

Welcome to new students - and congratulations!

We are coming up to Reading Week and I hope all new students feel more settled than in the first few days of term when all seemed strange. Transition to a new place, whether to college, (perhaps especially) higher education or employment, can be a traumatic and stressful process and I strongly believe that the move to a sixth form college is, in itself, an important educative experience. I have been impressed with the qualifications that our new students have brought with them and I was pleased to congratulate them all when we met at the beginning of term.

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 with their work during the term. Second year courses are tougher than the first year; in order to achieve the same sort of grades, students have to work more intensely than in the first year. As a College, we are committed to enabling all students to achieve or exceed their perceived potential.

Tougher A2 examinations - the A*

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 2009 AS examination results and stated that our result "ranks you above the 90th percentile indicating outstanding student performance".

In 2010, new style A level questions will be used in the examinations to help identify candidates for the new A* grade. We have been working with OCR on the development of the A* for two years, and teachers in the College are aware of the new challenges. We are committed to assisting our students to understand their subjects well so that they can excel in the new style papers.

2009 A level results

At full A level, the College results were again outstanding and we congratulate all students on their success. In the adjoining table, we report the results of our top 600 students compared with the results of the highest performing selective schools. Our top 245 students would be rated the best in the country, beating North London Collegiate with only 85 girls (the Telegraph's top English School).

On a Personal Note

I know that the Chairman of Governors has written to you all informing you of my decision to retire at the end of this academic year. It has not been an easy decision because the College is a wonderful place to work - even in my 25th year as a Principal, my 18th here at Farnborough, I still enjoy coming to work.

But I think the same would be said by my colleagues who are an extraordinarily talented group of teaching and support staff; together we have moulded the College to be as it is. Governors and staff are committed to maintaining the success of the College and I know that there will be an exceptionally strong field of candidates for the post of Principal to lead the College to even higher achievements.

But I am not leaving until the end of the Academic Year and I have no intention of making this year any less demanding on myself, my colleagues ... or the students!

Parent Governor - nominations required; Electronic voting - please check correct 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 Governors now invites self-nominations for Parent Governor tenable until 31 October 2011.

If you wish to stand for election, please submit your name and address (with student's name and Tutor Group), and brief biographical details (150-200 words) by email to governor@farnboroughsfc.ac.uk by 12 noon, Wednesday 4 November 2009. If your biographical details exceed 200 words, the text will be edited - 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 9 November 2009. The election will be electronic unless you write to the Clerk requesting a postal vote. The continuing Parent Governor is Mr Greg Trigg - he would be pleased to discuss the role with any prospective candidates and can be contacted on 01932 883447 or mobile 07793017511 or email greg.trigg@ntlworld.com.

At present, the Governing body comprises 14 men and 6 women; the retiring Parent Governor is Katrina Cochrane.

Please check that we have the correct email address by asking your son or daughter to open *Personal Details* > *Details on CristalWeb*. Corrections should be sent immediately to registry@farnboroughsfc.ac.uk.

Comparison of 2009 A level results

The Sixth Form College and selective schools

% of students with A & B grades

Source: Daily Telegraph & Times, 29 August 2009

The Sixth Form College Farnborough	Selective School (number of A level students in parentheses)
Top 245	100.0%
	99.0%
	97.9%
Top 275	97.7%
	97.3%
Top 300	95.9%
	95.4%
Top 350	93.5%
	91.9%
	91.5%
Top 400	91.4%
	90.4%
	90.3%
Top 500	88.4%
	88.2%
Top 600	83.5%
ALL (1298)	58.7%
	52.0%

North London Collegiate (85)
Royal Grammar, Guildford (146)
Magdalen College Oxford (83)
Wycombe Abbey Girls (85)
Haberdashers' Aske's Boys (156)
Godolphin & Latymer Girls (65)
Wellington College (188)
Dulwich College (182)
Tormead Girls (56)
Oundle (187)
National Average (all schools)

'Pink Day' Friday 23 October



In order to raise awareness of such vital issues as breast and testicular cancer, the Student Association will be preparing a video to be shown in all tutorials, on how to check for unusual lumps and bumps. On 23 October there will be a range of fund raising activities in support of Breast Cancer Relief - everybody has to come to College dressed in pink.

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 0800 121 8989) 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.

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.



Student President Jack Nixon and Vice President Daniel Rodgett host the visit of IBM Chairman, Larry Hirst CBE, to open the new computer rooms in the John Guy Building, on Monday 19 October 2009.

Freshers' Party - Congratulations

The Freshers' Party was held at Liquid Night Club in Basingstoke on 1 October. It was arranged by the Student Association and was the particular responsibility of the Events Officer, Lottie Morley. She and the rest of the committee are to be congratulated - it was a great evening for all concerned. The College is particularly grateful to the SA Link Tutor, Christine Eustace and her colleagues for their oversight and presence throughout the evening.

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. Please note that it is illegal to wait in parked cars for students in Whitehouse Close.

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 an adventurous activity.

Application forms for the 2010 Scholarships will be available from the Principal's Personal Assistant from 1 December 2009 and the closing date is Friday 12 February 2010. 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.



Wednesday 11 November
Thursday 12 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 if students do not attend a partner or link school because we know that the College will again be oversubscribed in 2010.

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 Freshers' Night at LIQUID

Reading Week 26 October - 30 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	27 October	10am - 4pm
Wednesday	28 October	10am - 4pm
Thursday	29 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 support service available in the Centre.

For further information or to check the status of the network, please contact the Help Desk on 01252 688271, especially if you will be travelling from a distance.

Study Leave and January Modules

The Christmas vacation has been extended by two days, January 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 Monday 11 January and are usually of 90 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 examination period.

This is the method which we have now used with great success for many 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 11 March 2010.

Deadline for January 2010 re-sits - 2nd Year

For students who have not already booked January re-sits, the cost has now doubled (late penalty) and the **final deadline date is Thursday 12 November**. The cost of re-sits 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 your son or daughter would 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 on **Tuesday 15 June 2010**, 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 discuss this information with parents. Copies of the review data will be posted to parents.

Term Dates at a glance

Reading Week	26 October - 30 October 2009
Open Days	11 & 12 November 2009
Christmas Vacation	21 December 2009 - 1 January 2010
Study Leave	Monday 4 & Tuesday 5 January 2010
Reading Week	15 February - 19 February 2010
Easter Vacation	2 April - 16 April 2010
Reading Week	31 May - 4 June 2010
A2 courses begin	Tuesday 15 June 2010
Term Ends	Thursday 8 July 2010 (4.15pm)

Parents' Consultation Evenings

Year 2	A2 course students
Year 1	Pre-A level: OCR National Certificate, GCSE and BTEC First Diploma students

Wednesday 25 November, 5.30pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 1 December, 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 A2 students will be available on both evenings.

Year 1 AS course students and pre-A level

Wednesday 17 March, 5.30pm - 8.30pm

Monday 22 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

As a holder of the prestigious **Investor in Careers Award**, the College is delighted to offer the following opportunities to students as part of our on-going programme of information seminars. University talks will include information about Student Life, Costs and Bursaries.

Autumn Term 2009

Tuesday	3 November	Bournemouth University
Thursday	5 November	University of Aberystwyth
Tuesday	10 November	Oxford Brookes University
Monday	16 November	University of Oxford - Oxbridge interview techniques
Tuesday	17 November	Kingston University
Thursday	19 November	University of Southampton - Nursing and Midwifery courses
Tuesday	24 November	University of Essex - Surviving interviews
Thursday	26 November	Army Officer Recruitment
Tuesday	1 December	University of Southampton - School of Health Sciences
Thursday	3 December	The Year in Industry (YINI)
Tuesday	8 December	Gap Year South Africa
Thursday	10 December	Brunel University, School of Arts

Spring and Summer 2010

Wednesday 10 March (afternoon)

Oxbridge Admissions Tutors will visit the College to discuss Oxford and Cambridge admissions with students and parents; 1.15pm - 4.00pm.

Friday 12 March (all day)

UCAS Higher Education Convention to be held at the University of Portsmouth. A must for all first year students thinking of university.

Thursday 22 April

Higher Education Information Evening for parents of first year students; 6pm or 7.30pm. Admission by (free) ticket only.

Friday July 2 (all day)

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

Higher Education - UCAS Apply 2010

In our experience, all competitive courses at popular universities fill quickly and early applicants are more likely to get offers. We encourage our students to apply early so that they can concentrate on their academic work and prepare for the January modules. We allow **15 College working days** for processing the application, writing and checking the reference. To ensure despatch before Christmas, applications should be with Tutors by **Wednesday 25 November** and the final deadline is **Wednesday 2 December** to guarantee reaching UCAS by 15 January 2010. Applications reaching UCAS later than 15 January 2010 will be marked as **LATE** and may not receive equal consideration.

Sports Roundup

It has been another successful year so far for the sports teams, with wins for all 13 teams competing weekly. The Women's football team has had its best ever start to the season with three consecutive wins taking them to the 3rd round of the National Cup. They have beaten opposition Brockenhurst 5-2, Portsmouth College 9-4 and even travelled to Oxford to beat St. Clare's 18-0. The 1st XI football team has also qualified for the 3rd round of the National Cup. The Men's Basketball team has beaten Alton College 58-33 in the first round of the Hampshire Cup.

Further Education Sports Coordinator (FESCo), Lucy Moore

Through the work of our FESCo, Korfbal and Taekwondo has grown in strength, and the College now also offers Self Defence, Volleyball and Lacrosse. This now means there are over 30 sporting activities provided by the PE Department.

Aiming for the National Finals

The British Colleges South East Regional Tournament is being held in and around Aldershot later this term and the College will be entering teams in 32 of the 33 events. The Men's and Women's Basketball Competitions will be held in the Dame Kelly Holmes Sports Centre.



The College Swimming team...

will be entering the Division 12 Schools Relay Competition once again competing against other schools and colleges from

Hampshire, Dorset and Sussex for the title and the opportunity to represent Division 12 in the National Finals. The team is working towards its 9th year of qualifying.

Next Year's Sports Tour - BARCELONA

Preparation for the ever popular Sports Tour is underway, with 90 students from 7 teams involved. This year's tour will be to Barcelona where the students will have fixtures against local teams as well as opportunities to explore one of Europe's most vibrant cities, whilst staying in Barcelona's newest hostel.

Becky Wing

World class Student and Gymnast.

2nd yr student, Becky Wing, qualified for the World Gymnastics Championship Finals which took place in London on Friday 16 October - a fantastic achievement which places her in the top 20 in the world. In spite of the hours of training, Becky achieved 5 grade As in her AS exams in the summer, a world class performance too!

Congratulations to

Abhijit Chandgadkar on being selected for a Prime Minister's Global Fellowship to China during the summer.

Mikhail Bezroukov for winning the Infoterra award for the Best Physics Presentation.

Callum Green, Kim Seymour, Sean Kerr for having their work in the Royal Academy Online A level Summer Exhibition.

Daniel Crisp, Patrick Crummay, Anup Deo, James Etherington, Kenneth Leung, Tom Redgate, Jonathan Scott, Peter Selmeczy, Andrew Sharp, Philip Thomas, Caitlin Turrell and Andrew Willis on being awarded laptops from Fluor for their outstanding A levels.

Matthew Wareham on being awarded a Flying Scholarship.

Kathryn Willis on being selected to swim for England in the World Schools Games in Doha, Qatar.

Amy Woods - new British Champion in Aerobic Gymnastics.

Amy Smith - whose entry in the national Global Student Forum Challenge, *I am the difference*, is being made into a film.

Parents' Prayer Group

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, 7.30pm to 9pm.

Tuesday 17 November

Thursday 28 January

Monday 8 March

Tuesday 4 May

Thursday 17 June

If you would like further information please contact Andrea Birkett on 01252 663349.

College Events for the Autumn Term

We hope that all parents will attend some of the College events through the year, even if their sons or daughters are not actually performing. The events to Christmas are as follows:

Monday 16 November, 6pm
AS students Performing Arts Showcase

Thursday 19 November, 7.30pm
Big Band and NCE (Orchestra) in Concert

Thursday 26 and Friday 27 November, 7.30pm
The Carnival of Animals - Winter Dance Show

Wednesday 9 - Friday 11 December, 7.30pm
The Villains' Opera
The College enrichment drama production

Friday 18 December, 7.30pm
A Baroque Christmas
featuring works by: Bach, Vivaldi and Charpeulier
St Andrew's Garrison Church, Aldershot

Further details and ticket prices, for all events, can be obtained from College Services 01252 688219

Ghana Link News



Phoebe Kimble-Wilde and Collette Lucas write:

The opportunity of a lifetime came our way last summer when 20 students were selected to visit our Ghana link school, where for 10 days, we were fully immersed in the Ghanaian culture. We arrived with expectations of what the Ghanaians would be like but none of us were prepared for how friendly and welcoming they all were.

Within an hour of our arrival at the school there was a celebratory church service; all of us dancing with our new-found friends, waving handkerchiefs in the air and singing hymns. It was our first real taste of these welcoming people and an unforgettable experience. The first 5 days we spent at the school offered a variety of lessons and activities, from Geography to French, tie-dye to construction work, which made every single day different and allowed us to see a new side to Ghanaian culture. We also undertook a joint project focusing on renewable energy, comparing the different conservation methods used in our own countries.

Our trek up to Boti Falls was also a day to remember when, after a mammoth climb, we reached the umbrella rock and took in the spectacular views, showing Ghana to be a beautiful country.

The ten days were packed with activities, from partying at the Headteacher's house, to visiting the Akosombo Dam, and lots of opportunities to buy unusual gifts from the many markets. This was by far the most thought provoking yet immensely fun trip any of us has ever been on and a big thank you must go to Catherine, Caroline and Matt who made this trip possible.

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 2009