training and development and offer a wide range of courses of further and higher education from basic skills through to degree level, including the introduction in 2011 of a new degree in engineering focussing on renewable energy.

With teaching staff centrally involved at every stage of the planning of the building, the world-class Future Skills Centre ranks amongst the best purpose-built facilities in the UK and focuses on effective learning in every area.

The building has also been planned with flexibility in mind; ensuring that it can respond to changing local, national and international markets. Teaching spaces have been designed to be able to transform over time, ensuring Adam Smith continues to deliver education and training that is directly relevant to companies' needs.

For up-to-date information please accept my invitation to visit this excellent new facility either in person or on our website at www.adamsmithcollege.ac.uk



Dr Craig Thomson
Principal
Adam Smith College

Inside this issue:

- Key Facts
- Future Skills Centre Impresses College Chancellor
- World-Class Industry Endorsement
- Looking to the Future
- Scotland's First Electric Sports Car
- £2 million from Wind Farm to Fund UK's First Apprenticeship Scheme
- Engineers of the Future
- World-Class Students in the Future Skills Centre

Many local suppliers have helped make the building a success. Our thanks go to:
ESA McIntosh, Forbo Flooring Systems, John Smart and Son and Hardies Property and Construction.



KEY FACTS

£17.5 million investment to support regional economic development and regeneration.

£1.5 million investment in new equipment.

No Funding Council capital support received for the project, illustrating the commitment to our local community and the Scottish economy.

9,600 square metres added to the Stenton Campus in Glenrothes – a significant extension and upgrade to this College site.

Capacity for 1,900 students per year and 95 staff.

- 31 specialist workshops
- 3 purpose-built laboratories
- 2 new specialist school workshops



FUTURE SKILLS CENTRE IMPRESSES COLLEGE CHANCELLOR

Adam Smith College's Chancellor, Gordon Brown MP, was an "extremely proud" man following his visit to the Future Skills Centre.

He commented, "I am extremely proud to be Chancellor of such a forward-thinking and innovative College. Adam Smith has invested heavily in this world-class training centre and I am confident that it will help to drive the development of the Fife economy. I am very impressed by the commitment of College staff who have helped design the learning areas, ensuring that every metre of space is maximised for the 2,000 people who will study there each year.

"I was also pleased to see the dedicated workshops for school pupils; this will provide young people with excellent first-hand practical skills and knowledge and a foundation for their future careers."



WORLD-CLASS INDUSTRY ENDORSEMENT

The College has invested over £1.5 million on new equipment, making our laboratories, workshops and teaching areas, the envy of colleges and universities around the country. Some of the equipment is so specialist that it is the only one of its kind in any Scottish College.

INEOS (the world's third largest chemical company) were so impressed by Adam Smith's commitment to skills training, they have gifted over £30,000 worth of equipment for our mechanical engineering workshops.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Adam Smith College is focussing significant investment in infrastructure to support sector-leading learning in key areas of economic development. We are developing an organisation that is closely aligned to industry requirements and standards – one that is anticipating vital skills requirements, developing flexible organisational structures and growing with industry partners.

It's an exciting time for Fife with all the developments in renewable energy. New skills are required in areas such as wind generation and we are ideally placed with our Centre and staff expertise to champion renewables.

Adam Smith will lead the challenge to transform skills for local people and companies in Fife and beyond. All students from August 2010, irrespective of what they are studying, will understand the impact of their industry on the environment and how they can reduce this.



SCOTLAND'S FIRST ELECTRIC SPORTS CAR



Pictured above: Kirsty Burns from Kinglassie and Eric Roy from Thornton, who are both part of the team working on the projects.

The “Go Further” team at Adam Smith College is converting a Toyota MR2 using lithium batteries to create a vehicle that will travel up to 75 – 80 miles on just one charge – exceeding the maximum 60 miles of moderately priced electric cars on the market.

The electric car project is one of the innovative ideas that College staff are using to get students excited and thinking about alternative and renewable energies. Students working on the car are studying a wide range of subjects from motor vehicle engineering, computer aided draughting and design to electrical engineering.

Kirsty Burns said “I got involved because the future of cars lies in this area. It's great to be part of a team which is setting out to convince people to see the benefits of low carbon technologies.”

£2 MILLION FROM WIND FARM TO FUND UK'S FIRST APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

A ground-breaking scheme that will see funds from a proposed wind farm at Earlseat will pay for 150 apprenticeships has been agreed between Carbon Free Developments and Adam Smith College. This is the first of its kind in the UK to establish a renewable energy apprenticeship scheme and illustrates the College's vision to lead Scotland's renewable education and training.

The Earlseat Wind Farm is being proposed by Carbon Free Development who wish to establish nine turbines on the former open-cast coal mine site. Apprenticeships will be open to people living in the surrounding area over the age of 16, including school leavers and those who are unemployed or needing to re-train. This will ensure local people can secure meaningful long-term careers in the renewable energy industry right on their door step.



Pictured above: FMC Apprentice Louise McHattie from Glenrothes shows off her skills to Principal Dr Craig Thomson and Dominic Farrugia, Director of Carbon Free.

WORLD-CLASS STUDENTS IN THE FUTURE SKILLS CENTRE

ENGINEERS OF THE FUTURE

The Future Skills Centre will provide a springboard for the further development of the “Engineers of the Future” partnership with Forth Valley College, Heriot-Watt University and INEOS. This programme creates a work-based learning pathway through Modern Apprenticeships, Higher National programmes, on to Masters degree and Chartered Engineer status. Learning in this five year company-sponsored programme provides great benefits to the learners and the companies involved, combining on-the-job training with college tuition. Adam Smith College is working on this programme with cutting edge Fife companies such as Raytheon, Robbins & Myers and FMC.



SHIPBUILDING APPRENTICES AT ADAM SMITH COLLEGE BECOME MODEL STUDENTS

A group of Fabrication, Welding and Shipwright apprentices put their skills into practice to build a three metre model of a Queen Elizabeth (QE) Class Aircraft Carrier, before going on to work on the real thing (hopefully!) at Babcock in Rosyth at the end of their apprenticeships.

The apprentices have been studying at the College for the last seven months and have just started their two years on the job training at Babcock. They are training to be fully qualified mechanical fitters, fabricators and shipwrights and the model making has been a fundamental part of their training. Completion of the Adam Smith course will prepare them for careers at the end of their apprenticeships.

Pictured left: Wendy Thorne (Performing Engineering Operations SVQ Level 2) pictured working on the model.



Contact:
Jennifer Thompson-Young
Tel: 01592 223633
Mob: 07917725023
Email: JenniferThompson-Young@adamsmith.ac.uk



Contact:
Ray McCowan
Tel: 01592 223552
Mob: 07872415299
Email: RayMcCowan@adamsmith.ac.uk