

# Case Study



## Abingdon & Witney College

Abingdon & Witney College is proud to support this year's campaign. The college has seen a significant increase in occupational ill health cases – musculoskeletal disorders and those associated with DSE. They recognised this trend and agreed they would put a concerted effort into training staff and making a difference to peoples' own health and the college's finances.

### Company Profile

**Organisation:** Abingdon & Witney College  
**Business Function:** Further Education College  
**No. of employees:** 850  
**Service delivered:** Level 3 Manual Handling Trainers  
**Website:** [www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk/](http://www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk/)

Abingdon and Witney College is a medium sized further education college in Oxfordshire. They have 9 sites across the county employing around 850 staff and approximately 15,000 students studying from entry one to degree level. The college has a health and safety department with the Head of Health and Safety leading all aspects from student induction to reporting directly to the board.

John Revis, Head of Health and Safety at the College, aims to use #OSHtober and its resources to aid in training staff and promoting a good understanding of good health and safety practice to the students.



**This year #OSHtober is going 'back' to basics by raising awareness about the devastating effects that poor manual handling still has on workers and businesses around the world.**



accidents don't have to happen



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## Why did you choose RoSPA to complete your Manual Handling Trainers course?

I completed RoSPA's Level 3 Manual Handling Trainers course back in 2012. With RoSPA you know the training will always be of a high standard and the qualifications gained through them are held in high esteem. The training on the course was excellent and many of the areas covered are still used in my delivery to staff and students.

## How are you using your learnings from the course?

Over the last 12 months, 550 members of staff and numerous students have had manual handling training. The training was focused on specific groups e.g. those going out on work experience, and a group who worked in Kenya over the summer.

In July and August of this year a small group of students and two members of staff went out to Nakura in Kenya to help in the construction and maintenance of a school. The group were all studying non - construction programmes such as care and beauty. The visit was fraught with worries as they arrived at the start of a very volatile election!

During the planning stage we identified a number of concerns with regards to health and safety, one of the main concerns being the handling and moving of supplies and equipment. In order to ensure the team got the most out of the visit we organised a series of health and safety training sessions including manual handling – all delivered in both a practical and theoretical way.

## Why is Manual Handling best practice important for Abingdon?

As an organisation we have realised that our management of safety has over the years improved significantly and as we grow the accident number have not grown pro rata. But we have seen a significant increase in occupational ill health cases – musculoskeletal disorders and those associated with DSE on the increase. As we have recognised this trend it was agreed we would put a concerted effort into training staff and making a difference to 1] peoples own health 2] the colleges finances.

The college is identified as a leading exponent in vocational training and we want our students to leave us with the skills to enter the workforce with a rounded education that includes an understanding of good health and safety practice.

## Why did you enter the RoSPA Awards?

The college recognise that having a reputation for a safe place to study is important – how better than to be acclaimed by the leading health and safety charity in the world!

For more information on RoSPA's Manual Handling courses please visit: [www.rospa.com/safety-training/work/manual-handling/](http://www.rospa.com/safety-training/work/manual-handling/)

