



HRH THE EARL OF WESSEX OPENS BANGOR ACADEMY AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

On the second day of engagements in Northern Ireland HRH The Earl of Wessex officially opened Bangor Academy and Sixth Form College in County Down.

On arriving HRH was greeted by Mr David Lindsay Lord-Lieutenant of County Down and went on to meet Lady Hermon MP, Member of Parliament for North Down and Mr Stanley Goudie, Chief Inspector, Department of Education.

During the engagement HRH was accompanied by Mrs Doreen Tennis, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Bangor Academy and Sixth Form College and Mr Billy Hyndman, Principal.

HRH began a tour of the College by visiting the Library and Health and Social Care areas.

The Earl of Wessex, who is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, went on to meet a number of Gold, Silver and Bronze Award holders and participants and viewed a display relating to the work of the Award Scheme.

In the College Dining Room HRH met representatives from current and former Boards of Governors, South Eastern Education and Library Board, Public Private Partnership, Architects, Contractors and Facilities Management.

For some of the Year 11 pupils a particular highlight of the visit came when HRH joined staff and students in the Journalism suite and took part in an interview.

His Royal Highness went on to visit the History, Geography and Religious Education Departments and had the opportunity to speak with staff and students and see examples of work.

In the Sports Hall Viewing Gallery HRH saw students participating in trampolining, rhythmic gymnastics and rugby training, and nearby in the Music Department The Earl of Wessex visited students in a music and moving image compositions class.

Joining a formal gathering in the Assembly Hall HRH listened to a performance by the College Choir and, following a Prayer of Dedication, Mr Bill Hyndman delivered a few words of thanks and invited HRH to unveil a plaque to commemorate the official opening of the College.

Following the unveiling, Head Boy Jonathan Billimore and Head Girl Lauren Hassard presented HRH with a gift of an engraved crystal bowl.

HRH accepted an invitation from Mr Hyndman to sign the visitors' book in the Reception area before farewells and departure.

Notes to Editors

Upon arrival HRH The Earl of Wessex was greeted by the Lord-Lieutenant of County Down Mr David Lindsay and went on to meet:-

Councillor Tony Hill, Mayor, North Down Borough Council,

Lady Hermon MP, Member of Parliament for North Down,

Mr Stanley Goudie, Chief Inspector, Department of Education,

Mrs Doreen Tennis, Chairman, Board of Governors, Bangor Academy and Sixth Form College, and

Mr Billy Hyndman, Principal, Bangor Academy and Sixth Form College.