

PRESS RELEASE



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YEOVIL COLLEGE LINKS WITH ZAMBIA

Yeovil College has strengthened its international links with a visit from the former Vice-principal of a Zambian teacher training college.

Daniel Sikoobwe was visiting the UK as part of an annual exchange programme between Bruton Primary School and Mufulira Mine Basic School. Mr Sikoobwe recently retired from a post at the Institute of Higher Learning at Mufulira Professional College and Yeovil College volunteered to give him a VIP day out to give him a taste of UK Further Education.

The day began with a visit to the UCY campus on Preston Road, where a range of university-level and professional courses are provided. This was followed by introductions to staff and students and a tour of the main campus, including the state-of-the-art Leonardo Building, home to Engineering, Art and Media departments, the Sports Centre and the College's Learning Centre.

Karen Foster, Head of the Learning Centre, gave Mr Sikoobwe a tour of the multi-media and IT resources available to students. She said *"I was very happy to be involved with the visit. We showed him all the Learning Centre facilities available, including the new multi-media and e-resources, and he was very interested in all that he saw. A member of staff also gave him a demonstration of Moodle, our Virtual Learning Environment, and YSpace, our new social networking site. He was really grateful and impressed by the opportunities available to our students. He thought there was a lot of potential for working with the College in the future."*



Mr Sikoobwe meets Karen Foster and students in the Learning Centre



Judy Maguire, student Dane Harris, Daniel Sikoobwe, student Nicole Hardy, Department Head Peta Fraser and Alison Bennett

The day also included lunch at the College's popular student restaurant, the Da Vinci, where Mr Sikoobwe was treated to a full lunch menu. Hospitality Department Manager Peta Fraser escorted Mr Sikoobwe during this part of his visit. She said *"He met with some of our Hospitality students and really enjoyed watching them work in the kitchen on the restaurant's plasma screen. He really enjoyed the food and absolutely loved his pudding!"*

Mr Sikoobwe also met with staff including Principal James Hampton, Teaching and Learning Vice Principal Cliff Shaw and Judy Maguire, Head of Teaching and Learning.

James Hampton said *"When we were told that Mr Sikoobwe was visiting the area and had a particular interest in FE education, we were more than happy to invite him to Yeovil College so he could find out more about what we do. Yeovil College often emphasises its position as part of the local community, but we're also part of a wider, international community and we're keen to establish international links with other colleges worldwide so that our students can benefit from the additional experiences and growth in understanding such relationships encourage. Mr Sikoobwe very much enjoyed his day with Yeovil College and we hope that it's just the first step towards a longer lasting friendship."*



Mr Sikoobwe with James Hampton

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Notes to Editors

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