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**N E W S R E L E A S E**

**New Construction and Trade Skills Centre Opens**

**at BCG’s Wycombe Campus**

Buckinghamshire College Group’s latest student facility, an impressive new Construction and Trade Skills Centre, was officially opened today at the college’s Wycombe campus by Richard Harrington, Chief Executive of [Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (BTVLEP). The event was attended by members of Wycombe District Council, Bucks County Council and Chiltern District Council.

The launch took place in the college’s new Auto Training Centre and was attended by Steve Fowler, Editor in Chief of Auto Express Magazine, who spoke about the opportunities for students in the automotive sector. Previously based in High Wycombe town centre, this new facility offers students the chance to learn on campus in modern surroundings and the opportunity to develop their automotive skills.

Principal investors in the new facility, BTVLEP allocated £2.69m Local Growth Funding in the College to provide this new technical and construction trades facility to enable the college to develop a wider range of courses including electrical engineering and carpentry.

Richard Harrington, Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “The further education sector is vital in delivering the skills needed to keep the economy of Buckinghamshire buoyant. Investment into

**more…**

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Buckinghamshire College Group reinforces our Strategic Economic Plan to support and develop key business sectors such as construction and adds a further catalyst for economic development.”

“The expansion of the Wycombe campus will meet both demand from learners and industry and our vision is to develop a Construction and Engineering Centre of Excellence to assist in meeting the skills shortages that the sector is reporting,” said Karen Mitchell, Principal and Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire College Group. “The new facility complements and expands our existing provision to enable the college to offer a much wider range of construction and engineering based courses than previously, all under one roof.”

The latest investment complements a complete campus redevelopment in 2013 and Football Association investment in 2016 with the creation of a new 3G football pitch for sports students widely regarded as the best all weather facility in the region.

Buckinghamshire is the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain where, for well over a decade, more businesses have started here than anywhere else in the UK. This is borne of the heartbeat of enterprise, which is manifest in a propensity to act; and a

propensity to successfully exploit new ideas. It is no accident that we are the Birthplace of the Paralympics at Stoke Mandeville, the creative film engine for James Bond and Star Wars at Pinewood Studios, and the joint home of the Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit.

**Ends**

**Note to editors**

The [**Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership**](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/) (BTVLEP) is a business-led ‘partnership of equals’ between local government and the private sector, building the conditions for sustainable economic growth in the County.

[**Buckinghamshire Business First**](http://www.bbf.uk.com/) (BBF), is the Growth Hub for Buckinghamshire and is backed by Buckinghamshire based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs and Local Authorities.  BBF provides the link between public policy and the business community in Buckinghamshire and works with partners to create a dynamic business environment in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

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