



Orchard Hill
College



**Family
Matters**
December 2017

Welcome

It's been another busy term at Orchard Hill College. Well done to all our students for making progress and for making the College such a vibrant place, we all very much enjoy working with you and seeing you achieve. This term has been full of great highlights: we had the official launch of our student led radio station 'Pod Radio' and students have enjoyed interviewing famous bloggers; we've also been getting ready to officially launch our first Community Digital Hub in the new year and students have been busy with their enterprise initiatives, from creating a range of festive chutneys to poppy making in support of the British Legion.

I thank you all for your support and feedback and send you my best wishes for a happy Christmas.

Dr Caroline Allen OBE

Principal & Chief Executive Officer, Orchard Hill College & Academy Trust



Christmas Celebrations

Students and staff have been getting into the festive spirit, singing merry songs and sharing the joy of Christmas in our local communities. We spread our Christmas cheer in the Kingston Christmas Market, Saipem House and Lomond House retirement home.



Enterprising BedZed

Ash class at BedZed have been busy making a selection of Christmas chutneys to sell in the run up to the festive season as part of their enterprise project.

Using freshly grown produce harvested from their allotment, students used their skills to prepare and cook the ingredients, including winter warming chillies, ginger and cinnamon to create amazing tasting chutneys.

The project allowed students to practice and develop their work-based skills within a real-life business enterprise. From planting and harvesting the produce to chopping and prepping the ingredients and finally filling and labelling the jars, students gained valuable experience in different stages of the business scheme.

With their jars of chutney ready, students visited OHC&AT headquarters at Quadrant House in Sutton to sell their products. They received a warm welcome from staff who were keen to buy and ask questions about how they were made and which ingredients they used.

When asked what their favourite part of the whole process was, a student excitedly said: "Tasting them!"

It was a great experience for all involved, staff were delighted to have the chance to buy some homemade chutney and students got to show off their talents, and raise money too.



The Digital School

The Digital School is a student driven entity that develops innovative and engaging digital resources for students, staff and the community.

This term saw the official launch of Pod Radio, a new digital radio station that broadcasts live from Quadrant House, Sutton, and is run by our students. The station covers a variety of topics from movies and video games to news and current affairs.



Over the last few weeks the students have done a great job and have already caught the eye of some celebrity podcasters including European football journalist, broadcaster and best-selling author Graham Hunter, and producer and broadcaster Ben Green, co-creator of "The Totally Football Show" and head of content at Muddy Knees Media.

You can listen to our latest Podcasts via our Spreaker channel at:
www.spreaker.com/user/sharespace

Community Digital Hub – Coming soon!

The Digital School is getting ready to officially launch their first Digital Community Hub at the Riverside Centre in Hackbridge. In preparation, students and staff have been sharing and developing their digital skills ready for the New Year when they will open their weekly session to the members of the local community.

A full schedule of sessions and events will be available via the Digital School.



Settling in to their new facilities

Orchard Hill College students' enjoyed their first term at our Nightingale Vocational Centre and they couldn't be happier. They have access to some amazing facilities, such as a hair dressing salon and a garage to learn mechanics.

Students were able to use both facilities to see which suited them best, and have been enjoying the sessions all term.

Those who chose to study in the garage have spent their time learning how to change wiper blades and headlights, and where the oil and water goes in a car. Students who chose the salon have been washing, drying and perming hair!

In each session the students have been increasing their peer interaction, including taking turns. They have also been developing work-related skills for possible work placements in the future. Student Louis said: "I changed a wiper blade today. I really liked it."



First Student Council Meeting of the Year!

Students at Nightingale Vocational Centre took part in their first student council meeting of the year and for the centre. Students from both classes met to discuss what kind of things can be spoken about in student council meetings, and what they would like to talk about and get from their future meetings. The main topic for this meeting was what theme they would like for their classrooms.

Michael, Karim and Louis had the chance to vote on what time of the day they would like to meet. Learning Support Assistant, Katie said “This kind of group activity allows students to increase their personal, social and emotional development through engaging with other peers. I was really impressed with how engaged all the students were and with their responses to some of the Council questions.”



Dancing on Ice

Lomond House students chose fun sessions to celebrate the end of term. Some chose a Yoga class: an activity held weekly in the centre which included playing the “mirror game”, which really engages students by focusing on concentrated interaction allowing students to work in pairs and mirror each other’s actions.

Other students went on an exciting trip to the Ice Rink at Streatham Leisure Centre. This was a new venture and was extra special for one student in particular, April, who is a wheelchair user and has never been ice skating before.

Senior Teaching Assistant, Mohammed said: “The ice skating was a lot of fun, it was great to see the students helping each other to learn a new skill that they’ve never tried before!”

Students and staff really enjoyed the ice skating and it is definitely something the class will be doing again. A big thank you to Streatham Leisure Centre for making the trip accessible for all of our students!



Trip to the Fire Station

Just before October half term, as part of their 'Keeping safe in the community' session, students from Beaconsfield visited Kingston Fire Station. They had the chance to explore the different equipment, use the hose, sit in the fire truck and also try on the uniform!

The Firemen taught the students what they would do in an emergency, how the fire service would help them and what to expect when they were dealing with a fire.

Students prepared questions for the Firemen, such as: 'How would I contact you in an emergency?'

Students can now recognise a Fireman, contact emergency services to ask for help and have knowledge on how to keep calm in an emergency.

A very beneficial, and also exciting trip, for the Farah classroom students!

Student Ben said: "I really liked being Fireman Ben today!"



Fun on the Farm

Students from VPC and BedZED College Centres got stuck in and were "knee deep" in their work placements at Sutton Community Farm. The community-owned farm's goals are to: increase access to fresh, healthy, sustainable food and provide a shared space for people to cultivate skills, get exercise and make new friends.

Students Samuel and George are particularly enjoying their work placement and have found they can really get involved in tasks around the farm. Tyler, another student, said: "I really like being a part of this and understanding how to grow fruit and vegetables!" Head of Centre, Indy Sunner, said: 'It is really important for students to learn how to be a part of the community and make a contribution. Thank you to Sutton Community Farm!'



Poppy Making for Remembrance Sunday

In November, students from the Beaconsfield Centre, New Malden, visited the Poppy factory in Richmond as they wanted to get involved and help make the poppies for Remembrance Sunday.

Students were set up with a wooden block to assemble the poppies, this helped them make sure the component parts were in the correct place as they followed a step-by-step guide. The students had it worked out in no time and ended up with their very own fun production line.

The three classrooms collectively worked together to complete over 3000 poppies!

Laura, Senior Teaching Aide, said: "This has been such a lovely project, it has really bought the class together, and made us all feel like we have contributed to something really important."



Welcoming Lord-Lieutenant Kenneth Olisa

Orchard Hill College received a special visitor in October: Lomond House were delighted to welcome Kenneth Olisa OBE, FRSA, FBCS, a British businessman and the first black Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London. He was greeted by students and shown around by Head of College, Ashley Jordan Diaper and Steve Howlett, friend of Orchard Hill College.

Students were keen to meet Kenneth and show off their work; he was particularly impressed by students in the 02 classroom who talked to him about their plans and ambitions for the future.

Dr Caroline Allen said "We are very grateful to Kenneth for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit our College Centre and see our students in action, they were delighted to meet him and excited to share their work."



Fundraising for Macmillan's Coffee Morning

Students at Wyvern House decided they wanted to get involved in the 'World's biggest coffee morning', a campaign run by Macmillan to raise awareness and funds for the charity.

Orchard Hill College share Wyvern House with other companies, and the students thought that a coffee morning would be a perfect opportunity for them all to meet and get to know each other.

The whole process was student led, from ordering the coffee morning kit to making the cakes and decorating the room. Students also prepared the indoor sporting events, created playlists and sold the cakes themselves.

Becky, Head of Centre, said "It was great to see so many parents attending our first official event and so lovely for the staff from other organisations to come down and meet the students. We managed to raise an amazing £300 for the great cause – well done everyone!"



Dates for the diary

Christmas Holidays

Last day of term:	Wednesday 13 December 2017
INSET day:	Monday 8 January 2018
INSET day:	Tuesday 9th January 2018
First day back for students:	Wednesday 10th January 2018

Half term

Last day of half term for students:	Friday 9th February 2018
INSET day:	Monday 19th February 2018
First day back for students:	Tuesday 20th February 2018
Last day of term for students:	Friday 23rd March 2018

Keep in touch

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We value your feedback so if you have any suggestions or comments please call **0345 402 0453** or email enquiries@orchardhill.ac.uk