

Family Matters

Easter 2022



Welcome

As always it has been a busy and exciting term at College, as you will see from this term's issue of Family Matters. It has been great to see students accessing a full range of community venues again this term. Students and staff have also taken part in a range of celebrations, including International Women's Day, World Book Day, Safer Internet Day and more!

Students across the college have been participating in an enterprise competition, where they were given an 'Apprentice'-style brief to work on as part of their chosen project. Each class was given £10 to start up their new enterprise. I was so impressed with the variety of businesses that the students created. Well done to Design For All from VPC who wowed us with their inclusive presentation and bespoke business selling hand-crafted items. The winners will be awarded £100 and have an opportunity to spend a day with the Marketing team to produce marketing materials to continue growing their business.

Happy Easter and I wish you all a well deserved break.

Kelly Phillips, Principal

Highlights from across the centres

Sutton region

Students at Robin Hood Centre have had a busy term, with many securing work placements in a range of employability settings including hospitality & catering, administration and retail. Students across all of the Sutton region have been continuing to build and sustain partnerships focusing on transitions out of college.

In partnership with London Borough of Sutton we have been running a Travel Training programme this term and we are thrilled at the progress students have been making. Daniel has recently completed the course and commented "I am very pleased and proud for passing the course".

Hillingdon region

Budding photographers in Hillingdon have been developing their skills during photography sessions this term and sharing their photos on Twitter. A new drama group has also been taking place and students have been rehearsing for a performance of Romeo and Juliet.

It has been a successful term for employment in Hillingdon with students securing jobs with a range of employers including Specsavers and a local toy shop.

Students have been working to raise awareness of LGBT rights and created a scavenger hunt where each clue led to information on the topic.

Southwark region

Students in Southwark have started a Green Project this term to encourage recycling and build awareness of the environment; next term they are planning to visit a recycling plant to learn how the process works. The students had a dance challenge and cake sale to raise money for Red Nose Day and raised £170.

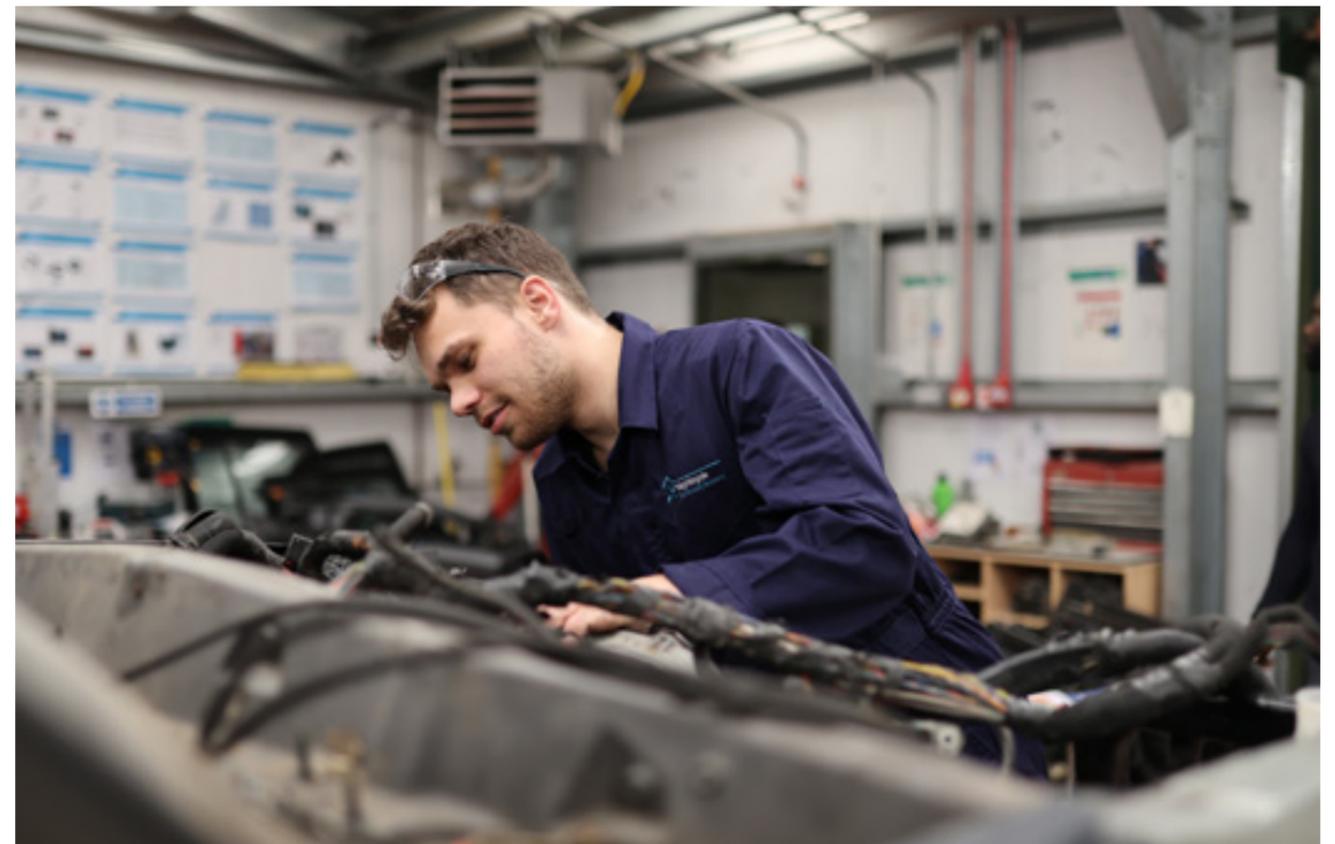
Art therapy has been taking place across the region. One staff member has qualified as a Rebound therapist and will be supporting students to access this trampoline-based exercise therapy next term!

Kingston region

Students in Kingston have started a weekly gaming group and they are working towards virtual tournaments with other colleges. The region was particularly busy fundraising for Comic Relief; students made jerk chicken and jollof rice to sell. They also decorated large sheets of fabric which they cut into sections to create individual pieces of wall art.

Kingston are also really proud that WorkStart student Piers is doing extremely well in his workplace and as a result has secured a place on a coaching course, 'How to Direct a Visually Impaired Bowler', which he will be completing next month.

Canine therapy has been successful this term at Beaconsfield and has inspired two students to sign up to 'BorrowMyDoggy'.



The Matrix Standard

Orchard Hill College is thrilled to be re-accredited with the Matrix standard this term. This is the international quality standard for ensuring the quality of delivery of information, advice and guidance (IAG). We are so proud of all the students and staff who were interviewed as part of the assessment and shared their views and opinions.

Highlights from the report included:

“OHC is passionate about all aspects of its delivery being civically active, with collaboration and partnership practices fostered with a broad range of stakeholders”

‘The organisation is a trailblazer in championing its SEND IAG delivery regionally and views its recently gained awards and outstanding Ofsted achievement as a firm foundation.... upon which to build’

“Looked at as a whole, this accreditation review confirmed that OHC continues to deliver high quality outcome based IAG. The assessment was evidence rich with examples of learning, work, career and life outcomes”.

You can read the full report on our website: <https://orchardhill.ac.uk/the-matrix-standard/>

National Apprenticeship Week

To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week we showcased our success stories from across the College. Matt, a former Customer Service Apprentice at the College has gone on to gain employment as a Learning Support Assistant. Before joining the course Matt was working in McDonalds and decided to join the Apprenticeship course to give his career a new direction. During his apprenticeship, Matt spent his time working within the Digital Team, learning new skills and supporting some of the College students.



Matt successfully completed his course with a distinction and is now enjoying the benefits of a new career in education. Matt said “I have made a lot of new friends and enjoyed my course, I got a lot out of it”.

To read more of our success stories and keep up with our news, you can follow us on Twitter: @O_H_College.

Photo credit to the photography students at Beaconsfield Centre, New Malden.

Supported Internships

We are thrilled to announce that from September 2022 we will be offering a new Supported Internship course in partnership with Sutton Health & Care. Interns will be able to experience a range of different job roles at St Helier Hospital during their one-year course. While on the course interns have the opportunity to gain employability qualifications and work towards their dream career.

We are pleased to also be continuing with our two existing Supported Internship courses next year, in partnership with London Borough of Sutton, Project Search and Hillingdon Council.

If you are interested in applying to join this course, complete an expression of interest form here: www.orchardhill.ac.uk/admissions/how-to-apply/ or contact the Assessments and Placements Team on 0345 402 0453.

For more information please visit www.workstart.me.



New partnership with Crawley College

Orchard Hill College has been working with Crawley College as part of a pilot project initiated by Natspec and the Association of Colleges (AoC).

The project aims to improve outcomes for students with special educational needs and disabilities through specialist colleges working together with general further education providers. Together Orchard Hill College and Crawley College are ensuring that young people with complex medical needs are able to get the support they require to attend their local mainstream college. We are very proud of the outcomes we have achieved working with Crawley College, the video on our website showcases our work. You can watch it here: <https://orchardhill.ac.uk/partnership-with-crawley-college/>

Stay Up Late

Stay Up Late is a charity committed to promoting the rights of people with learning disabilities to live the lifestyle of their choosing. Across the college we have been supporting this initiative and students have been attending Stay Up Late events.

Students at VPC are working in partnership with Stay Up Late and have become ambassadors for this campaign at College, as part of this the students are creating an annual social calendar.



Canine Therapy

Orchard Hill College has recently started a partnership with The Canine Assisted Wellbeing Group (CAWG) who are an organisation dedicated to improving mental health and emotional wellbeing through professional canine support.

This project supports our students with their emotional wellbeing at college, while also being linked to the student objectives.

Many of our students who were initially frightened are now happy to be near and engage with the dogs. This is a huge step for them to increase their confidence in public and we are so proud of the work that is being done.



See you next term

We wish all our students and families a restful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in April.

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