

# ANNUAL ROUND-UP NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020

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Designed by Desislava Doneva Coulsdon College student

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Croydon  
College



COULSDON  
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



# TRIPS & VISITS



## BTEC TRAVEL AND TOURISM TRIP TO BRIGHTON



On November 26 2019, BTEC Travel and Tourism students from Coulsdon College, went on a day trip to Brighton as part of the unit they had been studying in College - UK Travel and Tourism destinations.

Brighton has many infamous attractions for tourists to visit, including Brighton Pier and the new and exciting British Airways i360 viewing tower.

Travel teacher Sarita Lightfoot-Taylor said, 'Brighton is an excellent destination for our Travel students to explore, since the town regularly attracts many different types of visitors. Despite the rain and the wind, students had a brilliant time and were very well behaved!'

## IT STUDENTS VISIT OASIS ACADEMY RYELANDS

A group of Croydon College Level 3 Information Technology students visited Oasis Academy Ryelands on Wednesday 4 March to work with a group of primary school children to test out mobile Apps that they had developed in class.

The App they presented to the school children was intended to help young children perform arithmetic with whole numbers between 1 and 12. The brief of the App was to ensure it had colour, music and other sounds that would appeal to young children.

Lecturer Christopher Hunt, said 'The exercise was very useful. We collected more than 100 reviews within an hour alone. Full credit goes to Kian Riley who not only collected the most reviews, but also gained the highest average rating for his App.'

Samantha Francis, Assistant Principal and Head of Maths at Oasis Academy Ryelands was very pleased with the visit. She appreciated the calm approach of the students and the presence of young male role models - who are not often seen in the Primary School environment.

## CROYDON COLLEGE WARMLY WELCOMED THE DSM FOUNDATION



On Thursday 12th March 2020, The Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation attended Croydon College for the 300th performance of the play 'I Love You, Mum - I Promise I Won't Die' performed by Wizard Theatre for Level 3 ESOL students.

The Foundation was set up over 5 years ago following the death of Daniel, who took an illegal drug on a night out. His parents founded the charity with the aim of helping young people make safer choices around drugs and alcohol. Dan's mother Fiona, has previously come into the College to talk to students about alcohol and drug awareness.

In May 2014, just months after Dan died, the Foundation commissioned award winning playwright Mark Wheeler to write a play about what happened on that night. The title Mark chose uses Dan's last words to his mother before he left home. In March 2016 the play had it's first public performances in Southampton and London, with its premiere at the BRIT school, just a mile from Dan's home in Croydon.

The play has been professionally toured as a 'Theatre in Education' production since 2017; three years with StopWatch Theatre and with Wizard Theatre in 2020. A fifth professional production specifically for Scotland has been commissioned with Tie It Up Theatre.

Mark Wheeler has also recently published a play about David Bowie, an alumni of Croydon College and attended the 300th performance with the Foundation at Croydon College.

## CULINARY STUDENTS GRANTED WORK PLACEMENTS

Back in February 2020, our Culinary students received the fantastic news that they would be given work placements at various Corbin and King restaurants in London.

This provided our students with an excellent opportunity to gain vital work experience in the culinary industry, whereby they worked alongside the Sous Chef and Chef de Partie to produce food at the highest standard.

The restaurants that hosted our students included:

- Brasserie Zedel
- The Delaunay
- Colbert
- The Wolseley
- Fischers

Students were responsible for producing and delivering all necessary food, maintaining quality and quantity control, complying with all food hygiene & health and safety regulations, and attended all statutory training.





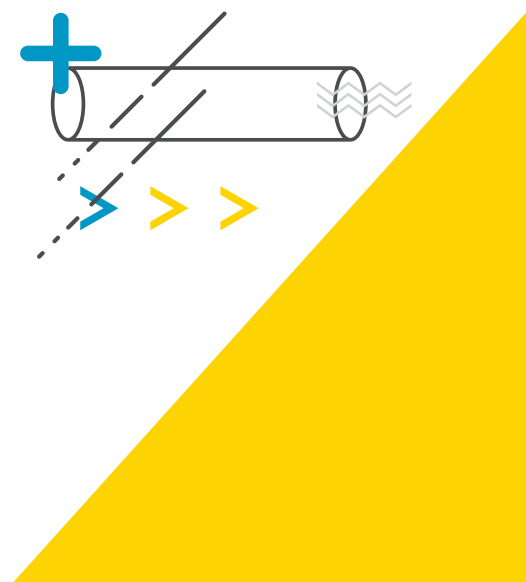
## SPECIAL GUESTS TREATED TO A PAMPER DAY

Croydon College warmly welcomed two very special guests, Angie and Jo, on Wednesday 15 January 2020 after they won a gift voucher, for a well-deserved pamper session followed by a delightful afternoon tea.

Our special guests were spoilt by Croydon College Hair and Beauty students to various treatments, including a facial, manicure and pedicure, before they were treated to an afternoon tea, all prepared by our wonderful Hospitality students. Refreshments on offer included an assortment of sandwiches, various savouries, sweet pastries, tea and coffee.

We received plenty of outstanding feedback from our guests, who said 'Your services have completely exceeded our expectations. Every staff member and student were friendly, welcoming and professional. We were very impressed, and would definitely come again!'

Thank you Angie and Jo for all your amazing feedback, we're delighted that you enjoyed your time here at Croydon College.



**YOUR SERVICES HAVE COMPLETELY EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS. EVERY STAFF MEMBER AND STUDENT WERE FRIENDLY, WELCOMING AND PROFESSIONAL. WE WERE VERY IMPRESSED, AND WOULD DEFINITELY COME AGAIN!**



## THE ROYAL ARTILLERY BARRACKS VISIT Coulsdon Sixth Form College

On Monday 16 March 2020, Coulsdon Sixth Form College Public Services students warmly welcomed Lance Corporal Crompton and his team from The Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich.

The group made the most of the sun by completing various team building activities to learn what it takes to succeed in the army.

Jason Gentles, Programme Manager for Sport and Public Services said, 'The army representatives were impressed with the 3 students still standing at the end of the session. He said they would make it in the army! I learnt a lot about their character and I am sure they learned a lot about themselves.'

## THE ARK BLAKE ACADEMY WELCOMED CROYDON COLLEGE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS STUDENTS

The brand new Ark Blake Academy in East Croydon, set to open in September 2020, welcomed our Level 2 Electrical Installation students on Wednesday 15 January 2020.

During the Electrical Installations course, learners expanded their knowledge and skills through a combination of theory lessons and practical workshops. This trip provided our current students with an excellent opportunity to gain some vital practical experience to work in the electrical installation industry, with the guidance of the Wates Group, who are currently constructing the Academy.

The Wates Group is one of the largest family owned construction property services and development companies in the UK. The company has worked across the country, working on all types of projects including construction of hospitals, Universities and schools.

Electrical Installations Lecturer, Oliver Balay, said 'The learners thoroughly enjoyed the detailed and insightful site experience. A special thanks to Production Management Trainee, Joshua Davis and Apprentice, Louisa Phillip for all the exciting range of electrical installations and construction work being carried out. We look forward to working with the Wates Group again!'





# 06 EVENTS

## BANKSY IN CROYDON September 2019

In September 2019, elusive artist Banksy set up a shop in Croydon featuring the stab vest he designed for Stormzy's headline act at Glastonbury Festival. A Tony the Tiger rug and a cradle surrounded by CCTV cameras were also on display. Known as Gross Domestic Product, the store was a window display in a former carpet shop that sold a range of products designed by Banksy.

Pete Raistrick, Croydon College lecturer got a piece of the action before the store shut just two weeks later. He was even interviewed by Ria Chatterjee and featured on ITV news the evening the store was discovered!



## HAIRDRESSING AND BEAUTY STUDENTS RAISE MONEY FOR THE SEND CENTRE

Croydon College Level 2 and Level 3 Hairdressing, and Level 2 Beauty students took part in a fundraiser event for the SEND Centre based at Coulsdon Sixth Form College, on Wednesday 11 December 2019.

The students treated their clients to various treatments to help raise essential money for the SEND Centre's sensory room. As a result, they successfully raised over £350!

## THE CHRISTMAS PANTO RETURNED TO Coulsdon Sixth Form College

Coulsdon Sixth Form College students once again impressed with their annual Christmas panto, this year presenting Alice in Wonderland. Not only was there brilliant acting from our wonderful students, but there were plenty of dance routines and even gym stunts that were perfectly executed.

The performance was extremely successful due to the outstanding efforts of the production team, and of course the energetic cast from across both nights. The Panto always displays the wealth of talent across various departments within the College, and the fantastic teamwork that pulls together a production of such high quality.

It was a fun evening that brought plenty of laughter amongst the audience that came out in crowds to fill out the theatre. The students interacted brilliantly with the youngsters in the audience, all of whom loved the performance.

Head of Visual Arts, Music and Performing Arts, Fiona Brennan said:



**THE PERFORMANCES, CHOREOGRAPHY, HUMOUR AND CHARACTERISATIONS WERE SUPERB, AS WAS THE SET DESIGN AND COSTUMES CREATED BY OUR BTEC LEVEL 3 ART STUDENTS. ALL OF THIS WAS ENHANCED BY THE LIGHTING AND SOUND EFFECTS CREATED BY OUR SKILFUL TECH TEAM. ALL OF THE STAFF AND STUDENTS INVOLVED SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE RAPTUROUS RESPONSE OF THE AUDIENCES. I AM VERY PROUD TO BE THEIR HEAD OF FACULTY.**

## GRAPHICS STUDENTS CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Coulsdon Sixth Form College's Lower Graphics Group celebrated Black History Month in October 2019, by designing and developing typographic posters.

Graphics lecturer, Helena Vaughan, encourages her A Level Graphics students to look back in time, and pick stories they like that can be used as part of a Graphics project to celebrate Black History Month.



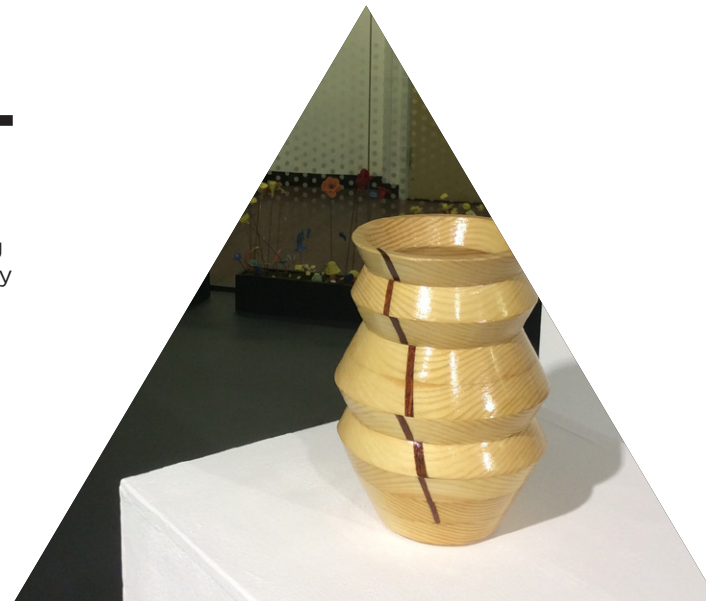


## CROYDON SCHOOL OF ART'S EXHIBITION: Exploring the Journey

Wednesday 11 March 2020, saw the launch of Croydon School of Art's very own art exhibition in the Parfitt gallery, Exploring the Journey. The exhibition was meant to run from Wednesday 11 March to Friday 20 March, however it was cut short due to growing concerns over COVID-19.

Exploring the Journey featured works from extraordinary emerging dual practitioners from the Creative Arts team at Croydon College. The amazing body of work had been chosen by the Head of School, Natalie Garner.

The exhibition included works by Croydon College Painter Rebecca Cartwright de Fontenelle, Photographer Tony Croydon, Designer Levy Goff, Filmmaker Thomas Jedski and Ceramist Agata Nowak.



## CONSTRUCTION PROJECT



Back in December 2019, Croydon College Construction students took part in a very special project for the SEND Centre based at Coulsdon Sixth Form College.

The students were given the task to design and build flower beds to go in the garden at the SEND Centre for the attending students to enjoy. On Wednesday 11 December 2019, the Construction students visited the Centre to deliver the flower beds and to find out what the SEND students thought of their work.

## STUDENTS AND STAFF ENGAGE IN WELLNESS ACTIVITIES



As we returned to College following the turn of a new year, staff and students at Croydon College and Coulsdon College took part in our Red January Challenge in support of Mental Wellness Month.

Throughout the month, there were a variety of exciting wellness activities on offer to build an overall sense of well-being amongst staff and students and to help raise funds for Mind in Croydon. Every week, there was a different activity on offer, ranging from Zumba to Juice Making.

Each activity was a great success and everyone involved really did reap the benefits!

## STUDENT COMMENDED AT YOUNG BUILDER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Croydon College student Rebecca Russell, was commended at the Youthbuild UK (YBUK) Young Builder of the Year Awards at the House of Commons, Wednesday 16 October 2019.

Youthbuild UK works with a variety of organisations from the public, private and third sectors to provide training, qualifications and employment to disadvantaged young people in the construction industry.

Over the last 20 years, Youthbuild UK has been involved in over 150 projects ranging from self-build housing schemes, to refurbishments and ongoing maintenance. Many of the 5000 plus young people involved have gained a range of industry recognised qualifications, as well as practical experience and generic job skills.

The awards celebrate the achievements of these young people who have overcome a wide range of challenges in order to receive training and gain a qualification, to then find employment in the construction industry.

Peter Lang, Head of Technical, Engineering and Building Professions at Croydon College, attended the awards in support of Rebecca and said, 'This was a great experience for Rebecca. I'm extremely proud of her achievements!'



## CROYDON CULINARY CATERING COMPETITION

Croydon College Level 1 and 2 Catering students took part in an exciting internal competition on Wednesday 11 March 2020 to showcase what they had already learnt from the year.

The students had just a £5 budget to develop and create a healthy meal for two people to enjoy. This meant they had to use their mathematical skills alongside their fantastic cheffing skills!

Lecturer, Clare Price, said:

**THE STANDARD WAS  
EXTRAORDINARY AND  
THE FOOD WAS VERY  
DELICIOUS. WELL  
DONE EVERYONE.**





# 10 APPRENTICESHIPS



## WHY BECOME A CROYDON COLLEGE APPRENTICE?

As one of the largest providers of apprenticeships in South London, Croydon College gets involved in a variety of events throughout the academic year. This year, our Apprenticeships team hosted and attended plenty of events celebrating the success of apprenticeships, as well as offering advice to students.

From August-December 2019, Croydon College Business Admin Apprentice at PE Global, Adam Edmonds, took part in the 100 Apprentices in 100 Days Campaign. The initiative was run by Croydon Apprenticeship Academy, and brought together local businesses with Croydon Council to deliver 100 apprenticeships in 100 days across the borough. His manager at PE Global, said 'Adam has been an excellent addition to my team. He brings a positive and hard-working attitude to work every day and is a joy to work with. Croydon College has done a wonderful job sourcing great apprentices and I look forward to working with them again.'

In October 2019, our Head of Apprenticeships, John McLean and Skills Advisor, Hollie Reynolds attended the Croydon Business Excellence Awards to celebrate the great success of businesses across the Borough. John said 'We were extremely proud to sponsor the Apprentice Employer of the Year award and represent Croydon College at the prestigious ceremony. It was a difficult task to choose the winner, as we found all the finalists had different facets that embodied the programme but through a rigorous selection process, the Pension Protection Fund emerged as the first recipients.' All of the money raised throughout the evening was donated to local Croydon charities.

November 2019 saw the return of the NASC Apprentice of the year awards where Stephanie Betts, Croydon College Construction Contracting Operations Level 3 Apprentice had been shortlisted for an award. NASC is the trade body for access and scaffolding in the UK and produces a wide range of

industry-recognised safety & technical guidance for scaffolding contractors, their operatives and their clients. Stephanie is currently taking part in a five-year Management Trainee programme to become a Contracts Manager. During the programme, Stephanie has shown she is able to work well under pressure, meet deadlines, is well organised and capable of prioritising and juggling several tasks at once when required.

Monday 3 February 2020, saw the start of National Apprenticeships week, which was jam-packed full of activities. At Coulsdon College, the Coulsdon Careers team, Croydon Employability and Apprenticeships team were on hand every day to talk to current students about the benefits of Apprenticeships, and introduced them to a variety of Apprenticeships on offer in the area.

On 4 February 2020, Croydon College hosted an Apprenticeships Breakfast whereby businesses across the Borough came together to celebrate the great success of the 100 Apprenticeships in 100 Days campaign, and wider achievements of apprentices throughout Croydon. On the same day The National Society of Apprentices (NSoA) visited Croydon Council as part of National Apprenticeships Week, to talk to apprentices about apprenticeships, and how they can benefit from a special discount card.

The Croydon College Apprenticeships team attended the 'Steps To Success' careers event at Fairfield Halls on Friday 7 February 2020, organised by Croydon Council. The event showcased all of the wonderful opportunities on offer to students from across the borough. The team were on hand to offer their expert advice to these students to help them decide on their next steps.

## CROYDON COLLEGE WINS APPRENTICESHIP BID FROM CROYDON HEALTH SERVICES NHS TRUST

Croydon College are delighted to announce that we have won the bid to supply Croydon Health Services NHS Trust with non-clinical apprenticeships. This will bring welcome diversity to our already established apprenticeship programmes on offer.

Croydon College is one of the largest providers of apprenticeships in South London. Our Apprenticeship and Work Experience team have built up close relationships with employers and businesses to ensure that the work-related skills our students learn, use up to date equipment and best reflects industry practices. The partnership with CHS will be no different. The skills learnt will equip students for the workplace now and in the future.

All the positions will be non-clinical and will cover a vast area of the hospital. You can expect to find the following apprenticeships:

- Business and Administration
- Pharmacy Services Assistant
- Health Pharmacy Services
- Customer Service
- Hospitality Team Member
- Management & Leadership

These are a welcome addition to the NHS and compliments the Colleges current offering in areas such as Construction, Hospitality, Business and Education. This partnership enables the College to enable more people to step into the world of work.

Whatever your age, background or previous qualifications, we can help you achieve your potential. So, are you ready to build your future your way?

If you would like more advice please call our Apprenticeship Team on

**020 8686 5700**



# 12 FTF FOOTBALL ACADEMY

AT CROYDON COLLEGE  
AND COULSDON SIXTH  
FORM COLLEGE



## What is The Football Academy?

The Football Academy is a 2-year, full-time Education and Football Development programme delivered in partnership with semi-professional club AFC Croydon Athletic. Open to talented footballers aged between 16-19 years, the Academy Programme is a must for any football enthusiast.



## Why Join the Academy?

AFC Croydon Athletic Academy has the simple aim of helping talented footballers make progress in their sporting careers whilst continuing with their academic studies.

The scheme enables young players to enjoy 8 hours of coaching by UEFA qualified coaches and competitive fixtures alongside their academic studies. AFC Croydon Athletic FC will have teams in the prestige FA Youth Cup, Bostik Youth league, Colleges league, Surrey County cups plus more.

The club have a great history of producing young talented footballers who have progressed into the football league.

## Where will the Academy be held?

The Football Academy offers a unique opportunity for players to train and study in an environment that will develop their academic and sporting performance.

The academy will be located at AFC Croydon Athletic training ground in Croydon.

## What Education Programme will I study?

The education will be delivered by Croydon College or Coulsdon Sixth Form College, depending on what courses you have decided to study.

Over the 2-year duration, players will study a variety of courses including A Levels, BTEC courses, languages, GCSE re-takes, plus many more.



## Course highlights

- Compete in the FA Youth Cup, Bostik Youth League, College league and local county leagues
- Professional coaching by UEFA 'A' and 'B' Licence Coaches
- Full Time Goal keeping coach
- Emphasis on progressing Academy players into the U23s and First Team squad
- Represent AFC Croydon Athletic Football Club
- Wear official Nike Training Kit

## What are the Costs?

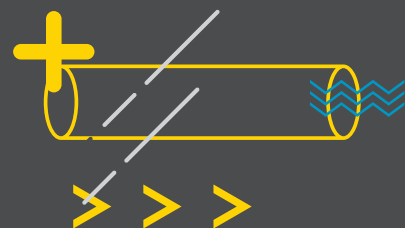
Both the Football and Educational element of the Academy is fully funded and therefore there is no cost to join the programme. There will be a subsidised cost for purchasing training kit. Further details will be provided upon the player's acceptance into the Football Academy.

**For more information please contact Ryan on**

**07703651097 or**  
**www.ftfacademy.co.uk**







# 14 HAIR & BEAUTY



## TRIP TO MARSEILLE

FEBRUARY 2020



Eight Croydon College Hair & Beauty students had the opportunity of visiting Marseille on the second Erasmus+ trip of the academic year.

Marseille is one of the oldest cities in Western Europe, so it is definitely a favourite amongst tourists. The city was founded as Massalia in around 600 BC, and soon developed into an important port in the ancient Greek world.

Located near the mouth of the Rhone – the greatest natural corridor between the Mediterranean and the lands to the north, it has long been one of the most important, when not the most important, port in France. There are plenty of tourist attractions to visit, including Le Vieux Port – the old port, Marseilles Open Tour – hop-on hop-off tour bus, The Mucem, The Fort Saint Jean, La Major cathedral and Le Musée Cantini.

The Erasmus Programme is a European Union student programme established in 1987 run in the UK by the British Council. Since then more than 2 million students have studied or worked in Europe on the Erasmus exchange programme. They also have a new programme called Erasmus+ combining all the EU's current schemes for education, training, youth & sport which started in 2014.

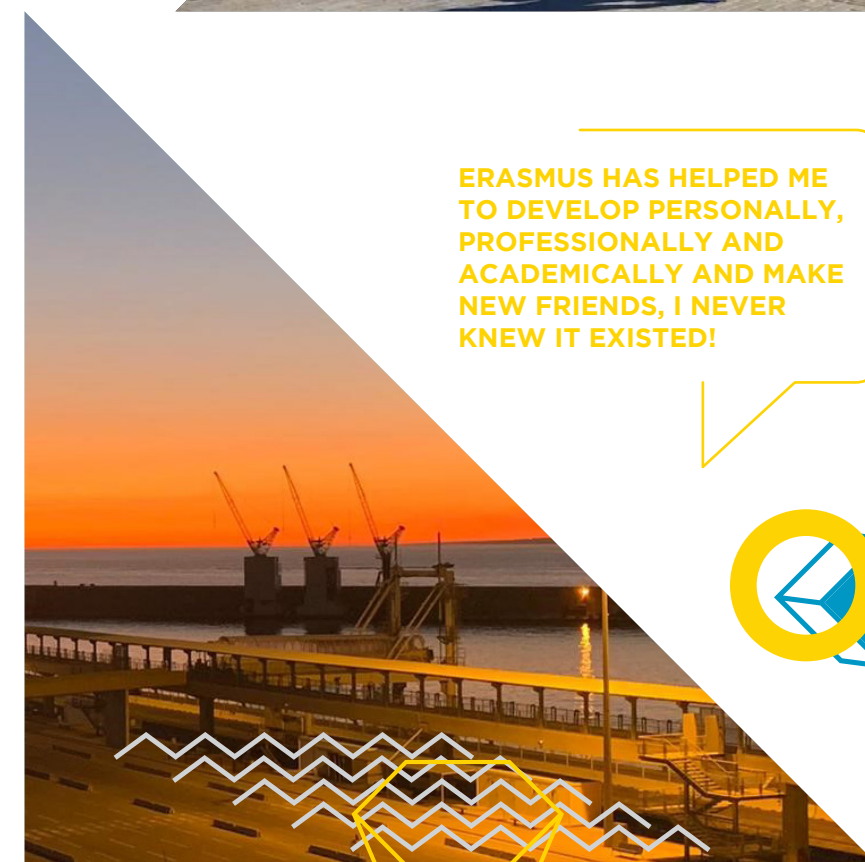
Erasmus+ supports the professional development of people in vocational education and training (VET) through training periods abroad through work placements. The placements are subject to the curriculum of the participating institutions. Such as Hair & Beauty, Customer Services, Sport, Construction, Catering & Hospitality and Social Care amongst others.

To be eligible for an Erasmus traineeship you must be in a participating study programme or have graduated within one year. So as long as you are in a higher education institution, (don't worry you don't have to be a language student) and your University or College offers Erasmus for your subject.

**IT HAS HELPED ME TO INCREASE MY MOTIVATION TO LEARN MORE AND FOCUS MORE ON MY CURRENT COURSE**



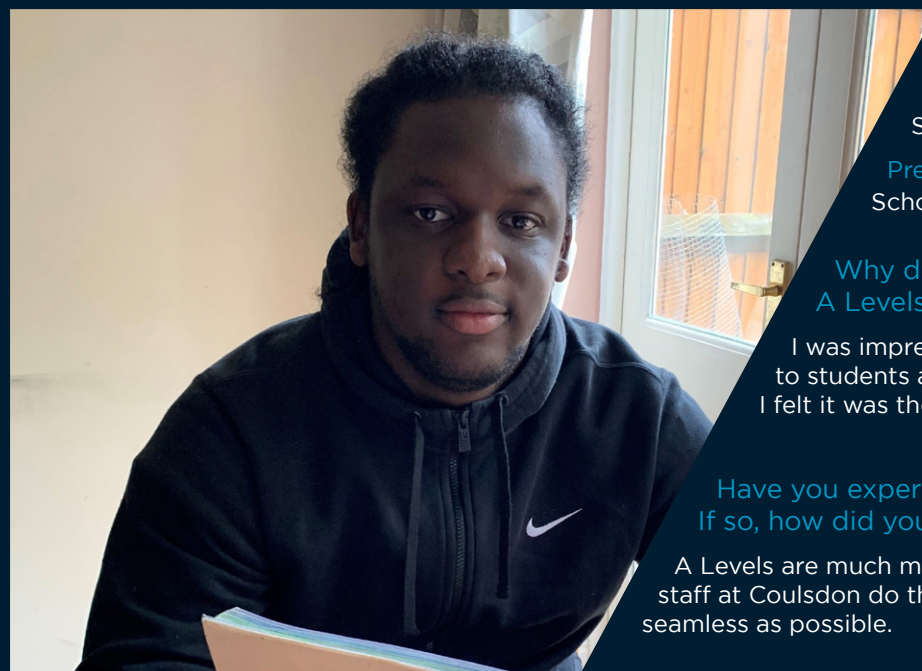
**ERASMUS HAS HELPED ME TO DEVELOP PERSONALLY, PROFESSIONALLY AND ACADEMICALLY AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS, I NEVER KNEW IT EXISTED!**





# 16 PROFILES

## COULSDON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



### AARON GRIFFITHS

**Course:** A Level Media Studies, Geography and Computer Science

**Previous school:** Shirley High School

**Why did you chose to study A Levels here at Coulsdon?**

I was impressed by the facilities available to students and the staff were so welcoming, I felt it was the best place to study.

**Have you experienced any challenges? If so, how did you overcome them?**

A Levels are much more intense then GCSEs but the staff at Coulsdon do their best to make the change as seamless as possible.

### ALEXANDER VAN LUIPEN

**Course:** Computer Science, Maths, Further Maths, Physics

**Previous school:** Harris Academy South Norwood

**Why did you decide to study Computer Science?**

I want to become a programmer, and these courses will give me a basic understanding of programming but also a variety of challenges.

**What attracted you to Coulsdon College?**

The setting is very inviting and the teachers are so friendly and passionate about the topics that they teach.

**What have been your highlights whilst studying here?**

I have really enjoyed the teaching from great teaching staff.



### LEAH HARDCASTLE

**Courses:** BTEC Art and Design, English Literature

**Previous School:** St Philomena's

**Why did you apply to Coulsdon Sixth Form College?**

The art department at the College immediately caught my interest as well as the diverse social aspects of Coulsdon Sixth Form College.

**What are your future aspirations?**

I would love to design and publish my own fiction books and hopefully become a teacher within Further Education due to my passion for helping others learn. I've developed this love whilst I've been an English tutor for other students, and my involvement in the student magazine at the College.

**What opportunities have you been presented with during your studies here?**

I've been fortunate enough to exhibit my own art work in various locations and local events.



### ROSEMARIE STEPHENS

**Role:** Humanities teacher

**What attracted you to Coulsdon Sixth Form College?**

There are a great number of opportunities for growth and development, not just for students but for the staff too.

**How are you finding Online Teaching during the pandemic?**

I can get a lot more work and marking done without any interruptions, so I find myself being more productive.

**How have your students found Online Learning?**

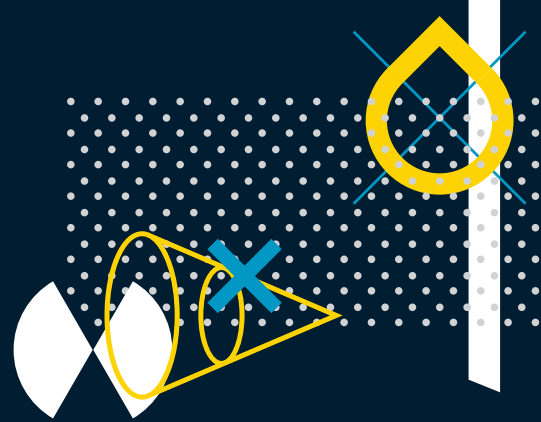
My students have engaged well with Online Learning.

**What do you love most about your role?**

Being a teacher is such a rewarding job.



# CROYDON COLLEGE



## ALTINA LACI

Course: Level 2 Beauty Therapy

### Why did you apply to Croydon College?

They have the best facilities to help students build their knowledge and techniques.

### What have been your highlights whilst studying here?

Croydon College is an absolutely fantastic place to study. I have been given an opportunity to develop my skills, knowledge, critical thinking and drive forward into my dream career.

### How has the College supported you?

The support you receive from everyone at the College is seamless. I'd like to give a special thank you to my tutor Sarah Parsonage who dedicates all of her time and effort to help all of her students.



## LINDA HENAKU

Course: Access to Nursing and Health Science

### Why did you chose to study an Access to Nursing at Croydon College?

Nursing is a meaningful career, filled with opportunities, challenges and rewards.

### What do you love about the College?

Croydon College has such a rich diversity within and it is a place you can call a second home. Tutors extend their teaching and learning style to each individual person allowing you to develop on your own terms.

### What have been your highlights whilst studying here?

I am extremely grateful for all of the excellent, once in lifetime opportunities that have come my way.



## IMANNA KIRBY

Courses: Access to Criminology and Psychology

### Why did you choose to study an Access course at Croydon College?

The Access course provided me with a pathway into university, which I never thought would be possible until now.

### What would you like to do once when you finish this course?

I will be going to University to study Clinical Psychology. Croydon College has allowed this to happen, so for that I will be forever grateful.



## BIBI KHOYRATTY

Course: Level 2 Beauty Therapy

### Do you have advice for future students?

Be ambitious and try to think ahead. I would advise future students to be prepared for their courses.

### What are your future aspirations?

I am hoping to further my skills and knowledge in a salon after my course, perhaps as an apprentice so I can gain more experience.





# 20 VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

## MARTIN SILVERWOOD

Role: Head of Learning and Quality

Since the closure of the College, how have students been able to continue their studies?

Under these difficult times, we have switched to online learning via our Moodle platform. This is an online collection of tools and resources that the College uses for submitting assignments, posting worksheets and to upload PowerPoints used in lectures. We are also utilising another online learning system in a similar way to Moodle, called OneFile.

How can staff and students access Moodle?

A link to Moodle is highlighted on the College website and staff and students can use their normal login details to access it. Staff were given additional training in teams once it became clear that learning was to be switched online. E-stream enables staff and students to record videos to demonstrate practical skills and record evidence of assignments. Some staff have used this to build playlists for students to watch lessons online.

How have you assisted students who have no access to IT outside of College?

We encouraged students to complete an online survey to identify those who have limited, or no access to any form of IT outside of College. The IT and Student Services teams are now working tirelessly to ensure that we are supporting all of those identified students.

What has the transition period been like?

The transition has shown some challenges in being able to track all activities, but it has gone relatively smoothly given the circumstances. We needed to increase the number of servers we had in College to support Moodle due to high demand. Our fantastic IT team were able to do this swiftly to prevent any lag. However, there are still support needs amongst staff and students, but our Moodle help desks ensure that we respond to enquiries as quickly as possible.

Have staff adapted to this new way of teaching?

We have a fantastic team of Teaching and Learning Mentors in the College that are still delivering training and user guides to staff members so that we can deliver online lessons. The online tool is something that the College has been using for a long time and is a great platform to make the transition on.

How many people are currently using the system?

Everyone in the organisation is now using this system. We have in the region of 5000 students and almost 300 members of staff across the two campuses that are using Moodle.

What school has had the highest number of logins so far?

The School of Business, Community and Access, headed by Agnes Joseph has had the highest number of actions with 115,700!

Do you think it's been a success overall?

Overall this has been an extremely successful transition and it is really heart-warming that every member of Croydon College is striving to support the educational needs of our fantastic students. Our students are at the heart of everything we do and to be able to still support them, even online is great to see.

What are the next steps?

We will continue to develop our online tools and support students that are having IT difficulties. We will continue to plan for next year so that we can get timetables, assessments, resources and enrolments in place for all students.



## FORMER STUDENT RAISES MONEY DURING LOCKDOWN



Former Coulsdon College student, Usaama Kaweesa, successfully completed his 30k run for Merton Giving in line with his 30th birthday, on 16 May 2020.

Living in Mitcham, Usaama ran at noon across 3 days to raise a target of £1000 for the charity and of course, he absolutely smashed it. Usaama hoped that the money raised would be able to reach the most vulnerable across the borough.

Usamma said, 'I believe that even in the most difficult circumstances, there is always something we can do to help each other. I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who gave so generously towards it.'

All of us at Coulsdon College are so proud to see the great success of our former students, and the immense positivity during these unprecedented times.

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK MAY 2020

During lockdown, Mental Health Awareness Week returned in May, and Croydon College and Coulsdon College proudly showed their support throughout the week for Mental Health Foundation.

The theme for this year was kindness so we took to social media to raise awareness amongst staff and students alike. Every day, we posted on each of our social media platforms to encourage our followers to take part in a virtual random act of kindness, or simply read up on the important work of Mental Health Foundation.

We received great feedback from everyone involved, and remember we are always here for our staff and students if you need someone to talk to.

## THOUGHTS FROM STUDENTS IN LOCKDOWN HEADING TO UNIVERSITY THIS SEPTEMBER

In early May 2020, Coulsdon Sixth Form College student, Leah Hardcastle featured on the BBC news at 6pm, where she voiced her opinions on a range of concerns amongst sixth form students heading to University this September.

Leah was joined by other sixth form students from across the country, including those from Woking College and Oldham College. They all discussed a range of issues, such as:

- What it would feel like starting university at a time when social distancing might still be in place
- How it would feel if courses started online rather than on campus – Would they still be willing to pay the full tuition fee?

We are so proud to see Leah represent Coulsdon Sixth Form College on such an important issue for students at the moment. You can catch Leah's interview on Sixth Form Colleges Association's website here:

[www.sixthformcolleges.org/1275/sixth-form-college-students-respond-to-starting-university-during-the-crisis](http://www.sixthformcolleges.org/1275/sixth-form-college-students-respond-to-starting-university-during-the-crisis).

## SIXTH FORM COLLEGES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

As part of Online Learning, three Coulsdon College students, Katya Granovskiy, Desislava Doneva and Lewis Tappenden featured in Sixth Form Colleges Association's online Art Exhibition, 'At Home'.

Students were given the task to take photographs of their experience of lockdown and how it feels to be at home living a different kind of life. The entries were judged by the Visual Arts team at Coulsdon College who picked the lucky three who featured in the exhibition.

The online exhibition took place on the Sixth Form Colleges Association website from 4 June to 19 June. Launching the exhibition, Gillian Keegan, Apprenticeships and Skills Minister said: "This has been a difficult time for the entire country but this exhibition is a wonderful example of how creativity can flourish in the face of adversity. It's great to see how these sixth form students have captured the experiences of lockdown from a young person's perspective. A huge congratulations to all exhibitors and I wish them every success for the future".

Bill Watkin, Chief Executive of the Sixth Form Colleges Association, said: "At home highlights the extraordinary artistic talent that exists in our sector. We are holding this exhibition to recognise and celebrate excellence in sixth form colleges, but also to stimulate our thinking about the world this summer. It is imperative that we keep the arts in education secure and flourishing."

Lecturer, Neal Vaughan said 'I was so glad to see so many entries from our students who all did a fantastic job; it was really difficult to choose just three students to represent the College at the online exhibition. It was certainly a proud moment to see their work, particularly during these unprecedented times.'





# FE FOODBANK FRIDAY

To donate to our FE Foodbank Friday campaign visit:

[localgiving.org/fundraising/croydoncollege/](https://localgiving.org/fundraising/croydoncollege/)



COMMUNITY SPIRIT SHINING BRIGHT AT CROYDON COLLEGE AND COULSDON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Croydon College and Coulsdon Sixth Form College joined in May 2020, the national 'FE Foodbank Friday' campaign, which is seeing FE organisations around the country coming together to raise money for community foodbanks as a result of COVID-19. Many foodbanks are seeing a decline in donations during the pandemic and are in need of support.

The money that you donate will benefit local charity, Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA). CVA promotes, supports and develops effective voluntary action, community development and community involvement for the benefit of the whole community within the London Borough of Croydon. They run a wide range of services for small groups, social enterprises, larger charities and volunteers at all stages of development.

Colleges involved in the campaign so far are:

- Boston College
- Central Bedfordshire College
- Chichester College Group
- Coventry College
- Dudley College
- East Coast College
- East Sussex College
- Kingston Maurward College
- London South East Colleges
- Loughborough College
- Preston's College
- Trafford College Group
- Weston College
- York College

Caireen Mitchell, Croydon College Principal and CEO, says:

**BOTH COLLEGES ARE A MAJOR PARTNER IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND WE WANT TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO SUPPORT IT. BY SUPPORTING THIS INITIATIVE, WE CAN ENSURE THAT THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES ARE WELL LOOKED-AFTER AND ALL OF US CAN MAKE IT THROUGH THIS PANDEMIC.**

For more information, please contact Marketing at

[marketing@croydon.ac.uk](mailto:marketing@croydon.ac.uk)

# VIRTUAL WEEKLY ADVICE CLINICS

## Weekly Advice Clinics

We understand that choosing the right course and college for yourself, or a family member or friend, is a big decision, especially during these uncertain times. We want to make sure you have all the information you need about both Colleges, the courses we offer and how we support students in their studies.

Every Wednesday, we are running Virtual Weekly Advice Clinics to answer your questions in 1-2-1 meetings. Our College staff will be on hand, via Zoom, to answer questions on courses, career prospects, finance planning, distance learning and our College community.

We appreciate that due to the disruption you may have many questions around grades and course entry requirements. Due to the range of courses we offer, we have options for all potential students as we can facilitate all grades. Our team would be delighted to talk with you about what courses would be available to you.

To book your place at our next Advice Clinic, please visit [croydon.ac.uk/virtual-events/weekly-advice-clinics/](https://croydon.ac.uk/virtual-events/weekly-advice-clinics/).

We look forward to helping you learn more about life at Croydon College and Coulsdon College.

## When are the Advice Clinics?

The Weekly Advice Clinics will be held every Wednesday online from Wednesday 24 June between 2pm and 4pm - you can drop-in at anytime.

## Who are the Advice Clinics for?

The Advice Clinics are for all potential students and parents or carers considering applying for our September 2020 intake across our Further Education (16-18 yrs), Higher Education (19yrs+) and Apprenticeship courses (17yrs+).

## How do the Advice Clinics work?

After you have registered online, you will be sent a Zoom login link for the session, and to participate you will need to click on the webinar link via either your laptop, mobile or tablet device.

You will be able to drop in at any time between 2pm and 4pm and will be welcomed by a staff member in the virtual lobby area. Based on your queries, you will be allocated a 1-2-1 session with the relevant tutor and sent to a breakout room where they will be waiting. Please note, the session will be recorded for safeguarding purposes so please turn off your camera if you do not wish to be seen.

In the event of all tutors being engaged in 1-2-1 sessions, we would ask you to wait in the virtual lobby until a tutor is available. Alternatively, we can schedule you an appointment later in the clinic.

After the clinic, you will receive an email with details of key information and next steps. We look forward to chatting with you!

## Have a question?

If you have any questions regarding the Virtual Advice Clinics, or would like to find out more about our courses in an alternative way, please email:

[marketing@croydon.ac.uk](mailto:marketing@croydon.ac.uk)







## COULSDON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Coulsdon Sixth Form College is committed to providing an outstanding programme of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) for every student.

The programme is designed to raise aspirations, challenge stereotypes and promote equality and diversity. Coulsdon College is in a partnership with the London Enterprise Partnership and is working towards the eight clearly defined benchmarks for higher quality careers education.

All students have access to impartial careers education, information, advice and guidance from the Careers Department which comprises of a Careers Officer and a fully qualified Careers Adviser, Zena Hole who is a member of the Careers Development Institute and the Careers Leader for the College.

### What employment opportunities are there at Coulsdon College?

- Apprenticeships, both nationally and with local companies
- Direct entry jobs where employers are looking for candidates with Level 3 qualifications

The Careers Department has links with local companies and works with them to help promote employment opportunities for Coulsdon College students.

### Or perhaps you want to go to University?

Each year the College successfully supports around 300 students through the process of applying to university. Through the structured Tutorial Programme students will assess whether applying to university is right for them.

The College Careers Room is on the first floor, room 166 and open Monday to Friday. Drop in for advice and support.



## CROYDON COLLEGE

### The World of Work – W.O.W

Employability is at the heart of everything they do at Croydon College. Throughout your studies you'll find that the W.O.W Team are on hand to provide you with free, expert help on how to choose the right path for you.

They'll advise you on job applications and career planning as well as funding for further study, via one-to-one interviews as well as workshops and talks.

They also run various workshops on a range of topics, including UCAS applications. Please call into the Employability Hub for further information, and dates and times.

### Where are they located and what are the open times?

You can find the Employability Hub in the Library on the 2nd Floor in Croydon College, and on the ground floor you can also check out The Glass Office (opposite the café) to discuss work experience opportunities.

### The Career Coach

In addition to the The World Of Work, Croydon College also have digital tools to ease your route to employment. There is a Career Coach Software package that is designed to help fellow students get a head start by providing up-to-date, local information about wages, employment trends, job vacancies and associated courses at Croydon College. It is the ideal tool to help you make informed decisions about your future.

Check out the Croydon College website for access to the Career Coach.

### EMPLOYABILITY HUB TERM TIME

Monday – Friday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

### HOLIDAYS

Monday – Friday: 10.00 – 3.00pm



# DIARY DATES

## CROYDON COLLEGE

| Event  | Date                        |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Admissions open for entry September 2021.</b><br>You can apply online at <a href="http://www.croydon.ac.uk">www.croydon.ac.uk</a>   | Monday 28rd September 2020  |
| <b>Open Evening</b> for students between<br>4:30pm – 6:30pm  | Wednesday 7th October 2020  |
| <b>Open Evening</b> for students between<br>10am – 1pm   | Saturday 7th November 2020  |
| <b>Applicants are invited in for interview.</b>  | November 2020 – August 2021 |
| <b>Open Evening</b> for students between<br>4:30pm – 6:30pm  | Thursday 25th March 2021    |
| <b>HE Open Evening</b> for students between<br>4:30pm – 6:30pm   | Wednesday 30th June 2021    |
| <b>Enrolment.</b> Students will be invited in for enrolment if they have accepted an offer at the College. If there are any particular learning needs, these should be raised during Enrolment (unless they have been previously). | From w/c 16 August 2021     |

## COULSDON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

| Event  | Date                                     |
|--|--|
| <b>Admissions open for entry September 2021.</b><br>You can apply online at <a href="http://www.coulsdon.ac.uk/apply">www.coulsdon.ac.uk/apply</a>   | Monday 28rd September 2020               |
| <b>Open Day</b> for students between<br>10am – 1pm   | Saturday 10th October 2020               |
| <b>Open Evening</b> for students between<br>5:30pm – 8pm   | Thursday 19th November 2020              |
| <b>Applicants are invited in for interview.</b>  | November 2020 – August 2021              |
| <b>Pathway Events</b>  | Wednesday 3rd, 10th & 17th<br>March 2021 |
| <b>Welcome Day.</b> Students who have accepted an offer are invited (via letter) to a Welcome Day in College.  | Thursday 1st July 2021                   |
| <b>Enrolment.</b> Students will be invited in for enrolment if they have accepted an offer at the College. If there are any particular learning needs, these should be raised during Enrolment (unless they have been previously). | From Thursday 19th August 2021           |