



Season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all our College families!



It's hard to believe that we have nearly reached the end of the autumn term; it really does only seem like yesterday that I was welcoming all the new first year students into the College. Now, of course, they are study-hardened College veterans anticipating the winter campaign and their first taste of A level examinations in January!

At the end of a long term, students (and staff!) are understandably looking forward to the Christmas break and a chance to relax in the company of family and friends. However, the January exams are an important staging post for all AS and A2 students so please encourage your sons and daughters to balance the festive fun with the need to revise. Looking back, 2011 has been a busy year which has seen some wonderful achievements by College students – on the sports fields, in performance, in a multitude of local and national competitions. Whilst it is invidious to pick out individuals, the thrilling success by the Economics team in the prestigious Bank of England Target 2.0 competition last March was a notable highlight. Another remarkable highlight was the magnificent response by the College on Remembrance Day - see below for more details.

The year ahead will bring its challenges. You will be only too aware of the difficult economic circumstances in which the country finds itself. In this context, may I add my sincere thanks to the many parents who were able to respond positively to my request for a Gift Aided donation in support of College activities. It really has made a significant difference: thank you. If you have not yet made a donation and would like to, it's certainly not too late: please contact the Finance Office (01252-688212) who will be pleased to help with the very simple process.

May I take this opportunity to offer seasonal best wishes to all our students and parents. A happy new year to one and all.
Simon Jarvis, Principal

College Christmas Celebration Service Guildford Cathedral: Friday 16 December, 7 pm



The College presents a Christmas celebration service at Guildford Cathedral on Friday 16 December at 7pm. Seasonal music and readings will be presented by the Choral Society and Chamber Choir in the stunning surroundings of the Cathedral. **Tickets are free of charge and are available in advance ONLY from the College Box Office on 01252 688219.**

Result of Parent Governor Election

Following the election earlier in the term, Mr Marcus Phillips has been appointed as a Parent Governor until 2013. The two Parent Governors are:
Mr Andrew Tidd
Mr Marcus Phillips

January Examinations - adverse weather

We are approaching the new year examination season and contingency plans are in place should the disruption we experienced last January be repeated. The College website will be used as the means of communication and will be updated regularly, so students should please check before setting out from home. If you do not have internet access, or in case of equipment failure, please make arrangements with someone else to share information.

If the College declares a **College Emergency Day**, then it is not safe for students to be on site and **no examinations will take place**. This means that it will be necessary to sit examinations scheduled for that day in the summer instead, as Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) regulations do not allow examinations to be rescheduled.

If the College declares that it is **open for examinations but not for lessons**, the morning start time will be delayed until 9.30am to allow students more time to arrive. Students arriving up until 10am will be able to sit the examination and have the full time allowance, but must report to Registry first. Afternoon examinations will start at 1.15pm.

Journey times to College are likely to be longer and train companies may also be running a reduced timetable. These factors should be borne in mind when planning to make the journey to College. In line with JCQ regulations, students arriving after 10am for a morning examination will not be able to sit it.

College students break world record!



An extraordinary event took place at the College on 11.11.11 when 2163 students joined with staff, members of the armed forces, local councillors, the Police and associates of Rushmoor's Community Matters Partnership to create the largest human poppy in history!

On a unique occasion, the world record beating giant poppy was created, using coloured paper and ingenuity, on the College rugby pitch, marshalled superbly by 50 soldiers from the Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment, the Royal Logistics Corps and the Royal Military Police.

The idea for the fund raising event came entirely from the College students themselves. SA President, Russ Kelaart said: "We wanted to do something to show our respect for all the men and women who have given so much for us but to do something different, maybe something that had never been done before – ever!"

The Police and Councillors Smith and Masterson were on hand to verify the total number of participants which has completely smashed the previous world record of just under 350 people. Confirmation is now being awaited from Guinness World Records.

**The Learning Resource Centre will be OPEN
10am - 4pm Tuesday 3 January
and Wednesday 4 January 2012**

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

Why do we return on Thursday 5 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

Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 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 9 January 2012. 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; please ensure that it is noted by the student.** If a student misses an examination for any reason, it cannot be rescheduled - the next available time will be June 2012 and a fee may be payable by the student.

If a student is ill on the day of an examination, please phone the College to inform Registry of the illness; a medical note is likely to be required. 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 **Examination Information**. 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

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 South Africa, India, and Kenya, with expeditions to Asia and InterRailing across Europe. Projects tend to be for the summer duration or for a whole or part gap year.

Application forms for a Travel Scholarship are available from the Principal's Personal Assistant, Jan Moore.

Closing date: Friday 10 February 2012.

Spring Term Consultation Evenings

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

Wednesday 14 March 2012 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm
Thursday 22 March 2012 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm

Study leave in Summer Term 2012

Following publication of the summer examination timetable, we have now finalised study leave dates.

First year students studying AS levels: study leave will begin on Monday 14 May.

All other students: will begin study leave on Monday 28 May.

A2 lessons will begin on **Tuesday 12 June.**

Bursaries, Scholarships and Awards

Most universities and colleges offer students direct financial help in addition to any student loans and grants through bursaries and scholarships. This money helps to pay for living costs and tuition fees and doesn't have to be paid back. Applicants should check with the university to clarify what is available.

Student Finance for courses starting after 1 September 2012

Full-time and part-time students can apply from early 2012 for loans and grants to cover their tuition fees and living costs. There is also extra help available from bursaries and scholarships. Full details are available at <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/Typesoffinance/index.htm>

The presentation from the meeting for parents given by the University of Portsmouth is available on the College website.

University Admissions – Make sensible choices

Students are advised to be realistic and only to accept a place for which they will be able to meet the requirements. We strongly recommend waiting for the results of the January modules before making final decisions. Once all decisions have been received via UCAS, students with more than one offer have to firmly accept one (known as Conditional Firm - CF) and identify another as their Insurance offer (CI). If the student does not meet the CF offer but meets the CI offer, s/he will go to the Insurance place. Students should choose their CI offer wisely – it should be lower than the CF choice. Personal Tutors will be happy to discuss these matters with their tutees.

Economics Students win Regional Heat



Our economists give advice to the Bank of England

The twelfth annual Target Two Point Zero – Bank of England and The Times Interest Rate Challenge is now underway, with around 300 teams across the United Kingdom competing for the Challenge Trophy and £10,000 for their school or college.

The team, Ben Crompton, Harry Wigglesworth, Paul Rusen, Melissa Hamilton and Lucy Winship, have a lot to live up to as last year's team won the competition! They have recently won the first stage of the competition, the regional heat, held at the Farnham Castle and will be competing in the area final to be held in February 2012. Nina Wood, Economics teacher at the College, who is their mentor said: 'the team performed outstandingly and I have every confidence they will surpass the achievements of last year's team.'

Careers and Future Events 2012

Amongst the weekly careers events for this year are:

Tuesday 17 January

PKF (UK) LLP - Accountants and Business Advisers
Opportunities for post A level leavers seeking direct employment into accounting and finance

Thursday 2 February

Apprenticeships - Farnborough College

Tuesday 7 February

Apprenticeships & Scholarships - Kaplan Financial Accountancy

Thursday 9 February

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

Tuesday 21 February

So you want to be a Lawyer? - Kaplan Business School

Thursday 23 February

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

Tuesday 28 February

So you want to be a Pilot? - TAG Aviation

Thursday 1 March

So you want to be an Engineer? - Fluor

Tuesday 6 March

Index Recruitment

Tuesday 13 March

The benefits of a gap year - World Challenge

Tuesday 20 March

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

Dates to be confirmed:

So you want to be a Teacher?

Special events:

Thursday 15 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 29 March

Introduction to Oxbridge - Carolin Crawford, Emmanuel College, Cambridge & Lizzy Emerson, St Hugh's College, Oxford
1 pm - 3.30 pm. Prospect Theatre

Thursday 26 April

Higher Education Information Evening
Presented by the University of Southampton
For parents of first year students. 6.00 pm or 7.30pm.
Admission by (free) ticket only, available from the Student Services office.

Thursday 5 July

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

Wednesday 19 September

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

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@farnborough.ac.uk. All complaints are forwarded immediately to the appropriate bus or rail company.



Sports Roundup

It has been an extremely busy term on the sports front: in October the men's swimming team competed in the Hampshire round of the ESSA Team Championships and qualified in 15th place for National Finals in the 4x50m freestyle relay. The team of Connor Brunt, Michael Harris, Gavin Suen and Jordan Allen faced tough competition from the likes of Plymouth College and Millfield School.

The British Colleges' SE Regional Competition in November involved ten different sports, with over 150 College students competing. Andrew Provost won the cross country convincingly, securing his place on the SE team. Emma Hooper also put in a strong performance and finished 5th. Emma joins golfers Katy Hall, who finished joint 1st, and Andy Dusek (3rd place) in the SE team at Nationals Finals in Bath.

In the trampolining, Farnborough won the women's elite team event with Sophie Lewis finishing in 2nd, Nadia Hansell in 7th whilst Christine Pryce and Emily Bailey finished 3rd and 5th in the novice group. Sophie Lewis will be representing the region at Nationals and Nadia is first reserve.

The College dominated in the Badminton tournament and made the final in all doubles disciplines. The women's pair of Gillian Thomas and Hayley Duckett were overall winners. Mike Bratt and Jack Wills lost out to last year's winners; Molly Davis and Will Spreadbury had to retire due to injury.

The women's tennis doubles pairing of Sophie Hall and Charlotte Newland finished runners up; in the swimming, Gavin Suen, Faline Chapman and Michael Harris all won their races to take places on the regional team.

Enrichment activities are strong in College. Cheerleading is having its second successful year with the introduction of the Freshman squad for all first years. Over 40 girls train every Thursday and we will soon see them competing. Table tennis has also proven to be extremely popular this year with a number of students representing the College at the British Colleges' tournament.

James Simms, Head of PE

Student Will Fuller's film wins prestigious prize

First year student, Will Fuller, has just won the prestigious Diploma for his short film, 'Don't Turn Your Back' at the Estonian International Tallinn Film Festival.

The film reminds us what can happen if we ignore the threat to our planet's wildlife. The film has also gained recognition from the World Wildlife Foundation.

In addition, 'Don't Turn Your Back' has been nominated for best film of the month on the [indiedemand.com](http://www.indiedemand.com) website (<http://www.indiedemand.com/best-film-of-the-month/>)



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 the 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

National Youth Barbershop Competition at Birmingham Conservatoire College quartets come 4th and 6th



The New Fernibergians

The College's new barbershop quartets made a spectacular entry into the world of competitive barbershop singing recently at the National Youth Barbershop Competition at the Birmingham Conservatoire.

Two ensembles - 'The New Fernibergians' and 'Cutting Edge' - made the journey, singing close-harmony versions of numbers including 'My Own Sweet Valentine' and 'I'm All Alone'.

The New Fernibergians are Alex Tay, Jon Higgins, Leo Doulton



Cutting Edge

and Patrick Reardon-Morgan. Cutting Edge are Mike Woods, James Rowland, Danny Gortler and David Pitts.

The quartets have been training for several weeks and were met with great acclaim by judges and audience members. Despite competing against well established groups with members up to the age of 26, they came an extremely impressive 4th and 6th.

Druantia weaves its Christmas magic!

This Christmas, the College's seasonal drama production was an ambitious collaboration between dance, drama and music. Featuring a cast of over 100 students, the Cirque De Soleil inspired piece, entitled Druantia (Symbol of the Earth), used as its inspiration several

ethereal, Celtic and folk tales to weave a story about the perils of humankind meddling with the elements, offering redemptive thought on the power of the human spirit and the way we can



together overcome our difficulties. A very pertinent point for our troubled times!

With stunning choreography and featuring haunting melodies from popular shows such as The Lion King and Spring Awakening, the fusion of dance, drama and song brought the story thrillingly and atmospherically to life. This intriguing new and powerful piece,



combining stunning and arresting effects, left the packed Prospect Theatre houses spellbound and totally absorbed. Whilst this was, in the tradition of the College's December productions, ensemble playing of the highest

order, the sheer grace and strength of dance duets featuring Sean Murray and Lucy Bishop was a particular delight. The haunting power of vocalists Lauren Byrne and Sophie Mallender, and the heroine of the piece, the young Brina, played so maturely by Indera Shankla, were real stand-out performances demonstrating skills way beyond their tender years and experiences.

Director Matt Sheppard, who marshalled the huge cast and technical



team so brilliantly, was understandably exhausted but elated at the production: 'I am continually surprised by the quality of these young performers: you expect such courage and maturity in the professional theatre - but these wonderful youngsters have reached this astonishing level whilst studying full time for their A levels! Remarkable!'

Congratulations to the following students:



Kiran Eyre who has won the Surrey Heath Young Musician of the Year award. Kiran performed on his electric guitar *Canon Rock* based on Canon by Johann Pachelbel.

Sophie Lewis on being presented the prestigious Michael Austin Harlick Award by Hampshire

County Council and the Hampshire School Sports Federation for Trampoline Gymnastics. She has also been named the Welsh Trampoline Gymnast of the Year 2011. Sophie recently competed for Great Britain at the 2011 World Age Group Competition.



Aidan Jones on winning a Gold medal in Under 20s Scottish Open and a Bronze medal in the Welsh Open in recent Judo tournaments.

Victoria Williams who has been selected for the Great Britain Badminton team.

Philippa Cross who has been selected to compete in the British Gas ASA National Age Group Synchronised Swimming Championships in December.

Louisa Barnard who is competing in the forthcoming IDO World Tap dance Championships in Riesa, Germany.

Lauren Byrne and Sophie Mallender who are performing in 'Sleeping Beauty' with the Starburst Theatre Company as the Prince and Sleeping Beauty respectively.

Emma Isaac, Amy Tennison and Aimee Hardy on being awarded the College's Richard Compton Creative Writing Prize for their short stories.

Sleep out to raise money for homeless



On a very cold night in November a group of than 50 students and staff at the College undertook the challenge to sleep out on the campus, in order to raise awareness of the plight of young homeless people in the area and raise funds for a fantastic charity, Step by Step. They were all sponsored and over the last year have raised £5000 for the charity to support the homeless.

If you would like to make a donation or to find out more about the Step by Step charity, you can do so by visiting their website at www.stepbystep.org.uk.

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.

Simon Jarvis
Principal