

# North Hull City Learning Centre Opens for Business

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*The new North Hull City Learning Centre, based at Sir Henry Cooper School in Hull was officially opened by Sheilah Burden, Executive Director of Yorkshire and Humberside Learning and Skills Council.*

CLC Director, Dave McCallam told guests at the opening about the vision for the centre.



“We wanted to create a very different environment, where pupils from the local schools and members of the community can have access to a wide range of digital learning resources. The whole experience has to be very different if we are to help them re-engage with learning.”

The environment certainly is different, the CLC is based at Sir Henry Cooper School in Hull, it is located in a bright blue building right at the front of the School.

As seen as you walk through the door you realise that it is a very different type of learning environment. Office style furniture, carpeted floors and a striking colour theme make the centre more like a suite of corporate offices than a series of classrooms.

As part of his original designs for the centre Dave McCallam created a series of specific zones. The zones include the Conference zone, the Interactive Media Zone, the Maths Science and Technology Zone and the Communications and Research Zone. A Virtual Learning Zone is also available. Each zone has its own colour scheme and a different style of furniture for the workstations. The result is a multi functional facility that allows the centre’s staff to work with a wide range of learners of all ages.

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Learning materials and resources appropriate to each zone provide students with hands-on activities that span Maths, Science, Technology and IT. Throughout the centre the use of IT resources is impressive with the focus being on using ICT to support teaching and learning across the curriculum.

The use of Virtual Learning Environments allows satellite centres to be directly linked with the main CLC. These

community based satellites provide access to digital learning resources on-line as well as providing hands-on learning.

North Hull CLC serves the needs of teachers and pupils in a partnership of primary and secondary schools in the inner city community. Pupils use the CLC out of hours for completing homework, carrying out research or developing coursework. Teachers also use the facilities to develop, share and disseminate innovative teaching and learning methods using the ICT resources of the CLC.

The majority of the modular teaching systems in use at North Hull CLC have been supplied by Norwich based LJ Group. A wide range of their modules provide hands-on activities that are fully supported by computer-based learning materials.

An LJ ClassAct system is used to provide the managed learning environment that news across the counties computer network. This allows the staff to track and manage the student work and it also allows them to generate reports that show their progress. Students who are working on the system get instant results for all their tests and assessments.

“We selected the LJ equipment because it offers us an integrated range of modules that all operate within a VLE and address very broad curriculum areas from Primary level to Vocational skills and IT Certification”, explained Dave McCallam.

“The ScanTEK modules were chosen because they address the Maths Science and Technology areas of Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. They are very motivational with a combination of practical hands-on work and multimedia curriculum delivery. The automatic tracking system with its instant feedback is a great feature, the pupils love getting their scores back as soon as they hand-in a piece of work. IT really motivates them and a lot of the time they ask to have a second go if they think their score was too low.”

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Dave went on to tell us how the new centre will benefit others in the local area.



“We will be opening the centre from 8.00 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday and until 4 p.m. on Fridays. Adults will be able to use the Internet café computers for a wide range of applications including using the Internet, web page design and office software applications. I have included the LJ A+ Computer Repair System in the centre so that we can deliver the OCR/CompTIA A+ Certification and we are going to become a Cisco centre in the near future.”

**North Hull CLC is setting a new standard in the use of ICT for teaching and learning. It is an excellent example of what the classroom or even school of the future should be like and demonstrates a community education that directly addresses the “digital divide”.**