

DATE OF ISSUE: 28 NOVEMBER 2016

LEONARDO HELICOPTERS AND YEOVIL COLLEGE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP ON TRAINING & EDUCATION

Leonardo Helicopters and Yeovil College have announced their intent to work in partnership around apprentice training, further and higher education.

This exciting announcement is a recommitment to a long-standing relationship between the College and the helicopter industry in Yeovil that has spanned over 50 years and has seen hundreds of Leonardo Helicopter apprentices and students trained at the College.

This partnership between Leonardo Helicopters and Yeovil College will focus on continuing to provide the highest levels of skills training and academic education to current and future apprentices, despite significant changes coming to Apprenticeship funding and structures.

Part of the commitment to working together and within this renewed spirit of collaboration Leonardo Helicopters is loaning a Super Lynx 300 helicopter to Yeovil College. The aircraft has been refurbished by a team of graduates and apprentices and configured as a hands-on training aid for apprentices and students to practice critical skills and help contextualise engineering and aerospace principles.

Yeovil College will continue to work closely with Leonardo Helicopters over the coming years to tailor the content of training for apprentices and other students to the needs of the company and local industry. Incorporating the Super Lynx 300 helicopter will allow the College to make the learning employer specific.



John Ponsonby, Managing Director of Leonardo Helicopters in the UK said “The handover of the Super Lynx 300 helicopter training aid today marks a further step in our long and successful partnership with Yeovil College. Leonardo Helicopters is a strong supporter of apprentice training programmes and both the Company and our apprentices have won prestigious regional and national awards, confirming the quality of training and education this partnership is delivering.”

John Evans, Principal of Yeovil College, said, "We are proud to have such an important industry partner as Leonardo Helicopters. The college has an excellent reputation for delivering outstanding vocational and apprenticeship training with industry standard resources which makes it an inspiring place for young people to learn. The addition of the helicopter will really make a difference as we want our learners to develop the advanced skills required to be successful in their respective workplace.

"Partnerships like ours with Leonardo Helicopters, Screwfix, Bradfords, YTFC, Yarlinton Housing, Yeovil Hospital and many more demonstrate our commitment to meeting the skill needs of the region."

In addition to the commitment to apprentice education delivery, this partnership will also see both parties working together on a number of initiatives that will also be of benefit to the wider community. These will include Yeovil College and Leonardo Helicopters co-founding a STEM hub to promote careers in Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths across schools, from primary through secondary schools, to Sixth Forms and Colleges across the region. The STEM hub will include a broader partnership of institutions, Companies and schools who will all work together to promote STEM, which has been a growing focus for the College.

Leonardo Helicopters will actively participate in Yeovil College's Employer Ambassador Programme, launched last year, which aims to promote links between education and industry and ensure learners are leaving college with the skills employers are looking for.

As part of the programme, Leonardo employees will provide support, teaching, and mentoring to students across the curriculum areas, and will access College facilities for its own in-house training, education and recruitment activities.