

Freeman College

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Freeman College, a specialist education charity for young people with autistic spectrum conditions, goes from strength to strength. In five years it has created over 200 new jobs and is now based on a number of sites across the city .

The flagship Sterling and Butcher Works site, in the old industrial heart of the city, also



Right to left: The Lord Mayor Cllr Sylvia Dunley watches as Tutor Deborah Smith and students Alex Chester and Steve Watson pour molten pewter into the sand mould

Councillor Sylvia Dunkley followed the tradition of incoming Lord Mayors by visiting Freeman College with her Consort, John Dunkley, to have their hands cast in pewter.

Freeman College is College spokesman, David Heugh, said: "All our new students also cast their hands in pewter to acknowledge a new phase in their life as they commence their three year studies. VIP visitors this year included John Nettles, when he starred in *Hamlet* at The Crucible, and the students are always pleased to help our visitors when they come to cast their hands".

Following tradition, the new Master Cutler and Consort also had their hands cast in pewter on their official visit to Freeman College, on Friday, 18th November last year. (See photographs, to the right and below). For the first time in its 387 year history, the Company of Master Cutlers has a woman at the helm, mechanical engineer, Pam Liversidge.

David Heugh added, "With their strong engineering and crafts background, the Master and Consort were very impressed with the quality of student work on their tour of the pewter workshops. They said that they looked forward to maintaining the strong links between the Cutlers' Company and Freeman College."



Freeman College student James White pours the molten pewter into the hand mould watched by Pewter Tutor, Danny Rowen, and The Master Cutler, Pam Liversidge, and Consort, Doug Liversidge

The students made around 2,000 pewter Christmas tree decorations, and the sale of these through the new Ruskin Arts and Crafts shop boosted College funds.



The Master Cutler and her Consort, with their hands cast in pewter.

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For further information about the Ruskin Mill Educational Trust, and Freeman College, please visit: <http://www.rmet.org.uk/freeman/>

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