

Supporting the Local Community GE Healthcare Day at John Ruskin College



On 30th November 2006 GE Healthcare Academy staff from Hatfield Clinical Systems, Devices put an enormous amount of energy and enthusiasm into providing a 'GE Healthcare Day' at the John Ruskin College.

The John Ruskin College in South Croydon, South East England is a specialist centre in the education of 16-19 year olds studying for BTEC, GCSE, 'A' Level and 'AS' Level qualifications. The college has a record of success stretching over many years with consistently good results for 'A' level and vocational courses. - The college was rated in the top 25% of sixth form colleges in the country (according to ALPS Value Added Data 2005). The majority of students completing advanced courses progress to university whilst a smaller number decide to go straight into employment or to take a gap year. Among other subjects studied, around 200 students concentrate on Health & Social Care. Many of these students go on to study for nursing and medical qualifications at a higher level.



The GE Healthcare Day consisted of a three part encounter: an exhibition profiling all of the Clinical Systems Devices products; a conference schedule offering 4 subjects relevant to the curriculum; and an audio visual viewing of a "journey through the heart".



The products in the exhibition ranged from Maternal Infant Care incubators, to Cardiology monitoring equipment, and from life support anaesthetic machines to vital signs monitoring equipment. The exhibition also gave an opportunity for the students to get involved in some hands-on opportunities, where they experienced running on the cardiology treadmill whilst being monitored by a Clinical Specialist, or taking each others blood pressure and oxygen saturation, as well as experiencing ultrasound technology and trying out intubation methods on simulation dummies.



The GE Healthcare Day was a result of a Business Forum which was attended by local educationalists and businesses, following which a number of meetings between the ESF Project at the College and GE ended with this fantastic day which served to enthuse the students, the teachers and the Principal of the College, Jennifer Sims.

Jan Wright, Marketing Executive, and Mike Pichthall, Academy UK Manager, worked with Linda Dunwoodie, the European Social Fund Education Project Consultant at the College, to achieve the event. At the end of the day, Linda commented "What can I say, except what a wonderful day! Thank you so much. The College is buzzing with interest. The principal was absolutely delighted with the outcome and thought the innovation and motivation for learning was clear for all to see."

