

Welcome to the 2006 new students - and congratulations to new and old students!

We are coming up to Reading Week and it is good to see so many new students settling into College life. First year students can be confident that they have embarked upon courses at which they can all succeed, building upon their achievements in their GCSE examinations.

Second year students should be focusing on choices for when they leave College, as well as keeping up to date on their work during the term. Second year courses are tougher than the first year, and in order to achieve the same sort of grades, students have to work more intensely than in the first year. Having said that, the results of first year students in the summer exams were excellent and we all congratulate them on their success.



Jessica Bell (University of Creative Arts), Helen Burn (Oxford University), Holly Westwood (Southampton Solent University) & Naomi Martin (Gap Year) celebrate!

The Class of 2006 achieved outstanding results in their A level examinations this year. The full results are on the website (www.farnboroughsfc.ac.uk) but the headline figure is a 99.3% pass rate for the 2 year taught programmes. Newspapers like the Daily Telegraph publish league tables in August, based upon information given to them by schools. In their league table, they report the percentage of students achieving only A and B grades - not surprisingly, the most selective schools appear at the top of the league!

In the table below, we report the results of our top 800 students compared with the results of the highest performing selective schools. Our top 340 students would be rated the best in the country, beating Wycombe Abbey School with only 86 students (the Telegraph's top English School).

College Concerto Competition



College Concerto Champions Jason Chowdhury and Helen Lewis with finalists (l to r) Aimee Sheppard (Saxophone), Grace McCorry (Cello), Josh Bolton (Tuba), and Kate Holloway (Violin).



The College held its first ever Concerto Competition in the Prospect Theatre last week. The winner, Jason Chowdhury, and the runner up, Helen Lewis, each received a crystal cut-glass vase and the opportunity for a solo appearance with a professional orchestra at the College's summer concert which will be held in Guildford Cathedral on Friday 6 July 2007 (make a note in your diary now!).

Jason giving his virtuoso performance on the marimba of two movements from the Concerto by Ney Rosaura which enthralled the judges and the packed audience.

Comparison of 2006 A level results

The Sixth Form College and selective schools

% of students with A & B grades

Source: Daily Telegraph 26 August 2006

The Sixth Form College Farnborough	Selective School (number of A level students in parentheses)
Top 340	100.0%
	99.3% Wycombe Abbey (86) [1]
	99.0% North London Collegiate (119) [2]
	98.1% Withington Girls' (82) [3]
Top 400	95.5%
	94.5% Oxford High (74)
Top 450	92.6%
	91.2% Winchester (136)
	90.4% Manchester Grammar (187)
Top 500	90.1%
	88.1% Charterhouse (169)
	86.7% Roedean (96)
Top 600	86.0%
	84.3% Malvern (58)
Top 800	73.4%
	71.6% Ampleforth (90)
ALL (1120)	55.5%
	47.0% National Average

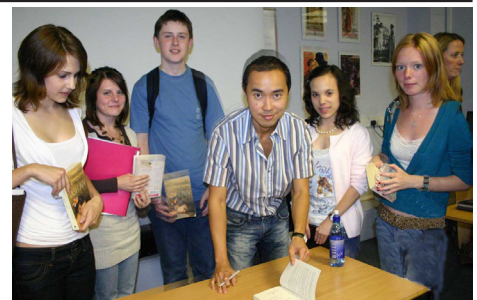
Prize winning Novelist visits College

Tash Aw, the winner of the 2005 Whitbread Prize for a first novel, visited College recently to speak to A level English students about his novel, *The Harmony Silk Factory*, and to answer their questions. He congratulated them on their perceptive questions and the whole session lasted for over 90 minutes.

He described how he himself had studied Law at university before going to the University of East Anglia to undertake a course in creative writing.

"The great thing about East Anglia," he said, "is that the publishers actually visit the university to speak to the students because they know they are likely to find new talent on that course."

Picture right: Tash Aw signs copies of his novel.



Please check on CristalWeb that e-mail and emergency contact addresses (and mobile nos) are correct

Parent Governor - Vacancy

There are two parent governors, each serving for a period of two years; appointments are made by self-nomination and an election among parents. One post becomes vacant each year and is usually filled by the parent of a first year student, thus giving a sensible two year rotation. The Governing Body meets four times per year (at 5pm, normally on a Monday); in addition, governors normally sit on one of the committees which tend to meet three times per year. The Clerk to the Governing Body of the College would be pleased to receive self-nominations for the position of Parent Governor tenable until 31 October 2008.

Please submit your name and address, your student son's or daughter's name, and brief biographical details (150-200 words) to Mr Richard Compton, Clerk to the Governors, at the College, by 12 noon, Wednesday 1 November 2006 or by email to governor@farnboroughsfc.ac.uk.

In the event of more than one nomination, biographical details and voting papers will be circulated among parents in the week beginning 6 November 2006.

The continuing Parent Governor is Dr Alison Stewart - she would be pleased to discuss the role with any prospective candidates and can be contacted on 0118 979 1960.

Attendance system

The College attendance system records, on-line, students' attendance at all classes. Any student who is ill should telephone in the morning to let us know - the system will be updated immediately and all teachers will know that there is a legitimate reason for absence. Unexplained absences are always followed up. In cases of repeated illness or absence, parents will be asked to verify the reasons for absence.

Students are expected to make medical, dental etc. appointments outside timetabled lessons.

Educational Maintenance Awards (EMA)

If the family income is less than £30,810 a year, then your student son or daughter may be eligible to apply for an Educational Maintenance Award. New applicants should hand in their EMA registration form to Sue Massie in the Student Services Office as soon as it arrives. A number of second year students have not re-registered for EMA and need to do so as soon as possible so that they can receive the payments due, including the £100 bonus paid to students who return for a second year. Please contact EMA directly if you have queries about registration (freephone 0800 8101 6219) or if you need a form.

There are also limited funds available to give additional support to students from low income families. Further information is contained in the Financial Support leaflet available from Student Services. Alternatively, speak to Tracey Falzon in the Student Services Office.

Calling First Year Students!

Presidential Classroom The Global Young Leaders Conference Washington DC - 22 - 28 July 2007

For a number of years, students from this College have represented the UK in Washington DC at Presidential Classroom. Students from all over the world meet as "Future World Leaders" to discuss issues of international importance. It is always a very stimulating and challenging event, both intellectually and socially. This is a particularly unusual and significant way to develop breadth of understanding of a changing world - it is highly recommended, and impressive on a UCAS form.

The College has been invited to submit names of applicants for 2007. The cost is about \$1400 (US) (£800) plus air fare.

If you would like more details please contact Lesley Grovenor-Ellis (Personal Tutor) at the College.

Litter

We have received complaints from local residents about the amount of litter dropped by students, especially at lunchtime. We have encouraged the local authority to use their statutory powers to issue £75 fixed penalty notices to pedestrians dropping litter. In College, there is a fixed penalty £5 fine for the dropping of litter which must be paid within five days of the offence. Proceeds will be given to charitable causes to protect the environment.

Parents' cars - and road safety

We are increasingly concerned about road safety in and around the College, particularly at 4.15pm when there is a large exodus from the College. We have been working with the support of Rushmoor Borough Council and have recently purchased a speed visor camera which is now displayed in roads around the College.

If you give your sons/daughters a lift to College, please set them down at a safe place outside College. When picking them up, it would be helpful (and probably quicker) if the students walked along Sand Hill beyond the bus bay to meet you. Residents around the College have expressed particular concern that Whitehouse Close is too narrow for waiting and dropping students off. Thank you.

Driving Schools

Students using their free time to take driving lessons should arrange to meet their instructor on Sand Hill (the Bus Bay is a convenient place during the College day). Please do not arrange to meet your instructor in the College car parks.

College Travel Scholarships - Advance Notice

Each year, the Governors make available a number of scholarships (maximum £250 each) to support individual students to travel abroad to undertake project work or adventurous activity.

Application forms for scholarships for 2007 will be available from the Principal's Personal Assistant in the new year - but it is worth thinking of how a scholarship could be used at this stage. First and second year students are welcome to apply.

Enrichment

Students are encouraged to participate in the wide range of extra-curricular activities available in the College, including Community Service and work experience placements. Personal Tutors have been advising students about the opportunities available.

OPEN DAYS

Wednesday 8 November
Thursday 9 November
3.30 - 9.00 pm

Please inform friends and neighbours of the dates of our open days. Please also alert them to the need to apply early for a place because we know that again the College will be oversubscribed in 2007.

Because of the preparation required on the day, the normal timetable is suspended. Students will be asked to assist in different curriculum areas and are expected to be available between 3pm and 9pm if required.

Reading Week 23 October - 27 October

Reading Week should not be regarded as a half-term holiday. It is an occasion to catch up on outstanding work, to sort out any notes which have not been filed sensibly, and to do some revision of work undertaken so far. Many subject tutors will set work for completion in Reading Week.

Learning Resource Centre - Opening times

The Learning Resource Centre (Library, Careers and IT Centre) will be open during Reading Week at the following times:

Tuesday	24 October	9am - 4pm
Wednesday	25 October	9am - 4pm
Thursday	26 October	9am - 4pm

Please note that during Reading Week some members of the IT Support Team will not be in College. This may affect normal level of service.

For further information or to check the status of the network, please contact the Help Desk on 01252 688 271, especially if you will be travelling from a distance.

Study Leave and January Modules

The Christmas vacation has been extended by three days, January 3,4 and 5, to enable students to have more time to undertake serious revision for the January module examinations. We expect students to be working hard at least from the beginning of January. **The additional days should not be used for extending hours of part-time work during the January sales!**

There is no study leave given during the rest of January. Module tests begin on Wednesday 10 January and are usually of 60 minutes' duration. Students who have a module test are expected to attend classes before and after the test on the same day. The College timetable proceeds as normal throughout the module period.

This is the method which we have now used with great success for four years and we have every confidence that this year's students will also benefit from the early assessment period.

The dates and times of students' examinations, in the form of individual timetables, will be posted on CristalWeb. Results are expected on Thursday 8 March 2007.

Deadline for January 2007 Re-sits - 2nd Year

Students wishing to re-sit modules in January 2007 should book on CRISTALWEB by **Thursday 19 October**. After that date, the cost doubles and the **final date is Monday 20 November**. The cost of resits is displayed in the Registry.

Understanding AS and A2

At the evenings for new parents, the leaflet *Understanding AS and A2 modules* was made available and discussed in some detail. A copy is attached to this newsletter. A few minutes discussing it with students will be very helpful for everybody.

Holidays in Term Time...

... should **NOT** be arranged. The structure of the modular system means that all holidays taken in term time are bound to disrupt studies. In particular, parents of first year students should note that the second year A2 courses will begin in June 2007, immediately after AS modules.

Review data

All parents will receive by post or e-mail, in November, review data relating to students' attendance, achievement and how well they are meeting deadlines.

Term Dates at a glance

Reading Week	23 October - 27 October 2006
Open Days	8 & 9 November 2006
Christmas Vacation	20 December 2006 - 2 January 2007
Study Leave	Wed 3 - Fri 5 January 2007
Reading Week	19 February - 23 February 2007
Easter Vacation	2 April - 13 April 2007
Reading Week	28 May - 1 June 2007
Term Ends	Thursday 12 July 2007 (4.15pm)

Parents' Consultation Evenings

2nd Year students

(Year 2 of a two year A level course)

Pre-A level Course students

(OCR National Certificate/BTEC First Diploma/GCSE)

Tuesday	21 November, 5.30pm - 8.30pm
Wednesday	29 November, 5.30pm - 8.30pm

Two consultation evenings have been arranged for the autumn term. As usual, students are expected to attend with parents and individual appointments will need to be made with staff. All staff teaching 2nd year students will be available on both evenings.

1st Year students

(Year 1 of a two year course and pre-A level)

Thursday	15 March, 5.30pm - 8.30pm
Monday	19 March, 5.30pm - 8.30pm

Two consultation evenings have been arranged for the spring term. We would expect the majority of first year parents to come to these evenings which will give an opportunity to discuss the results of the first modules and students' preparedness for summer modules to be taken in May/June. Students are expected to attend with parents and individual appointments will need to be made with staff. All staff teaching first year students will be available on both evenings.

If first year students are giving cause for concern, parents will be invited to attend the November evenings given above.

Careers and Future Events

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. The following organisations will be in College on the following dates as part of our on-going programme of one day information seminars:

Autumn Term 2006

Tuesday	17 October	Erasmus - Study Abroad
Thursday	19 October	Army Officer Recruitment
Friday	3 November	Primary Education Interview Skills
Thursday	16 November	Occupational Therapy
Thursday	23 November	College deadline for UCAS despatch by Christmas
Tuesday	28 November	Spectrum Leisure Services
Thursday	30 November	College Final deadline for UCAS
Thursday	7 December	ALPS - training opportunities for apprentices

Spring and Summer 2007

Tuesday 6 March (Evening)

Higher Education Finance Talk **for the parents of second year students.**

Thursday 29 March (Afternoon)

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

Friday 20 April (All day)

Higher Education Convention to be held at the University of Surrey. Most first year students will attend.

Tuesday 24 April (Evening)

Higher Education talk **for the parents of first year students.**

Thursday 26 April (All day)

Job Scene Exhibition visit for one year students at Basingstoke.

Friday July 6 (All day)

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

Wednesday 19 September

College deadline for medicine, vet and Oxbridge UCAS forms.

Music, Theatre, Dance ...

The College organises a number of activities in the performing arts, mostly based in the magnificent Prospect Theatre. We hope all parents will attend these events even if your sons or daughters are not performing!

AS Students perform after 10 days



The six groups of Drama and Theatre Arts students mounted a magnificent evening of set pieces and improvised theatre in the Prospect Theatre on Friday 22 September. Term was only 10 days old and most of the students were new to the College. Many congratulations to them all and to their tutors Matt Sheppard, Rebecca Lewis and Emily Tobias.

College Musical Activities



Music Scholars' Concert

Friday 3 November
7.30pm
Prospect Theatre

Free admission



Autumn Concert College Big Band

Wednesday 22 November
7.30pm Prospect Theatre
£6.00 & £4.00 (concessions)

The College Big Band performs a range of jazz standards and the Choral Society and student Soloists perform a concert version of Lehar's "The Merry Widow".

A Christmas Reflection



The Chamber choir and other ensembles present a reflection on the Christmas story in music, readings and multi-media.

Tuesday 19 December
St Michael's Church, Aldershot
£6.00 & £4.00 (concessions)

The Sixth Form College
Farnborough
presents...



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Charles Dickens, in a
version by John Mortimer

Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th and
Friday 8th December 2006

7.30pm

Prospect Theatre

Tickets £7 (£5 for students)

Available from the College Resources Office
in person or on 01252 688134

Christmas Dance Production

Thursday 14 December

7.30pm

Prospect Theatre

*A celebration of our cultural diversity through
dance and music*

College Sport

The College Sports teams are looking forward to a comprehensive and competitive set of winter fixtures. The PE Department has been overwhelmed by the number



of students who wish to take part and leagues have been organised in the widest range of sports and activities to date.

The season will culminate in the annual Sports Tour which this year will be to Cyprus.

Personal Insurance

A reminder that the College has purchased comprehensive personal accident insurance for all students to cover accidents within and beyond College boundaries, day or night. A schedule of benefits is available from the Student Services Office together with details of how to submit claims.

Feedback

It is always very helpful to receive feedback on your perception of the College. If you have any comments concerning the first weeks of the new term or on the quality of education which we offer, we would be very pleased to hear them. In particular, please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any concerns.

John Guy, Principal
October 2006