



Orchard Hill  
College

# Family Matters

Summer 2022



## Welcome

What a wonderful term it has been! Our students have achieved so much and I am immensely proud of everyone. The Outstanding Achievement Awards Ceremony for our leavers really highlighted the wide range of their successes from securing jobs, gaining qualifications, starting up businesses to developing communication skills and many more!

I was also pleased to have presented at the Natspec Conference this term and the college was nominated for a Natspec award in Wellbeing and Mental Health. The Natspec Awards aim to recognise and celebrate excellent practice in the specialist Further Education sector.

Our nomination in Wellbeing and Mental Health was for becoming a Trauma Informed Provision. The aim is to become a mentally healthy place for all our students and staff.

For those of you who are leaving College this year, I wish you all the very best for the future; please keep in touch to let us know how you are getting on in life after college.

I wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Kelly Phillips, Principal

## Highlights from across the centres

### Sutton region

What a busy term it has been! Our students have started their own café enterprise project called Tatta Time and have donated the proceeds to support people in Ukraine. Our travel training project in partnership with The London Borough of Sutton has been going really well; this term four students have passed and become independent travellers. We hosted a well-being sports events where all the students had an opportunity to try out different sporting activities. Finally, we are very proud of our WorkStart student, Lisa, who has secured paid employment in Morrisons!

### Hillingdon region

This term in Hillingdon, we ran our first Sports Day, hosted at Brunel University, where students were able to access the athletics track and other sports equipment. The students had a great day and participated in some excellent competitions. We are very proud that one of our students will be moving on to start a Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship with us in September!

Our students who are finishing their courses this year were rewarded for all their hard work with a trip to the Harry Potter Studio Tour – they had a fantastic time seeing the sites and trying out some wizardry!

Lastly, our Uxbridge Market stall continues to be a success and we are looking forward to creating some new produce next term.

### Southwark region

Southwark have had a busy summer term.

We had a fun filled sports day at Burgess Park and students of all abilities got involved. We held a successful Coffee Morning at Camberwell Library and it was great to see parents and carers sharing stories and making connections; we look forward to running these again next year.

Our students were thrilled to meet Prince Charles at Dexters Adventure Playground, where they are part of a community horticulture team and have helped to revamp the space. It has been a great summer term!

### Kingston region

This term, a number of students from our region have completed the Rugby in a Box initiative, run by The Harlequins Foundation; students have really enjoyed this and developed a range of new skills. To end the course, the students took part in a mixed ability tournament and were presented with a signed shirt.

At Beaconsfield Centre, the student Common Room has been kitted out with assisted technology and students are now able to operate the blinds, music, lights and Hoover through Alexa.

Lastly, the students had a brilliant end of term Sports Day and a big 'thank you' to our WorkStart students who set up a rotation of activities; it ended with a well deserved ice cream for everyone!

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition

This term students from across the college put their walking shoes on to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition to St Ives Farm Campsite in East Sussex. During the trip, students walked a range of distances to complete their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.



## South London Best Learner and Teacher Awards

Students and staff had a wonderful time attending the South London Best Learner and Teacher Awards at The House of Lords. The event was hosted by Lord Tope CBE, on behalf of the Committee of South London Principals.

The event saw students, Kyle, from VPC in Carshalton and Sami, from Wyvern House in Hillingdon receive awards for their hard work and determination during their time at college. Alongside this, teachers, Francis McKay and Carelys Monier Reyna also received awards marking their commitment and dedication to the college and their students.

The event was a wonderful opportunity to share stories of so many inspirational young people in Further Education.



## Jubilee Celebrations

Jubilee celebrations took place across the college. We were so impressed with the range of festivities that have taken place, including, afternoon tea, a show, picnics, themed cakes and games. One group of students even took a trip to Buckingham Palace and enjoyed seeing all the sites in London (unfortunately they didn't see the Queen!)



## Centre Awards

Students from across college have been celebrating their achievements at our awards ceremonies. Each region hosted an awards ceremony and we kick started celebrations in Southwark, where students from Lomond House and Camberwell Road gathered with their families at The Salvation Army. All the students received a certificate and one student even took to the microphone and wowed the audience with a song!

Next, students, staff and families from the Kingston region gathered at Christ Church New Malden to celebrate and receive their certificates. Students from Wyvern House celebrated in their centre, WorkStart student, Evie, brought a tear to the eye with her wonderful speech detailing her journey at college.

Lastly, students from Sutton all gathered in the sports hall at Pulse Gym to celebrate the wonderful range achievements across the region.



## Outstanding Achievement Awards

We had a wonderful evening at Epsom Downs Racecourse celebrating the achievements of all our students that are leaving us this year. It was very special to be able to be celebrating in person again, after our last leavers awards took place in 2019. Students all received a certificate celebrating their achievements and a Yearbook. We were thrilled to welcome some special guests to help present our awards, including The Mayor of London Borough of Sutton Councillor Trish Fivey, Tony Foot, Strategic Finance Director from Department for Education and Dame Caroline Allen, previous CEO to Orchard Hill College & Academy Trust.

It was a truly wonderful opportunity for students to celebrate their hard work with staff, families, carers and guests. After the awards ceremony, everyone tucked into the buffet and then hit the dance floor, the DJ was kept very busy with all our students song requests!

Well done to the class of 2022!



## Residential Trip to Avon Tyrrell

This term, students and staff had a fabulous time away on a residential trip to Avon Tyrrell, a leading outdoor learning venue in the New Forest National Park. The students took part in a range of new experiences over the weekend including water sports – canoeing, kayaking and pedalos, plus pond dipping, an adventure course, rock climbing, bowling, aquarium, evening disco, camp fire and movie night!

The trip brought together students from across college centres and enabled students to build new friendships and share experiences.

After such a packed schedule, we are sure that everyone would have been in need of a well earned rest this week!



## Outdoor cinema

The college held their first Outdoor Cinema kindly hosted by St Philip's School. Students voted to watch 'The Greatest Showman' whilst tucking into pizza and ice cream in the sunshine. It was wonderful to be joined by families and staff and a great time was had by all.



Are you 17 to 24 years old with an active EHCP and looking for paid work?

We are running Supported Internships in partnership with Sutton Council and Project Search.

This course will help you to gain employability skills and become more confident when applying for a job.



For more information:

Call: 0345 402 0453

Email: [assessments&placements@orchardhill.ac.uk](mailto:assessments&placements@orchardhill.ac.uk)

Apply here: <https://workstart.me.uk/admissions/>



**Sutton** DFN Project | SEARCH

## See you next term

We wish all our leavers good luck in their future endeavours and look forward to welcoming our returning students back in September.

Keep up to date with news stories across the college and follow us:

**Website:** [www.orchardhill.ac.uk](http://www.orchardhill.ac.uk)

**Twitter:** @O\_H\_College

**Instagram:** orchardhillcollege

If you have any feedback on Family Matters, please contact us at: [marketing@ohcat.org](mailto:marketing@ohcat.org)