



# Family Matters

Autumn 2019

## In this term's issue...

- Performing at Fairfield Halls
- A Digital School take-over of our centre spread
- Term dates for 2020
- News from across the college
- ...and more

## Welcome

It has been a busy and exciting first term and I have enjoyed visiting all our centres and seeing some brilliant student achievements. In this edition you can read about our first residential trip, learner voice and many Christmas celebrations! We were very lucky to have had help from our students to put this edition together and you can see their hard work on the centre pages.

This term we have been working hard to further develop our curriculum areas to make sure students have the skills to move on from college in the future. We also have launched a Digital Gaming Development course with the Digital School, students are already working hard to develop educational games which they can share with other students across Orchard Hill College and Academy Trust.

Lastly, we had an Ofsted inspection this term and I look forward to sharing the details of this in our next issue, once the report is published.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break.



Kelly Phillips  
Principal

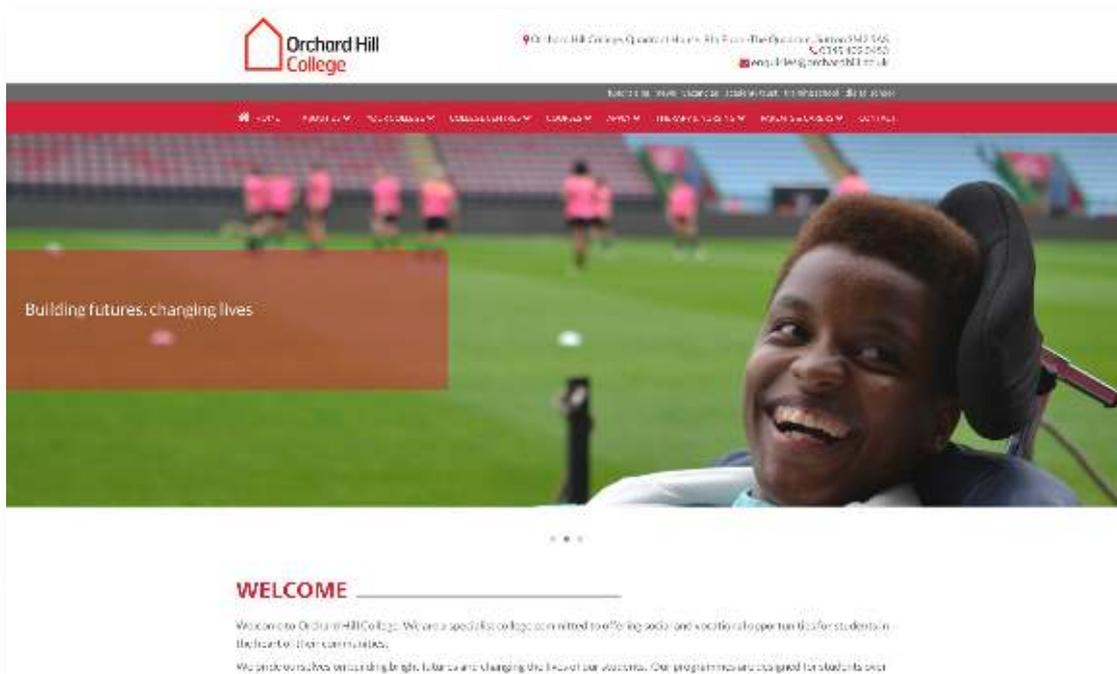
# Term dates

## Spring Term 2020:

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January: INSET day  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020: First day back for students  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February: Half term  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February: INSET day  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March: Last day of term  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March: INSET day

## Summer Term 2020:

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April: First day back for students  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April: INSET day  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May: Bank holiday  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May: Half term  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June: INSET day  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July: Last day of term



You can visit our website [www.orchardhill.ac.uk](http://www.orchardhill.ac.uk) for news, events and stories from across college.  
We're also on Twitter @OHCandAT and Instagram @ohcandat

# Beaconsfield revamp

Since the end of the summer term, Beaconsfield, our centre in New Malden, has undergone a complete renovation. We're happy to say the bulk of the building work is now complete and students are settling in brilliantly to their newly revamped classrooms. The work has transformed the space, giving students dedicated zones for different aspects of the curriculum.

The reception areas of Beaconsfield, Lomond House and VPC have also been renovated, giving students a bright and calm welcome to their day at college.



# Coffee mornings

Thank you to everyone who attended the coffee mornings at each centre.

We hope they were of value to you, it was wonderful to see everyone discussing their experiences and offering support to each other.

If you were unable to attend and would like to discuss anything, or if ever you need to speak to someone at college please call us on 0345 402 0453, or email [enquiries@orchardhill.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@orchardhill.ac.uk). We will be in touch with dates for coffee mornings next term.

## Learner Voice –a trip to Birmingham

Students from across the college centres joined together to go to Natspec's National Student Voice Parliament in Birmingham.

Our students met with peers from colleges across the country, at an event that Natspec describes as an opportunity to discuss 'positive and creative ways of conveying important messages'. The groups made posters about issues that are important to them, and to explain how people with learning difficulties or disabilities may like to be supported.

The event also gave delegates the opportunity to discuss issues that matter to them, how disabilities

are perceived, and what it is like to have an invisible disability. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have taken so much away from the event.

It was also a lovely opportunity to get together with students from other centres, to travel together and enjoy a sociable day out. The day was such a success we're already planning to go back next year!



## Our first residential

It seems like such a long time ago, but during the summer break a number of students were excited to attend the college's first residential trip to Juniper Hall.

It was a great weekend, new friendships were made and skills developed. Students participated in a number of activities including a camp fire, pizza making, team building, sports games, orienteering and a hike through the woods.

The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff and we cannot wait for the next one!



# DIGITAL SCHOOL STUDENT ARTICLES

*Article by Chardonnay from Carew Academy*

Students came in and worked in pairs to do the programming software which is with the Lego/Osmo and Rhys help them understand more about what the program is about. The staff helped them work out and solve the programming with the Lego and the Osmo. Rhys and Karen then checked if the students were okay and make sure they are doing what they are supposed to be doing.

They used the programming to communicate with the staff, it's a software that uses this building blocks and cooperates with the device to make certain models and shapes.

1:12 pm

This afternoon free so explained the topic on anti-bullying to help the students re-On the topic Rhys explained that they are doing a podcast and explaining what a podcast is. Rhys explains what the students are doing this afternoon, the students explain the point of views on what bullying is. Rhys explains what emotional bullying is and this will make the students understand more about the topic.

How is college stopping bullying?

“ Telling the teacher what is wrong”

- Students answer

The teacher asked a question to the student and the student replied with an appropriate response

What do you do to reduce bullying?

Rhys asked the students what would they do if they saw someone getting bullied.

They asked the students what they think and their views on it.

What can help stop bullying? Teachers question

Tell your parents about bullying students response

1:55 pm – St Phillips school

This school came in to join the digital school and the other college to discuss the topic anti-bullying once again. The Saint Phillips school had their views come across and had discussed what they think what bullying is? They explain they have designated staff to go to if they have any problems and any bullying is happening. The Saint Phillips students say they have staff that help them communicate with problems they might have They have the staff that they can talk to and trust.

We also done a lot of creative posters and we also done a lot of activities involved in anti-bullying

Chardonnay (Carew Student)



*Photos from the Digital Hub at Twickenham Stoop*

## *Playmobil The Movie*

Review by Ben Ferguson

I went to see Playmobil the Movie with my grandpa at the Odeon in Kingston in the Summer holidays. I thought that the movie was great! It is kind of like the Lego movies because it uses a set of toys as the characters. My favourite characters were the Knight, the Viking and the robot. In this movie two people turn into Playmobil toys and travel to a world made of Playmobil. They have to try to return to the human world.



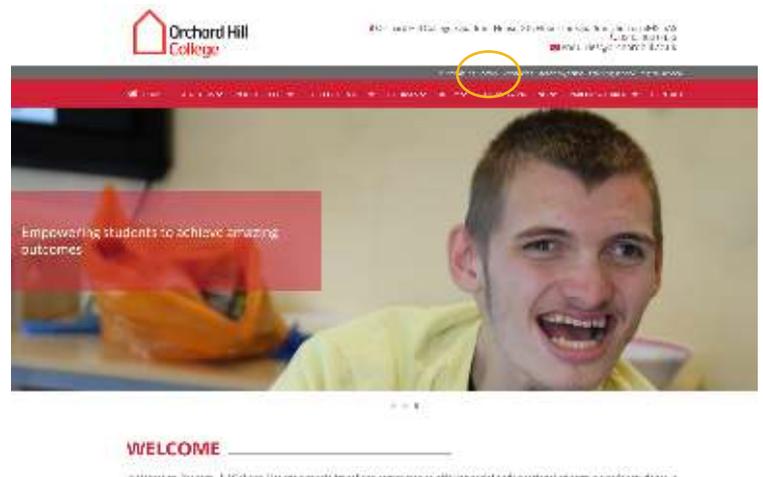
*Excerpt from the college digital magazine*

# A Christmas party to remember!

This year we held our biggest Christmas celebration yet!

Students were dressed to the nines for their festive party at the Searchlight Centre in New Malden. As always with our fantastic students, the dancefloor was full from start to finish and everyone had a brilliant time.

Photos from the event will be on our website [www.orchardhill.ac.uk](http://www.orchardhill.ac.uk) under the 'News' section.



# Oh no he isn't!

Students have been having great fun at an exciting new drama group run by SAVVY Theatre.

Every week this term they have enjoyed going to the newly renovated Fairfield Halls in Croydon to take part in the 3D Drama Group.

The rehearsals all paid off at the end of term production, "A Pirate's Panto". The performance went brilliantly and everyone had a wonderful time; the perfect way to kick off the festive season!

*SAVVY Theatre is an award-winning company, creating ambitious, inclusive productions and theatre experiences that bring different groups of people together.*



# WorkStart

Our WorkStart students have hit the ground running and work placements are underway in a number of areas.

This year we have opened a new base in Sutton specifically for WorkStart students, and launched a separate website just for WorkStart. If you would like to find out more about the package of courses please visit [www.workstart.me.uk](http://www.workstart.me.uk)



# Christmas in the Community

We've had a wonderful time celebrating with students across our centres at this year's Christmas in the Community events.

On Monday 2nd December we kicked off the celebrations at Wyvern House in Uxbridge, where students set up a Christmas craft stall in the town centre selling handmade gifts. On Wednesday we took the festivities to Sutton for a carol concert in the St Nicholas Centre alongside pupils from Carew Academy and the Link Primary School. On Thursday we joined the brilliant Kingston Christmas Market where students performed on the stage, singing a number of festive songs.

On Monday 9th December the week of celebrations rounded off at Camberwell Library where students from Lomond House performed a number of Christmas songs, and of course, non-stop dancing!



## Christmas card competition

The Orchard Hill College & Academy Trust (OHC&AT) annual Christmas card competition is always a wonderful opportunity for pupils and students across the family to share their creative skills.

This year we were delighted to have artist Doug Shaw as our independent judge. Doug is local to VPC, our centre in Carshalton, and he has previously worked with our students, so it was lovely to involve him in this competition.

The standard of work was so high that Doug selected two winners, one from the schools and one from college. The college's winning piece was by Kayleigh from VPC. Doug commended her technique: "I like the way Kayleigh has used such bold colours to represent a traditional Christmas symbol. It's very warm and eye-catching."

Congratulations, Kayleigh, and to everyone who joined in.



# 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](http://smile.amazon.co.uk), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as [amazon.co.uk](http://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](http://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

We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas break, and look forward to welcoming students back in the new year.

