



MINISTERS IMPRESSED BY COLLEGE INITIATIVES

Blackpool and The Fylde College has been firmly in the political spotlight recently with visits from two Government Ministers to our various sites.

Firstly, Secretary of State for Defence Bob Ainsworth stopped off at Build Up Blackpool as part of his 'Building Britain's Future' tour. The Cabinet Minister spent a great deal of time talking to trainees at the facility and even had a go at laying block paving with them.

Next up was Transport Minister Paul Clark, who the College welcomed to its Bispham and Fleetwood Nautical Campuses. Mr Clark spent time exploring the esteemed Automotive and Aviation academies at the College's School of Engineering and Computing, before embarking on a full tour of Fleetwood Nautical Campus.

The Under-Secretary of State for Transport was taken to the radar station on the promenade, where learners can practice on the latest simulation software which replicates navigation equipment on ships; and experienced the ship's bridge simulator where large screens emulate real docks and ports as the students navigate the ships safely. He then visited the impressive environmental tank and witnessed real-life lifeboat training in the 4 metre deep training pool.

Commenting, Paul Clark MP said: "I've had a very enjoyable and interesting visit to Blackpool and The Fylde College. I was very impressed by not only the range but also the breadth of training facilities on offer at Fleetwood Nautical Campus, and indeed with the automotive and aviation resources at Bispham."

Blackpool and The Fylde College Principal Pauline Waterhouse took the opportunity to raise Blackpool's case for funding for a new FE campus and also a new nautical campus in Fleetwood as part of the College's ongoing commitment to improve and expand facilities for learners.

She said: "I personally invited the minister to come and look at our College, particularly the Fleetwood Nautical Campus, so he could see first hand what valuable training and simulated exercises we carry out with our students and the vital links we have with the shipping industry.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase the College but also to highlight the need for further funding – the time I spent with Mr Clark was very productive and I'm pleased he took the time to visit."