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CENTENARY REVIEW

Welcome

from John Allen

As the Chair of the Board of Trustees, I am delighted to launch the Centenary Year of EMFEC and congratulate all staff and Board members, past and present, on achieving this remarkable milestone.

EMFEC has, of course, changed over the years. This Centenary Review charts the fascinating and long history of the organisation and explains how we got to the EMFEC that we know today. What has remained constant, however, is the commitment of the organisation to provide support and professional development to the Further Education sector.

As EMFEC enters its 100th year, the changing and difficult economic climate offers many challenges for EMFEC, its members and stakeholders. I am confident that these will be met and that EMFEC will continue to adapt and provide professional services for many more years to come.



Foreword

by Paul Eeles

EMFEC is a membership body, with 100 years of service and experience in the Further Education Sector. We exist to support our members and the wider sector to operate effectively, act collaboratively and achieve excellence in all that they do.

EMFEC provides services which enable the Further Education Sector to be innovative and responsive to the needs of their learners, employers, local communities and stakeholders. Our mission is to support the development and achievement of excellence in the Further Education Sector.

We do this through providing a wide range of high quality services and impartial support to colleges, providers and partners within the sector. Our services include knowledge sharing, networking, professional development, projects, conferences, facilitating collaborative work, procurement and educational support. We work in the East Midlands and at the national level through our awarding body, ABC Awards, and through professional development and project activity.

2012 is a special year for EMFEC, but also one of challenge. As we celebrate our Centenary and reflect on our many achievements and successes, we also look to the future to ensure that the organisation continues to serve our members and provide them with the support they need.

2012 is a special year for another reason. At the start of 2012 we entered our 21st year of partnership with the Académie de Strasbourg and signed a new five-year partnership agreement to provide new



opportunities for professional development for both the Académie and our members. This international work continues a tradition of European-wide activity to share best practice in vocational education.

EMFEC's success is due to the hard work and commitment of past and present staff and Board members. Past members have given the organisation a solid foundation and present members are working hard to build on this success to take EMFEC forward.

We look forward to continuing our work with members and stakeholders in 2012 and beyond.

I look forward to welcoming you to Robins Wood House or, indeed, to visiting you.

EMFEC Timeline

1911

Exploratory meetings to set up a regional examination board, primarily to offer Science examinations

1912

East Midland Educational Union established at University College Nottingham, now University of Nottingham

1913

First set of accounts published, income of £270 3s 2d declared

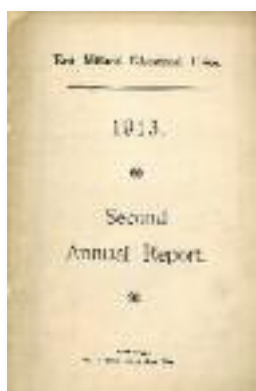
EMFEC past and present



Robins Wood House 1966



Training Room at Robins Wood House



1912 - The East Midland Educational Union (EMEU) was formed as a direct response to the then National Board of Education's withdrawal of Science examinations in 1899. These had run successfully in schools, evening institutes and technical colleges, as a means of promoting the science subjects in the days before a national curriculum.

Eleven local authorities within the East Midlands were represented at the inaugural meeting, held at what is now the University of Nottingham. Despite hostility from the Board of Education, Stage 1 (Elementary) examinations were established, with 852 entries recorded in 1912.

EMFEC Timeline

1915

First premises in Shakespeare Street, Nottingham

1933

First Concordat signed between regional examining bodies and City & Guilds

1947

Regional Advisory Council for the Organisation of Further Education in the East Midlands (RACOFEEM) established



Robins Wood House today



Training facilities at Robins Wood House

1946 - In a landmark document innocuously entitled 'Circular 87', the then Ministry of Education proposed that further education be organised on a regional basis, and that Regional Advisory Councils be established. The Councils would bring together local education authorities, universities, technical colleges and representatives from industry and commerce.

The East Midlands Council became known as the Regional Advisory Council for the

Organisation of Further Education in the East Midlands (RACOFEEEM). Early priorities included the encouragement of tutors to return to their respective industries for up to six months to gain experience of the latest working practices, and the development of Bachelor of Technology degrees to be awarded by technical colleges.

1966 - This year saw the establishment of Robins Wood House as a base for EMEU, RACOFEEEM, and the East Midlands

1966

Robins Wood House built - EMEU and RACOFEEEM housed under one roof

1967

Presidential medal commissioned to mark the merger

1979

Ferryside agreement signed between regional examining bodies and City & Guilds

Regional Examinations Board. The latter was responsible for CSE exams within the region, and still has a presence in the building as Cambridge Assessment.

By 1970 EMEU was setting nearly 500 written examinations and receiving 67,000 subject entries. It was also working closely with City & Guilds, providing examinations for Part 1 and the first year of Part 2 of the national Craft and Technician courses, the final stage of which was then certificated by City & Guilds. Today, these awards would be recognised as apprenticeships.

1982 - By this time, Local Education Authorities were facing increasingly tightening budgets, and their support for RACOFEEEM was coming under scrutiny. As a response to these circumstances, it was decided to combine the activities of EMEU as an examining body and RACOFEEEM as a planning and organising body for further education colleges to create what we now know as EMFEC.

1992 - On 1 January 1992, EMFEC began trading as a company limited by guarantee, whilst retaining its charitable status. On the national stage, the Incorporation of Colleges had seen the removal of further, tertiary and sixth form colleges from local authority control, thus giving them financial independence. As a member-led organisation, EMFEC was now free to provide its services directly to the newly-independent sector.

1999 - Although EMFEC and comparable organisations in other regions had been offering vocational awards for most of the 20th century, the introduction of the NVQ framework in the late 1980s had sparked a drive for nationally-consistent qualifications. As a response to the move towards a more centralised system, EMFEC joined with CENTRA, SRCET (now AOSEC) and SWAFET (now Learning South West), in the north west, southern and south west regions respectively, to form ABC Awards as a national awarding body. Today, ABC has over 600 Ofqual-regulated qualifications within its portfolio, many of its staff based at Robins Wood House.



EMFEC Timeline

1982

RACOFEEEM merged with EMEU to form EMFEC

1992

EMFEC formed as a limited company on 1 January. Euro Unit established, along with formal links to the Rectorat of Alsace

1999

ABC Awards established



2006 - Following a review of the facilities offered to clients, EMFEC began a major refurbishment programme at Robins Wood House. Alterations were made to the interior layout of the building before the completion of a new extension now known as the Charnwood Room during the following year. Support for this project came from the then regional development agency, emda, in recognition of the contribution the extended facilities would make to skills and knowledge development within the region.

2007 - to present day - EMFEC has continued to respond to member and stakeholder needs and has continually reviewed its portfolio of services. At the heart of this is professional services to support and develop staff in the wider Further Education sector and project and international work particularly through collaboration and partnership arrangement. A review of the organisation in 2011 has resulted in a new strategic plan which is focused on positioning EMFEC to support the development and achievement of excellence in the Further Education sector.

2007

2012

Charnwood extension at Robins Wood House opened

EMFEC celebrates its Centenary year.



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