

Election of Student Association Officers

In the Spring Term each year, we hold elections for the Student Association Committee. The positions are open to any student who is in the first year of a two-year course and the term of office is one year, from Easter 2006 to Easter 2007. These are significant posts, and universities and employers hold in high regard students who have held such offices.

Whilst all the posts are important, the most significant position is that of Student President, so ably carried out this year by Phil Gradwell. The President acts as an important ambassador for the College and is involved in all its public functions.

The Student President is also a Governor of the College and will be expected to attend all Governors' meetings. He or she is a member of the Estates Committee which is currently overseeing the development of a new sports hall on the College site. The experience of contributing to these discussions and decisions will give an unusual insight into the workings of a public body. Thus the role of Student President presents an excellent opportunity to develop leadership skills within the student community and to contribute to the corporate governance of a College with an annual income of approximately £12 million.

The time commitment is not excessive – but meetings need to take precedence over part-time jobs, and time-management skills need to be sufficiently well-developed to manage A-level deadlines.

Phil Gradwell, current Student President writes:

“The Student Association has a really strong role to play in the life of students, so being part of it is an active, challenging but great position to be in. The challenges are bearing a responsibility to represent and entertain the 2,600 students in the college, but the rewards and good times come from living up to that responsibility and organising any number of events, that will teach you valuable skills as well as making college an exciting place to go to. I've spent a busy, but immensely enjoyable and valuable year as the head of the SA and I know that all of my team feel the same; being part of the SA is an excellent way to make your time at college the best that it can be.”

It would be helpful if parents could discuss with students the opportunities and responsibilities that the role of Student President, or any member of the Committee, presents and encourage those who would like to take on such a high profile role to stand in the elections to be held this term.

Posts for Election in the new Committee:

Vice President: takes the role of the President in his or her absence; monitors equal opportunities for students; attends College Health and Safety meetings; publicises information from external welfare organisations.

Treasurer: monitors the SA funds and keeps up to date accounts.

Secretary: organises all meetings, including Student Council; records minutes.

Events Officer: organises and publicises a variety of social and other events.

RAG and Charities Officer: organises a variety of fundraising events including the students' RAG week.

Publications Editor: leads the editorial team - College Magazine and Year Book.

Teaching for Learning Officer: to represent the views of the student body on the development of teaching excellence.

Sports Officer: to represent the activities of the many sports teams in the College and to encourage more sport.

Performing Arts Officer: to represent the activities of the many students engaged in performing arts in the College.

Community Link Officer: to encourage and organise community activities by College students.

Student Association, 2005-6 Thank you, you've been brilliant!



Congratulations to Phil Gradwell, Gideon Odeleye, Jo Howarth, Rohan Mohanty, Dan Mitchell, Ben Thomas, Sara Naraghi, Sophie Tanner, Amelia Slaughter, Leanne Smith and Millie Schurch.



Electoral Timetable

Nomination Packs are available from Matt Woodcock - Pastoral corridor or the SA office. Nominations are accepted only if you have a good record of commitment and attendance and the approval of your Personal Tutor.

Nominations open	Monday 27 February
Closing Date for nominations	Friday 17 March
Hustings: Candidates' speeches	Wk beginning 20 March
Election (e-voting on Intranet)	Wk beginning 27 March
RESULTS	Friday 31 March

AS and A2 Module Results A week early - on CRISTAL Web

The official publication date for the AS and A2 module results this term is Thursday 16 March. However, the results are likely to arrive a week early in electronic form and we plan to make them available to students on their CRISTAL Web pages on

Thursday, 9 March 2006

CRISTAL Web can be opened via the Internet at home or on the College Intranet.

Parents' Evenings for 1st Year Students

Parents of students studying on the first year of a two year course or on a one year course are invited to the Spring Parents' Evenings which will be held on two evenings:

Thursday 23 March 2006 5.30 - 8.00 pm

Tuesday 28 March 2006 5.30 - 8.00 pm

As usual, we expect students to accompany parents in order to make the discussion as helpful and fruitful as possible.

When you arrive, please come to either the main entrance to the College or the rear entrance near to Time Out where you will be given maps of the College to show you where the tutors are located.

Students will be able to make appointments nearer the time on Appointment Forms to be completed on your behalf.

Please note that:

- 1 subject tutors will be located in only two buildings, the Main Building and Ranson Building - **they will not necessarily be in their normal teaching locations**;
- 2 the careers adviser will be in College each evening and will be pleased to make an appointment to see you;
- 3 when making appointments, students should build in walking time between locations;
- 4 if you wish to see the student's personal tutor, it is best to see him or her last;
- 5 teachers do try to keep to time - please do not assume that the interview is endless! If you wish to have an extended meeting, this should be arranged separately.

Second Year Students in need of help

The above parents' evenings will also be available to parents of second year students who are experiencing difficulty. If you have concerns, please ask your son or daughter to make appointments with their subject tutors.

Review Data

Short-hand data concerning students' progress in terms of attendance, the standard at which they are currently working, and meeting deadlines is included with this newsletter. Students on AS courses will also have a Statement of Progress which they should have brought home to discuss with you. These will form the basis of discussions at the parents evenings. AS and A2 module results will have been published by the time of the meetings.

MISUSE OF THE COLLEGE NETWORK

During this term, there have been examples of misuse of the College Network. The College Network is principally for study-related activity and the storing or transmitting of inappropriate or offensive messages and images is a disciplinary matter, as it is in the workplace. In these circumstances, disciplinary measures will always be taken which could lead to suspension and/or exclusion from the College. Any students who **receive** offensive messages or images by e-mail should notify the Help Desk immediately.

Should illegal material or images be stored or transmitted, the College will not hesitate to inform the police immediately.

Summer Examinations 2006

Coursework Deadlines - all courses

Every year, some students find that they miss deadlines because they manage their time poorly. A coursework deadlines leaflet was circulated to parents in October and it would be helpful to check these dates with your son or daughter to support them in meeting the target.

Plagiarism - don't get disqualified

A reminder to all students. Coursework must be the work of the student alone. In the past, on occasions, and often in panic, work has been copied from other candidates. **This will always lead to disqualification from the examination.** If a student lends work to another student "to help him out" or "because she is a good friend and she said she wouldn't copy it directly", it is likely that his or her entry will also be disqualified. **Never lend coursework or research notes to another student** - and if there is a real difficulty, always consult your subject tutor over sharing of work.

When writing an extended essay, all references must be fully acknowledged. If students find helpful paragraphs in a book or on the Internet, they must not copy and paste it into their own essays in the pretence that they have written it. It is likely that the examiner will recognise it - and the work will then be disqualified.

IN THE EXAMINATION ROOM

All students should take their student ID cards, or another form of identification, which includes a photograph, into the examination room with them. Invigilators and external inspectors will make random checks on the identity of candidates.

Mobile phones are banned

Do not take mobile phones into the examination room. Possession of mobile phones in an examination can lead to disqualification. They should be left at home or with a friend. For a fee of £1, they can also be deposited at the College Finance Office for safe-keeping.

Final revision notes

Do not have final notes in your pocket during an examination. Even if there is no intention to use them, possession will result in disqualification. In the past, a student who has sneezed has pulled from a pocket a handkerchief and revision notes have fallen to the floor. The College is required to report this and disqualification will almost certainly result.

The Examination Boards do not accept lack of familiarity with their rules as an excuse.

EXAMINATION TIMETABLES

Students can access their individual examination timetables via CRISTAL Web after Easter.

Students are advised to make a significant start on their revision during the Easter break.

In August, a post examination results service is provided by the College staff together with the local careers advisers. Details of this will be included with the examination results.

Picking students up by car - please help!

Parents are requested to pick students up away from College entrances because of the increase in traffic and potential dangers. It makes life easier for all if you arrange to collect students on Sand Hill rather than create hold-ups in the College car parks. Please do not obstruct neighbours' drives.

Career and Future Events 2006/07

The College is proud of the careers support and guidance it provides for all students and is working towards the new Investors in Careers Award which is open to all educational institutions including schools, colleges and training providers.

Tuesday 7 March

Higher Education Finance talk for the parents of year two students.

Wednesday 8 March

Job Scene Exhibition visit for year one students at Basingstoke.

Thursday 9 March

January module results will be available to students.

Thursday 30 March

Oxbridge Admissions Tutors will visit the College to discuss Oxford and Cambridge admissions with students and parents.

Friday 21 April

UCAS H.E. Convention to be held at the University of Surrey. A visit for most of our year one students.

Thursday 27 April

Information evening for new students 5.30pm - 8.30pm.

Students considering taking a new subject in their second year might find it helpful to visit Curriculum Areas in the College on Information Evening and speak to subject specialists.

Wednesday 3 May

Higher Education talk for the parents of year one students.

Friday 7 July

Moving on Day. A day of Careers seminars and Exhibition for all year one students.

Oxford and Cambridge 2007 Entry

Getting in to Oxbridge

Thursday 30 March 2006
1.15pm, Prospect Theatre

Dr Richard Barnes, Emmanuel College, Cambridge
Dr Caroline Mawson, Wadham College, Oxford.

This is an annual event to which parents and students are welcome. There will be an opportunity to talk to the admissions tutors and ask questions.

Visits to Colleges and Open Days

A series of visits will be organised to enable students to see some Oxbridge colleges in the summer. Further details will be available in April.

Farnborough Sixth Form College tops Southern England table

Farnborough Sixth Form College achieved the best results out of all colleges in the south of England, according to the league tables published by the government last month. According to the tables, the average A level points score per student of 378.3 makes it the top college in Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and the whole of southern Britain.

College Principal Dr John Guy said, "This success is entirely due to an exceptionally dedicated teaching and support staff team, and to students who really support each other to study".

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, David Bell, recently described Farnborough as, "the College with the best teaching in the country", as measured by inspection evidence. Dr Guy puts it down to the common commitment of the College to its single corporate objective, improving students achievements.

Last year, over 800 students moved on to universities across the country making the College one of Britain's most significant sources of undergraduates. The top universities are keen to accept Farnborough students, knowing that their preparation for higher education and independent study is among the best available.

Important Term Dates, 2006-2007

Parents' evening	Thursday 23 March 2006 Tuesday 28 March 2006
Easter Vacation	Monday 3 - Tuesday 18 April 2006
Information Evening	Thursday 27 April 2006
May Holiday	Monday 1 May 2006
Reading Week	Mon 29 May - Fri 2 June 2006
A2 courses begin	Thursday 15 June 2006
End of Summer Term	Thursday 13 July 2006 (4.15pm)
A and AS results	Thursday 17 August 2006
GCSE results	Thursday 24 August 2006
New Academic Year	Wed 30 August (enrolment begins)
Second Year return	Thursday 7 September 2006
Full Term starts	Monday 11 September 2006
Catch-up day	Monday 2 October 2006
Reading Week	Mon 23 - Fri 27 October 2006
Open Days	Wed 8 & Thurs 9 November 2006
Christmas Vacation	20 December 2006 - 3 January 2007
Study days	Wed 3, Thurs 4 & Fri 5 January 2007
Reading Week	Mon 19 - Fri 23 February 2007
Easter Vacation	Mon 2 April - Fri 13 April 2007
Reading Week	28 May - 1 June 2007
End of Summer Term	Thursday 12 July 2007 (4.15pm)

Rushmoor Youth Forum

The Rushmoor Youth Forum brings together youth organisations working in Rushmoor to promote the needs of young people, and share ideas. The forum has recently informed the College that it is able to provide limited financial help for educational trips abroad (maximum £150 per student).

For further information about the grants or forum membership visit www.rushmoor.gov.uk or call the Rushmoor Youth Forum on 01252 660378

College Attendance and Illness

The vast majority of students attend regularly and on time - that is the College requirement. A few, however, seem to miss classes for apparently trivial reasons, often quoting medical appointments or sudden illness which smites them down for 24 hours. In these circumstances, parents will be asked to verify absences.

It is timely to point out that all references refer to attendance records and, given the demand for places at the College, those with a poor attendance will not necessarily be retained in College for a second year. Where attendance falls below 90%, the College Charter requires us to charge for examinations undertaken - some students will receive bills after reading week.

Multi-faith dialogue

The College is hoping to establish regular contact with the different faith groups represented in the College to enable dialogue to take place. Parents who are able to assist with identifying contacts in the different faith groups are invited to contact the Principal.

A Christian group of parents already meets regularly for prayer and fellowship. The dates for the remainder of the academic year are Monday March 13th, Wednesday May 10th and Thursday June 22nd, at 7.30pm.

Anyone who would like to attend is welcome. For further information please call Andrea Birkett on 01252 663349.

Magnificent Production of The Marriage of Figaro



Red roses cascaded onto the stage during the repeated curtain calls at the stunning and powerful production of *The Marriage of Figaro* staged by College students last week. The power of voices matured well beyond their years, wonderful acting, and clever set design held audiences, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Rushmoor, spellbound at the two productions.

Figaro was played by 2nd year Stephen Willey. His strong baritone voice and his great stage presence set a standard reached by all the players. The charming and coquettish Susanna, played brilliantly by first year Helen Lewis, tantalised Figaro and his employer, Count Almaviva, whose interpretation by 3rd year baritone, Matthew Stone, was mature, confident and sensitive. First year soprano Sarah Crabtree, as Countess Almaviva, filled the auditorium with her stunning voice and wonderful poignant portrayal of a woman-wronged, in this story of love, lust, intrigue and jealousy. The production was the brainchild of Director of Music at the College, Paul Bambrough. His musicianship, enthusiasm and ambitious expectation had infected the young players whom he had trained since the beginning of the Autumn term. The students had visited Glyndebourne to discuss the production with professional operatic singers and he included a master-class for the students with international singing coach, Ian Baar. Paul said, "This work is extremely demanding and many more experienced singers have fallen foul of its challenges – I am immensely proud of the achievements of this young cast".

Speaking to the audience after the production, Cllr John Marsh, Mayor of Rushmoor, said, "How lucky we are to have in the Borough such an outstanding sixth form college; my congratulations to the students and staff for such a wonderful evening".



College Students elected to UK Youth Parliament

Natalie Witt and Tim Wilson

have been elected member and deputy respectively for Hart & Rushmoor in the UK Youth Parliament.

University admissions 2006

A record number of students have completed their UCAS applications to date and are now receiving offers. Between May and June students will be required firmly to accept their first choice university, subject to their achieving the grades required; they can also hold an insurance offer. Students are to be congratulated on their success to date but need to work hard in the remaining weeks before the examinations in the summer.

Amongst the many successful applicants to top universities are the following 23 students who have won Oxbridge places:

CAMBRIDGE

Claire Bounds	Robinson College	Veterinary Science
Christopher Dunmore	St Catharine's College	Archaeology & Anthropology
Robert Emery	Queens' College	Natural Sciences
Josie Faulkner	Clare College	Veterinary Science
Fiona Giles	Robinson College	Architecture
Emma Goater	Jesus College	Land Economy
Jack Green	Corpus Christi College	Natural Sciences
Ivan Hoo	Gonville & Caius College	Natural Sciences
Christopher Johnson	Girton College	Maths & Computing
Claire Kearns	Magdalene College	Classics
Thomas McCollin	St John's College	Engineering
Rebecca Mullen	Corpus Christi College	Archaeology & Anthropology
Emma Smith	Trinity College	Natural Sciences
Laura Soul	New Hall	Natural Sciences

OXFORD

Helen Burn	Hertford College	Human Sciences
Josh Callaghan-Stone	Keble College	Archaeology & Anthropology
Rebecca Campbell	Magdalen College	Law
Caroline Dixon	Magdalen College	Music
Kristina Ellis	St Peter's College	French & Spanish
Phil Gradwell	Magdalen College	PPE
Emily Hellicar Antenen	St Edmund Hall	Modern History
Bethan Holt	St Hugh's College	French & Spanish
Peter O'Neill	University College	Engineering

NUS National President, Kat Fletcher, presents A level Certificates



Over 900 people attended the Certificate Evening on 19 December in the Sports Hall. Kat Fletcher presented the certificates and awards (which one is she above?!)

Congratulations to:

The College Netball Team for winning the South East Championship and a place in the National Finals to be held in Manchester in March.

Amanda Higginbotham on winning the regional final of the National Champion of Champion bowls competition, putting her into the later rounds and hopefully the final in Nottingham on 27 and 28 February.

Peter Cole who is competing in the FHM/VXR Sports Driver of the Year competition and whose success in the first round qualifiers takes him to compete in Barcelona in March.

Rachel Wilkinson whose prize winning portrait of her father earned her a commission to paint a portrait of Laurence Whitehouse, which will be hung in the Whitehouse building.

Jonathan Best, Ryan Brown and Sam Penhearow who were runners up in the art competition.

Nileeka Gunawardene who provided "voice-over" for the television programme *Body Shock* on Monday 13 February.

Feedback

If you have any comments about the quality of education which you feel your son or daughter is experiencing at the College, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*John Guy, Principal
February 2006*