

PRESS RELEASE - 21/01/09

LAB OF THE FUTURE COMES TO PRIESTLEY



A state of the art Science facility at Priestley College has officially opened its doors to students on the back of a significant £70,000 investment.

The new teaching space has been created to further support the ever expanding Science curriculum base at the College where qualifications are offered in subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Electronics, Physics, Applied Science and Science in Society.

Nationally the subject of Science has seen a 7% decrease in A-Level entries over the last 5 years but Priestley have bucked that trend for this most traditional core subject with a 16% increase in student enrolments over the same period.

Roger Hoyle, the North West Chair of the Learning and Skills Council was the guest of honour at the opening alongside Ian Ireland, a former Head of Science at Priestley who retired this summer after 25 years of service to the College.

The laboratory itself boasts a range of high-tech equipment and facilities including three fume cupboards and University standard analytical balances.

Speaking with regard to the opening, Curriculum Manager for Science and Maths, Jan Costello, commented, “The opening of our new lab is a landmark achievement for us. As our student population continues to increase in the area of Science, so has the need to expand our facilities.”

Adding, “Our new lab really does give access to high level teaching and learning facilities along with excellent university standard equipment to meet the needs of any Science student, many of whom go on to pursue careers in high level fields such as Medicine and Engineering.”

Photo

Jo Pickering (Priestley Science student), Bill Rutter (Chair of the LSC North West Capital Committee), Ian Ireland (former Head of Science at Priestley), Roger Hoyle (North West Chair of the LSC), Mike Southworth (Priestley Principal) and Katherine McKie (Priestley Science student).

Words & Picture by Nat Ashurst – January 2009