

# ROYAL APPROVAL FOR HALF MILLION POUND IT INVESTMENT IN NEW COLLEGE BUILDING

Submitted by: Catherine Lane PR

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Wolds College in Louth, Lincolnshire, received a royal visit from HRH Princess Anne for its opening ceremony last week. The newly built vocational college has benefited from a £0.5 million IT infrastructure designed and implemented by Capita.ict and sister company, Capita Symonds.

The college now boasts a state-of-the-art learning environment which will enable students and teachers to access learning materials online when they are not onsite.

The Princess enjoyed a tour of all the college's facilities.

Chair of the college's programme management board, Dr Chris Rolph, said: "The Princess was impressed with the facilities and the design of the building and had a good understanding of the collaborative partnership that has made this project possible."

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has provided the funding for the college that 10 local educational establishments will use. The site will be used as an essential satellite facility for students wishing to study vocational courses in hair and beauty or construction, for example.

"We wanted to ensure students and teachers were given the best environment possible for learning. It is important that the technology implemented in schools and colleges today will inspire the workforce of tomorrow," said Graham Cooper, head of marketing at Capita.

Workshops and salons in the college all contain the very latest equipment. The ICT system at the college is designed to give teachers access to all the tools they need to carry out teaching effectively; video conferencing, interactive whiteboards, a management information system and wireless access. The building has an innovative IT link to the heating and ventilation systems so that they can be managed remotely if required. This means the college can easily control the building's temperature and energy use when the management team are not onsite, helping contain utility costs.

Ian King, head of ICT technology group for Capita Symonds said: "The Wolds College represents the leading edge of ICT design for education facilities, both in terms of what the technology can offer to the teacher and student and also in terms of reduced maintenance."

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Notes to the editor:

- The cost of the ICT infrastructure was £532,000

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About Capita Children's Services:

Capita is the leading supplier of information systems to the education sector, providing a range of software and services to schools and local authorities to help raise standards and reduce administration. Capita.ict is the division of the company that provides ICT help for schools by offering a huge range of products and services from telephony, VOIP and wireless to network design, educational consultancy and management information systems support. Capita.ict has particular expertise in new build and Buildings Schools for the Future projects.

[www.sims.co.uk](http://www.sims.co.uk)

About Capita Symonds:

Capita Symonds is one of the UK's largest and most diverse multidisciplinary consultancies operating in the building design, civil engineering, environment, management and transport sectors. With over 4,000 staff in over 50 UK offices we offer an unrivalled scope of services and a unique blend of professional and technical skills to schemes of all types and complexities.