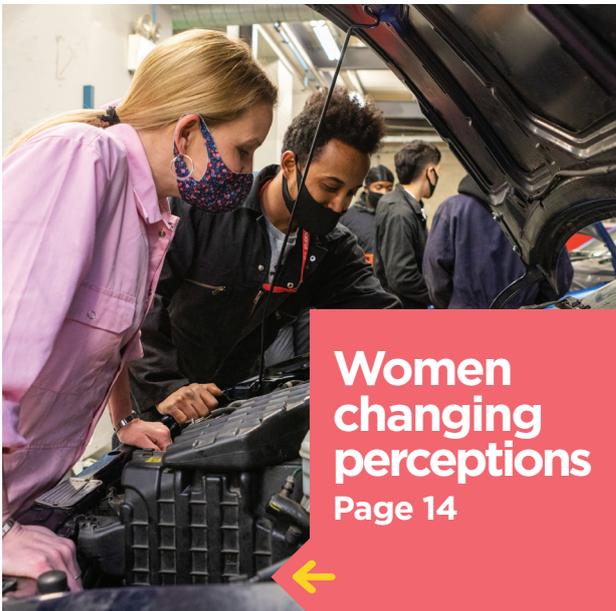




# CROYDON

# Education Matters

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021



**Women changing perceptions**  
Page 14



← **Former students inspire others**  
Page 8



**Bringing Glory to Pathway Centre**  
Page 22

**Coulsdon students reach new heights**  
Page 9

**New Employability Hub**  
Page 13



↑ **Safe return to college**  
Page 3



**New Nursing Suite**  
Page 16



Croydon College



COULSDON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Croydon University Centre

# CONTENTS

## 03 Students return safely

### 04 News and views

- 04 Coulsdon students feel like dancing
- 04 Award for Shyam
- 04 College CEO Caireen chats Croydon
- 05 Lockdown learners choose pic of the bunch
- 05 College heats up with cooking competition
- 06 Lecturer has book published
- 07 Snappy students promote wellbeing

### 08 Meet our Alumni

### 09 Hospitality & Tourism reaching new heights

### 10 World of Work

### 14 Women Changing Perceptions

### 15 International Women's Day

### 16 Croydon University Centre

- 16 Suite new look for nursing students
- 17 Degree fees frozen
- 18 Croydon University Centre confirms newly validated degrees

### 20 Student Profiles

### 22 The Pathway Centre

### 23 News & Views

### 24 Diary dates 2021

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# A TERM OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Welcome to the spring edition of our Croydon Education Matters newsletter – a termly round-up of news from our collegiate - Croydon College, Coulsdon Sixth Form College and the Croydon University Centre.

Firstly I'd like to say a huge congratulations to every member of our community who was involved in successfully getting all our 16-18 students back onsite from 8 March and those who have made arrangements for adults to have blended learning from 15 March. The calm, safe and professional environment we have since established at each campus has been amazing. Students are delighted to be back, and it feels fantastic to see our buildings come back to life. Congratulations team Croydon College and Coulsdon Sixth Form College.

This year we have put the capital funding provided by the Department for Education to great use by renovating classrooms and refurbishing large areas throughout our Croydon Campus. Find out more on page 13.

We are always looking for ways to improve the learning environment for our students so we are also in the process of bidding for more capital funding from the DfE to continue our renovations and much needed maintenance.

It is also with great pride that we've recently received the funding to expand on and deliver an employability programme for Croydon residents of all ages. This means Croydon College will be able to help locals find their next steps into employment or education. Read more on page 10.

I am also delighted to announce that during this busy period we have retained and indeed widened our Matrix Accreditation. A massive well done to everyone involved and especially the Student Services Team for their excellent leadership and management of the process.

Finally, I'd like to say a huge thank you to our staff and students who voluntarily take part in the lateral flow tests at our test centres and those who continue to follow all the necessary COVID-19 guidelines in order to protect our College Community. I'd like to wish you all a restful break over the Easter Holidays.



**CAIREEN MITCHELL**  
Principal & CEO



# STUDENTS RETURN SAFELY

Staff and students have been welcomed back to Croydon College and Coulsdon Sixth Form College, as coronavirus restrictions begin to be eased across the country.

The College undertook a phased return for those studying full time on Monday 8 March, to ensure the College remained safe for both students and staff, as well as their families.

To assist with keeping the College safe, students were invited to take lateral flow COVID-19 tests to ensure they did not have coronavirus and potentially spread it to other members of the College Community. These tests, which produce the results after half an hour, remain available and can be booked via MyProgressTracker. Testing for staff has been ongoing since the beginning of February.

Croydon College Principal and CEO, Caireen Mitchell said: "A massive congratulations to everyone involved in the establishment of the testing centre for asymptomatic staff and students. My first lateral flow



**"The Croydon College test centre is well organised, the staff are kind, friendly and support you throughout the process. The staff within the test centre ensure you understand the requirements and process of the testing."**

**I received the test results within 30 minutes. Well done Croydon College for an outstanding test centre!!"**

Staff Member



test at the College went smoothly; the test centre feels incredibly professional and safe, and throughout my experience I was supported by knowledgeable and friendly staff."

There is a one-way system around the College and floor designs remain in place to remind the College Community to remain socially distanced and provide directions through the one-way system. Staff and students, except those who are exempt, have been wearing face coverings when moving around the College and in communal areas, to assist with reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Apprentices and Croydon University Centre students have been continuing home learning, in line with government guidance, and the College group looks forward to welcoming them back in a safe and secure manner soon.



# NEWS & VIEWS

## COULSDON STUDENTS FEEL LIKE DANCING

Performing Arts students at Coulsdon Sixth Form College have worked hard to put together compilation videos to showcase what they've learnt so far during the course.

Watch the videos on YouTube, click on the QR codes below.

Contemporary Dance Video



Musical Theatre Medley Video



## VIRTUAL CAREERS EVENT WITH NOVELLIST CHRIS CORBETT



Novelist, corporate communications expert and freelance writer, Chris Corbett hosted a virtual careers talk with Coulsdon Sixth Form College A Level English Language and

Literature students. Chris discussed aspects of his career and gave several top tips to help students get into the world of writing.



## COLLEGE HEATS UP WITH COOKING COMPETITION

Croydon College Cookery students took part in an Inter-College Pasta Competition with Cambridge Regional College students.

The top six entries from both colleges were chosen by a panel of judges. The 12 finalists will soon compete in a virtual cook-off for a chance to win some exciting prizes!

## Award for Shyam

As part of HE taster week, Croydon University Centre BA (Hons) Business and Management students were invited to a virtual Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) workshop hosted by Jason Nye. Student Executive and Student Mentor, Shyam Pillai was awarded

his CIMA certificate following the workshop.



## PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMME INSPIRES A BETTER WORLD

The Peace Education Programme, currently on offer to Coulsdon Sixth Form students, consists of videos, animations and/or infographic materials designed to educate students on a better world.

Michael Clarke, Student Experience Officer at the College said: "The Peace Education Programme encourages the students to use their critical thinking skills. They talk about the subject of peace in a relaxed discursive environment. The course is structured well and the videos and discussion balance out the content."

## COLLEGE CEO CAIREEN CHATS CROYDON

Croydon College's very own Principal and CEO Cairen Mitchell featured in Croydon Conversations hosted by Develop Croydon. The conversation was focused on

looking ahead and what factors could most positively change Croydon in the next few years.

Cairen spoke about Building Back Better and increasing access to a more skilled workforce in Croydon and developing local talent through education and training. Go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nv1OW02mY6c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nv1OW02mY6c)



## Lockdown learners choose pic of the bunch

ESOL students at Croydon College have embraced online learning during lockdown by taking part in new activities set by their tutors.

One of the new activities included the photo project. The task was to pick any image of the College that inspires the student the most and explain why.

One student who took part in the photo project said "The image of the front of the College is the most inspiring picture for me. Every time I come to College, all the stress I have goes away. I have met a lot of friends and inspiring teachers. This is the place where I'm happiest."



## ESOL lecturer has original poetry published

Judith Kingston, an ESOL lecturer at Croydon College, often uses her spare time to write poetry, fiction stories and plays.

Over the past few years she has used her creative skills to stage Christmas pantomimes with ESOL students and has seen her poetry published in a wide variety of literary magazines and two print anthologies. She also has a short poetry e-book out with Ghost City Press.



## NEWS & VIEWS

### Sustainability at the core of Strategic Plan

Sustainability is one of the core values in our Strategic Plan, underpinning everything that we do. Our commitment to sustainability runs throughout all our practices, including working with the Curriculum Team to ensure the courses and teaching enable the delivery of qualifications for sustainable jobs.

Departments such as Hair & Beauty and Creative Arts ensure that students dispose of waste in a sustainable manner, and lesson resources are sustainably sourced and eco-friendly.

In the Business, Community and Access department, Business students are completing a 'crisp packet' project, which gets them to think about the ways we can make crisp packets sustainable.

Access students have also provided helpful feedback on assessments for this term, all of which have been carried out online.

Health and Care students have been completing a variety of community based projects in their study programme - all linked to sustainability.

The College group is also working with awarding organisations to develop new pathways into environmental sciences, where units could be used across a number of courses.

We have even reduced the number of printed copies of this edition of our Croydon Education Matters newsletter to support our strategy.



### DO MORE, BE MORE WITH VIRTUAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

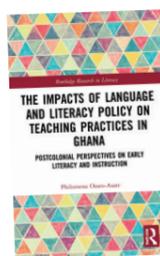
All students at Croydon College and Coulsdon Sixth Form College have been getting involved in a full range of enrichment activities in the Do More, Be More Virtual Enrichment programme, to help them embrace the new normal and participate in virtual sessions to learn new skills

and enjoy themselves.

Restrictions meant the enrichment programme has moved online, and students have been involved in a range of activities from learning Mindfulness techniques, to how to decorate biscuits on a budget!



### LECTURER HAS BOOK PUBLISHED



Croydon University Centre's very own Public Health and Social Care, and Early Childhood Studies lecturer, Dr Philomena Osseo-Asare has released her very own book.

The book examines changes in Ghanaian language and literacy policy following independence in 1957 to consider its impacts on early literacy teaching.

You can purchase a copy here: [www.routledge.com/product/isbn/9780367424114](http://www.routledge.com/product/isbn/9780367424114)

### Virtual concert raises money for local hospital

Coulsdon Sixth Form College Music students proved despite lockdown, the show must go on! By taking their talents online, the students staged an exciting online charity concert to help raise money for Croydon University Hospital. The event successfully raised more than £100 for the hospital and was well received by an audience of staff, students, family and friends.



### SNAPPY STUDENTS PROMOTE WELLBEING

A Level Photography students at Coulsdon Sixth Form College have been busy creating wellbeing posters in response to the latest lockdown.

Students took the images from inside their own homes or gardens and created the posters using various online tools such as Pixlr, Snapseed or Picsart.

↓ TIANNA SMART



light in the darkness

↓ RENE OSTBY GRAHAM



↓ LEAH HARDING



GET SOME REST

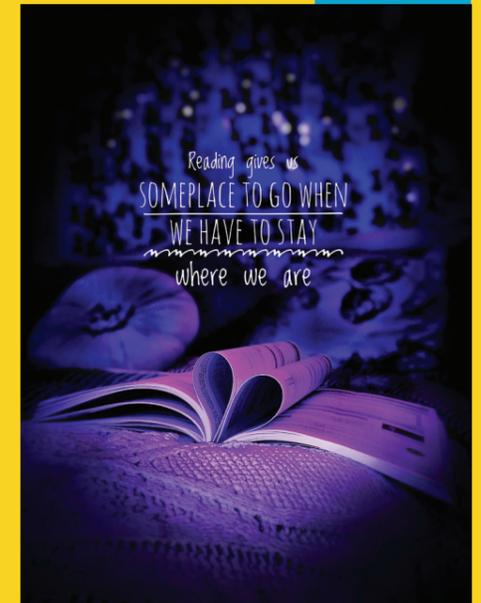
↓ JADA GIBSON



↓ MICHELLE BEDIAKO



↓ ISHA ALI



↓ PHOEBE NEWMAN



# COLLEGE ALUMNI

## Former students inspire others

Even after leaving education, our alumni remain a key part of our community, engaging and motivating students to achieve their goals and progress along their chosen career path.

**LOUISE WARDLE**  
Vice-President of  
International Marketing  
for Subway



Croydon College alumni, Louise Wardle hosted an online talk to inspire current Croydon College students to follow their dreams just as she did.

Discussing her career journey, Louise showed students where her HND in Graphic Design has taken her so far.

Commenting on her talk, Louise said:

**"I look back on such fond memories at Croydon College. I've relished the opportunity to share my knowledge and experience with current students to inspire them."**

**JAMES FARMER**  
Social Worker

Former Croydon University Centre student James Farmer hosted a virtual careers talk for current students.

James studied BA (Hons) Public Health and Social Care at the University Centre and successfully graduated with a First Class Honours. He then went on to do his Master's Degree at University of Sussex in Brighton. During his chat with students, he said:

**"Croydon University Centre gave me a chance at a time when I was low in confidence. The best advice I can give is that you have to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. Always be kind to yourself, learn from feedback and bounce back."**



## ALUMNI TAKE PART IN CAREERS MONTH

As part of Careers Month, Coulsdon Sixth Form College hosted a range of virtual Career Pathway Evenings to give prospective students the opportunity to hear from tutors, past and present students, and industry speakers about our courses and what career paths they could lead to.

We were delighted to see so many of our alumni, including Akua Apeagyei and Liane Davies, agree to join us at our Career Pathway Evenings and help inspire the next generation of students.

Attendees had the chance to move between breakout rooms to chat our former students including Lareb Naseem and Sophia Carey who both studied Media at Coulsdon College.

It was also a pleasure to welcome back Rajen Jotangia, Mohammed Sheikh and Yusef Ahmet who have all been friends since their Coulsdon College days more than 10 years ago.



# HOSPITALITY & TOURISM REACHING NEW HEIGHTS



Coulsdon Sixth Form College's Level 2 Hospitality, Travel and Tourism students (left) have received their latest exam results - with 83% achieving a merit or distinction.

Donna Hollick, Head of Faculty for Business and Service Industries, said: "I'm extremely proud of our students who have achieved fantastic results during uncertain times.

"A huge thank you to tutor Sarita Lightfoot-Taylor who taught this exam unit."

## Coulsdon fuelled alumni's lofty ambitions

As part of Careers Week, Coulsdon Sixth Form College alumni and Cabin Crew member for TUI Oscar Quigley helped inspire current-day students.

Oscar is just one of Coulsdon's successful Travel and Hospitality students who have moved on to achieve great things. He studied at the College between 2016 and 2019, studying Level 2 Travel and Tourism and Level 2 Media in his first year, and Level 3 Travel and Tourism, Level 3 Media and Level 2 Cabin Crew in his final two years.

Oscar is thankful for the support he received from his course leaders, who continued to motivate him



to aim high. He also met some life long friends and went on some memorable trips to places such as Barcelona and Beijing.

He has always wanted to travel the world and work within the Travel sector.

Oscar said: "I was fulfilling my dream of travelling to destinations all over the world. Last March I only managed two trips before lockdown brought my contract to an end.

"Fortunately, TUI has invited me to return in May - I have everything crossed this will go ahead!"

## STAFF PROFILE: Sarita Lightfoot-Taylor

Despite restrictions on the tourism and hospitality sectors, Coulsdon Sixth Form College's Hospitality, Travel and Tourism courses continue to go from strength to strength - thanks to great staff sharing their years of expertise from working in the industry to help the next generation on their journey.

Sarita Lightfoot-Taylor is Head of Year Intermediate, Teacher of Business, Hospitality, Travel and Tourism and joined Coulsdon Sixth Form College following a successful career at Thomas Cook.



### What inspired you to become a teacher?

Working with young people is my calling; combined with my love of the Hospitality and Travel industries means I get to share my experiences and open the students up to opportunities outside of their comfort zone. Hospitality is one of my favourite subjects to teach as it revolves around what we all do to relax or make memories with friends and family.

### What do you love most about your job?

I love seeing the students achieve their exam results and realising the potential that is within them. Being a part of the journey for students

who start at Level 2 and leave in their upper sixth year to go onto university, full time employment or an apprenticeship is extremely rewarding for me.

### How have you found online teaching during the pandemic?

Online teaching, albeit challenging at times, meant I could get creative with my lessons and discover new ways to keep students engaged through the use of technology resources. I invited many guest speakers from local Hospitality businesses to speak to my students who found this beneficial and inspiring.

**APPLY NOW →**

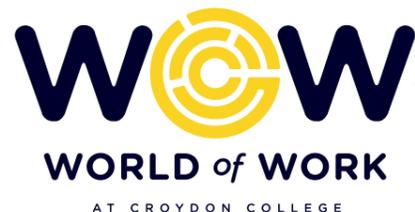
It's not too late to apply to our courses - scan the QR code to start your application now.



## WORLD OF WORK

# Your roadmap to recovery

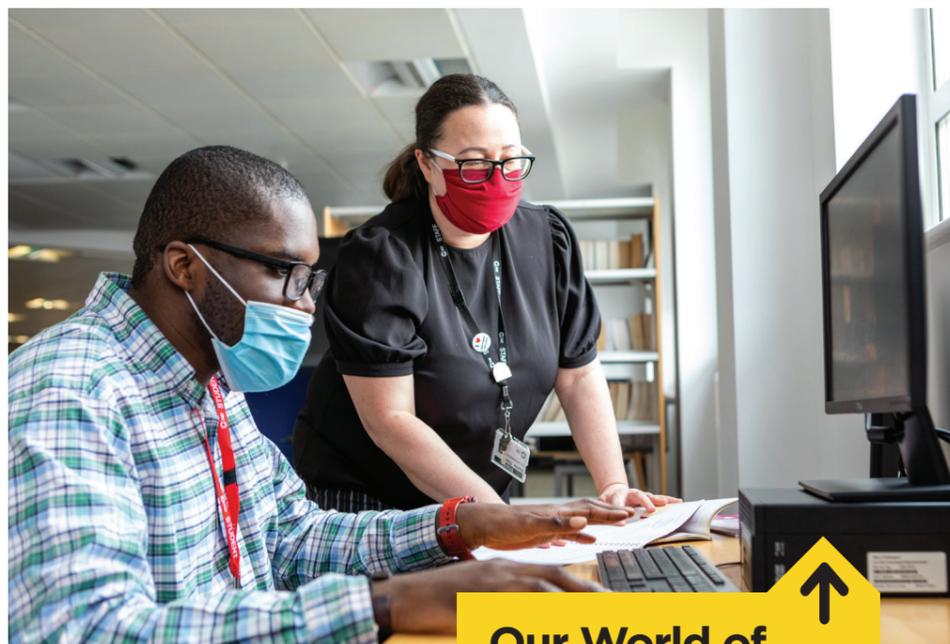
As Croydon and the rest of the UK begins to reopen, many people will be returning to a very different world. Croydon College is here to help.



Many will have been furloughed at some point in the past year, worked on reduced hours and pay, and had their careers paused, or stopped completely and many will be looking to retrain or upskill. Our young people also face some difficult decisions about their next steps into further education, higher education or whether to go straight into employment.

Located at the Croydon Campus, our newly formed World of Work Team are on hand to help our current students and other Croydon residents find their next steps into employment or education in the post-COVID world.

[www.croydon.ac.uk/world-of-work](http://www.croydon.ac.uk/world-of-work)



The government-funded Kickstart Programme provides work placements to 16 - 24-year-olds on Universal Credit.

The College can also assist employers and businesses looking to enhance their workforce, giving young people a chance to learn new skills and kickstart their careers. The College works hand-in-hand with organisations to hire the right people and ensure a six-month job placement is created.

email: [kickstart@croydon.ac.uk](mailto:kickstart@croydon.ac.uk)

Our World of Work Team can help you find your dream career via a variety of different routes, including Apprenticeships, Kickstart, online learning - and work experience for current students. There really are no limits.



## ON-THE-JOB SKILLS GAINED ONLINE

Work experience is an important part of all our students' study programme. They are required to complete one week of work experience with local, regional and national businesses.

While lockdown restrictions have made this challenging, we have still been able to deliver work experience for our students through a series of virtual work experience programmes.

We have a fantastic range of employers on board to help deliver our virtual programme and every

session is designed to help students gain invaluable insights into the industry they are interested in.

Our Construction and Creative Arts students took part in their five-day programme on Monday 22 March in partnership with ISG. Following them will be:

**Engineering & Science students** - Monday 19 April - Friday 23 April 2021

**Business, IT, and Travel & Tourism students** - Monday 26 April - Friday 30 April 2021

## Meet the Construction Apprentice Employer

The Croydon College World of Work team recently joined forces with the Croydon Constructing Excellence Club to provide an opportunity for Croydon residents to meet a wide variety of Croydon-based employers in the construction and engineering sectors.

At the Meet the Construction Apprentice Employer virtual event, attendees were able to chat to a variety of employers in the industry including Mott MacDonald, Willmott Dixon and Kier, who shared their expert knowledge about the sector and potential routes into employment, including apprenticeships and industry placements.



## Meet ISG - our Virtual Work Experience Partner

ISG

ISG is a global construction specialist, delivering places where people and businesses thrive and their aim is to inspire and encourage the next generation to pursue a career in construction.

As part of the virtual work experience placement, Construction students were able to gain an insight into the construction industry and ISG as a company through a series of workshops and activities.

Students then worked on a mini project and presented their final piece at the end of the week.

For more information about our Virtual Work Experience Programme, please email [ravin.anenden@croydon.ac.uk](mailto:ravin.anenden@croydon.ac.uk)



VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE  
WOW

## WORLD OF WORK



# CROYDON APPRENTICESHIPS



## CROYDON APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

Apprenticeship Week took place between 8 February and 14 February, giving students a great opportunity to find out about Apprenticeships and how they could support their next move from College.

To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week, we created a week-long programme of events which offered those signed up the opportunity to discover apprenticeships, hear from employers and unearth exciting opportunities available to everyone.

Croydon residents were able to chat to our Apprenticeships Team about the benefits of an apprenticeship and the vacancies we currently have on offer at the College, including Higher Apprenticeships.

Participants could also 'Meet the Apprenticeship Employer' where they were able to chat to businesses who currently have an apprenticeship programme on offer to discover apprenticeship opportunities and if it's the right path for them.

In partnership with Croydon Health Services, we also hosted a NHS Apprenticeships webinar, where attendees were able to find out more about the Croydon College and Croydon Health Services partnership, and the NHS apprenticeship opportunities available to them.



← If you missed any of the webinars, scan this QR code to catch up.

## APPRENTICESHIP VACANCIES

As the largest provider of apprenticeships in south London, the College offers an ongoing programme of vacancies for apprenticeships at all levels and employers can now take advantage of the £3,000 apprenticeship funding recently announced.

→ If you're interested in an apprenticeship, please scan this QR code to take a look at our list of vacancies on our website.



## YOUR FUTURE -GET STARTED



### Croydon Employability Hub

Croydon College have recently been granted funding to build a brand new World of Work Employability Hub to help those aged 18 -24 years get into employment through the 'Your Future - Get Started' programme.

The Personal Enterprise Employability Programme will help learners think about alternative ways to find employment and apply new skills with confidence when job seeking. The programme promotes entrepreneurial attitudes and is based on proven sales, business and enterprise techniques.

It gives participants the chance to explore opportunities best suited to their skills, learn to engage with employers, and better achieve their career goals by promoting the life experience they have gained.

The course will focus on perceived barriers to employment and how to overcome them. At the end of the programme, participants will leave with a clear action plan.

## NEW LOOK DRIVES SUSTAINABILITY

**Students have been welcomed back to College with some renovations to our IT facilities and Health and Social Care department, which are improving learning experiences for students as well as driving sustainability.**

Marking the return of students on 8 March, Croydon College unveiled its new-look IT areas, with work also being completed to refresh the toilets. The fully-refurbished IT facilities now feature the latest teaching technology and Wi-Fi, as well as low energy LED lighting systems that significantly reduce energy consumption.

The Health and Social Care department have also had a re-vamp, with classrooms updated with the



latest teaching resources.

At Croydon College we want all students to learn in pleasant environments, with the latest and best technologies available to them, and bids have been made for more funding from the Department for Education.

Paul Marsden, Director of IT & Estates, said: "We are delighted to be able to have this opportunity to provide our students with first class teaching facilities that also drive our Sustainability Strategy for the College."

Sue McKeone, Academic Leader for Business and IT, said "The rooms look amazing and the students just love to be in them now!"

## A Level Accountancy coming to Coulsdon Sixth Form College

**Coulsdon Sixth Form College will soon be the first college in the area to offer A Level Accountancy courses.**

According to market data, roles in Accountancy are growing on a yearly basis, and despite the pandemic there continues to be an increased interest in accounting and finance roles.

Some of the many benefits of studying A Level Accountancy include a flexible career path, high earning potential, and the chance to learn transferable skills.

Watch this space for more information.

## WOMAN CHANGING PERCEPTIONS ↓

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ↓



# WOMEN AT THE WHEEL OF VEHICLE MAINTENANCE COURSES

**Croydon College's three vehicle maintenance courses aim to change perceptions in the motoring sector - with female course leaders teaching the next generation of experts in the industry.**

Croydon College's Level 1 Transport Maintenance and Level 2 and 3 Vehicle Maintenance and Repair courses give those with a passion for cars an introduction into the industry, along with the practical experience and technical knowledge needed to work in the automotive industry, with students learning how to carry out maintenance and repairs on vehicles in the College's fully-equipped workshops.

From September 2021, these courses will be delivered as a BTEC - a more technical and practical based qualification which will allow students to progress to university.

Nicola Tarry, Curriculum Manager, said: "These courses are a great opportunity to get into the industry and we would encourage anyone - especially women - to train and continue to change perceptions in what has traditionally been seen as a male-dominated profession."



**Tilly Ricketts, Motor Vehicle Lecturer**

I LOVE being a female doing what is still in this day and age considered a 'mans' job. Sometimes I feel have to prove my capability and knowledge to male AND female students who hesitate in trusting in me. I would love to see more females taking on these courses so in a few years from now they will not have to prove themselves.



**Jayne Savill, Vocational Lecturer**

I've always enjoyed DIY. I have expensive taste but as a single parent, I could not always afford to pay for someone to do the work so I learnt a lot of my skills on the job. In fact, I've just installed my third kitchen!

→ **Keep an eye on our website [www.croydon.ac.uk](http://www.croydon.ac.uk) where more details will be announced soon.**

# # Choose to Challenge



International Women's Day

**The theme of International Women's Day 2021 was #ChooseToChallenge by challenging and calling out gender bias and inequality.**

Our inspiring all-female Executive Team and our Foundation Degree Public Health and Social Care students celebrated International Women's Day by raising their hands to show their commitment to #ChooseToChallenge.

Also in recognition of International Women's Day, Croydon University Centre's Programme Leader for Public Health and Social Care, Dr Pauline Aweto delivered a keynote address at an online conference, which focussed on strengthening human capacity against human trafficking in the era of COVID-19.

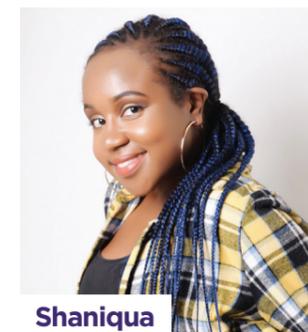
Pauline commented: "There is the need to address and discourage demands that foster exploitation that leads to human trafficking; education and lack of access, a shift in values, traditions and culture that promotes



and fosters gender inequality, silence and stigma". She also called for a "focus shift from formal education to skills acquisition, entrepreneurship, apprenticeship, and harnessing the under-utilised skills of informal education cemented in the experience that African women acquire in life in their traditional roles as wives and mothers."

## Female poetry for International Women's Day

**In addition, Croydon College reached out to four female poets from south London who performed original poetry on the theme of women and International Women's Day.**



**Shaniqua**

"Women are amazing and so incredibly strong, but don't always get the credit we're due, which makes celebrating women so wonderful and important."



**Tyries**

"International Women's Day holds an importance for me as women have been historically unappreciated, particularly black women. This day lets us recognise and celebrate the beauty, essence and strength of being a woman."



**Esther**

"International Women's Day is important to me as it is a day where all women of different races, countries, cultures and religions are celebrated and reminded of their powerful contributions to society."



**Paula**

"International Women's Day is a necessary event that hopefully one day will not be required, which recognises the countless accomplishments and advances of all women."

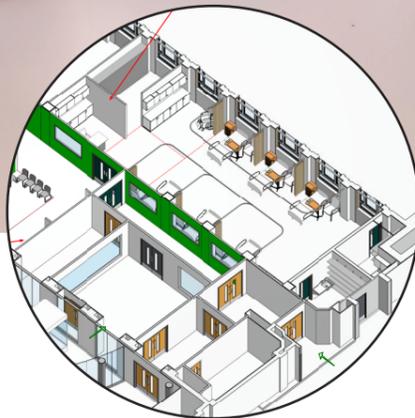


WHERE CAREERS ARE MADE

in partnership with



# SUITE NEW LOOK FOR NURSING STUDENTS



Artists illustration of the Clinical Simulation Centre at Croydon University Centre

An exciting part of our new partnership with University of Roehampton is that the BSc Adult Nursing degree, starting from September 2021, will allow students to learn in a brand new state of the art nursing suite – The Clinical Simulation Centre in the heart of Croydon at Croydon University Centre.

It has been a long-held ambition of the College to bring a Nursing Degree to Croydon, to better meet the needs of the local economy, and the community it serves.

Croydon University Centre have invested close to £1 million to install the Clinical Simulation Centre, which replicates realistic community and in-hospital settings. Here students will safely practice clinical skills with other students, service users, role players and hi-tech patient simulators under the guidance of experienced clinical and academic

staff from the University of Roehampton. As part of the degree programme, students will take part in placements at Croydon Health Services NHS Trust and other local health providers.

Miemie Neethling-Taylor, Head of Higher Education, Croydon University Centre said:

**“The Clinical Simulation Centre is a great asset for our students and the wider community. We are really excited about this facility and it is becoming more of a reality each day. Students will be able to see the project develop over the next few months. We cannot wait to open**

**the nursing suite to our first nursing students in September.”**

Professor Jean-Noël Ezingard, Vice-Chancellor, University of Roehampton, added:

**“Our strategic partnership with Croydon College will allow us to harness our respective strengths to educate the next generation of healthcare professionals. The University of Roehampton has a thriving Adult Nursing programme, with a strong emphasis on community and primary care nursing, providing a wide range of career options for our graduates. We are excited to work in partnership with Croydon College and healthcare providers, including Croydon University Hospital, to offer this innovative programme to a wider audience.”**

# Degree fees frozen

**Pricing for higher education degree courses at Croydon University Centre have been frozen for the next academic year.**

Fees for undergraduate degrees are to remain at £6,000\* per academic year and HNC (Higher National Certificate) courses will cost £5,450 for students starting with us full-time in September 2021. These prices are highly competitive and offer students the reassurance and convenience to study on their doorstep.

From degrees in Business and Public Health to Criminology and Early Childhood Studies, along with HNCs in Construction, Business, and teacher training, careers really are made and shaped at Croydon University Centre.

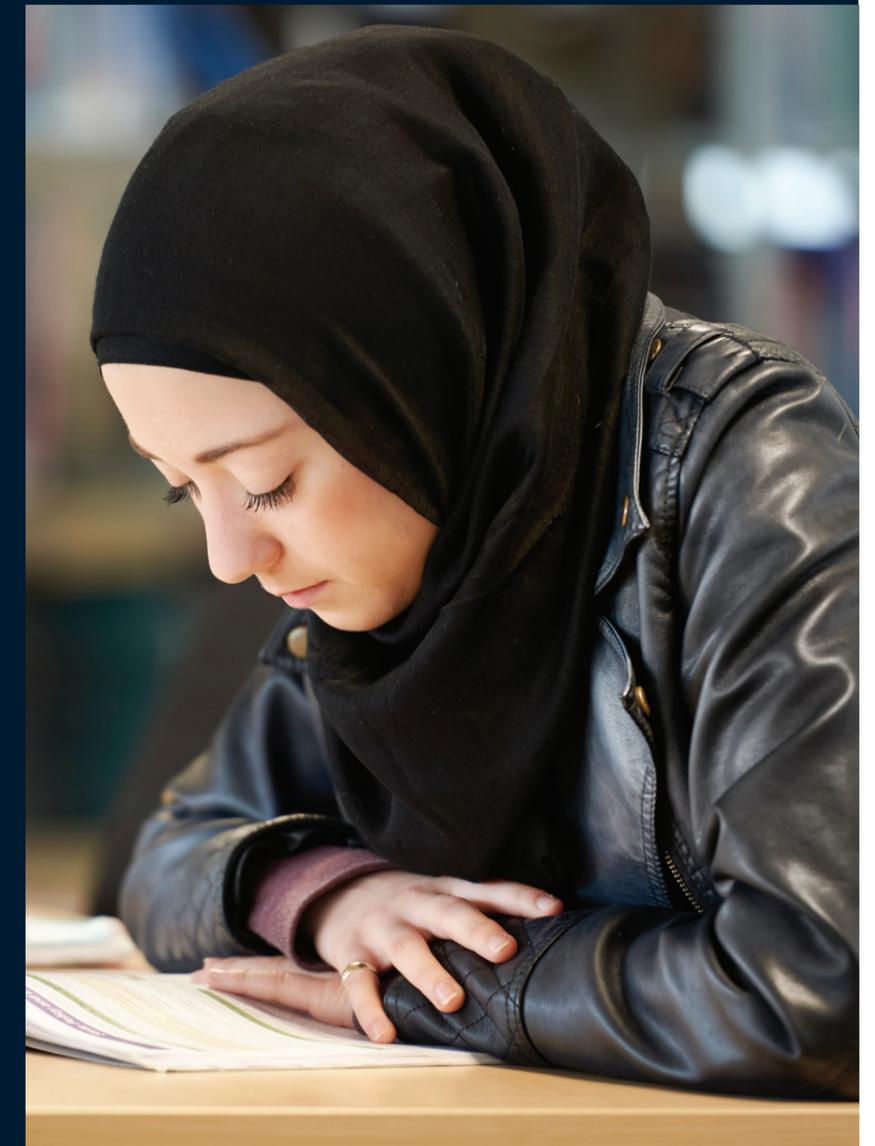
By working with local employers, courses offer great employment prospects, allowing students the chance to develop a deep understanding of their subject, high-level job skills and a positive attitude to important workplace issues including workplace diversity and equal opportunities.

Miemie Neethling-Taylor, Head of Higher Education, said: “We are delighted to announce our higher education course

fees remain comparatively low for the coming academic year. Amidst the difficulties of the pandemic, we are able to continue to offer affordable study options without compromising on quality. “We are proud to support widening participation in higher

education. It is so important, now more than ever, to support students in our local area to achieve their career dreams and own their futures.”

\*BSc Adult Nursing fees will differ as this is run in partnership with University of Roehampton.





WHERE CAREERS ARE MADE ↓

## STUDENT PROFILE



**Natasha, a former Croydon College student and mum of four, is a first year BSc Adult Nursing student at the University of Roehampton.**

Upon her return to education in 2019, Natasha initially wanted to pursue a career in Midwifery, but it was a Nursing Studies lecturer at Croydon College, who through her own passion for nursing, helped Natasha understand nursing was more suited to her.

She has already learnt so much through theory and clinical skills within the simulation centre and clinical placements. She has even experienced first-hand pressures of

the pandemic on the NHS in her first clinical placement.

In the short time Natasha has been at Roehampton, she has become actively involved in networking with the Royal College of Nursing and the General Practice Nursing, Student and Nurse Network (GPN SNN) as a Student Ambassador.

Natasha now has a strong desire to be a General Practice Nurse and has thanked Croydon College for helping her kickstart her nursing career.

**APPLY NOW →**  
For the new BSc in Adult Nursing course for 2021 at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

## DEGREE COURSES STILL OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

**Croydon University Centre is pleased to announce its new university degree courses are starting in September 2021 in partnership with University of Roehampton.**

The bustling University Centre, situated in the buzzing town centre of Croydon, is not your everyday university. It takes pride in offering a unique student experience centred around smaller cohorts, catering to the individual needs of its students. The University Centre offers a range of university level courses including degree courses, taught in Croydon.

There is still time to apply to be part of Croydon's close-knit University community in September 2021. Prospective students can choose from a range of courses including the BA (Hons) degree in Early Childhood Studies.

The Early Childhood Studies course opens a world of opportunities for those wanting to get into education in early years settings - with alumni moving into primary school teaching or nursery care, and others using their knowledge gained as part of the degree to shape children's policy and research.

Other degrees on offer at Croydon University Centre



include Business & Management, Criminology, Psychology & Social Justice, and a three-year degree in Public Health & Social Care. The University Centre also offers Higher National Certificates (HNC) in Mechanical Engineering, Construction and Business.

**APPLY NOW →**  
By visiting:  
[www.croydonuniversitycentre.ac.uk](http://www.croydonuniversitycentre.ac.uk)

**Croydon University Centre**

Where careers are made



## The Next Generation

### University Taster Week

Explore and learn more about our undergraduate courses:

**Monday 10 May**  
Early Childhood Studies  
& Public Health & Social Care

**Thursday 13 May**  
Construction & Engineering

**Tuesday 11 May**  
Adult Nursing & Teaching Level 5

**Friday 14 May**  
Criminology, Psychology & Social Justice

**Wednesday 12 May**  
Business & Management

 **Register Online Now**

Join for **FREE** online via Zoom. Meet the lecturers, talk to current students, take part in live interactive lessons and get application advice and guidance.



For more information or to register now visit [croydonuniversitycentre.ac.uk](http://croydonuniversitycentre.ac.uk)



Croydon College



# STUDENT PROFILES



In this edition of Croydon Education Matters, we're highlighting some of our students at Coulsdon Sixth Form College, who tell us a bit about their courses, hopes and ambitions for the future.

## RONALDO BUNGA

Business, Computer Science and Core Maths



Coulsdon College was at the top of Ronaldo's list when applying for college due to our friendly staff, the large grounds and location. Ronaldo wishes to study Economics and History at University and says Coulsdon Sixth Form College has helped him to aim high in his career.

## JACK CRESS

Business, Spanish & Politics



Jack is the Equality and Diversity Officer for Coulsdon Sixth Form College's Student Union, a role he finds extremely rewarding.

As a SEN student himself, Jack took on this role to show other students you can achieve your dreams no matter who you are.

## DRAGISA D'SOUZA

Fine Art, Graphics, Fashion



Dragisa has found online learning during the pandemic tough since she studies very practical subjects.

However, she has been overwhelmed with support she's received from the College in what has been a tough time for all.

## LUKE MORAGAMMANA GETHARA

Performing Arts & Biology



The mix and match programme is completely unique to Coulsdon Sixth Form College and is one of the main reasons why Luke applied here.

The flexibility of the programme has enabled him to get a part-time job and start his career journey at a young age.

## BETHANY PAYET

Business, Sociology and Psychology



Once Bethany finishes her studies here at Coulsdon Sixth Form College, she plans to go to University and study Fashion Management with Marketing.

Bethany hopes to use her degree to setup her own Fashion business which will focus on upcycling and sustainability.

## NATALY VIVANCO-PIECHOTA

Politics and Business



Nataly chose to study Politics as she has always found herself absorbed in the world of politics.

Her ultimate dream is to join a political party and become an MP where she will have a say in laws and policies that pass in parliament.

## Applications are up - but still time to secure study

Applications to study in Croydon and Coulsdon are up on this time last year - and prospective students are being encouraged to apply now.

And with telephone interviews taking place instead of in-person as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown, the application and offer process has been streamlined, making it easier and more accessible for people to get a place and start their career in the borough.

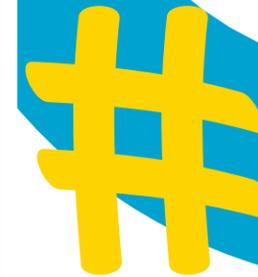
At Croydon College, there has been an **11% increase** in applications received, while at Croydon University Centre, **applications are up 27%** on last year.

To find out about the courses available at Croydon College visit [www.croydon.ac.uk](http://www.croydon.ac.uk)

For more information on the courses at Coulsdon Sixth Form College, visit [www.coulsdon.ac.uk](http://www.coulsdon.ac.uk)

To view the courses at Croydon University Centre, visit [www.croydonuniversitycentre.ac.uk](http://www.croydonuniversitycentre.ac.uk)

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT SOCI@L MEDIA? JOIN OUR SQUAD!



SOCIAL MEDIA# SQU@D

We're looking for students to collaborate with the College Marketing team on upcoming social media campaigns.

Find out more and apply here: [www.croydon.ac.uk/social-media-squad](http://www.croydon.ac.uk/social-media-squad)



We are always looking for ways to improve the learning experience for students and working environment for staff. The views of our diverse, vibrant and creative staff group from this survey will ensure that we create the right environment that enables our learners to thrive, and for our staff to be happy and engaged.



STAFF ENGAGEMENT SURVEY HAVE YOUR SAY



NEWS & VIEWS



# BRINGING GLORY TO THE PATHWAY CENTRE

Current student **Glory Nnama** is the host of a new video showcasing the great work, facilities and staff at the **Pathway Centre**, the specialist education provision based at **Coulston Sixth Form College**.

A natural in front of the camera, Glory expertly narrates and guides the viewers around the centre and is certainly not camera shy!

Hushna Utim, SEND Manager at the Pathway Centre said: "It's fantastic to see Glory excelling in this way. Since being with us his confidence has grown so much and his exuberance and energy really helps to demonstrate what a happy place this is supported by a great team of staff and students."



THE PATHWAY CENTRE

## STUDENT PROFILE

### Glory Nnama, The Pathway Centre

**What do you like most about the Pathway Centre?**

It is such a fascinating College – I get to learn so much.

**What has your journey been like?**

It's been exciting. I love the activities I get to do in my course which is an Into Work course.

**What are your future aspirations?**

I would love to be a comedian.

**What are your interests outside of College?**

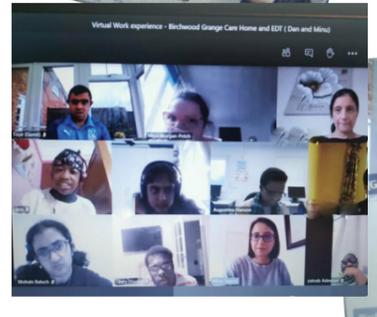
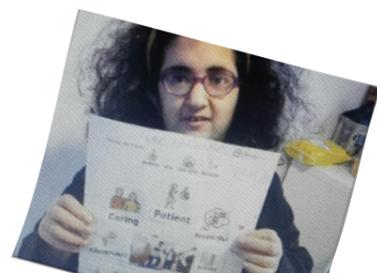
I like trainspotting, making people laugh, listening to '80s music and chatting about game shows.

**How has online learning been for you?**

I miss College a lot but I have learnt to enjoy learning from another perspective. The staff have been so reassuring and supportive.

**VIEW VIDEO**

Scan in this QR code to watch the video on the Pathway Centre.



## VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

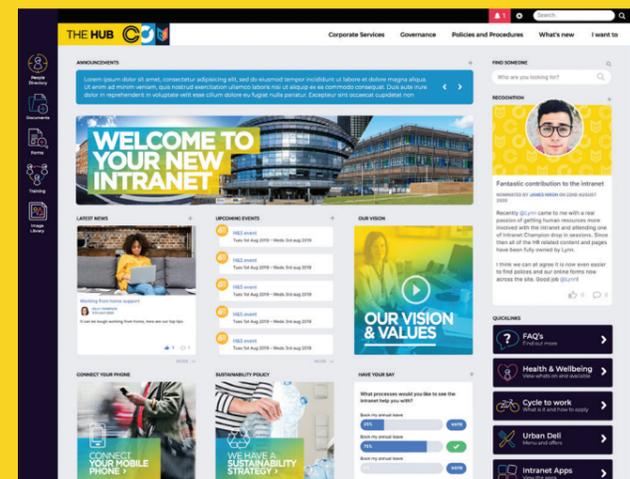
In January, students had the opportunity to take part in virtual work experience. Eight Into Work students and two Life Skills students embarked on a week of learning, discovery and engagement during their virtual work experience with **Birchwood Care Home**.

Students explored the skills required by care home employees and even designed an interactive activity for the residents to participate in.

Hushna said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for our wonderful cohort of students to learn on-the-job skills!"

## NEW STAFF INTRANET GOES LIVE!

As part of the College group's ongoing commitment to making improving communication with its staff, a new intranet has been launched, with a new, easy-to-navigate, layout.



## Matrix Accreditation Retained

We are delighted to announce we've retained and widened our matrix Accreditation, demonstrating the high quality standard of education support services we provide to local residents.

The matrix Standard is the international quality standard for organisations that deliver information, advice and/or guidance, either as their sole purpose or as part of their service offering.



Roger Chapman, Head of the matrix Service for The Growth Company said: "This is a fantastic achievement for

Croydon College. The matrix Standard is designed to benchmark organisations against best practice in these areas. With their accreditation success, Croydon College is working to provide the best possible support to their clients."

## VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT KEEPS STUDENTS STUDYING

Students across the Croydon College group have been continually supported throughout lockdown and home-learning thanks to the **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)**.

Ahead of the COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020, the College's Quality team and IT Services team, saw technology introduced into classrooms to enable students to participate in lessons even if they're unable to attend, incorporating Zoom and other new technologies through the VLE system and expanded media server storage capacity so recorded lectures and additional materials could be hosted and downloaded.

The project also saw the Intranet pages enhanced, and automatic transcribing enabled on Zoom to improve accessibility for all students.

Croydon College's Head of Learning & Quality, Martin Silverwood, said: "This was a great team effort and the VLE has had a fantastic impact on ensuring students remain supported throughout a very difficult time, with very high levels of attendance and engagement despite being in lockdown."

## College continues to close gender pay gap



In its recent gender pay gap report, the Croydon College group has seen the gap fall from 5.34% in favour of male employees in 2020 to 4.25% in 2021.

Nationally, the mean gender pay gap is around 9.7% in favour of males, meaning the College is doing better at closing that gap. Caureen Mitchell, Croydon College CEO and Principal, said: "This report is a significant step forward. However, we realise there is more work to do and we will work to close the pay gap further."

# DIARY DATES

## 2021



Croydon  
College

### EVENT

### DATE

Applicants invited for an interview	January - August 2021
Construction Virtual Work Experience	Monday 22 March – Friday 26 March 2021
Creative Arts Virtual Work Experience	Monday 22 March – Friday 26 March 2021
Easter Holidays	Monday 6 April - Friday 16 April
Engineering & Science Virtual Work Experience	Monday 19 April – Friday 23 April 2021
Business, IT, Travel & Tourism Virtual Work Experience	Monday 26 April – Friday 30 April 2021
Half Term	Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June 2021
Welcome Day	Tuesday 29 June 2021
Last Day of Term	Friday 2 July 2021
Early Enrolment (ESOL ONLY)	Monday 9 - Friday 13 August 2021
Main Enrolment	W/C Monday 25 August 2021
GCSE Results Day	Friday 27 August 2021
Open Enrolment	Thursday 2 - Friday 3 September 2021
*Late Enrolment	Monday 6 September - Friday 10 September 2021
Autumn Term	Monday 6 September – Friday 17 December 2021
Autumn Half Term	Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October 2021



Croydon  
University  
Centre

Applicants invited for an interview	January-August 2021
Easter Holidays	Monday 6 April-Friday 16 April 2021
HE Taster Week	Monday 10-Thursday 13 May 2021
Half Term	Monday 31 May-Friday 4 June 2021
HE Open Event	Wednesday 30 June 2021
Last Day of Term	Friday 2 July 2021
A Level Results Day	Tuesday 24 August 2021
GCSE Results Day	Friday 27 August 2021
Semester 1	Monday 13 September 2021 – Friday 14 January 2022
Study Week	Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October 2021
Christmas Holidays	Monday 20 December 2021 – Tuesday 4 January 2022



COULSDON  
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Applicants invited for an interview	January - August 2021
Easter Holidays	Monday 6 April - Friday 16 April 2021
Half Term	Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June 2021
Welcome Day	Wednesday 30 June 2021
Last Day of Term	Friday 2 July 2021
A Level Results Day	Tuesday 24 August 2021
GCSE Results Day	Friday 27 August 2021
Main Enrolment	Friday 27 August - Tuesday 1 September 2021
Bank Holiday	Monday 30 August 2021
Open Enrolment	Thursday 2 - Friday 3 September 2021
*Late Enrolment	Monday 6 - Friday 10 September 2021
Autumn Term	Monday 6 September – Friday 17 December 2021
Autumn Half Term	Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October 2021



\*LATE ENROLMENT DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MAY BE EXTENDED DEPENDING ON ENROLMENT NUMBERS