

## Welcome to new students - and congratulations!

It is good to welcome so many new students to the College. We are coming up to Reading Week and I hope everybody feels more settled than in the first few days of term when all seemed strange. 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.



First year student, Pamela Salimu, joined the College from King's International in Camberley.

For second year students, this is a time of real challenge and they 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.

### AS results - Best Value Added in the Country!

But our second year students can embark upon their A2 courses knowing that their achievements at AS placed them ahead of the entire country. The Director of the A Level Performance System (ALPS™) wrote to me with the independent analysis of value added results based upon the 2007 examination results and stated that our result "ranks you above the best performance in the national benchmark indicating outstanding student performance". They have also analysed the performance of this College over 3 years (2005 to 2007) and found that the College results are "better than any other performance in the benchmark data". The College results are used as a national example of best practice.

At full A level, the College results were again outstanding and we congratulate all students on their success. 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 North London Collegiate School with only 110 students (the Telegraph's top English School).



Devin Reilly, Oliver Sedden and Luke Denne celebrate their places to read Physics at Leeds, Mechanical Engineering at Warwick and Psychology at Bristol Universities.

Judy Barker and Marie-Claire Thomas are both taking gap years with College Travel Scholarships before studying languages at Bath University and St Catharine's College, Cambridge, respectively

### Comparison of 2007 A level results

The Sixth Form College and selective schools

% of students with A & B grades

Source: Daily Telegraph 25 August 2007

The Sixth Form College Farnborough	Selective School (number of A level students in parentheses)
Top 349	100.0%
	99.4%
	98.8%
	98.6%
Top 400	96.3%
	94.5%
Top 450	93.4%
	92.7%
	92.0%
Top 500	91.1%
	89.7%
	88.9%
Top 600	87.4%
	85.6%
Top 800	76.7%
	76.1%
ALL (1188)	57.0%
	49.7%

## Pyjamas for Genes - Students raise record £1,800



For many students, Jeans for Genes Day is an opportunity to wear muffin - but at Farnborough, where jeans are often the uniform, the Student Association decided that pyjamas would be the order of the day! At lunch time, a series of pillow fights contributed to the fund-raising atmosphere enabling the Student Association's Charities officer, Hattie Leach, to break all records and collect £1,800 in a single day. Student Association Teaching for Learning Officer, Ginny Smith, had previously prepared teaching packs for the tutorial programme to help everybody understand the importance of research into genetic disorders in children.

## Freshers' Party great success - well done!



## Self-nominations for Parent Governor - see page 2

## Parent Governor - Nominations required - Electronic voting - please check details

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 2009.

**If you wish to stand for election, 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 31 October 2007 or by email to [governor@farnboroughsfc.ac.uk](mailto:governor@farnboroughsfc.ac.uk). If your biographical details exceed 200 words, the text will be edited without consultation - otherwise it will be reproduced exactly as you submit it.**

In the event of more than one nomination, biographical details and voting papers will be circulated by email to parents in the week beginning 5 November 2007. The election will be electronic unless you write to the Clerk requesting a postal vote. The continuing Parent Governor is Mr Mike Philippon - he would be pleased to discuss the role with any prospective candidates and can be contacted on 01276 507880.

**Please check that we have the correct email address for both parents by asking your son or daughter to open Personal Details > Contact Information on CristalWeb. Corrections should be sent to [registry@farnboroughsfc.ac.uk](mailto:registry@farnboroughsfc.ac.uk).**

### 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. Please contact EMA directly if you have queries about registration (freephone 080 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.

### Attendance system

The College attendance system records, on-line, students' attendance at all classes. Any student who is ill should telephone Student Services on 01252 688201 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 and dental appointments outside timetabled lessons.

### U18 Smoking - illegal to purchase tobacco

This is the last year when the College will retain a smoking area for staff and students. It is now illegal for retailers to sell tobacco to young people under 18. The College and Trading Standards Officers have contacted local retailers to remind them of the new restrictions - smoking related matters are covered in the College's tutorial programme.

### 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.

If you give your son or daughter a lift to College, please set down at a safe place outside College. When picking up, it would be helpful (and probably quicker) if the student 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 off students. 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). Students should not arrange to meet instructors 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 2008 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.

### Calling First Year Students! Presidential Classroom The Future World Leaders Summit Washington DC - 20 - 26 July 2008

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 2008. The cost is about \$1600 (US) plus air fare.

**If you would like more details please contact Lesley Grovener-Ellis (Lead Tutor) at the College.**

## OPEN DAYS

Wednesday 7 November  
Thursday 8 November  
3.30 pm - 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 2008.**

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.



## College Link with The Presbyterian Secondary Technical School, Aburi, Ghana - Can you help? Raffle prize? Spare Air Miles?

In April this year we welcomed Mr Peter Logo, the Headteacher, and Ms Isabella Awalime, Senior Housemother, from our partner school in Aburi, Ghana. The Student Association and tutor representatives met with Peter and Isabella in the Prospect Theatre to hear Peter express his thanks for our friendship and support for the partnership. Peter told us that his students had already built part of a new girls' dormitory and would now be able to complete it. He was looking forward to converting the old dormitory into new science labs. This could not have been achieved without the generous support of parents and students.

This June, 15 students from the Sixth Form College and Personal Tutors Catherine Cole and Becky Sharp and World Challenge's Matt Woodcock visited The Presbyterian Secondary Technical School, Aburi for 5 days. During their visit students from both institutions worked together to produce lessons on water conservation and HIV/Aids. These will be used by students in tutorials to inform the student body about these crucial global issues. We are hoping to broaden curriculum links with future visits.

Whilst there the students also experienced Ghanaian cooking, Batik making, dance and wonderful singing. They took part in lessons during the day and made many new friends. Some of these friendships will be long lasting.

This year we are hoping to raise enough money to pay for 10 Ghanaian students to come here for a week in the Spring. They will take part in lessons in the College and share their culture and life experiences with us. They will also meet the Farnborough students that we are taking to Ghana in June 2008. As each ticket costs approximately £500 we appreciate that this will be impossible for the Ghanaian students to raise on their own. Therefore we are writing to ask you for your help in enriching the lives of these students. They have already gone out of their way to welcome us so warmly and they have sold their beautiful carvings to raise money towards the fare.

Later this year we plan to create an on line raffle, a partnership calendar for sale and other fund raising activities.

**So... if you would like to help us then we are looking for special raffle prizes that would encourage maximum participation in this worthwhile venture. We need to raise £5,000 to guarantee that this exciting partnership, which truly benefits the students, will continue. If you would like to provide a raffle prize or donate some air miles, or help in any other way, please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Cole on 01252 688329 or Becky Sharp on 01252 688308.**

Please visit the Ghana Link display on Open Evening and speak to the students who visited Ghana this year.



### UK Youth Parliament Elections

The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. Run by young people for young people, UKYP provides opportunities for 11-18-year-olds to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change. Currently, two of our students are members of the UK Youth Parliament.

Emily Murrell (U6) is MYP for Hampshire (Clare Fenwick (U6) is her deputy) and Tal Gurevich (L6) is MYP for Surrey. Elections for new members will be held in November and the College will be a registered polling station. Constituencies for students from this area are Hampshire, Bracknell Forest, Reading, Surrey, Wokingham and Maidenhead & Windsor.

Further details: [www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/](http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/) or contact Emily Murrell: [ukyp@farnboroughsfc.ac.uk](mailto:ukyp@farnboroughsfc.ac.uk)



Emily Murrell MYP and her deputy Clare Fenwick



Tal Gurevich MYP for Surrey

### College Teacher wins prestigious Award



**Bob Dunn, Senior Curriculum Manager for Design and Technology with his Award for Teaching Excellence presented in Winchester Great Hall, June 2007**

## Second Life Innovation Project

### Prospectopia – can you help?

We have recently been awarded a government grant to undertake research into novel ways of enabling students to develop employability skills through simulated real-life projects. In particular, we will be using Web 2.0 technologies to involve students in projects such as

- designing, building and furnishing a virtual art gallery complete with virtual works of art adapted from their real world coursework, and
- designing, building, equipping and running a virtual clothes shop complete with virtual clothes derived from the work of our textiles students.

The virtual shops, galleries, artworks and clothes will be created on Prospectopia or one of our other islands in Second Life (secondlife.com) or Teen Second Life (teen.secondlife.com).

The projects will allow the participants to develop skills in planning, building design, team-working, interior design, gallery design, marketing and communication and perhaps in other areas as well.

We would like to engage students by running a competition during the coming year for which we would like the prizes to include summer work-placements in locations that would appeal to our most ambitious and/or capable students. The sorts of work-placements we think would be suitable include:

- an architectural firm;
- an interior design firm;
- a fashion house;
- an art gallery; or
- an up-market retail outlet.

If you are able to provide such a work-placement opportunity or could provide contact details for someone who might, we would be very pleased to hear from you. You may also have other ideas for work-placement or shadowing opportunities as prizes - if so, we would be very pleased to hear from you (contact Mike Docker [mdocker@farnboroughsfc.ac.uk](mailto:mdocker@farnboroughsfc.ac.uk) or by telephone on 01252 688 270).

In order for students to participate in the competition they will need to become familiar with Teen Second Life and in due course with the full version of Second Life. We believe that the skills and experience they will gain from this project will be of value during their continuing studies and during their subsequent professional lives and hope you will provide appropriate support.

## College sweeps board in Design and Science Competitions



First and second year students won four of the twelve awards at the summer science and engineering competitions, sponsored by Surrey SATRO and presented by HRH The Duke of Kent.

## Staff Student Football match



Senior Curriculum Manager for Film and Media, Rob Temple, dances around the student defence in the staff-student soccer match, narrowly won by students. Final score: Staff 1 Students 4

## Autumn Sports Report

The 2007/08 season has begun remarkably well for the winter sports teams at the College. The football teams have raced off to lead the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> XI leagues with perfect records from four games. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI have scored an incredible 49 goals from those games, conceding only 3! The 1<sup>st</sup> XI is also pushing hard for honours with 9 points from a possible 12. Not to be outdone, the Women's XI has also started well with a convincing 2-0 win against Lord Williams of Thame in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the ESFA National Colleges Cup. This is particularly pleasing when considering that the Thame side are ex-champions of this competition. Women's winter sport has gone from strength to strength, continuing the success of last year.

Women's rugby and basketball will undoubtedly have busy seasons, the latter playing in the county league for the very first time this year. The hockey teams are benefitting from a brand new coaching squad and the mixed side has won its opening two games convincingly. Similarly, the netball sides are unbeaten and have racked up some impressive score lines in the process. The rugby team have begun their campaign well with four wins from five. In the process they have won through to the second rounds in both the Wren (Hampshire) Cup and the National Schools' Daily Mail Vase competitions.

Once again the badminton squad has enjoyed unparalleled success; they remain unbeaten for over two seasons.

James Simms



For all team results please see the county results service via: [www.hampshirecollegesport.co.uk](http://www.hampshirecollegesport.co.uk)

For all men's football results see: [www.hantscollegesleague.co.uk](http://www.hantscollegesleague.co.uk)

## Holocaust Educational Trust

*Lessons from Auschwitz Project* is a government-funded scheme for which students can apply for competitive places on a three part course to explore the universal lessons of the Holocaust and its relevance for today. There is an orientation seminar in which participants meet each other, a one-day visit to Auschwitz in Poland, and follow-up seminar. All participants are required to undertake a follow-up project in which they disseminate the lessons they have learned to other students in College.

Further details: [www.het.org.uk/content.php?page\\_id=52](http://www.het.org.uk/content.php?page_id=52)

## Reading Week 22 October - 26 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. For second year students yet to complete UCAS applications, reading week provides a very timely opportunity.

### 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	23 October	10am - 4pm
Wednesday	24 October	10am - 4pm
Thursday	25 October	10am - 4pm

Please note that during Reading Week some members of the IT Support Team will not be in College. This may affect the 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 two days, January 3 and 4, 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 9 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 five 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 6 March 2008.**

### Deadline for January 2008 Re-sits - 2nd Year

For students who have not already booked January re-sits, the cost has now doubled (late penalty) and the **final date is Sunday 18 November**. The cost of resits is displayed on CristalWeb.

## 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.

## 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 2008, immediately after AS modules.

## Review data

By mid-November, review data on students' attendance, achievement and how well they are meeting deadlines will be posted on CristalWeb. All students are expected to share this information with parents.

## Term Dates at a glance

Reading Week	22 October - 26 October 2007
Open Days	7 & 8 November 2007
Christmas Vacation	20 December 2007 - 2 January 2008
Study Leave	Thurs 3 - Fri 4 January 2008
Reading Week	18 February - 22 February 2008
Easter Vacation	7 April - 18 April 2008
Reading Week	26 May - 30 May 2008
Term Ends	Thursday 10 July 2008 (4.15pm)

## Parents' Consultation Evenings

### Year 2 A2 course students

### Year 1 OCR National Certificate, GCSE and BTEC First Diploma

Wednesday	21 November, 5.30pm - 8.30pm
Tuesday	27 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 but please note that the **College music staff** will be accompanying the orchestra to play at a national conference on 21 November; they **will be available on 27 November for consultation**.

### Year 1 AS course students and pre-A level

Thursday	13 March, 5.30pm - 8.30pm
Monday	17 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.

## Careers and Future Events

The College is proud to have been awarded **Investors in Careers Status** which is a national recognition of excellence in provision. 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 2007

Tuesday	16 October	University of Dundee
Thursday	18 October	Volunteering, Frimley Park Hospital
Tuesday	30 October	Gap Year South Africa
Thursday	1 November	Millennium Volunteers
Tuesday	13 November	Chichester University
Thursday	15 November	Kingston University
Tuesday	20 November	Southampton Solent University
Thursday	22 November	Army Officer Recruitment
Monday	26 November	College deadline for UCAS despatch by Christmas
Thursday	29 November	Gap Guru
Monday	3 December	College <b>Final</b> deadline for UCAS

### Spring and Summer 2008

#### Thursday 20 March (All day)

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

#### Thursday 27 March (Afternoon)

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

#### Friday July 4 (All day)

Moving on Day all 1st year students. This is an important day of HE and careers seminars and exhibitions.

## Higher Education

### Parents' Information Sessions

#### Monday 10 March (Evening)

2nd Year parents: Higher Education Finance

Tuesday 22 April and Wednesday 23 April

1st year parents: Higher Education talk

**The Sixth Form College  
Drama Enrichment Group Presents**



**A Musical Comedy for all the family  
based on Hans Christian Andersen's  
The Ugly Duckling**

**Wednesday 5 December  
Thursday 6 December  
Friday 7 December  
The Prospect Theatre  
7:30pm**

**Tickets: £7, £5 Concessions**

**from College Services on 01252 688275**

**Christmas Dance Production**

A dance adaptation of Matthew Bourne's  
works including *The Nutcracker!*



**BOURNE CRACKERS**

A colourful journey into the wonders of  
sweetie land, with a Christmas melting pot  
of dance, bizarre characters and surprises  
to discover!

**Thursday 13 December  
Friday 14 December  
7.30pm  
Prospect Theatre**

Tickets: £5/ £3 from College Services  
on sale from 26 November.

**Autumn Concert**



**Big Band, Sixth Sense and  
New Concertante Ensemble...  
...the College Orchestra**

**Thursday 22 November  
The Prospect Theatre  
7.30pm  
Tickets £8/£4**



**The College Choral Society  
and Friends**

**Christmas Concert  
Wednesday 19 December  
Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*  
Haydn's *St Nicholas Mass*  
College Chamber Choir**

**The Sports Hall; 7.30pm  
Tickets £8/£4**

**Farnborough Music Society**

The College has recently taken over the  
arrangements for the FMS Concerts

**Saturday 3 November 7.30pm Prospect Theatre**  
The Emerald Ensemble  
Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks  
The Four Seasons by Piazzolla  
Tickets: £7.50/£4

**Saturday 8 December 7.30pm Prospect Theatre**  
The Chameleon Ensemble  
Tickets: £7.50/£4

**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 2007**