

Press Release

16 May 2016

MINISTER ADDRESSES EALING HAMMERSMITH AND WEST LONDON COLLEGE STUDENTS

Nick Boles MP, Minister for Business Innovation Skills, visited Hammersmith and Fulham College on Monday 16 May. The purpose of the visit was to meet students and discuss and debate key topics around the EU referendum, Apprenticeships and the new Apprenticeship Levy.

Ealing, Hammersmith and West London's College Chief Executive, Garry Philips says: "We are delighted that Nick Boles, Minister of Business, Innovation and Skills has visited our college to talk to our students about their views on the EU referendum. We are encouraging all students to vote and participate in this opportunity via the following website: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

"It has been a lively debate this morning and I'm pleased to hear that so many of our students are engaged and well informed on these vital issues."

The Skills Minister had this to say about his visit: "It was great to visit Hammersmith and Fulham College to talk about why we will be stronger, safer and better off if we remain in the EU. The students asked some great questions and showed they understand that their future is at stake in the referendum on 23 June. That's why it is so important that all college students register to vote by 7 June so they can have their say in the most important vote of their lives."

The EU referendum, due to take place on 23 June headlined the discussions. Students were left in no doubt how important it is for them to ensure that they are registered to vote and are aware of all of the issues surrounding the UK staying with, or leaving the EU.

Lasting just over an hour, the visit was very well received by students, they asked questions about how continued membership of the EU would help give them the edge in the jobs market, improve opportunities, help build small businesses and maintain human rights.

The Minister also took time to explain how the Apprenticeship Levy would work, and how he believed it would ensure that it would result in more apprenticeships being available.

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Ealing Hammersmith and West London College consists of four Centres: Acton STEM Centre, Ealing Green College, Hammersmith and Fulham College and Southall Community College. It offers a wide range of programmes from A Levels and Access courses to Vocational provision in art, design and media, catering, construction, hair and beauty, motor vehicle, and much, much more.

Around 20,000 learners study at the college; of these approximately 3,000 are full-time learners aged 16 to 19 on study programmes, 11,000 are adult learners on full-time and part-time courses. There are around 600 learners on apprenticeships or work-based learning programmes and just over 300 learners aged 14 to 16 on courses provided in partnership with local schools. The college also offers higher education programmes.