

The Sixth Form College Farnborough



Newsletter to Parents:
December 2009



Principal: John J Guy OBE BSc PhD MA MEd FRSA MRSC

Happy Christmas to all College families!



The image for the College Christmas Card this year is by Photography Tutor, Caroline Dyal - Hand-painted beads, Tortibo Village, Ghana. It was one of a number of images taken by Caroline on the exchange visit to the Presbyterian Secondary Technical School in Aburi, Ghana.

Congratulations to Computing students



Ten A level computing students from the College have won first prize in a national competition based on Biometrics and E-Identity, organised by the University of Kent, The UK Biometrics Institute and the Identity and Passport Service of the Home Office. The students were delegates at a conference on the challenges of e-identity in the 21st Century, held at Bletchley Park National Codes Centre. Computing Curriculum Manager at the College, Lalin Pethiyagoda, arranged for them to attend to enhance their understanding of the applications of computing in a changing world. The students heard from experts in the field of facial recognition, iris recognition and fingerprint recognition, as well as being introduced to the issues surrounding social networking technologies and their impact on identity. The Farnborough students made a presentation to an expert panel on a previously prepared topic: How can I survive the next 20 years with my identity intact? Led by 16 year old Joshua Lambert, the Farnborough students produced a convincing video presentation warning of the impact that public access to social networking sites might have on future employment prospects.

Josh said, "We had worked hard on the presentation and we were the only team to include a video but all the presentations were excellent. We were speechless when we were announced as the overall winners."

A Baroque Christmas - College Concert St Andrew's Garrison Church: Friday 18 December, 7.30pm



The Sixth Form College, Farnborough, presents "A Baroque Christmas" on Friday 18 December at St Andrew's Garrison Church, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot, GU11 2BY. Works include Kyrie from Messe de Minuit (Charpentier), Beatus Vir (Monteverdi), and Vivaldi's famous Gloria, along with some additional contributions from smaller ensembles and soloists. **Tickets are free of charge** and available in advance only from the Box Office on 01252 688219.

New partnership with University of York

Farnborough Sixth Form College has been invited to join a small group of outstanding schools and colleges in the country in forming a new partnership with the University of York. York is a very popular university, well known for its research and for its emphasis upon excellent teaching of undergraduates. The new relationship was announced when the Pro Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Colin Mellors, visited the College in late November to present students with their Extended Projects.

Professor Mellors said, "The University feels very proud to have become part of the 'extended Farnborough family'. There is a special 'feel' about this College and it has been a pleasure to see the commitment of such highly talented staff and students."

Students received their bound Extended Projects from the Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of York



Professor Mellors congratulated 180 students on their achievements when he presented them with bound university-style copies of their Extended Project dissertations. The College has led the education world in pioneering the Extended Project and Professor Mellors was full of praise for the innovation. Students undertake research in an area linking two of their subjects, under the supervision of a College tutor, as though they were university undergraduates.

Speaking to a packed hall of students and parents, Professor Mellors said, "The initiative is an excellent one, and something that aligns very closely with the skills that students will need at university. It is clear from the comments I have heard this evening that you have enjoyed the research enormously and it is a huge credit to you to have done the work so willingly over and above a pretty heavy A-level workload."

Why do we return on Wednesday 6 January?

The Christmas holiday is an important time for some rest and relaxation; for most, it is a period to be spent with the family. However, time must also be set aside for a period of intensive revision.

For first year students, the AS modules will be the first public examinations taken at advanced level. They are not the same as GCSE examinations and it is foolish to think that one can prepare properly for an advanced level module without serious revision. As a guideline, I would expect students to undertake the equivalent of at least FIVE full College days of revision during the Christmas vacation.

Study Leave

Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 January have been particularly identified as study days for students to spend the whole day working. They should not be used for additional part-time work.

Last year, the AS and A2 results for this College were exceptional compared with the national statistics. I know that parents will encourage and assist students to undertake serious revision during this time.

When do the examinations begin?

The January modules begin on Monday 11 January 2010. Module tests are about 90 minutes long.

All candidates must be aware of the times of their examinations and their locations in the College. **Each student has an individual examination timetable available on CristalWeb which can be viewed via the College website at home.** If a student misses an examination for any reason, it cannot be rescheduled - the next available time will be June 2010.

If a student is ill on the day of an examination, please phone the College to inform Registry of the illness. In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible for an invigilator to bring the paper for the examination to be taken at home - but please understand that staffing availability does not often permit this.

The College does NOT close down for study leave at this time - students must attend all their classes during the module period, except when they have a module test. If the module test is at 1.15pm, students must attend their classes in the morning and, if they have a class at 2.45pm, they must, of course, attend it.

Examination Guidelines

The College publishes a booklet which has been given to each student giving essential information about external examinations - a copy is available on the CristalWeb homepage under Navigation > Exam info (<https://cristalweb.farnborough.ac.uk/CristalWeb/Pages/ExamInfo>). The conduct of examinations is subject to routine external inspection and the College complies with the regulations to the letter. Regulations relating to appeals and enquiries are also given in the booklet.

Mobile Phones - NEVER EVER in the exam hall

Possession of a mobile phone or other electronic device, even turned off, in the examination hall WILL result in disqualification. We advise that on examination days, mobile phones should be left at home but a "phone minding service" is available in the Finance Office for those students who hate to be parted from their phone; the cost of the service is £1 for the January session of examinations.

College Travel Scholarships

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

In the past, examples have included work with charities in Brazil, Nepal, Guyana, Africa and China, expeditions with the Armed Forces and even turtle conservation in Tobago. Projects tend to be for the summer duration or for a whole or part gap year.

Application forms for Travel Scholarships for 2010 are available from the Principal's Personal Assistant, Jan Moore. Closing date: Friday 12 February 2010.

Result of Parent Governor Election

Following the election earlier in the term, Mr Andrew Majury has been appointed as a Parent Governor until 2011.

The two parent governors are:

Mr Greg Trigg 01932 883447;
Mr Andrew Majury 01252 691024.

Spring Term Consultation Evenings

The two consultation evenings in March are primarily aimed at first year students and at second year students in difficulty.

Wednesday 17 March 2010 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm
Monday 22 March 2010 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm

Prayer Evenings

There is a prayer group for parents of students at the College which meets in Maths 10 in the Ranson Building. All are most welcome at any of the meetings, 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm.

Thursday 28 January Monday 8 March,
Tuesday 4 May Thursday 17 June

For further information contact Andrea Birkett on 01252 663349.

Bursaries and Scholarships

Bursaries and scholarships are extra sources of financial help from colleges and universities. They are paid on top of any student loans or grants. They may be paid in cash or in another form - such as a discount on accommodation. They don't have to be repaid and are not means-tested. Universities will be able to provide more about the bursaries and scholarships they offer and how to apply.

Science Technology Engineering and Maths

The Elichou Dangoor Scholarships are available to assist up to 4000 students at Russell Group and 1994 Group institutions (see link below). It is hoped that this ambitious scheme will encourage more young people to consider studying STEM subjects at one of the country's leading universities. Full details are available from <http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/Dangoor/>

Student Finance - following the problems with applications to Student Finance last year the launch date has been delayed. Students are recommended to apply as soon as the Student Finance England site goes live for 2010/11 (check College website).

Feedback

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

Sports Roundup

Congratulations go to the women's football team who have reached the quarter finals of the national cup. Likewise the men's football team have reached the last 16 of their national cup. The men's basketball team reached the semi final stages of the Hampshire Cup but were beaten by Itchen in a very close match.

The College sent a strong team of 60 students to the British Colleges South East Regional Tournament which acts as a qualifier for the National Finals in April. The College had great success in the women's cross country, with Catherine Taylor winning the event and leading the team of six to a gold medal. The men's elite trampolining team defended and won again their title from last year; Charlotte Harris and Lydia Osborne also qualified as part of the South East women's elite trampolining team.

The women's basket tournament saw an exhilarating semi-final against Peter Symonds; as underdogs the College was not expected to win but their flawless performance put them into the final against last year's winners, Tauntons College, who eventually went on to claim the title.

The College swimming team had another successful afternoon in the pool dominating many events. Sam Moreton, Mike Baxter, Catriona McGill and Catherine Taylor won all their individual races as well as contributing to the four wins in the relays. This victory can be added to the team's triumph at the division 12 school relays' qualifier - Farnborough not only secured their place at National Finals by winning all their races, but also shaved 2 seconds off last year's times.

Catherine Taylor represented the College at the Regional Schools Biathlon in November and once again took first place, qualifying for the Nationals. Catherine will be looking to defend her National and World Schools Biathlon title later in the year. Catherine's success at last year's Biathlon has resulted in her being selected for the GB Modern Pentathlon Development Squad.

Student car drivers

- Please emphasise to your son/daughter that, if parking in the Student Car Park or the Farnborough Football Club ground, it is entirely at each student's own risk.
- There are minor incidents in the Student Car Park almost every day, caused by the large number of inexperienced drivers all in one place - and parking can be a difficult manoeuvre. The College accepts no responsibility for dealing with these accidents which should always be referred to the insurance companies.
- If your son or daughter would find it distressing to deal with minor damage to a car, he or she should think seriously about leaving it at home.
- The College will, of course, continue to treat dangerous driving on the College site very seriously by suspending any student seen driving in that manner.

Catherine Cole
Deputy Principal, Student Services

Travel

When students experience problems with the bus or rail service, it is helpful if they inform Mary Marsh in the Student Services Office or send her a message via email: mmarsh@farnboroughsfc.ac.uk. All complaints are forwarded immediately to the appropriate bus or rail company.

Careers and Future Events 2010

Thursday 28 January

Academy of Contemporary Music.

Tuesday 2 February

Access to Southampton - Information on the special access scheme at the University of Southampton.

Thursday 4 February

So you want to be a Pilot? TAG Aviation

Tuesday 9 February

Volunteering opportunities in Tenerife.

Thursday 11 February

So you want to be a Vet? The Royal Veterinary College.

Tuesday 23 February

So you want to be a Teacher? University of Southampton.

Thursday 25 February

So you want to be an Engineer? Fluor.

Tuesday 2 March

So you want to take a Gap Year? World Challenge.

Tuesday 9 March

So you want to be a Doctor? Queen Mary, University of London.

Tuesday 16 March

So you want to be a Lawyer?

Thursday 18 March

'Stay local and get a degree with less debt' Farnborough College of Technology.

Tuesday 23 March

Gap Year - Travel Safe - World Challenge.

UCAS 2011 Entry

Wednesday 22 September

College deadline for medicine, veterinary science and Oxbridge UCAS forms. Students applying to popular courses at oversubscribed universities should consider meeting this deadline as well.

Special events:

Wednesday 10 March

Introduction to Oxbridge

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

Friday 12 March

UCAS HE Convention - University of Portsmouth
A must for all first year students thinking of university. Full details will be circulated to students in Tutorial lessons.

Thursday 22 April - Higher Education Information Evening

Higher Education talk **for the parents of first year students only. Admission by ticket**, either at 6pm or 7.30pm.

Friday 2 July

Moving on Day - Careers seminars, talks and exhibition for all first year students.

Carnival of Animals

a spectacular evening of dance
in the Prospect Theatre



Villains' Opera performed with gusto!



A large cast of over 50 students performed the Villains' Opera this term. The production included singing, dancing and wise-cracking with hi-octane humour, interspersed with a dazzling range of songs.

Under the scrutiny of the all-seeing, all-knowing ever so slightly psychotic Mr Big (Joe Miller), this southside gang operate out of The Flower of Kent pub, orchestrated by the powerful, ruthless hands of Peachum played by David Allwright – part-Delboy, part-Fagin – and his gin-swilling, hard-bitten wife, played by Charlie Fooks. Aided by a colourful array of vicious hoodlums, petty-criminals and bent coppers (Mona Lisa Chinembiri and Zoe Crawford), The Villains' Opera tells the adventures of MacHeath (Alex Warren) – a latter-day Alfie, all smiles and charms, wholly plausible and entirely untrustworthy! It's a hard life being a gangster's moll as poor Polly (Becky Turner) and lovely Lucy (Katie Goodsell) discover as we follow the capers of this colourful treacherous anti-hero to his bloody destiny. Of course, in the tradition of the panto season, who should appear at the end but a good fairy godfather in the form of the recently deceased but super-powered Mr Big, descending from on-high to wave his magic wand (or should that be his machine gun) and restore our hero to the tropical paradise of which he dreams.



The Learning Resource Centre will be OPEN 10am - 4pm Monday 4 January and Tuesday 5 January 2010

If you are coming from a long way, phone first to check that the network has no glitches (01252 688 271)

Congratulations to the following students:

Alice Faulkner, Meggie Kenaghan, Paul McManus, Max Westwood and Henry Wright who completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition on Dartmoor during the October Reading Week.

James Cross, Abigail Jenkins, Joe Strudwick and Amber Wells, for winning the 'best of' categories and overall winning image, in the over 16 section, in the Rotary Club of Rushmoor and St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough Photographic Competition 2009.

Nikki Howes, Charlotte Jordan and Kelly Louise Lander on being selected to attend a Bank of America Merrill Lynch seminar.

Sam Bedlow, Ramin Irvanipour, Ellie Anne Smith, Kristiana Stoyanova and Adam Walker, on finishing as highly commended runners up in the Target 2.0 Bank of England Competition.

Amy Woods on being selected to represent Great Britain at the 2009 European Aerobic Gymnastics Championships in Liberec, Czechoslovakia.

Joshua Lambert, Alipio Reis, Alexander Vijay Smith, James Ryan, Hannah Stevens, Jessica Urban, Samantha Connor, Ashleigh Hughes, Robert Greig, Edward Bird on achieving first place for their presentation 'How can I survive the next 20 years with my identity intact?' organised by the University of Kent and the Home Office, Identity and Passport Service.

College Calendar

This year the College Calendar has been designed by two students, Charnah Bradley and Chanel Stracey both studying A2 Graphics. Students whose work has been selected for the 2010 Calendar are as follows: Nathaniel Amissah, Katy Gravett, Sarah Wolfe, Rosie Livesey, Alexandra Masters, Danny Lee, Liz Vale, James Woods, Anastasia Olarou, Zach Jenkins, Catherine Mullin, Shawnee Vale, Abigail Jenkins, Joanne Cover, Zofia Seymour, Sarah Willis, Charlotte Fisher, Amy Reardon, Lucy McCrae and Emily Nixon.