



Family Matters

Autumn 2018

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Welcome

We have had a busy and exciting term at the college. It has been wonderful to visit the centres and see all the students' brilliant achievements. There have been many highlights this term from students securing work placements to learning coding with Lego Education to the launch of our DigiCafé in Carshalton.

It was wonderful so many of you were able to join us for the Coffee Mornings and Transition Events this term, I hope you found them useful.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and feedback.

Best wishes for a happy Christmas.



Dr Caroline Allen
CEO and Principal

Enrichment programme

The Enrichment programme is a great opportunity for students to spend time doing what they love such as arts and crafts, sports, visiting museums... it's **tailored** to **their** interests and hobbies.

Places are still available to start in January 2019.

Courses will run on Fridays from 9am to 3pm from 4th January to 12th July excluding the 26th April and all College holidays.

The programme is self-funded and costs are as follows:

- For students who require 1 to 1 support the cost will be £20 per hour

- For students who do not require 1 to 1 support the cost will be £45 per day

If you are interested in booking a place on the Enrichment programme please contact Jason by phone on 0345 402 0453 or email jdecube@orchardhill.ac.uk to request an application form.

Places
still
available!

Call Jason
on 0345 402 0453
to book

New Head of College

We are delighted to have welcomed Kelly Phillips as our new Head of College. You may already recognise Kelly as she joined Orchard Hill College as a Lecturer in 2007 and progressed to Head of Centre at VPC and Old Town Hall, then Assistant Principal and Regional Lead.

Kelly is excited to work with staff, students and parents/carers to continue to build life-changing opportunities for our students.



Kelly, far right, at the Outstanding Achievement Awards 2018

The Big Build

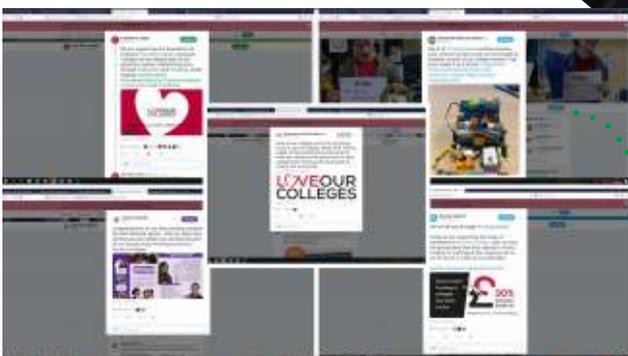
In October we had an action packed few days in celebration of the Association of College's (AoC's) "Colleges Week", and we made such an impact we were even featured in their event round-up! All of the college centres got involved with our very own "Big Build". The challenge, led by the Digital School, saw students collectively putting their coding and building skills into practice to create a super vehicle out of Lego that could be activated to travel and perform tricks via an iPad.

The build kicked off in Camberwell at Lomond House, where students were joined by the Mayor of Southwark, Catherine Rose. Students excitedly built the foundations and added wheels to the vehicle ready for their peers at Beaconsfield in Kingston to take over. Students in Kingston were joined by College Governor, Michelle Humphreys and they made fantastic progress with the build.

On Wednesday, it was the turn of students from VPC. They carried out their mega build at the DigiCafe at The Riverside Centre, Carshalton, where students also run a community café every Wednesday. Students were this time joined by three Councillors from Sutton, who were keen to get involved in the build and coding of the ever growing vehicle, whilst sampling sweet treats students had made for them to enjoy.

The vehicle had doubled in size by the time it was delivered to its last pit-stop at Wyvern House in Hillingdon. It was down to Councillor John Morgan, Mayor of Hillingdon and students to make sure the now mega vehicle could travel controlled by an iPad (and no helping hands). After a countdown, everyone held their breath as the amazing vehicle made its way along the course, they let out a big cheer as it triumphantly crossed the finishing line!!!

Thank you to all of our supporters for making time to watch the action unfold and our friends at Lego Education for providing us with the kit we needed to pull off our very own "Big Build".



...we were featured in the AoC's round-up!

Dates for the diary

Spring Term 2019

- Monday 7th January – first day back
- Friday 15th February – last day of half term
- Monday 25th February – INSET day
- Tuesday 26th February – first day back
- Friday 29th March – last day of term

Coffee Mornings with e-safety workshops All from 10am to 11am

- VPC and BedZED (event at VPC): Monday 4th March
- Beaconsfield: Tuesday 5th March
- Lomond House and Vocational Centre (event at Lomond): Wednesday 6th March
- Wyvern: Thursday 7th March



You can visit our website www.orchardhill.ac.uk for news, events and stories from across college

Vocational Centre is open!

We are thrilled to announce the college has opened the **Vocational Centre** on the grounds of Nightingale Community Academy, part of Orchard Hill College Academy Trust.

Students from across the college who are enrolled on the Skills for Work & Living Programme are accessing a range of courses including Animal Care, Building Maintenance, Catering & Hospitality, Farming, Health and Beauty and Motor Vehicle Maintenance.



The Vocational Centre houses fantastic on-site facilities to enable students to learn the practical skills that their courses cover. The centre has a working farm, (with sheep, goats, emus, snakes, exotic birds and more animals!), a complete garage for learning vehicle maintenance, facilities for learning building skills such as painting and decorating, a full hairdressing salon, and catering facilities to develop their cooking and catering skills.

Delivering the Skills for Work & Living Programme in such a fantastic setting will prepare students for the next steps in their lives and to achieve their ambitions.

Information, Advice and Guidance events

Thank you to everyone who came to our Coffee Mornings and Transition Events this term.

We aim to give as much advice, information and guidance as possible during students' time with us and to prepare them for their next steps after college, so we hope these events are of value to you.

Keep an eye on our website www.orchardhill.ac.uk and future issues of Family Matters for dates of other events.

Students get creative!

Doug Shaw, an artist based in Carshalton, delivered an enrichment session for students at the Vocational Progression Centre (VPC). During the session, students got to see some of his original artwork, which included traditional canvases and some more unusual pieces such as upcycled vinyl prints. It was the vinyl that grabbed the attention of the students and soon they each had a record to decorate. Doug explained that this was a great way of upcycling old unwanted records, by turning them into expressive pieces of art.

Students used an array of different coloured paints and varied tools including sponges, brushes and rollers to create some very dynamic and unique effects.



Senior Teaching Aide, Gemma said “it was great to see students expressing themselves through art and really enjoying the freedom of painting.”

Making a goal a reality

When Callum started at Wyvern House, our centre in Uxbridge, he said that when he finishes his course he would like to work in a pub. Staff have been working with him to gain the skills and give him the confidence to go out and get the placement that he has wanted for so long.



By using social stories and practising these skills in the classroom, Callum was able to get a placement at a lovely family-friendly gastro-pub in Uxbridge. His confidence whilst working in the pub has been amazing!

He now completes tasks independently and is really enjoying his new work placement.

Callum is currently working one day a week and has clearly made a good impression as he has been asked to take on more shifts after Christmas. Well done, Callum!

Congrats, Kaya!

As you may have read previously, students across Orchard Hill College worked with the Digital School to create a product called **Contour**, a **digital portfolio** to track their learning journeys.

Students have continued to use this valuable tool throughout their programmes, and one student from Lomond House, Kaya, was presented with an award from Principal and CEO Dr Caroline Allen.

The award acknowledges that out of all the students in the college, she has made the most entries on Contour this term. She was also given an iTunes voucher as a reward for all her hard work and progress.



“Kaya has done some really fantastic work this term and Contour is a great way to showcase this and all the progress that she has made towards her targets.”

- Dr Caroline Allen

Anti-Bullying Week

In November students from our Vocational Centre in Wandsworth participated in a range of activities for Anti-Bullying Week, a national campaign to promote respect and end bullying.

Students took part in different activities to wholly engage in the theme including role plays where they acted out different scenarios which may be perceived as bullying, they watched an interactive presentation to give them greater understanding of bullying, and they each chose a friend to talk about positively to promote positive interaction. The group also designed their own superhero masks and their own anti bullying canvas during an art session, which will be displayed in the classroom to continue to promote this important theme.



“This was a really positive week and I feel students took a lot from the different activities”

-Darryl, Lecturer

Pedal power!

In the summer a group of cyclists, ‘Team OHC’, took to the saddle to fundraise for Orchard Hill College at the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 - a 100 mile cycle through the streets of London and across the Surrey countryside.

As is typical of UK summertime, the weather took a turn for the worse but our riders did brilliantly and powered through the rain and wind.



“To say I’m aching today is an understatement, but what a great ride, I loved it!”

-Lewis, team OHC

Thanks to all the riders’ efforts we were able to raise almost £3,000, an amazing show of charity and support for our students.

Spaces are available on next year’s ride, so if you or somebody you know is a keen

cyclist and would be interested in taking part please email marketing@ohcat.org or call 0345 402 0453.

Keeping fit and having fun!

Students from BedZED have been enjoying visiting the brand new trampoline park in Sutton Sports Village; a great facility that provides students with a full body workout while having a brilliant time.

Students have exclusive access to the trampolines once a week, tying in with their well-being and social skills objectives.

“It’s great to see the students so highly motivated; it is amazing how much their confidence has grown from this.”

- Ian, Lecturer

Join us at the DigiCafé

This term students from the Digital School held an official launch event for **the DigiCafé**. Students looked smart in their branded uniforms and were ready to serve customers with delicious homemade cakes and beverages. The café is a great environment for students to hone their catering, customer service and front of house skills.



The digital team was on hand to help visitors with various queries regarding their iPads and laptops whilst others were keen to try out the latest apps and games.

The DigiCafé is open every Wednesday (during term-time) from 11.30am to 1.30pm at the Riverside Community Centre, 113 Culvers Avenue, Carshalton, SM5 2FJ.

We look forward to seeing you there soon!



The DigiCafé is open to all!

Join us on Wednesdays at the Riverside Centre from 11:30am to 1:30pm

A dream come true!

Joseph, a keen film fan from Beaconsfield has always wanted to work for HMV, and his dream has become a reality!

Joseph has started a work placement for the shop and it goes without saying he's having a fantastic time while gaining valuable skills for his future. Well done, Joseph!



easyfundraising and Amazon Smile

Easyfundraising.org.uk is a great way to raise money for charities just by shopping online. You don't pay anything extra. So far they have raised over £9 million for causes throughout the UK.

We're asking parents, carers, staff, friends, and family who shop online to create an easyfundraising account, which means at **no extra cost to you**, you will generate additional donations to **benefit students** throughout the college.

Follow the simple steps on the website to create your account; it's 100% free, no payment information is needed, and you will be helping to raise money by shopping with your favourite retailers.

Amazon has also launched a charitable scheme: **AmazonSmile**. AmazonSmile is a simple and

automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your selected charity.

To register visit www.smile.amazon.co.uk and type Orchard Hill College in to the search bar, then follow the next step.

Together we can raise more funds to benefit students across Orchard Hill College!

Festive wishes

Students are currently preparing for our annual 'Christmas in the Community' events so we look forward to sharing photos and stories from these fantastic festive celebrations. These will be shared on our website and in the next issue of Family Matters, which will be released at the end of next term.

Wishing you all a wonderful break, and we look forward to welcoming students back in the new year.

