

Adult Learner NEWSLETTER

Edition 1 - Spring Term 2026

RNN GROUP

Welcome to the first RNN Group E-Newsletter for adult students. This newsletter aims to ensure we communicate key information that is happening within the Group (made up of Rotherham College, North Notts College, Dearne Valley College and University Centre Rotherham) so you are up to date with all our news as an adult learner.

These newsletters will be sent out three times a year and we hope that they will provide a good spread of useful information for you so you can support your young person or indeed make the most of all that is available as an adult learner.

In this edition, there are bite-size pieces of information on each section with more detailed information included in links if you would like more information.

- RNN Group is Ten Years Old This Year!
- Adult Courses Available For You!
- Operation Encompass: Supporting Our Learners Through Partnership
- Keeping Our Learners Safe Online: A Priority for RNN Group
- Free Lunchtime Webinars
- University Centre Rotherham Graduation 2025
- Maths and English GCSE Resits - May 2026
- Adult Information and FAQs
- Open Events coming up this term and next
- Our Social Media Platforms to follow
- Recommend a learner



RNN Group

*is Ten Years Old
This Year!*

RNN Group is celebrating 10 years of being a Group of Colleges.

RNN Group is made up of Rotherham College and North Notts College (the first colleges to join together), followed by Dearne Valley College and then the building of University Centre Rotherham in 2018.

[Click For more information on the RNN Group](#)

**RNN
GROUP**

**10
YEARS**

Community Courses

RNN Group offers community courses at its College locations and via distance or online learning.

We develop and roll out courses with our local partners to ensure we are responsive to the needs of our local communities.

[Click to find out more about our community courses.](#)



Commercial Training Courses

The RNN Group has created strong relationships with local employers and has listened to the needs of these local employers with regard to training courses that employers would like to see offered for their staff.

[Click to find out more about our commercial training course](#)



Adult Courses available for you!

We have a number of adult courses available for you to upskill, retrain and gain that dream job and career.



Adult Skills Courses

Adult skills courses are flexible training programmes designed for individuals aged 19+ to gain qualifications, retrain or improve their employability.

RNN Group offer courses for adults on a part time and evening basis covering a variety of areas.

[Click to find out more about our Adult Skills Courses](#)



Employment Support Courses

RNN Group offers Employment Support Courses which can benefit unemployed individuals - including you - in a multitude of different ways. These short courses will help you gain further knowledge, skills, and look attractive on your CV for future employers.

[Click to find out more about our Employment Support Courses](#)

Distance Learning Courses

Distance learning allows you to do just that - study on a course and complete, in many cases *free on-line courses and *free online training, in the comfort of your own home.

[Click to find out more about our Distance Learning Courses](#)



Operation Encompass: Supporting Our Learners Through Partnership

At the RNN Group—including Rotherham College, Dearne Valley College, and North Notts College—we understand that for a student to succeed in their studies, they first need to feel safe and supported. One of the most vital ways we ensure this is through our active participation in Operation Encompass.

What is Operation Encompass?

Operation Encompass is a national safeguarding partnership between police forces and educational settings. Its purpose is simple but powerful: to ensure that we can provide immediate support to any young person who has been a victim of, or has witnessed, domestic abuse.

Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, children and young people are recognised as victims in their own right if they see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse. Operation Encompass ensures that “the next day is better” for these learners.



How the Partnership Works

The partnership involves a direct and confidential information-sharing link between South Yorkshire Police, Nottinghamshire Police, and our local authorities.

Early Notification: If the police attend a domestic abuse incident where a learner is involved or present, they notify the college’s Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) before the start of the next college day.

Collaborative Support: By receiving this information early, our safeguarding team can provide “silent” or overt support depending on the student’s needs. This might include:

- Adjusting deadlines or timetables.
- Providing a “safe space” for the student to talk or rest.
- Offering immediate emotional support or referrals to specialist services.
- Ensuring staff are mindful and supportive without the student having to “explain” their situation repeatedly.

Our Duty of Care

Safeguarding is a collaborative effort. By working closely with the police and local authorities, the RNN Group fulfils its statutory duty to protect young people from the long-term emotional and psychological impacts of domestic abuse.

We believe that by being informed, we can act as a consistent, stable, and nurturing environment for our learners during difficult times.

Continued on next page

Operation Encompass: Supporting Our Learners Through Partnership

(continued)

Reach Out for Support

If you or someone you know is affected by domestic abuse, or if you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our dedicated team. We are here to listen and help in total confidence.

Call us: 01709 722722

Email us: safeguarding@rnngroup.ac.uk

To provide additional support for our students, parents, and carers, we have compiled a list of external organisations. These services offer confidential advice, emotional support, and practical help for those affected by domestic abuse or online safety concerns.

Domestic Abuse Support (Local & National)

If you are experiencing domestic abuse or are concerned about a young person, these specialist services can help:

- **Rotherham Rise:** Specialist support for those in Rotherham, including refuge and community support.
Call: 0330 202 0571
Website: rotherhamrise.org.uk
- **Nottinghamshire Women's Aid:** Support for women and young people across Nottinghamshire (Bassetlaw, Mansfield, and Newark).
Call: 01909 491330
24hr Helpline: 0808 800 0340
Website: nottswa.org

- **IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services):** Providing support in the Barnsley and South Yorkshire area.
Call: 0300 110 110
Website: idas.org.uk
- **Equation:** A Nottinghamshire-based charity providing support specifically for men, as well as resources for young people.
Call: 0800 995 6999
Website: equation.org.uk
- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline (Refuge):** Free, confidential support available 24 hours a day.
Call: 0808 2000 247
Website: nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Online Safety & Wellbeing Resources

For further guidance on staying safe online or reporting digital concerns:

- **Childline:** Specifically for those under 19 to help with any issue, including online bullying or abuse.
Call: 0800 1111
Website: childline.org.uk **Internet**
- **Matters:** A brilliant resource for parents and carers to help keep children safe in the digital world.
Website: internetmatters.org
- **CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection):** Use this to report concerns about a person's online behaviour towards a child or young person.
Website: ceop.police.uk
- **Kooth:** An anonymous digital mental health and wellbeing platform for young people.
Website: kooth.com

Proactive Digital Protection

To provide a safe browsing experience on campus, we employ a multi-layered technical approach:

•Web Filtering:

Our systems block access to inappropriate, harmful, or illegal content, ensuring that the college network remains a focused and safe space for learning.

•**Smoothwall Monitor:** We use Smoothwall Monitor to go beyond simple blocking. This software identifies “at-risk” digital behaviour by monitoring for keywords or patterns related to cyberbullying, radicalisation, or mental health concerns. This allows our safeguarding team to provide early intervention and support when a student may be in distress.

Education and Personal Development Safety isn't just about technology; it's about empowerment.

Through our Personal Development sessions, we equip learners with the skills they need to navigate the web independently.

These sessions cover:

- Identifying “fake news” and misinformation.
- The importance of digital footprints and online reputations.
- Recognising the signs of online grooming and financial scams.
- Staying safe on social media

Our Duty of Care

As a Group, we take our statutory safeguarding duties very seriously. We foster a culture where learners feel comfortable speaking up, and staff are trained to act swiftly on any concerns.

Safeguarding is a partnership, and we encourage parents and carers to maintain an open dialogue with their children about their digital lives.

We Are Here to Support You

If you have any concerns regarding a student's safety online or offline, our dedicated Safeguarding Team is available to help.

Call us:

01709 722722

Email us:

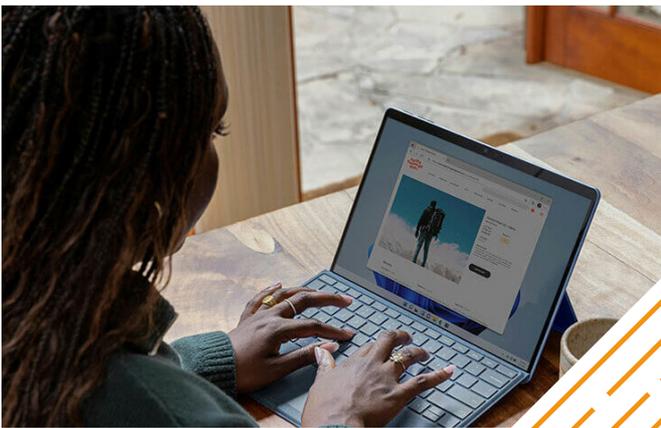
safeguarding@rnngroup.ac.uk

FREE Lunchtime Webinars

RNN Group has a webinar series which are totally free to sign up to.

These webinars are for adults, employers, partner organisations, school careers leads, Headteachers, prospective and current learners and parents who might be interested in some or all of the topics that we will be running.

[Click to find out more about what topics are coming up and book on or even watch previous webinars.](#)



Maths and English GCSE Resits - May 2026

If you are a parent / carer of a young person sitting GCSEs in May and / or June 2026, remind them to look out for support and help on the student portal with regard to these exams.

In the run up there will be tips, support as well as some revision support too so encourage them to look out for this!

University Centre Rotherham Graduation

In November last year, we held our annual graduation ceremony for our learners graduating in various higher education and degree level programmes.

This is one of the proudest moments for the Group to see the hard work and dedication of our learners over many years to their study and enjoy a day of celebrations.

[Click to view photos from the day and find out more](#)

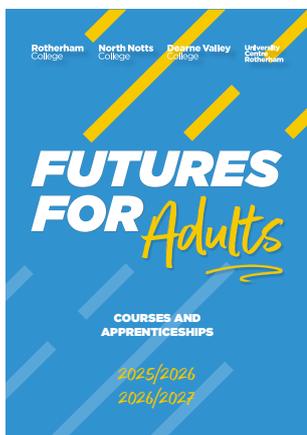
[Click for more information on Higher Level course, and to visit our University website.](#)



Adult Information and FAQs

We have recently updated our web pages to include information on supporting adults specifically with a list of FAQs.

Please do have a look at these below including induction information and the adult course guide which also include helping and supportive information for you - our adult learners.



[Click to view our Futures for Adults course guide.](#)



[Click to view our Adults welcome pack](#)

Rotherham College

[Click for more information for adults at Rotherham College](#)

North Notts College

[Click for more information for adults at North Notts College](#)

Dearne Valley College

[Click for more information for adults at Dearne Valley College](#)

Open Events coming up this term and next

Open Events coming up this term and next.

We have our next round of open events coming up in June

Rotherham College

Wednesday 4th June 2026

3.30pm - 6.30pm

[You can just turn up on the day or click to book](#)

North Notts College

Wednesday 11th June 2026

3.30pm - 6.30pm

[You can just turn up on the day or click to book](#)

Dearne Valley College

Wednesday 11th June 2026

3.30-6.30pm

[You can just turn up on the day or click to book](#)

Bridge Skills Hub/North Notts College

We also have an adult focused and Higher Education Day at the Bridge Skills Hub in Worksop.

Wednesday 29th April 2026

3.00pm - 6.00pm

[Click to book a place](#)

What's Happening?

To keep up to date with all that is happening across the Group and the Colleges, click on the relevant news pages below.

RNN Group News and Events

[Click to read more RNN Group News](#)

[Click to read more RNN Group Blog](#)

Follow Us

Don't forget to follow our social media platforms



[Click to follow RNN Group on Facebook](#)



[Click to follow RNN Group on X](#)



[Click to follow RNN Group on Linked In](#)



[Click to follow RNN Group on YouTube](#)

Recommend Us

Why not recommend friend / employer who might benefit from the RNN Group and the information included in this as well as the courses and programmes we have to offer.

Rotherham College

Tel - 01709 362111

Email - info@rotherham.ac.uk

www.rotherham.ac.uk

North Notts College

Tel - 01909 504500

Email - contact@nnc.ac.uk

www.nnc.ac.uk

Dearne Valley College

Tel - 01709 513355

Email - learn@dearne-coll.ac.uk

www.dearne-coll.ac.uk

University Centre Rotherham

Tel - 01709 722806

Email - ucr@rotherham.ac.uk

ucr.rotherham.ac.uk

Ofsted

Good
Provider

Part of
RNN GROUP