



Orchard Hill
College

Family Matters

Autumn 2020



Welcome

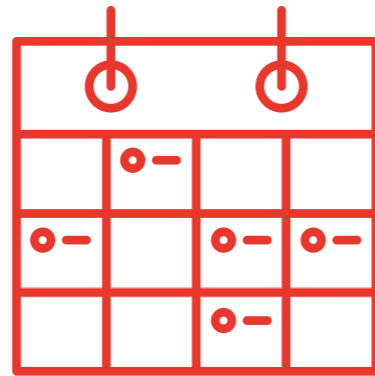
This term I have been so proud of our students to see how they have settled in and adapted to new routines and continued to work hard towards their outcomes. As always it has been a busy term across all the centres and I have been so impressed to see students participating in and raising awareness of several key events including Anti-Bullying Week, World Mental Health Day and Tea and Talk.

I am excited to share the news that this year the college is working towards being a Trauma Informed College. I look forward to updating you with more information on this next term.

I hope you enjoy reading this Autumn edition of Family Matters and hearing about all the achievements that have been happening across college.

As always I would like to thank you all for your on-going support and wish you all a restful break and a Merry Christmas.

Kelly Phillips
Principal



Key dates coming up:

Monday 4 th January	First day back
Friday 8 th January	INSET day
Thursday 11 th February	Last day of half term
Friday 12 th February	INSET day
Monday 22 nd February	INSET day
Tuesday 23 rd February	First day back
Wednesday 31 st March	Last day of term
Thursday 1 st April	INSET day

Highlights from across the centres

Vocational Progression Centre (VPC)

Students from VPC have been volunteering making poppies to be sold in the local area. While doing this they have been learning about Remembrance Day and the significance of the poppies.

Wyvern House

Students at Wyvern House have been keen to support their local community and decided to produce Christmas treat pots for local food banks to help those in need over the holiday period.

Vocational Centre

The students have been working together to drive a community support project. They have collected donations and created parcels for local food banks in Wandsworth.

Lomond House

This term students at Lomond House have been busy learning new skills and have been trialling vocational courses such as horticulture, hair and beauty and caretaking.

Beaconsfield Centre

This term students from Teddington class have worked hard on their enterprise project making sensory Christmas trees to sell. The students have explored their senses through touch and exploration, feeling twigs and pine cones, textured fabrics and a variety of smells. They finished the Christmas trees off with lights and bells and the finished articles looked brilliant. They were then able to put their enterprise skills into place to sell them!

Camberwell Road

Students have settled in well at Camberwell Road and are beginning to explore the local community and have begun building links with employers and other organisations.

Opening of Camberwell Road

We were pleased to open a new centre this term; Camberwell Road in Southwark is split into two areas for students on our Skills for Work and Living programme and our WorkStart programme. There is also a dedicated area for our in-house Digital School where the creation of a digital suite is in progress. This term students have already been accessing Lego Education activities and game development. Next term they hope to begin creating podcasts, magazines, virtual reality and films!



Project SEARCH

Orchard Hill College is pleased to be part of Project SEARCH, a partnership venture which prepares young people for employment. The programme provides onsite internship experiences in real work settings so students can gain the skills to achieve paid employment. The college currently has nine interns at the Civic Centre in Uxbridge; the programme is going well and has continued to safely run work rotations despite restrictions being in place.

Virtual Events

This term has seen the launch of a number of virtual events, including Open Events, Coffee Mornings and Transition Events.

Our Open Events saw an 80% turnout for students, proving it to be an accessible option that was also enjoyable and informative. These events received positive feedback, as this attendee said: "The overview of the college was very insightful and the video tour was very useful. Overall, excellent event considering the circumstances - very smooth".

We also redesigned our Transition Event into an online forum. Welcoming 30 guest speakers, students, parents and carers were able to speak to professionals from supported housing and employment, specialist disability organisations and local community schemes providing opportunities for extending life and learning skills.

Students, parents and carers will be receiving our new transition booklet with contact details of these organisations in January.



Virtual Information, Advice and Guidance Events

At Orchard Hill College we offer information, advice and guidance sessions and coffee mornings as monthly online webinars throughout the year.

These webinars offer opportunities for parents and carers to find out key information and develop links with local groups and support organisations. Ashley Jordan-Diaper, Lead for Post 16 Partnerships, runs these sessions and offers opportunities to get advice on any concerns you may have around transition and a range of other topics.

After each webinar an information pack will be sent out to cover the main themes and signpost to the key organisations and groups.

These sessions will continue next term covering a range of topics, if you would like view the timetable or for details on how to book your place please contact Caroline on cshannon@orchardhill.ac.uk. Alternatively, you can visit www.orchardhill.ac.uk/parents/information-advice-and-guidance/

Evie's Crazy Hat and Hair Day Success

A student from Wyvern House has raised over £200 for Children in Need through a crazy hat and hair day. Evie's hard work and efforts were also acknowledged by Hillingdon Times, Ealing Times and This is London who all shared the story online.

Children in Need is a charity close to Evie's heart so she wanted to do something to support the cause as well as having fun with her classmates and staff.

Evie took on all the organising of the event herself and on the day she sported bright red curly hair. Her Lecturer, Sarah said "Evie is a born organiser and we are so proud to see how well the event went and how it lifted the spirits of everyone at Wyvern House."

Evie said "It has been a difficult time for everyone recently and I wanted to do something that was fun and for a good cause. It was a great day!"



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This year, students have been working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The group worked hard to complete all areas of the award and it paid off as they received their awards and hoodies this term. The work hasn't stopped there as they are now moving on to their Silver award! We are also thrilled to have a further 15 students this term to have taken up the challenge and working towards their Bronze award.

#LoveOurColleges

The Association of Colleges (AoC) held their annual Love Our Colleges campaign which is an opportunity to highlight the brilliant work that goes on in colleges, and the students took part again this year.

As part of the Share The Love competition, which invited students to produce or perform creations around the message 'Love Our Colleges', students made a collaborative art piece. Each student filled a cup with paint representing their emotions and let them out by pouring the paint onto the canvas.

The finished piece is truly beautiful and poignant.



Christmas Celebrations

Students across the college have enjoyed a variety of Christmas celebrations this year. In each centre, students held Christmas parties within their bubbles; they were visited by a crepe van which toured around delivering a host of sweet and savoury treats!

Students at VPC took to the stage and performed Dick Wittington, this was then played across all the centres for students and staff to enjoy. VPC students impressed everyone with their prop-making skills as well as their acting abilities! Beaconsfield students teamed up with Bedelsford School and Dysart School to have a virtual carol concert. Everyone enjoyed getting in the festive mood!

Christmas Card Competition Winner!

Orchard Hill College and Academy Trust held their annual Christmas card competition and were thrilled to have some many entries from the college.

Sophie at VPC won first prize for the college. Well done, Sophie!



Mental Health Ambassadors

After taking part in Mental Health Awareness Week, students wanted to continue the positive work through the rest of the year.

Five Student Mental Health Ambassadors are being recruited across the college centres to help promote physical activity and mental wellbeing.

The college has also built a new link with AoC Sport, and students have been taking it in turns to share with their peers what activities they like to do that support and promote their well-being. With weekly mindfulness, yoga, music and dance sessions, these activities should support students' mental health and stimulate positive conversations about well-being and emotional health.

Student Services

If you need information or advice on financial support, bursaries, enrichment activities, benefits or review meetings please contact Caroline in our Student Services Team on cshannon@orchardhill.ac.uk or call 0345 402 0453.

You can also view details on the bursaries available on our website at: www.orchardhill.ac.uk/key-information/financial-support/bursary-and-financial-support/

We were thrilled to be able to give Christmas hampers to all our bursary students this year and hope the students and their families enjoy the packages.



See you next term!

We wish all our students a wonderful Christmas break, and look forward to welcoming everyone back in January.

Keep up to date with news stories across the college on our website at www.orchardhill.ac.uk and follow us on Twitter @O_H_College

If you have any feedback on Family Matters please contact us at: marketing@ohcat.org