

# PRESS RELEASE



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DATE OF ISSUE: TUESDAY, 22 JUNE 2010

## **COLLEGE CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP**

Yeovil College celebrated a new international partnership last week by welcoming visitors from the Wuchang Experimental High School, in Hubei province, China to the campus.

Mr Xu, Principal and a group of Chinese delegates arrived successfully at the college after being unable to fly earlier in the year due to the volcanic ash cloud over Chinese and English airspace. The Chinese delegation were shown the college campus and facilities, as well as examples of Science and Maths classes.

During their stay in England Mr Xu's party were keen to visit Yeovil and the surrounding countryside as well as other areas of interest further afield.

James Hampton, Principal of Yeovil College said *"It has been a pleasure to welcome Mr Xu and the Chinese delegation to the college. The visit marks the launch of a very exciting venture both for the college and the local community. We hope that this partnership will grow from strength to strength and enable international students to experience the high standard of education at Yeovil College and English teaching styles."*

The first group of Chinese students will join the college in September to study 12 week taster classes in Science, Maths and English, preparing them for a return visit to Yeovil next year to study a full A level programme. At home in China the Wuchang Experimental High School is also known for its high success rates for students in Science and Maths.

Mr Xu, Principal said *"We are very pleased to finally visit Yeovil College and it is a great honour to meet staff and students. We are very impressed by the relationship of the college with the local community and the advanced teaching philosophy that is demonstrated. We are keen for our education leaders and students to experience new processes and systems and we hope to have a successful partnership with the college and a bright future ahead."*

After signing the contract, staff and guests including Yeovil Mayor, Cllr Philip Chandler and the Lady Mayoress, Governors and Chairman of South Somerset District Council Cllr Ian Martin and Cllr Pat Martin, enjoyed a champagne reception hosted by hospitality students and a new team of International Student Ambassadors.

In April, Yeovil College was awarded Tier 4 sponsorship from the UK Border Agency and will now be added to the trusted list of UK education providers. The Agency awarded a Grade A for their inspection of the college provision and support that will be in place to help international students settle in.

The college are currently looking to expand the list of local families who wish to provide home stay opportunities for students. Weekly payments are given in return for rooms and main meals. For more information please contact Tracey Zimmerman on 01935 845317, or email [tracey.zimmerman@yeovil.ac.uk](mailto:tracey.zimmerman@yeovil.ac.uk)

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### **Notes to Editors**

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