



## Media release

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### **Rushcliffe students discover the world of apprenticeships – thanks to Uniper**

Students from Rushcliffe School in Nottingham have been discovering the benefits of apprenticeships thanks to a series of presentations from Uniper.

“The founder of Kwik-Fit, fashion designer Stella McCartney and TV chef Jamie Oliver all started their careers as apprentices – and even Sir Alex Ferguson began his working life as an apprentice in the shipyards,” said Andrew Hawksworth, Development Programme Co-ordinator at Uniper’s Engineering Academy.

“We wanted to give local students a glimpse of what the apprenticeship career route could offer them and show them the range of options available. It was also a great opportunity to give them some examples of what we offer at our Academy at Ratcliffe.

So far, around 500 students have attended the special assemblies, which have been arranged as part of National Apprenticeship Week 2017.

Students say they found the presentation very informative, with many saying they hadn’t realised there were different levels of apprenticeships and that the information had ‘opened up their options.

Said Caroline Tomlinson, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages and Head of Careers at Rushcliffe School: “The growth in apprenticeship places is something that schools and students cannot afford to overlook and the potential for quality training rather than following a traditional college or ‘A’ level route is something that all students should at least consider.

“It is a huge benefit to schools to have assemblies from outside providers that outline the options that are available to students. Andy Hawksworth’s presentation was informative and engaging; the students gained both knowledge and inspiration. Thank you!”

Added Andy: “It was fantastic to have the opportunity to speak to so many young people about apprenticeships. Hopefully they have gone away with a better understanding of what an apprenticeship is and more will consider it as a future pathway.

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Notes to Editors:

[www.uniper.energy](http://www.uniper.energy)

### **About Uniper**

An international energy company and leading European energy producer with a global commodities trading business, Uniper operates in more than 40 countries. It combines a balanced portfolio of technologically-advanced large-scale assets with outstanding technical and commercial expertise, and a firm commitment to developing energy technologies for the future.

Uniper owns and operates a diverse portfolio of power generation and gas assets with a capacity of over 6,000 MW, and gas storage in excess of 160 mcm, making it the fifth largest generator in the UK. Its combined activities in the UK provide employment for around 1,000 people.

### **About Uniper Academy**

Located at Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Nottingham, the Academy offers purpose built facilities, delivering bespoke training programmes for both inter staff and other organisations. 600 courses were delivered in 2016 to 4,000 students.

The Academy achieved an Ofsted rating of level 2 in 2016 and earlier this year, received the EEIAS Platinum Award (Energy Efficiency Industrial Partnership; part of National Skills Academy for Power). Ten courses are accredited by City & Guilds and all its apprenticeship programmes are City & Guilds accredited. Currently 65 apprentices are undergoing training.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/national-apprenticeship-week-2017>

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