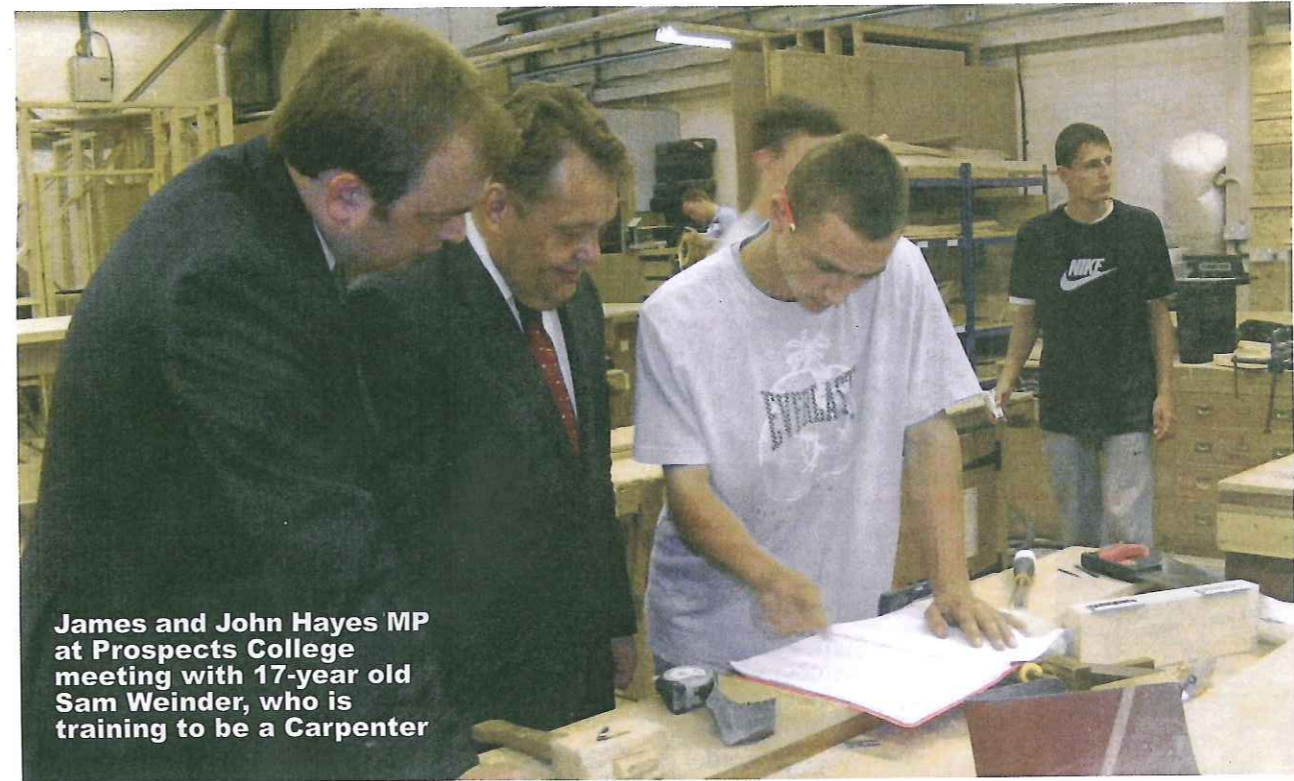


# James Duddridge MP

## IN TOUCH

### Autumn 2009



James and John Hayes MP at Prospects College meeting with 17-year old Sam Weinder, who is training to be a Carpenter

## James tours Further Education Colleges with Shadow Minister

**IN June, James welcomed John Hayes MP, Shadow Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education to Southend where they visited two local further education colleges, Prospects College and South East Essex College.**

While at Prospects College, James and John Hayes met with Neil Bates, Chief Executive of the Prospects Learning Foundation where they toured the college and discussed the vocational training courses available to young people.

At South East Essex College, one of the largest colleges in the East of England, which caters for 14-19 year olds and adult learners, James and John Hayes met with Jan Hodges, Principal and Chief

Executive. They were shown plans for the merger of South Essex College and Thurrock and Basildon College and discussed some of the courses on offer to young people and adult learners in the area.

James said, "I am very grateful to John Hayes for travelling to Southend to visit some of our excellent further educational institutions with me. I know that John was very impressed with the number and variation of courses on

offer in our area. Our further education colleges offer some fantastic opportunities for young people and adult learners to further their education and skills.

"Further education is really important and makes a real difference to young people to help kick-start their career and also gives adults the opportunity to learn new skills or retrain. Giving adults opportunities to retrain is particularly important in the current economic climate where many people are finding themselves out of work. By learning new skills, they have a much better chance of getting back into the workplace and finding a new career."