



20 December 2007

COLLEGE NOTICE

OPENING OF THE WHITELEY SUITE

With effect from 2 January 2008, the Whiteley Suite on Level 1 of the RCS1 building of the South Kensington Campus will be available for booking.

The Suite consists of five new rooms designed to be used for teaching and learning, meetings and small conferences.

The Suite is named after Martha Annie Whiteley (1866-1956) who was the first woman to hold a position on the teaching staff at the Royal College of Science. She joined the RCS as a teaching scholar in the Chemistry Department in 1904, was an Assistant in 1905, a Demonstrator in 1908; a Lecturer in 1914 and Assistant Professor (equivalent to a Reader) in 1920.

She fought for the admittance of women to the Fellowship of the Chemical Society between 1904 and 1920 and won. She was made a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1918. She was awarded the OBE in 1920 for her chemical work in the 1st World War.

At the request of the then Rector, Sir Alfred Keogh, she founded Imperial College Women's Association in 1912. Keogh said of her: "here you have no ordinary woman. I know of no one more likely to inspire women students to great things in science than Miss Whiteley".

Rodney Eastwood
College Secretary