



CROYDON

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Croydon
College



COULSDON
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Croydon
University
Centre

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PLENTY TO BE PROUD OF DESPITE CHALLENGES

Firstly, a massive congratulations to all our students who, despite the many challenges faced in the pandemic, have succeeded in your studies this year.

You've faced extraordinary circumstances, spent far less time in college than we would have liked, and had to learn to access your lessons and study online. Yet you have achieved your educational goals for the academic year, continued to develop your skills and are one step closer to your career of choice. We are so very proud of you all! Congratulations, you are inspirational.

Behind the success of our amazing students and supporting them every step of the way are our wonderful and talented staff. We recognise staff are our greatest asset; very much value their contribution and individual expertise and are investing in their continued development.

Despite all the obstacles this year, as a College community we have much to be proud of:

1. The quality of education in our colleges continue to improve: more students are achieving the qualifications they set out to achieve; student satisfaction is rising rapidly; teaching and learning is good and continues to improve, and our student support is excellent.
2. The way in which we continued to teach during the pandemic, we quickly and successfully moved a vast majority of teaching and learning online, yet stayed open throughout the year, for those students who needed to come into college to access their education;
3. We are expanding the range of courses we offer to better meet community need: the areas of Health and Care and Engineering and Construction expanded this year to meet demand; in September 2021 a new degree in Adult Nursing in association with the University of Roehampton will begin; we are working hard to meet the skills needs of the local economy;
4. Our student feedback is very positive, students feel cared for, supported and also challenged to achieve their best;
5. We have continued to put students at the heart of all we do.

There are just some of the reasons why an increasing number of people are choosing to study at Croydon College.

Congratulations and thank you to both students, staff and our many supporters who have ensured the 2020/21 academic year was such a success.

Well done everyone.



CAIREEN MITCHELL
Principal & CEO
Croydon College Group

STUDENT SURVEYS SHAPE COULSDON CHANGES

Despite the disruption our College community has faced in the last year due to the coronavirus pandemic, there have been many positive changes at Coulsdon Sixth Form College following that haven't gone unnoticed.

We have seen the arrival of our new Principal, Odette Carew, who has been busy implementing changes and improving the overall experience for our students who choose to study with us.

Coinciding with Odette's arrival, this year we have introduced a new way of measuring student satisfaction was introduced via the Coulsdon Sixth Form College You Said, We Did surveys. The aim of these surveys is for the College to look at the opinions and recommendations made by current students, on how to improve their College experience and then the Staff use the responses from the surveys to improve lessons, enrichment activities, resources and facilities to ensure our students are getting the most out of their time with us.

And we really did listen – student satisfaction has significantly increased with opportunities to make

more positive changes along the way. We have seen more students progressing from Level 2 to Level 3, as well as Lower Sixth to Upper Sixth. There are now more students applying to university than ever before. We have improved our teaching and learning for our most vulnerable learners to support their progression, and we challenge our learners so that skills develop and grades go beyond expectation.

Excitingly, there are new courses at Coulsdon Sixth Form College too including an A Level in Accountancy, the only course of its kind in the local area – allowing students to develop quantitative data analysis and interpretation skills and an emphasis on management accounting giving them the confidence to communicate information to non-accountants and future clients.

We caught up with Odette to find out a little more about her first year at the college.

Have you enjoyed your first year at the college?

It's been very enjoyable – super busy and challenging at times but very fun. I'm so proud to be working here.

What's been your highlight from the past year?

It's been great to see the staff



ODETTE CAREW

adapting to new ways of working and teaching, and keeping our students engaged even when they're not on site. I'd also like to say a huge congratulations to Rebecca Cristaldi, Ernest Muzungu and David Allan who've been announced as some of the winners for the COVID Above and Beyond category at the Sixth Form College Association Annual Awards 2021.

Are you pleased with the results from the You Said, We Did surveys?

I'm very pleased with the results which have led to an increased level of satisfaction amongst our students. The surveys are important because we want the learners to know we are really listening to them and doing everything we can to improve. We're not there yet, but we are moving in the right direction.

What do you hope to achieve in your next year?

We have made so many improvements in the last year and I'm looking forward to continuing this journey with our great team of staff and students. I would like to ensure Coulsdon Sixth Form College is the first-choice college for young learners and to help us achieve this we will be working closer to support learner choice and achievement, as well as enabling high-quality work experience placements in line with our students' career aspirations.



**You Said.
We Did!**
Your feedback matters



NEWS & VIEWS

MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR STUDENTS WITH EPILEPSY

This term our amazing staff have taken the opportunity to learn more about the effects life in further and higher education can have on young people with epilepsy by enrolling in Young Epilepsy's 'Epilepsy Friendly' scheme, which provides free epilepsy training and resources for colleges and universities across the UK.

Vicky Chainey, Director of Student Support Services at the Croydon College Group, said: "Epilepsy is often misunderstood and there can be confusion when it comes to support in education. We wanted to assure young people, and their families, that we are committed to understanding their individual needs and providing the support that enables them to attend Croydon College, Coulsdon Sixth Form College or Croydon University Centre. By making some small provisions we have the opportunity to make a big difference, providing an environment that will promote a positive educational experience."



MUSIC STUDENTS GET KEEN WITH WORKSHOPS



Music Technology students have been treated to specialist online music production workshops led by DJ and electronic music producer, Henry Keen from Community Music.

Community Music work in collaboration with the University of Westminster to offer foundation degrees in Music Production and Music Business so really do know their stuff! Some of their former students have even gone on to work as songwriters and producers for artists such as Dappy, Jessie J, Little Mix and Emeli Sande.

Students support local community in simulation workshop

Six Coulsdon Sixth Form College students and Head of Creative Arts, Fiona Brennan participated in a Simulation Workshop as part of a Local Community Project - 'Working together to adapt to a changing climate: flood and coast'.

Old Coulsdon & Caterham along with only one other area in the country were selected to take part in the project due to the high threat of flooding in the area.

The students acted out a boardroom meeting to discuss measures that could be put into place to help reduce the risk of flooding, and undertook a variety of different roles including a planning officer, a chair of a residents'



association, a climate activist, a water company employee, a flood victim and a local businessman.

Fiona said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for our students. They showed great skill and understanding and it was a pleasure to be involved. We hope to do another workshop in the future with a larger cohort of students."

Guest speakers inspire Public Services students



Public Services students have been mentored by some of the most prestige professionals in their field to help them plan for their futures.

They received advice and training from The Met Police Volunteer Cadets, Prison Offender Manager at Highdown Prison - Liane Davis, The Army Rifles Regiment, and former student and Director of Methodology at Alicante Football Club and Director at ACFC Academy, Phil Phillipou.

Get Juiced owner offers career advice

Leon Morant, owner of Get Juiced Bar came into the College to share his experience of setting up a small business (SME) for Level 1 Business students.

Leon quizzed the students to see if they have what it takes to become a top entrepreneur, and provided them with all the top tips in setting up their own business.



Remembering Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh



Archive footage of the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth attending the opening of the current College building in 1960 has recently been discovered by staff.

The fascinating footage shows Croydon town centre and the College more than 60 years ago. To watch the footage scan in the QR code above.

FOOTBALL FOR UNITY



Croydon College has taken part in an innovative initiative to break down barriers and promote social inclusion for its international students.

The Football for Unity project provides an opportunity for communities to come together and proactively understand the importance of social inclusion, demonstrating football's unique ability to promote equality and social inclusion.

This term, 11 ESOL students took part in this fantastic project alongside other young third-country nationals and young Europeans. Not only did they take part in several football-based activities, but they also heard from 19-year-old female coach Jasmine, also a refugee from Bangladesh, who spoke about her experiences moving away from a refugee camp to the UK.

Sherry Dougan, Head of English, Maths and ESOL said: "Our students were a credit - all were engaged throughout, worked really well together and enjoyed the whole experience. By taking part in the project, they have been able to learn from one another, acquire life skills and become agents of change and community building."

NEWS & VIEWS

Students get musical with Fame



Every year our Performing Arts and Art & Design students collaborate to produce a very special end of year performance.

This year our students worked hard during lockdown to produce a jaw-

dropping performance of popular musical Fame.

The showcase was supported by visuals and textiles influenced by the 1980s fashion, all of which was performed in front of a virtual audience.

Sustainability championed by Supported Education students



Progression and Employability students from our Supported Education cohort have been working on sustainability projects this term.

Progression students have been exploring the impact of plastic on the environment and the benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling the plastic we use. As part of building their study skills students have worked together in groups to come up with their own solution to the plastic project and pitch their ideas back to the entire cohort. They've also got creative by reusing plastic bottles to create a set of planters, which will be available to buy in the near future.

The Employability group have explored the advantages of growing locally, eating seasonal vegetables and buying sustainable products. They have even looked after their own plants grown in the classroom, which will also be on sale soon.

CROYDON SCHOOL OF ARTS END OF YEAR SHOW

The Creative Arts Team at Croydon College have put together an exciting online art exhibition to showcase some of our students' work.

Despite the challenges from the last year, our students have produced some great work ranging from Art & Design, Fashion, Photography, Games and Animation, Music and Performing Arts. Natalie Garner, Head of Creative Arts, said: "Sadly this year we are to organise an in-person gallery exhibition but we've worked hard to put together an online experience for you to enjoy."

To see the online exhibition scan the QR code.



CPSJ STUDENTS ATTEND ONLINE TALK



Inspired by the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and the events of 2020, Professor John Lea from the British Society of Criminology hosted an online talk for Croydon University Centre students, examining the BLM slogan 'Defund the Police', and explored practical policy solutions and innovation in the criminal justice system.

Lucia Guetcherian, Programme Lead for Criminology, Psychology and Social Justice, said: "The event was very informative and raised some excellent discussions."



End of the Year Show

To celebrate the end of the academic year, Music students at Coulsdon Sixth Form College came together to broadcast a live End of the Year show.

The lively event featured an impressive range of talent from solo performers to groups, incorporating ukulele, guitars, keyboards, drums and singing. The audience enjoyed

a range of music genres and performances included a tribute to contemporary artists as well as soundtracks from films and musicals.

To watch the End of the Year Show on YouTube scan in this QR code.



STUDENTS LEARN KEY MARKETING TIPS & TRICKS



Business students welcomed Croydon College Group's Head of Marketing Katharine Glass to the classroom as they carried out their Effective Communication in Marketing Assignment.

Katharine opened up to students about the fundamentals of marketing, including some helpful tips on how to produce engaging marketing materials for any marketing campaign.



WORLD OF WORK SUPPORTING BUSINESS RESILIENCE

After what has been a challenging year for all, World of Work at Croydon College is pleased to be supporting the Croydon Business Resilience Awards 2021 as a sponsor of the COVID-19 Business Commitment to Education, Training and Skills category.

We cannot wait to see the entries in this category and recognise all the hard work businesses have done during these uncertain times.

COLLEGE ALUMNI

Former students inspire others

Even after leaving education, we love to stay in touch with our former students who remain a key part of our community.



BERI CHEETHAM

Chairperson & CCO at The Gate San Francisco & Interim CMO at Dormeo USA

Former Croydon College student Beri has seen a huge number of successes throughout his career following the completion of his Graphic Design studies in 1995.

Starting out as a Creative Partner at The UK's fastest growing independent agency, Billington Cartmell, Beri has since worked for companies such as The Gate London, The Gate San Francisco - part of the MSQ network, and Dormeo.

Beri has gained a reputation as a turnaround artist, specialising in transforming agencies and brands within very short timeframes. He is accomplished in all media disciplines from broadcast to retail and activation, and is a Judge & Chair at many industry bodies.

Throughout his career, Beri has received more than 150 awards and continues to be a guest speaker and a mentor for the next generation.



PAUL HAZELDENE

Contracts Manager at Installation & Refurbishment Solutions Ltd

Croydon College alumni, Paul Hazeldene recalls his experience at the College as 'enjoyable' helped by the 'passionate lecturers and engaging classmates who have become life-long friends' of his.

While at Croydon College, Paul worked in both the private and public sectors of construction and was even sponsored by both industries, all while completing his studies.

Paul has mainly worked in the corporate commercial property world where he has assembled and managed a mix of internal and external teams to deliver large scale land property jobs. He has also dealt with landlord and tenant issues, property contracts, planning applications and public relations.



PHIL PHILLIPOU

Director of Methodology at Alicante City FC & Academy
Director at ACFC Academy

After completing courses in Sport and Leisure and Tourism, Phil left Coulsdon Sixth Form College in 2007. He started his coaching journey by volunteering at Crystal Palace FC and other Croydon-based clubs before travelling to the USA and Australia to gain his coaching badges.

He then went on to complete a Degree in Football Methodology at the University of Madrid, leading to an opportunity working with Alicante FC in Spain and becoming the Director of their football academy.

Phil returned to Coulsdon Sixth Form College virtually for a careers session with our Level 3 Sport students. He gave advice on how to get into sports coaching and the skills and qualities required to be successful.

COULSDON END YEAR WITH ART EXHIBITION



Our annual art exhibition has now moved online. The showcase features work from Fashion, Art & Design, Graphics, Photography and Fine Art students.



The exhibition was unable to take place last year because of the coronavirus pandemic - but this year students have been able to show off their work with a video exhibition hosted on the Coulsdon website - and is "another step back to normality," says Coulsdon's Head of Creative Arts Faculty Fiona Brennan.

Fiona said: "We are thrilled to be able to hang an end of year exhibition this year, especially as the pandemic prevented us from doing so last year. The exhibition is being enjoyed by our College community and is another step back to normality."

"The exhibition showcases a high standard of work and individuality across all of our Visual Arts courses but this year the subject matter is particularly poignant as it often reflects the struggles of the last year with many of the works being produced during lockdown with limited resources. We are extremely proud of our students, of their resilience and creativity in what has been a very challenging year."

"We hope you enjoy viewing the exhibition online and join us in congratulating the students on their success."

WATCH NOW →

To explore the End of Year Art Exhibition online, scan the QR code.



NEW STUDENT EXECUTIVE TEAM ELECTED

The results for the Student Executive Elections for the 2021/2022 academic year have been announced.

A huge congratulations goes to:

- **PRESIDENT:**
Anastasia Fox
- **VICE-PRESIDENT:**
Reece Scott-Regan
- **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY OFFICER:**
Aimee Dunn
- **MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING OFFICER:**
Manuel Fernandez Harris

The Student Executives are a main link between the College's senior management and the interests as a student body.

They will organise charity, social and awareness events which enhance student experience. They will listen to and empower student voices, ensuring that all students from all backgrounds feel welcome and have a say in the running of the college.

The President will be able to attend meetings with College Governors to represent student interests, and the Vice-President will represent student interests in the Careers & Employability Steering Group. All Student Executives are also a point-of-contact for any ideas, views or concerns relating to student interests.

Student Experience Officer, Michael Clarke said: **"Students are at the heart of everything we do so the Student Executive Elections are a very important time for us. I hope that like me, you are looking forward to what this team will bring!"**

WORLD OF WORK

WOW
WORLD of WORK
AT CROYDON COLLEGE



Work experience success

Work experience for our students has continued this term to help them test out a career and build skills that are essential in order to secure a job.

Coulsdon Sixth Form College students took part in a range of virtual work experience programmes from Monday 14 June in a variety of industries including Health & Social Care and Life Science, Business and IT, with the ESOL cohort at Croydon College also taking part in their 5-day programme on Monday 21 June.

Our Work Experience Team work hard to build fantastic relationships with a range of employers who help deliver work experience to students. This term we have worked with employers such as Govia, Ernst & Young, AB Health, Abbot Laboratories and HCA Healthcare to provide our students with the work experience they need. Each

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

In addition to our virtual work experience programme, some students have been given the opportunity to learn from employers in-person.

Two outstanding Coulsdon Sixth Form College Visual Arts students, Ezra Salvane and Iraj Syeda, have secured their work experience placements at one of the UK's most prestigious architects, Walters & Cohen.

The placements were advertised to all Sixth Form Colleges with only 12 places available, and Ezra and Iraj secured two of those. Head of Creative Arts, Fiona Brennan said: "All of us in the department would like to congratulate Ezra and Iraj for this fantastic opportunity. You are both excellent ambassadors for us and I'd like to wish you the best of luck!"

Seventeen-year-old Croydon College Art and Design student, Ngaroimata Thompson has also successfully been selected for their work experience at an acclaimed museum in Fulham, The William Morris Society.

During her work experience placement Ngaroimata will explore climate change and take part in artist-led workshops with practising artists who explore sustainability in their work. At the end of the project, everyone on the programme will use what they have learnt to produce their own works of art encouraging local residents to live more sustainably. The pieces will all come together into an exhibition at the museum.

Katie Bowdery, Mixed Media Technician said: "Well done to Ngaroimata for getting accepted onto the programme. This is a fantastic opportunity and I hope you learn lots!"

VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE
WOW
WOW
WORLD of WORK
AT CROYDON COLLEGE

IT & Tech

Business

Healthcare & Life Science

CROYDON COLLEGE LAUNCHES EMPLOYABILITY HUB

Croydon College has recently launched a new programme to help local young people get into employment all in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).



The Your Future Get Started Employability Hub is here to help 18-24 year-olds and other eligible Croydon residents who are looking to gain employability skills and support in achieving their career goals.

To find out more about the Your Future Get Started Employability Hub, let's hear from students Rhys and Raj.



How did you hear about the Employability Hub?

Raj: About a month ago I applied for Universal Credit and on the first meeting I had with my Job Coach, she told me about the programme. I decided it would be a great opportunity for me to upskill so she referred me.

What is the name of the programme and what does it involve?

Rhys: The programme is a Level 1 Certificate in Self Marketing and Personal Enterprise and runs for eight days. The purpose of the programme

is to help someone like myself be successful when looking for jobs.

Raj: The eight day programme can help you with almost anything job-related. You learn about research, the hidden job market, and even how you move from one job to another. There are fantastic resources such as work books and video tutorials. It can be challenging but the hard work definitely pays off!

What skills have you learnt and how will you use them in the future?

Rhys: Although I already had a CV, I've learnt how to make it better for when I apply for jobs in the future. I know how to fill out an application form and had good practice for an interview. Before the programme, I didn't know employers would look at your social media profiles when you apply for a role!

How have the staff supported you?

Raj: I've been supported throughout the whole process. My Job Coach really encouraged me to enter the programme and I'm so glad I've done it. The staff, and in particular my Course Tutor Kareena, have been amazing. I feel a lot more prepared to enter the world of work.

Rhys: The staff have made the programme really enjoyable. At first, I thought it was going to be really hard, but actually with the support from the staff, I've felt really relaxed and it's been great fun.

Why should eligible participants enter the programme?

Raj: For anyone who is unsure about careers in general, the programme can help you overcome your worries and upskill. You will learn a lot of new things and gain a lot of confidence for when you are searching for jobs.



KAREENA

YOUR FUTURE -GET STARTED
Croydon Employability Hub

What's next for you?

Raj: I'm really interested in IT, so I will be looking for job opportunities or traineeships in the industry.

Rhys: I'll use my skills to look for a job in an industry that suits me the most and that I'm interested in.

Fadia Clarke, Vice Principal, Training, Skills and Higher Education, commented on the launch of the Employability Hub: "We are very pleased to work with the DWP in supporting young unemployed adults in our local communities to gain skills that will help them back into employment or apprenticeship, though the Croydon College Employability Youth Hub.

"This Hub will also offer participants the opportunity of further skills training to broaden their employment opportunities in new industries that they have not worked in before. We have all been affected by the pandemic, and Croydon DWP and Croydon College are keen to reach as many young adults as possible to provide a good stepping stones back into work."



The wellbeing of our College community has always been at the forefront of what we do, and with mental health issues becoming more prevalent in the modern world, the Croydon College Group has joined the Association of Colleges (AoC) Mental Health Charter to ensure a consistent and positive approach to staff and students' wellbeing.

the wellbeing of students and staff. The College aims to raise awareness of mental health issues by providing activities and workshops for staff and students. Awareness events, such as Mental Health Awareness Week, provide the perfect opportunity for our College community to come together and learn more about mental health issues and the importance of being able to talk about it.

This year, the Mental Health Foundation's awareness week celebrated the theme of nature and environment and the Croydon College Group put together a fantastic programme of workshops and activities so staff and students could take the time to learn more about mental health.

These sessions have and continue to provide a safe supportive space for students to touch base and receive advice and support from fellow students as well as the professionals.

Now more than ever, it's so important to talk about our mental health and with the support on offer at Croydon College, there really are no more excuses. We even have our very own dedicated

Safeguarding Team who are here to support you safely no matter your circumstance.

Croydon Campus:
safeguarding@croydon.ac.uk

Coulson Campus:
safeguarding@coulson.ac.uk

Croydon College Group Principal and CEO Caireen Mitchell signs the AoC Mental Health Charter.



Under the AoC's charter, the College will provide targeted individual mental health support and training to ensure

Your new Teaching and Learning Mentor Team

Your Teaching and Learning Mentor (TLM) Team are the individuals who work hard behind the scenes to provide you with the highest quality teaching to ensure you get the most out of your time with us.

Over the years, the TLM team has made fantastic progress in developing teaching and learning, in particular overcoming the obstacles online learning due to lockdown has presented.

Martin Silverwood, Head of Learning and Quality, commented on the announcement of the new TLM Team and said: "We cannot wait to welcome our new TLM Team who will be starting in September. It will be great to work with the team on many key initiatives to ensure that teaching, learning and assessment is engaging for our students."



LINKING WITH SCHOOLS ACROSS THE BOROUGH

Here at the Croydon College Group, we understand your education is shaped before you arrive in our community. Your time spent at secondary school develops your skills and guides you onto a career path that suits your aspirations. This is why we have a dedicated school liaison team, who work with schools in the borough to help you decide on your next steps before applying.

Over the last year, even with restrictions in place, we have been able to organise and attend events in schools. Most recently, we went into St Mary's High School in Croydon and delivered a series of events to support their careers week.

We started with virtual taster sessions in Business, Health & Social Care and STEM. Staff from both the Croydon and Coulson campuses spoke to students through the subjects, what it is like to study with us and got the students taking part in subject related activities. We also went into the school to deliver two assemblies – one about coming to College and what to expect, another on apprenticeships, what they are and how they can benefit you.

We have also been able to do virtual assemblies for other schools. Our Vice-Principal, Fadia Clarke, has enjoyed connecting with students and listening to their feedback, concerns and questions. She commented: "I really enjoy being able to bring our College message to students across the borough. I know our staff and courses are fantastic, but it is great to be able to show students that". COVID-19 has meant a lot of changes for students and



to help them with their decision for College, we created virtual experiences for them. Our virtual tours are on the websites, where you can virtually wander around the buildings. All the open events are online too, so you can catch up on anything you may have missed. Plus we produced a school liaison video specifically for schools, which details everything a student may need to know about attending one of our campuses.

Working with schools in the borough is crucial. These links look to support students before they come to College. The transition from secondary school to College can be daunting so working with students early on can help them feel more secure about moving on to the College, if that is what they chose to do.



WHERE CAREERS ARE MADE

in partnership with



NEW NURSING SUITE TAKES SHAPE



Representatives from Croydon University Centre and the University of Roehampton have taken a tour of the soon-to-be completed £1million nursing suite, which BSc Adult Nursing students will be using from September.

The BSc Adult Nursing has already attracted a significant number of applications for the 2021/2022 academic year, driven by increased demand for such courses in the current COVID-19 pandemic environment.

The Clinical Simulation Centre will replicate realistic community and in-hospital settings for students who 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 their degree, students will also take part in placements at Croydon Health Services NHS Trust and other local health providers.

Caireen Mitchell, Principal & CEO of Croydon College, said: "The contract between us and the University of Roehampton cements the foundation of the partnership agreement between the two institutions.

"It's long been an ambition of mine, and the College, to bring nursing education to the borough. Visiting the site and seeing the amazing facilities has brought those ambitions one step closer to becoming a reality. We're delighted to be able to provide a course that is clearly in such high demand here in Croydon and we will continue to work hard to meet the skills needs of the local economy."

Joining the visit was the new Head of Nursing, Jo Rixon who said: "It's been great to be able to see the new Clinical Simulation Centre taking shape. These state-of-the-art facilities will give students training in a real-life setting, preparing them for their successful careers post-study. This is a really

exciting development for both the University of Roehampton and Croydon University Centre and I can't wait to get started with our students in September."

Professor Jean-Noël Ezingard, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Roehampton, said: "The new Clinical Simulation Centre will provide students with the ideal setting to learn both the practical and theoretical skills needed to embark on a fulfilling and rewarding nursing career. This profession is in urgent need for new entrants and we are proud to be teaching the nurses of tomorrow as well as continuing to widen opportunities to access higher education."



Why choose Early Childhood Studies?



Alex Williamson



Zeinab Mohamed

At Croydon University Centre, the BA (hons) Early Childhood Studies has always been a popular choice among applicants, providing graduates an excellent foundation for a career working with young children in many sectors, including education, and health and social care.

So why should you study a degree in Early Childhood Studies here at Croydon University Centre? Find out from current students Alex Williamson and Zeinab Mohamed.

What is involved in the Early Childhood Studies Degree?

Alex: The Early Childhood Studies Degree programme encompasses a broad range of topics and the modules studied are rich and diverse, engaging students in many areas of childhood.

What are the key skills students will develop?

Zeinab: You will learn a wealth of skills on the programme. Communication is developed through written essays and debating key topics in lesson. IT is a key part of the course as you are regularly tasked with creating and presenting PowerPoint presentations, posters and leaflets. You will also develop your organisation, research, analysis and time management skills.

What will students learn on the first year?

Alex: In the first year, students will cover the Early Learning and Development, and Learning Through Play modules. In my opinion, these are the most important modules you'll cover on the programme as they form the foundation of quality early years practice.

What are the most common career pathways graduates go in to?

Zeinab: Common careers among graduates are an Early Years Teacher, Education Consultant, Family Support Worker, Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), Social Worker and much more.

Alex: Careers in Early Years Practice are popular particularly management roles, as well as further study at Masters level or post graduate certificates in education to enter the teaching profession.

What do you love the most about being at student at Croydon University Centre?

Zeinab: There are so many reasons why being a student at Croydon University Centre is great. There are fantastic facilities, you learn from industry professionals, you get amazing discounts and you can study right in the heart of Croydon – the list is endless!

Alex: For me the best part about being a student at Croydon University Centre is the diversity. All ages, all cultures, and all backgrounds are welcome. I thought I was too old to study for a degree but there were other mature students on the course.



THE GRADUATION SAVE THE DATE

20 October 2021



**Ashcroft Theatre,
Fairfield Halls,
Croydon
CR9 1DG**



Ceremony 11am – 1pm



**Gowning & Photographs
from 8.30am**



**Croydon
University
Centre**



**graduation@croydon.ac.uk
croydonuniversitycentre.ac.uk**

Disclaimer: This notice is not a guarantee that you have passed your degree. Your results will be confirmed via the Registry Office. **COVID Notice:** Please note that due to unforeseen COVID-19 circumstances, this graduation event may be subject to changes and/or cancellation at short notice.



NEWS & VIEWS



INTERNAL ART EXHIBITION GIVES SNAPSHOT OF STUDENTS' WORK



Croydon School of Arts have been hosting an internal art exhibition showcasing students' work.

The colourful and varied SNAPSHOT exhibition includes film, photography, sculptures, painting and digital media created by current students both at home throughout various lockdowns and since returning to College.

To see the exhibition scan in this QR code.



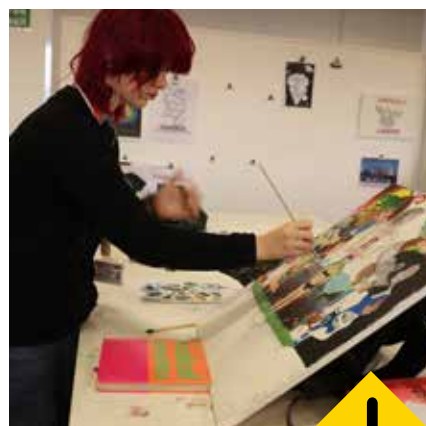
STUDENTS SELECTED FOR ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

The Visual Arts department at Coudson Sixth Form College have been busy selecting their student representatives for this year's Sixth Form College Association Art Exhibition.

A huge congratulations goes to Ashleigh Haynes, Casey White, Phoebe Newman, Maia Francis and Tianna Smart for successfully making it

through to the nationwide showcase!

Neal Vaughan, said: "Congratulations to the five students who have been selected! It was an extremely hard choice, and it took six of us to choose the top five. I am extremely proud of all of your images, and I know that they represent the college well and the high standards we achieve in our visual arts department."



Creative Arts student receives unconditional offer from top university

It's that time of year again where we get ready to say goodbye to our final year learners as they prepare for life after Croydon college, whether they go into employment, an apprenticeship or university.

Croydon School of Arts are once again celebrating the success of their students as Art and Design student, Eva Kerslake-Blue receives an unconditional offer from one of the leading arts universities in London, Goldsmiths.

"We wish Eva the absolute best on this journey. This is an amazing offer and stands testament to Eva's hard work. We know that she will use this as an opportunity to grow as a person and in her artistic career."

Head of Creative Arts

STUDENTS POP UP WITH ONLINE WORK EXPERIENCE

Art students were treated to an online work experience placement delivered by local artist PiNs alongside FMM Pop Up. PiNs shared his knowledge of the arts industry to help motivate and educate students who are looking to enter the industry.



↑ MICHAEL

↑ NICOLE

During the session, they provided the students with a brief to get creative and knock out some work with only a day to do it.

THE TASK: As a group or in pairs, think about how you can create a positive change in the area where you live. Create a poster in any medium you like reflecting this change.

Commenting on the work experience session, PiNs said: "Looking back, I didn't have someone like me from a similar background ever come in to a class and say how life really was in the creative industry, so I see the value of delivering experiences from diverse perspectives."

CHECK OUT SOME OF THE WORK →



↑ MOJO

↑ CELINE

CROYDON PHOTOGRAPHER INSPIRES NEXT GENERATION

Photography students at Coulsdon Sixth Form College warmly welcomed local photographer Glenn Foster to the College to deliver an exciting masterclass.

Freelance Photographer Glenn, was delighted to be able to come and provide current Photography students with knowledge of his experiences and the tips and tricks they need to be successful in the industry.

Speaking to students about his experiences, Glenn said: "I've always had a passion for photography. Since graduating, I've worked with so many great people at the most amazing places.

Whatever I am photographing I like to get to know my clients, listen to their ideas, find out what they want to create and what style of imagery would work best. It's important for me to understand exactly what



Glenn Foster

their vision is so I can use my knowledge and experience to turn ideas into images."

He then presented some of his work to the class who were in total awe for every piece!

Following the masterclass, three lucky students were chosen to work with Glenn for the day, taking photographs of current students who have taken part in the student profile scheme. A selection of these photographs will then be used for posters that will go up inside the College.



The three students had to photograph eight students in different locations



and lightings. Glenn was able to offer the best advice for each setting, helping the students develop their knowledge for future pieces.

Neal Vaughan, Visual Arts Course Leader said: "The students loved it! Many thanks to Glenn for taking the time out of his busy schedule to come into the College and provide a masterclass and work experience session for our students. This will really benefit them in the long run and I can't wait to see how they use what they've learnt in the future."

To see more of Glenn Foster's photography, go to: www.glenn-foster.squarespace.com

Apply now and secure your study for September

Despite the end of the school term fast approaching, there is still time to apply to study at Croydon College, Coulsdon Sixth Form College and Croydon University Centre.

Staff are looking forward to welcoming new students back to a new future in September, helping people get on their way to starting their chosen careers.

At Croydon College you can study a wide range of vocational courses as well as Apprenticeships, Public Services and Sports courses are proving popular and Sports courses offer something for those looking to start a career in improving lifestyles, while there are also ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses for those aged sixteen to eighteen.



There are new courses at Coulsdon Sixth Form College too including an A Level in Accountancy, the only course of its kind in the local area - allowing students to develop

quantitative data analysis and interpretation skills and an emphasis on management accounting giving them the confidence to communicate information to non-accountants and future clients.

And for those looking to step into Higher Education, there is still time to apply to study at Croydon University Centre. The University Centre is also a provider of Higher National Certificates (HNCs) and new for 2021 is the Engineering course, providing participants with a thorough grounding in engineering principles.

To help people choose the right course for them, the Croydon College group is running Virtual Weekly Advice Clinics to answer questions in one-to-one meetings every Wednesday from 21 July. The Advice Clinics are for all potential students and parents or carers considering applying for September 2021 across the Further Education, Higher Education and Apprenticeship courses.

APPLY NOW →
To attend a virtual advice clinic scan the QR code.



Croydon College **Croydon University Centre** **#CareersNotCourses**

VIRTUAL ADVICE CLINICS

Every Wednesday from 3pm - 5pm
FROM 21 JULY

Apprenticeships Degree Courses BTEC's Diploma's

Green fingers at The Pathway Centre



Summer term has finally arrived which only means one thing – its gardening season! The Pathway Centre students have been busy planting flowers, herbs and vegetables of all varieties.

Hushna Utim, SEND Manager said: "It is great to see our green fingered staff and students get involved in gardening and lovingly nurture the seedlings as they start to grow under the Pathway Centre Love."



**THE
PATHWAY
CENTRE**



RARE ORCHID DISCOVERED BY STUDENTS

A rare orchid has been found on Chipstead Downs for the first time by Croydon College students.

BTEC Information Technology students at the College were surveying the site as part of their Data Modelling unit when they made the discovery.

The fragrant orchid has never been recorded on site before and it is believed it grew from a dormant seed.

The students' surveying was to collect data on the species of plants on the site to prepare a report for the Downlands Partnership to be passed on to Natural England in support of further funds to continue managing the herbland as an internationally significant species rich habitat.

Sean Grufferty, Grazing Officer at Surrey County Council, said: "It was a pleasure to have the students out, they picked up the methodology very quickly and worked very hard – one group in scorching heat, the other in sideways rain – real British weather. The work they are carrying out is essential to the long term management of rare chalk down land habitat, home to an extremely diverse community of plants and animals. Their surveys help us to know if we are getting things right and conserving this habitat for future generations to enjoy. We look forward to seeing the results!"

New look for CAREERS

Explore - Aspire - Achieve

With a brand-new look, and headed up by a new Coordinator, the Careers Team at the Croydon College Group have been busy preparing students who are moving on from the College – as well as developing a new programme for September 2021.

The summer term is crucial time for our students who are considering their next steps – choosing to either progress at the College, start an Apprenticeship, go straight into employment or even go to university.

Led by new Careers Coordinator Hetal Joshi (pictured right), a new logo has been designed, helping students better identify the service alongside a number of new ideas.

As well as offering support and guidance for current students considering their next steps, the Team have been busy preparing for the

upcoming academic year.

Hetal explained: "From September 2021, students will be able to access a brand-new careers programme.

"There will be an increase in careers talks and workshops for each level and course area, ensuring every student has access to advice no matter what they study.



"Another exciting introduction is a cross-college Entrepreneurship Scheme and Careers Hub. This will help students set up and run their own business, plus access other careers-related workshops 1-2-1s, and activities."

Available from September 2021, the SEND Department based at Coulsdon Sixth Form College are currently recruiting Careers Officers who will be on-hand to support students who specifically attend the provision.



If you require careers advice & would like to chat to one of our team, please email:

careers@coulsdon.ac.uk
careers@croydon.ac.uk

CAREERS ACTIVITIES

To help students make a decision on their next steps, our Careers Team organise and host a large calendar of events for each pathway.

The Careers Team hosted three days of careers-related activities for all Level 3 students at Coulsdon Sixth Form College. UCAS Coordinator at the College, Tina Jones, hosted a talk on how students complete their UCAS application form when applying to University. Students also welcomed employers from the NHS, Google LLP Associates, Vodafone, ITV, BT and other employers who offer Apprenticeships to help them consider their next steps.



Claudine Reid MBE, part of the Croydon College Governing Body, also provided students with an insightful careers talk

about entrepreneurship and social enterprise. Claudine has a long history of supporting young people and social enterprise – and received an MBE in 2008 for her services to social enterprise.

Hetal Joshi, Careers Coordinator said: "The students found the talk very interesting. They're now aware of what is needed to set up their own business and make it successful. Students are really motivated by these talks and it's great to be able to support them in this way."

NEW FACES JOIN THE BOARD

We've appointed three new members to our Governing Body this term. Frederick Law, Croydon College alumni and Fellow of the ACCA; Soumick Day, Principal at Riddlesdown Collegiate; and Andy Wilson - who has more than 30 years experience in leadership roles in further education colleges across London - will, as part of the Governing Body, determine the educational mission of the College, its strategic direction, oversee its financial performance and safeguards its assets.

The Governing Body does this by meeting with the College's senior management team to determine and monitor the College's performance and planning.

The Governing Body is made up of External Governors plus the Principal and Chief Executive, two Staff Governors and two Student Governors.

Our External Governors are volunteers who have significant professional, business or community experience, which they often call upon in their role.



Frederick Law



Soumick Day



Andy Wilson

MEET THE CURRENT BOARD

PROFESSOR TONY STEVENSON

Tony is the Chair of the Board of Governors. His background is in higher education. He was brought up in Croydon and has now returned to the area.

CAIREEN MITCHELL

Caireen is the Principal and CEO of Croydon College.

JEAN COOK

Jean has extensive experience in further and adult education as a teacher, senior manager, inspector and consultant.

TOM HESMONDHALGH

Tom is Commercial Director at Creative Education, an experienced leader of teacher development and collaborative improvement projects. He also has previous experience in marketing and business development.

ANDREW LOWE

Andrew is an MBA qualified Insurance Director currently providing consultancy services to the motor insurance sector. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers and was previously a Board member of Evolve Housing and Support.

NASIM JIVANI-HEMANI

Nasim is an experienced finance

director and qualified Chartered Accountant. She has worked in accounting and audit in the commercial sector and was Chief Finance Officer for a non-governmental organisation, Focus Humanitarian Assistance.

ANDREW GILCHRIST

Andrew is an consulting actuary working in the life assurance industry. He is a Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

CATHERINE BOYD-MAUNSELL

Catherine is Head of HR at PSE, a high growth technology company and is a Chartered Fellow of the CIPD. She has worked for several businesses and has previous experience in marketing and research.

CLAUDINE REID

Claudine is Managing Director of a Croydon-based social enterprise and has considerable experience of supporting young people. She was awarded an MBE in 2008 for services to social enterprise. Claudine also sat on the Ethnic Minority Business Forum advising the Secretary of State on Ethnic Minority Business issues.

FREDERICK LAW

Frederick is an experienced internal audit and risk professional with a background in the financial

services industry. He is an alumni graduate of Croydon College and is Fellow of the ACCA.

SOUICK DEY

Soumick is an experienced senior leader in education and is currently Principal at Riddlesdown Collegiate, a large outstanding secondary school in the south of the borough. He has worked in Croydon since 2006.

ANDY WILSON

Andy spent more than 30 years as a CEO, Principal, Manager and Lecturer in London further education colleges.

LUCIA GUETCHERIAN

Lucia is the Staff Governor for the Croydon Campus and is Programme Lead for Criminology, Psychology and Social Justice at our Croydon University Centre.

FIONA BRENNAN

Fiona is the Staff Governor for the Coulsdon Campus and is Head of Faculty for Creative Arts.

STUDENT GOVERNORS

The Student Governors change annually and elections for the Student Governors for 2021/22 are currently taking place.

FAREWELL TO VICE PRINCIPAL

We will bid a fond farewell to Vice Principal: Education and Quality, Angela Edwards at the end of term who will be retiring after an enjoyable two and a half years at the College.

We took the opportunity to interview Angela following the news of her retirement, alongside the Head of Learning and Quality at the college, Martin Silverwood who will be taking over the role.

Angela joined Croydon College in January 2019 following a long and successful career at other colleges in London. Her role at Croydon College is to oversee the Skills for life, English & Maths, and Business Community and Access schools at the Croydon Campus, plus lead on Student Support Services and Quality across the group.

When asked to define the meaning of 'Quality', Angela explained: "Quality essentially means customer service for our students. To ensure we put students at the heart of everything we do. The aim is to ensure students are getting the best education and learning experience from our staff, but also we prepare them appropriately them for the next steps in their lives."

During her time here, Angela has introduced a new Learning & Quality Framework. Apart from focusing

on a thorough self assessment and quality improvement model with quarterly progress reviews, it has included changes to the lesson observation model, the introduction of snapshot reviews and coaching approaches, and improvements to the ways that Teaching and Learning Mentors work with staff. It's having an impact: student satisfaction is clearly improving and applications are increasing.

Following a successful career at the College, we asked Angela what she's enjoyed most. "I'm so proud of the changes that have been made at the college in terms of learning and quality. I have the staff and the students to thank for that because without them it wouldn't have been possible. Success breeds success. The College is growing very quickly, which means we are able to offer a broader range of opportunities to the local community.

My perceptions of Croydon since joining the College have positively changed too. It's such a safe, happy and fun place to be for staff and students - I'm grateful to have had the chance to work here."

As a result of all the great changes Angela has implemented, Croydon College has seen a significant improvement in student satisfaction as measured by externally



benchmarked surveys.

The surveys take place every November and May, and in our latest survey we saw a 2% improvement since November 2020 with responses clearly above sector averages.

- **Each session is well organised and helps me to learn** - 94% agree
- **My teachers always challenge me to do my best** - 94% agree
- **I am developing the skills I need to take my next step** - 95% agree
- **Overall this is a good college** - 91% agree

Angela is looking forward to seeing what happens next with the College as Martin Silverwood prepares to take her place as Vice Principal and continues the initiative.

All of us at the Croydon College Group wish Angela a happy and healthy retirement as she plans to use her free time travelling across the world!



MARTIN TAKES UP NEW POST

Martin has worked at Croydon College since 2012 and has stepped up through the ranks from a Team Leader for Science, to now Vice Principal: Learning and Quality.

He has seen the college grow through the merger with Coulsdon Sixth Form College in 2019 and has been really impressed with all the positive changes that have come from Angela's initiatives.

We asked Martin what he hopes to see

going forward in his new role, he said: "The staff are our greatest asset - thanks to them we are a really good college. We are in touching distance of becoming an outstanding provider and with continued opportunities for our staff to keep sharing good practice and leading on new initiatives, we can get there."

"I will keep building on all the good work Angela has done so we can help more and more students achieve their career dreams."

DIARY DATES 2021



EVENT

DATE

Welcome Day	Tuesday 29 June 2021
Last Day of Term	Friday 2 July 2021
GCSE Results Day	Friday 12 August 2021
Main Enrolment	Tuesday 24 August – Friday 27 August 2021
Autumn Term	Monday 6 September – Friday 17 December 2021
Open Event	Wednesday 6 October 2021
Autumn Half Term	Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October 2021
Open Event	Saturday 6 November 2021
Christmas Holidays	Monday 20 December 2021 – Monday 3 January 2022
Spring Term	Tuesday 4 January – Friday 8 April 2022
Spring Half Term	Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February 2022
Open Event	Thursday 24 March 2022
Easter Holidays	Friday 8 April – Friday 22 April 2022
Summer Term	Monday 25 April – Friday 1 July 2022
Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May 2022
Summer Half Term	Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June 2022

Open Event	Wednesday 30 June 2021
Last Day of Term	Friday 2 July 2021
A Level Results Day	Tuesday 10 August 2021
GCSE Results Day	Thursday 12 August 2021
Main Enrolment	Monday 6 September – Friday 10 September 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– Monday 3 January 2022
Semester 2	Monday 24 January – Friday 27 May 2022
Open Event	Thursday 6 January 2022
Study Week	Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February 2022
Open Event	Thursday 10 March 2022
Easter Holidays	Monday 11 April – Friday 22 April 2022
Open Event	Tuesday 30 June 2022

Welcome Day	Wednesday 30 June 2021
A Level Results Day	Tuesday 10 August 2021
GCSE Results Day	Friday 12 August 2021
Autumn Term	Monday 6 September – Friday 17 December 2021
Open Event	Saturday 9 October 2021
Autumn Half Term	Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October 2021
Open Event	Thursday 18 November 2021
Christmas Holidays	Monday 20 December 2021– Monday 3 January 2022
Spring Term	Tuesday 4 January – Friday 8 April 2022
Spring Half Term	Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February 2022
Career Pathway Event	Wednesday 2 March 2022
Career Pathway Event	Wednesday 9 March 2022
Career Pathway Event	Wednesday 16 March 2022
Easter Holidays	Friday 8 April – Friday 22 April 2022
Summer Term	Monday 25 April – Friday 1 July 2022
Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May 2022
Summer Half Term Monday	30 May – Friday 3 June 2022



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