

# Annual Review

2011-2012



South Tyneside College  
Dedicated to your success



“...we have a major role to play in the social and economic welfare of the borough of South Tyneside and the wider region...”

# Our Vision

"To be an outstanding college providing world class education and training."

# Our Values

As an employer and a learning organisation, we will:

- aim to be excellent in all that we do
- celebrate diversity and the rights of others
- act with integrity - fairly, openly and transparently
- be welcoming and approachable to all

# Our Strategic Aims

1. Provide high quality teaching and learning
2. Create a high quality learning environment
3. Be financially sound, modernise and grow, providing outstanding value for money
4. Provide a curriculum that meets the needs of all stakeholders
5. Work in partnership with employers, agencies and the community



## Foreword



In presenting our Annual Review for 2011-2012; which brings to a close a full year of celebrations commemorating the sesquicentennial of the South Shields Marine School; the Governors are delighted to re-establish 26th March as 'Winterbottom Day' an annual occasion in the life of the College, 151 years since the opening of the Marine School and 246 years to the day since our founders birth.

This celebration has been outstanding for both our business and our brand. It has allowed us to reflect on 150 years of success that underpin our international reputation. The visit of HRH The Duke of York in October formed the centre piece of our celebrations and allowed us to show off our brand new facilities. In addition we were delighted to award the first three Dr Winterbottom Fellowships recognising those who have made an outstanding contribution to the College, marine industry and the Borough of South Tyneside. We have reaffirmed our pride in our past but at the same time placed our faith in the future.

Despite challenging economic times, the College is making significant strides in the delivery of excellence in education and training both in the UK and overseas and our learners continually demonstrate their commitment through their achievements. The College provides a rich and diverse experience for young people underpinned by a highly personalised and vibrant curriculum, delivered by expert and supportive academic staff. This year, our learners celebrated record A Level results in August, achieving the College's highest ever pass rate at 98% with many of our subjects now showing a 100% pass rate for the past four years.

On behalf of the Governors I would like to pay tribute to our fantastic students for bringing vibrancy to the place; and to the College's Governors, staff and leadership team for their insight, their resilience and their creativity in finding new and better ways of working. It is crucial the College maintains strong partnerships with local companies and kindred academic institutions.

South Tyneside College has an international reputation in vocational excellence and academic success. Our forward-looking nature, willingness to embrace change and tight financial stewardship promotes a strong base from which to operate and to fully exploit diverse opportunities for growth, innovation, dynamic marketing and accelerated pace.

For 150 years we have nurtured our students, celebrated their achievements, supported our community and promoted the educational character of the College. It is a record upon which our founder would be proud.

John Watson - Chair of Governors



## Developing for the future



Welcome to South Tyneside College's Annual Review, which I hope will give you a taste of the wide range of activities which go on inside, and outside, our walls, and of the many successes we have achieved over the last year.

As Principal and Chief Executive of South Tyneside College, I am committed to ensuring that the experience of all those who come through our doors - our learners, our staff and our visitors - is of the highest quality.

We are a successful college with year on year performance improvements in retention, achievement and success rates. Over the last year we have made significant investments in our estates with brand new facilities. This will continue over the next year remodelling other areas of our campus including new classrooms, learning zones, student relaxation areas, toilets and specific Marine School buildings with a new marine entrance.

The year has not been without its challenges; like many institutions we have examined our business model and made sure we are fit for the future.

As I look further ahead, which I have no doubt will hold many challenges, but also many more opportunities, I am confident we have a strong model to make further improvements and achieve greater successes.

The fantastic accomplishments of our students, and the activities and achievements of our staff, are a source of great pride to me, and feature heavily throughout this review. My thanks go to them all, and to our partners, for the continued support, commitment and contribution to the success of South Tyneside College.

Lindsey Whiterod - Principal and Chief Executive



## In the News

### Royal seal of approval

The College welcomed His Royal Highness The Duke of York, KG in October to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the College's Marine School and open brand new facilities.

Before unveiling a plaque His Royal Highness The Duke of York, KG said: "If you have ever worked in the maritime industry, you will have heard of South Tyneside College.

"Many people I have worked with speak very highly of it. It's long been known as the best place to get training for the Merchant Navy, and I'm delighted to see this continuing into the 21st century.

"This is the first time I have been able to come here and see the excellent work."

The Duke added: "The further education college has a much greater role for the UK when it comes to delivering skills for the workplace.

"One of the things I am keen to encourage is for people to understand that going to university is not the sole answer in life.

"The skills training and education that South Tyneside College provides is important, and it is going to become increasingly important.

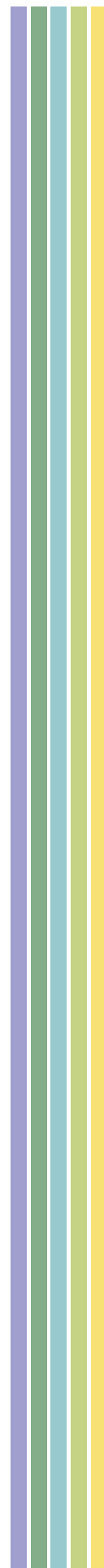
"I wish you success in your endeavours in bringing this excellent service into the 21st century.

"Congratulations on 150 years of excellent and outstanding service, and I look forward to the next 150 years, when some other Duke of York comes to visit."

During the visit The Duke toured areas of the College's maritime facilities and along the way met with staff and students. The visit culminated with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque.

Lindsey Whiterod, said: "The College has been at the heart of the community in South Tyneside providing outstanding educational opportunities for generations and it's particularly fitting that in our 150th year we received a Royal visit."





## 150th Anniversary celebrated

Earlier in the year the College celebrated its 150th Anniversary with an evening celebration including staff and students, past and present.



Three guests, Captain Nigel Palmer OBE, Captain Graham Westgarth and Jean Stokes were also presented with special Dr Winterbottom Fellowship Awards for their outstanding contribution to the College, marine industry and the borough of South Tyneside.

Founded by Dr Winterbottom in 1861, the College has been at the heart of the community providing outstanding educational opportunities for generations.

John Watson said: "This is a remarkable achievement for South Tyneside as a whole. The College is very proud of its foundations as a world renowned marine college and its ability to adapt over many years to serve the needs of the local community and beyond."

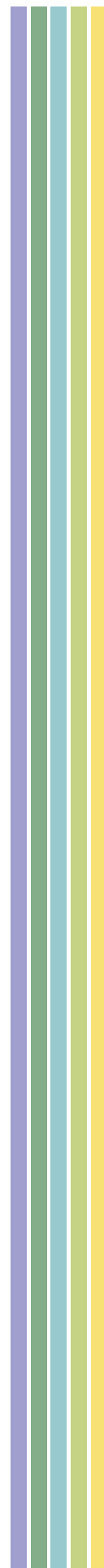


Rt Hon David Miliband, MP for South Shields is proud of the College and the outstanding services it provides to his constituency, he said: "South Tyneside College has an amazing history – built upon tradition, dedication and innovation. No matter where you go in the world you will always meet someone who has been a student at South Tyneside College. This is why I believe it is one of the gems of the borough.

"I would like to wish South Tyneside College a very happy 150th anniversary."

Lindsey Whiterod, said: "This celebration marks the achievements of the College over the last 150 years. With so many new developments including the refurbishment it's an ideal time to reflect on the past and look to the future, we are all confident that South Tyneside College will still be providing outstanding learning opportunities for generations to come."







Dr Winterbottom  
Fellowship Award



The Dr Winterbottom Fellowship Award is an honorary award presented for outstanding contributions to the College, marine industry and the borough of South Tyneside.



**Captain Graham Westgarth**  
– awarded June 2011



**Jean Stokes**  
– awarded June 2011



**Captain Nigel Palmer OBE**  
– awarded June 2011

## College demonstrates further maritime excellence



**Marine students from the College celebrated excellent examination results which placed them among the best nationally.**

The results showed that those taking Marine Engineering and Nautical Science examinations achieved highly regarded industry pass rates and in some cases results significantly above the national average.

Lindsey Whiterod said: "These are excellent results and again highlights our worldwide reputation for maritime excellence.

"It is a great reward for the students who have worked so hard to achieve these results and a further reflection of the high standards staff set at the College.

"I would personally like to thank all tutors who have been involved in helping our students to achieve their potential.

"In our 150th year these outstanding results are part of a momentous year in the history of the College. We will be working to keep on improving these results in the year ahead."





## Charity row raises an 'oar'some amount

Staff and students from the College's Marine School proudly handed over £1502 to the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation after organising a competitive charity row from Newcastle Quayside to South Shields back in June.

Teams from South Tyneside College, Fleetwood Nautical School in Blackpool and the North of England P&I Club took to the River Tyne and raced to win the 150th Year Marine School Challenge Cup.

The row had been organised as part of the College's 150th Anniversary celebrations.

Captain John Perry, Lecturer at South Tyneside College was a key member of the organising team, said: "We are delighted to have raised so much money for such a fantastic charity. We initially set ourselves a target of £1000 which we have exceeded thanks to the kindness and generosity of everybody.

"It was a great day and I know everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We are already making plans for the race again next year."

Pauline Buglass, Head of Fund-raising for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, says: "This is the second year South Tyneside College has supported the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and we're very grateful to the staff and students who have gone to such great efforts for us.

"I'm sure Sir Bobby would have wanted to know all the details from their row down the Tyne. He was always interested in the physical challenges fund-raisers set themselves!

"Including last year, the College has raised over £4,000 for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation which is a magnificent achievement. It's greatly appreciated and the money raised will directly help people in our region who are fighting cancer."



## Students celebrate record A Level results

Hundreds of A Level students celebrated record A Level results in August – the College's highest ever pass rate.

Lindsey Whiterod said: "We are delighted with this year's A Level results. Our students have done extremely well, achieving a 98% pass rate, an increase of 3% on last year's results.

"Our students have achieved 172 coveted high grades (A\*, A and B) and many of our subjects are now showing a 100% pass rate for the last four years.

"It is a great reward for the students who have worked so hard to achieve these results and a reflection of the high standards staff set at the College. Thank you to all tutors who have helped our students achieve their full potential."





### A new look and more investment to follow

**The last year has seen the College invest over £4 million in a range of brand new facilities.** These have included; a new main entrance, reception / student services area, refectory, classrooms, workshops and learning areas, which have sparked new life into the College campus. Significant investment has also taken place in the Halls of Residence – Dr Winterbottom Hall.

The investment will continue over the coming months following the recent announcement of the College's success in securing an Enhanced Renewal Grant (Phase 2) from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA).

The grant, totalling £1 million will contribute to the continued redevelopment of the College, fundamentally remodelling areas of the Westoe campus including a specific Marine School building and individual entrance. A further £2.2 million will be contributed by the College creating a total project value of £3.2 million.

John Watson said: "This is great news for the College and a great start to 2012 when success and achievement is high on everyone's list. The College has proven again it is a very strong competitor on the national and international scene with our second successful capital bid."

Lindsey Whiterod said: "We are all thrilled by the news; it is not only great for the College going forward but also for the organisations we work with. This capital investment means that we can continue to redevelop the College and greatly enhance the student experience."



Louis Waugh, Students' Union President, said: "The new modern environment makes the College feel like an exciting place to learn and the refurbished 1861 Club where the Students' Union hold meetings and events is now a great place to socialise."



Katherine Shutt, Students' Union Vice President, said: "Walking through the new modern open plan reception sets the scene for the way the College has been refurbished into a bright, airy building with vibrant colours and stylish furniture. It's brilliant and can only get better now that even more new facilities are planned."









## Students honoured at awards ceremony

**Students were honoured for their commitment and hard work at a prestigious awards ceremony.**

Forty students received 'Student of the Year' or 'Endeavour' awards for their efforts during their College career, watched by over one hundred family and friends, College staff and Governors.

Presenting the awards were Chair of the College Governors, John Watson and Leader of South Tyneside Council, Councillor Iain Malcolm who also gave a congratulatory address.

One Student of the Year award winner was Nikita Turnbull, 16, from South Shields, who last year studied Beauty Therapy as part of the College's 14-16 provision link with Harton Technology College, said: "I was thrilled to receive a Student of the Year award, I still can't quite believe it.

"It was a fantastic evening and I really enjoyed being involved in the ceremony, my parents are so proud. I can't thank my lecturers enough for all of their help and support.

"I'm now studying Beauty Therapy full-time at South Tyneside College and absolutely loving it. It's a great place to study, especially with the brand new hairdressing and beauty therapy facilities."

Lindsey Whiterod said: "We are absolutely delighted to be honouring the achievements and celebrating the success of these students.

"Taking part in this kind of event is a favourite part of my job and I'm pleased so many students from across the College have received recognition for their hard work and effort over the last year."

John Watson said: "The evening celebrated the outstanding work and achievements of our students over the last year.

"I am delighted to see so many parents, partners, family and friends, who all play a major role in student success. Without the support and encouragement of those around us, success is much more difficult to achieve."





Inspiring the  
professionals  
of tomorrow



**South Tyneside College**  
Dedicated to your success



**University of  
Sunderland**



**University of  
HUDDERSFIELD**  
Inspiring tomorrow's professionals



## News in brief...

Hospitality and Catering students wowed the judges at the annual **NECTA (North East Culinary Trade Awards)** held at Newcastle Civic Centre, after being placed in every category entered. The competition was extra special for Level 3 Professional Cookery student Amanda Robertson, who won the coveted **EAT! North East Future Chef 2011 Award**.



The College announced a joint venture initiative with **Shah Marine and the Business Institute** in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The partnership will help strengthen the College's reputation as a world class provider of marine education and provide additional opportunities for Bangladeshi students.

Marine College student, Ashutosh Kumar Bisen, received an award from **The Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA)** gaining the highest pass mark in the UK for the Chief Engineer Naval Architecture examination.



Business student Callum Loftus was awarded the prestigious **Robert Ford Memorial Prize** for his accomplishments achieved whilst studying the National Certificate in Business. The award was presented by Geoff Ford MBE of Ford Aerospace Ltd.

The College held its annual **Higher Education Graduation Ceremony**, celebrating the success and achievements of all Higher Education students.



Hospitality and catering students got ready for their biggest challenge to date as they prepared meals for 180 people at South Tyneside Business Forum's **South Tyneside on a Plate II dinner**.



Marine Engineering Cadet, Nick Rudd won an award for his innovative safety idea at the **Chamber of Shipping's 17th Annual British Shipping Safety Awareness Award ceremony**. Nick received a joint runner up award from Rear Admiral Sir Jeremy de Halpert, Deputy Master of Trinity House who sponsored the event.



Teams competing in the **2011/12 Volvo Ocean Race** returned yet again to the **Marine Safety Training Centre (MSTC)** for offshore safety training as they prepared for the tough professional yacht race. The elite yachtsmen will sail for nine months taking them on a journey of over 39,000 nautical miles through the world's most treacherous seas and chose the College once more for the excellent facilities and realistic training environment.



The College welcomed the first contingent of **Royal Australian Navy personnel**, who travelled across the globe to receive **Marine High Voltage** training.



As part of Fresher Week events students took part in a charity walk which ended at Ocean Beach Pleasure Park where they enjoyed all the fun of the fair. The students raised £960 and donated it to **St Clare's Hospice and the RNLI**.



Former College A Level and Music Vocal Grade 8 (at distinction) student **Jade Thirlwall** is announced the winner of **X Factor 2011** along with her group Little Mix, securing a multi-million pound recording contract.



Six **Business Career Academy** students kick started their careers as they took their first steps onto the career ladder by undertaking 6 week summer internships at leading employers.

## Training for the alternative energy sector

Alternative energy is forecast to become the biggest growth area in domestic energy the UK has ever experienced. To help meet the training demands this industry has created we've developed a series of training courses in partnership with organisations in the industry to equip the workforce with the skills and knowledge required to work safely both onshore and offshore.

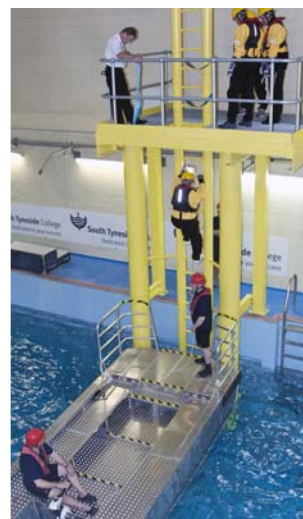
These courses utilise our extensive and unique facilities in offshore safety training and include Europe's first offshore platform transfer simulator to recreate realistic working conditions.

A team of engineers from Dale Power Solutions have already completed an intensive four day marine safety training programme, to enable them to work safely when working on offshore wind sites.

Trainees undertook two days of working at height and rescue training on Narec's twenty-seven metre high training tower in Blyth and spent a further two days at our Marine Safety Training Centre.

Graham Johnson, Head of School – Marine Safety Training Centre said: "The partnership with Narec is a perfect fit; between us we are able to offer a complete solution to meet the turbine safety training requirements of the offshore wind industry."

Kevin Thompson, Service Operations Manager at Dale Power Solutions, said: "The training facilities and bespoke training package available as a result of the partnership between Narec and South Tyneside College has enabled us to provide the quality training we need to equip our engineers for working safely in the offshore renewables environment."





## Making a difference

**We take our social responsibilities very seriously and see this as an essential part of our business. As a medium sized mixed economy College and an employer, we have a major role to play in the social and economic welfare of the borough of South Tyneside and the wider region, our international community and an ethical responsibility to our planet by taking a positive action.**

We are wholly committed to working positively to expand, develop and evaluate our sustainability programme which is developed by our cross college sustainability task group.

### Environment

- We are members of the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges
- We have signed the Further Education Sustainable Development Declaration Energy
- We continuously try to improve the efficiency of our buildings – currently they are rated in band B/C which is excellent for the existing building stock we currently have

### Travel

- We are developing a travel plan – the aim of which is to reduce the reliance on cars and switch to more sustainable methods of transport
  - a free shuttle bus operates between various locations across South Tyneside
  - we keenly support the government's Cycle to Work scheme

### Waste

- We are developing a Waste Management Strategy, adopting the concept of the Waste Hierarchy
- We have invested in time limited showers and percussion taps to reduce water wastage across our Halls of Residence. Longer term we plan to look into the feasibility of rain harvesting

### Health & Wellbeing

**We seek to continuously improve all aspects of the working environment, including:**

- Use of Occupational Health Services
- Health and lifestyle programme (for staff and students)
- Chilled drinking water across the sites
- Regular visits and advice to students from the District Nurse

- Provision of facility for Primary Healthcare Trust to interface with our learners
- Revised menus with our new 'EAT' refectory to encompass healthier options

### Equality & Diversity

We actively celebrate cultural diversity. To support this we are in partnership with the charitable organisation Compact for Racial Equality in South Tyneside (CREST) who are now located on the Westoe Campus. A Multi-faith chaplaincy is available on site to provide for the spiritual wellbeing of our staff, learners and the community. The College also provides the borough with the facility for the celebration of Diwali. To celebrate the cultural diversity of the borough and the student population we hold an annual Equality and Diversity day.

### Communities

We are proud of our fundraising achievements. Each year we nominate a charity to support. In the past we have given funds to Cancer Connections and the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation. There is also an annual charity walk that takes place during induction week. In addition to this, many of our staff and students raise funds for charities close to their own hearts - over the past year we've had comic relief, children in need, breast cancer to name but a few.

Members of the local community are actively encouraged to participate in some of the benefits the we can provide. For example we have a Lifestyle Centre which provides fitness facilities to the community. The Bistro 150 restaurant also provides high quality food and our Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy facilities are open to the wider community.

We also support the local community in many other ways. For example, we host annual RNLI charity sales and our car parks are utilised for the Great North Run.

“We are wholly committed to working positively to expand, develop and evaluate our sustainability programme...”

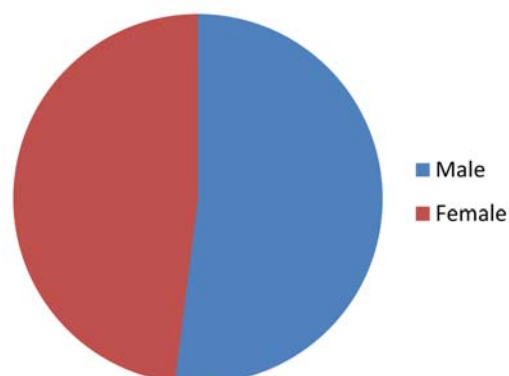
### Key facts and figures

Our high standards and quality are founded on the expertise and talents of our staff and the many achievements of our learners.

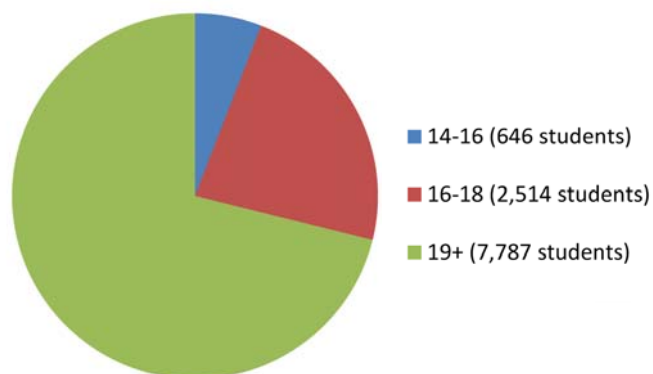
**Overall Retention**  
**Overall Success**

**90%**  
**80%**

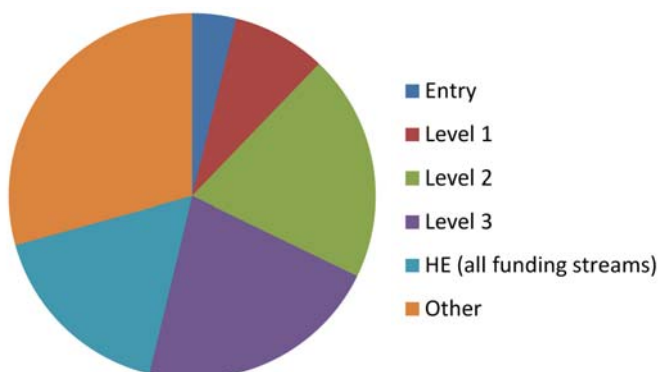
Total students by gender



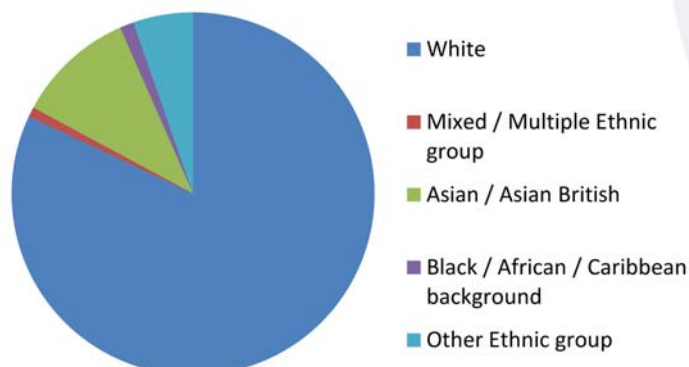
Total students by age



Total students by level



Total students by ethnicity



### A significant local employer

Our contribution to the local economy is not just in the training and education we provide to our students. The College is one of the largest employers in South Tyneside, in 2010/11\* we employed 484 staff, 70% of whom live within the borough of South Tyneside.

\*as of 31st July 2011

## Governing body



Stewart Boak



Jane Branley



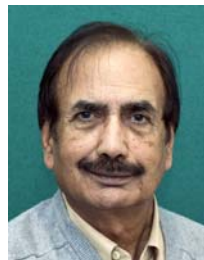
David Byrne



Mike De Vies  
Staff Governor



Gill Hayton



Dr Bashir Malik



Isobel Riley



Katherine Shutt  
Student Governor



Christine Smith



Ray Staward



John Watson  
Chair of Governors



Les Watson  
Vice Chair  
of Governors



Andrew Watts



Louis Waugh  
Student Governor



Robert Whitelaw



Lindsey Whiterod  
Principal and  
Chief Executive





**South Tyneside College**

Dedicated to your success

**Westoe Campus**

St. George's Avenue, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE34 6ET

**Marine Safety Training Centre (MSTC)**

Wapping Street, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE33 1LQ

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