

Newsletter

Edition 7 - Spring Term 2026

Welcome to the seventh RNN Group E-Newsletter for parents and carers.

This newsletter aims to ensure we communicate key information that is happening within the Group (made up of Rotherham College, North Notts College, Dearne Valley College and University Centre Rotherham) so you are up to date with all our news as a parent, carer or adult learner.

These newsletters will be sent out three times a year and we hope that they will provide a good spread of useful information for you so you can support your young person or indeed make the most of all that is available as an adult learner.

In this edition, there are bite-size pieces of information on each section with more detailed information included in links if you would like more information.

- **RNN Group is Ten Years Old This Year!**
- **Maths and English GCSE Resits - May 2026**
- **University Centre Rotherham Graduation 2025**
- **Operation Encompass: Supporting Our Learners Through Partnership**
- **Keeping Our Learners Safe Online: A Priority for RNN Group**
- **Free Lunchtime Webinars**
- **Reports / parents events / letters home**
- **Project Based Learning and Three Year Skills and Progression Plans**
- **Parent Portal**
- **Skills for Employment**
- **Open Events coming up this term and next**
- **Our Social Media Platforms to follow**
- **Recommend a learner**



RNN Group is Ten Years Old This Year!

RNN Group is celebrating 10 years of being a Group of Colleges.

RNN Group is made up of Rotherham College and North Notts College (the first colleges to join together), followed by Dearne Valley College and then the building of University Centre Rotherham in 2018.

[Click For more information on the RNN Group](#)



Maths and English GCSE Resits - May 2026

If you are a parent / carer of a young person sitting GCSEs in May and / or June 2026, remind them to look out for support and help on the student portal with regard to these exams.

In the run up there will be tips, support as well as some revision support too so encourage them to look out for this!

FOCUS ON **ME** MATHS AND ENGLISH

University Centre Rotherham Graduation

In November last year, we held our annual graduation ceremony for our learners graduating in various higher education and degree level programmes.

This is one of the proudest moments for the Group to see the hard work and dedication of our learners over many years to their study and enjoy a day of celebrations.

[Click to view photos from the day and find out more.](#)

THIS IS
#MyTime

**Dearne Valley
College**



Operation Encompass:

Supporting Our Learners Through Partnership

At the RNN Group—including Rotherham College, Dearne Valley College, and North Notts College—we understand that for a student to succeed in their studies, they first need to feel safe and supported. One of the most vital ways we ensure this is through our active participation in Operation Encompass.

What is Operation Encompass?

Operation Encompass is a national safeguarding partnership between police forces and educational settings. Its purpose is simple but powerful: to ensure that we can provide immediate support to any young person who has been a victim of, or has witnessed, domestic abuse.

Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, children and young people are recognised as victims in their own right if they see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse. Operation Encompass ensures that “the next day is better” for these learners.

How the Partnership Works

The partnership involves a direct and confidential information-sharing link between South Yorkshire Police, Nottinghamshire Police, and our local authorities.

Early Notification: If the police attend a domestic abuse incident where a learner is involved or present, they notify the college’s Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) before the start of the next college day.

Collaborative Support: By receiving this information early, our safeguarding team can provide “silent” or overt support depending on the student’s needs.

This might include:

- Adjusting deadlines or timetables.
- Providing a “safe space” for the student to talk or rest.
- Offering immediate emotional support or referrals to specialist services.
- Ensuring staff are mindful and supportive without the student having to “explain” their situation repeatedly.

Our Duty of Care

Safeguarding is a collaborative effort. By working closely with the police and local authorities, the RNN Group fulfils its statutory duty to protect young people from the long-term emotional and psychological impacts of domestic abuse.

We believe that by being informed, we can act as a consistent, stable, and nurturing environment for our learners during difficult times.

Reach Out for Support

If you or someone you know is affected by domestic abuse, or if you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our dedicated team. We are here to listen and help in total confidence.

Call us: 01709 722722

Email us: safeguarding@rnngroup.ac.uk

To provide additional support for our students, parents, and carers, we have compiled a list of external organisations. These services offer confidential advice, emotional support, and practical help for those affected by domestic abuse or online safety concerns.

Domestic Abuse Support (Local & National)

If you are experiencing domestic abuse or are concerned about a young person, these specialist services can help:

- Rotherham Rise: Specialist support for those in Rotherham, including refuge and community support.
Call: 0330 202 0571 | Website: rotherhamrise.org.uk

Nottinghamshire Women’s Aid:

Support for women and young people across Nottinghamshire (Bassetlaw, Mansfield, and Newark).

Call: 01909 491330

24hr Helpline: 0808 800 0340

Website: nottswa.org

- IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services): Providing support in the Barnsley and South Yorkshire area.

Call: 0300 110 110 | Website: idas.org.uk

- Equation: A Nottinghamshire-based charity providing support specifically for men, as well as resources for young people.

Call: 0800 995 6999 | Website: equation.org.uk

- National Domestic Abuse Helpline (Refuge): Free, confidential support available 24 hours a day.

Call: 0808 2000 247

Website: nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Online Safety & Wellbeing Resources

For further guidance on staying safe online or reporting digital concerns:

Childline: Specifically for those under 19 to help with any issue, including online bullying or abuse.

Call: 0800 1111 | Website: childline.org.uk

Matters: A brilliant resource for parents and carers to help keep children safe in the digital world.

Website: internetmatters.org

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection): Use this to report concerns about a person’s online behaviour towards a child or young person.

Website: ceop.police.uk

Kooth: An anonymous digital mental health and wellbeing platform for young people.

Website: kooth.com

Keeping Our Learners Safe Online: A Priority for RNN Group

At the RNN Group—comprising Rotherham College, Dearne Valley College, and North Notts College—we believe the internet is a powerful tool for education.

However, we also recognise that the digital world carries risks. Our commitment to the safety and well-being of our learners is paramount, and we have robust systems in place to ensure they can study in a secure environment.

Proactive Digital Protection

To provide a safe browsing experience on campus, we employ a multi-layered technical approach:

- **Web Filtering:** Our systems block access to inappropriate, harmful, or illegal content, ensuring that the college network remains a focused and safe space for learning.
- **Smoothwall Monitor:** We use Smoothwall Monitor to go beyond simple blocking. This software identifies “at-risk” digital behaviour by monitoring for keywords or patterns related to cyberbullying, radicalisation, or mental health concerns. This allows our safeguarding team to provide early intervention and support when a student may be in distress.

Education and Personal Development

Safety isn't just about technology; it's about empowerment. Through our Personal Development sessions, we equip learners with the skills they need to navigate the web independently. These sessions cover:

- Identifying “fake news” and misinformation.
- The importance of digital footprints and online reputations.
- Recognising the signs of online grooming and financial scams.
- Staying safe on social media.

Our Duty of Care

As a Group, we take our statutory safeguarding duties very seriously. We foster a culture where learners feel comfortable speaking up, and staff are trained to act swiftly on any concerns. Safeguarding is a partnership, and we encourage parents and carers to maintain an open dialogue with their children about their digital lives.

We Are Here to Support You

If you have any concerns regarding a student's safety online or offline, our dedicated Safeguarding Team is available to help.

Call us: 01709 722722 Email us: safeguarding@rnngroup.ac.uk



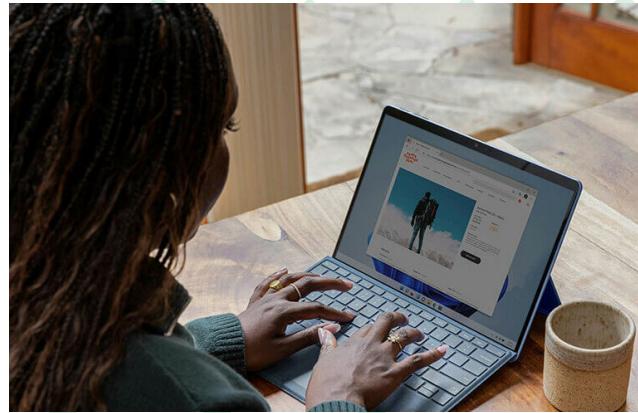
Free

Lunchtime Webinars

RNN Group has a webinar series which are totally free to sign up to.

These webinars are for adults, employers, partner organisations, school careers leads, Headteachers, prospective and current learners and parents who might be interested in some or all of the topics that we will be running.

[Click to find out more about what topics are coming up and book on or even watch previous webinars.](#)



Reports and Parents Events

Information for parents as well as letters that are sent to parents can be found through the following areas:

Rotherham College

[Click here for Parent / Carer information](#)

[Click here for information about letters home](#)

North Notts College

[Click here for Parent / Carer information](#)

[Click here for information about letters home](#)

Dearne Valley College

[Click here for Parent / Carer information](#)

[Click here for information about letters home](#)

University Centre Rotherham

[Click here for Parent / Carer information](#)

There will be parents' evenings this term for parents to meet with teachers to talk over the young person's achievements, developments and work to support them if needed.

If you have missed them, don't worry, just contact your young person's tutor for an update on how they are doing using the contact details at the end of this newsletter.



Project Based Learning and Three Year Skills and Progression Plans

This academic year, we have launched a new project based learning programme for learners who need that little bit extra support before moving onto a vocational subject, and a new three year skills and progression plan for learners with SEMH needs.

For more information about the Three Year Skills and Progression Plans - please find out more here in our webinar and web information:

[Click to see our youtube Webinar: Three Year Skills and Progression Plan](#)

Rotherham College

[Click to read more about our project based learning programme.](#)

North Notts College

[Click to read more about our project based learning programme.](#)

Dearne Valley College

[Click to read more about our project based learning programme.](#)



Parent Portal

We launched a parent portal last year for you to access lots of important information.

Find out more here:

Rotherham College:

[Click to find more about parent carer portal](#)

North Notts College:

[Click to find more about parent carer portal](#)

Dearne Valley College:

[Click to find more about parent carer portal](#)



Skills for Employment

We launched a brand new initiative - Skills for Employment - to all our learners this year.

This initiative - developed in partnership with a number of local businesses - helps to develop your young person into a first rate employee by working to complete ten 'power skills' / transferable skills that are in high demand by employers.

Employers will also support this by providing work experience or an industry placement to help gather the evidence required for each stamp and certificate that they will receive.

Rotherham College:

[Click to read more about Skills for Employment](#)

North Notts College:

[Click to read more about Skills for Employment](#)

Dearne Valley College:

[Click to read more about Skills for Employment](#)

Open Events coming up this term and next.

We have our next round of open events coming up in March.

You can just turn up on the day or you can book on below:

Rotherham College

Saturday 14th March

10.00 -12.00pm

[Click to book this event](#)

North Notts College

Saturday 21st March

10.00 - 12.00pm

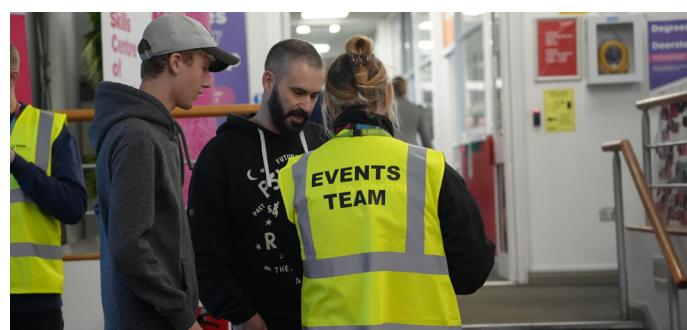
[Click to book this event](#)

Dearne Valley College

Saturday 21st March

10.00am -12.00pm

[Click to book this event](#)



What's Happening?

To keep up to date with all that is happening across the Group and the Colleges, click on the relevant news pages below.

RNN Group News and Events

rnngroup.co.uk/category/news

rnngroup.co.uk/category/rnn-group-blog

Rotherham College News and Events

rotherham.ac.uk/about/news

North Notts College News and Events

nnc.ac.uk/about/news

Dearne Valley College News and Events

dearne-coll.ac.uk/about/news

University Centre Rotherham News and Events

ucr.rotherham.ac.uk/about/news

Recommend Us

Finally, why not recommend a learner who might benefit from the RNN Group courses and programmes we have to offer. Contact the relevant college for you:

Rotherham College

Tel – 01709 362111

Email – info@rotherham.ac.uk

North Notts College

Tel – 01909 504500

Email – contact@nnc.ac.uk

Dearne Valley College

Tel – 01709 513355

Email – learn@dearne-coll.ac.uk

University Centre Rotherham

Tel – 01709 722806

Email – ucr@rotherham.ac.uk

Don't forget to follow our social media platforms

RNN Group



Rotherham College



North Notts College



Dearne Valley College



NEWS ROUND UP

Celebrating FREDIE Week: Building a Stronger College Community

As we kick off FREDIE week at our College, it's a perfect time to reflect on the values that make our campus more than just a place of learning.

You've likely seen the acronym FREDIE around campus, but it isn't just a buzzword – it is a blueprint for how we interact, support one another and grow.

What does FREDIE stand for?

FREDIE is a framework developed by the National Centre for Diversity to help organisations move beyond just ticking boxes and toward genuine cultural change. Here is the breakdown:

Fairness: Ensuring that everyone has the same opportunities and is treated with impartiality. It involves ensuring that decisions and policies are just, transparent, and free from bias.

Respect: Valuing every individual's contributions and treating all individuals with respect regardless of their background, beliefs or role within the College.

Equality: Promoting equal rights and chances for everyone, ensuring that no one is marginalised or discriminated against.

Diversity: Recognises and celebrates the unique backgrounds, experiences, and identities that individuals bring to the community and workplace.

Inclusion: Creating an environment where everyone feels they truly belong. It's making sure everyone feels safe to be their authentic selves.

Engagement: Relates to fostering a sense of belonging and commitment among all members of the organisation; we engage with these values and each other to make a positive impact.

FREDIE - Fairness In The Workplace

Why FREDIE matters to our College

The environment we create here directly impacts your success and wellbeing! When we embrace all of these, we are exposing ourselves to different perspectives. This challenges our thinking, sparks innovation, and prepares us for a global workforce where collaboration across cultures is the norm.

FREDIE also creates a safe and supportive environment. When every student and staff member feels they belong, mental health improves, and everyone can focus on their goals without fear of judgement.

By living the FREDIE values, you are developing the emotional intelligence and leadership qualities that are highly prized in every professional industry.

Join us in celebrating FREDIE Week! Each RNN Group campus will host a variety of activities and sessions designed for you to get involved and to learn more about what FREDIE means.

To learn more about what is happening throughout the week, please contact your campus Personal Development team.

