



CROYDON

Education Matters

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2021

University
Centre
students
graduate

Pages 4-5



Lecturer
receives
prestigious
award

Page 8



Open now!
Chefs
Restaurant
is back

Page 3



← Coulsdon
recognised
for going
above and
beyond

Page 18



Monster
invasion
keeps eyes
on students

Page 8



Students
welcomed
back with
Freshers'
week fun

Page 17



Croydon
College



COULSDON
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Croydon
University
Centre

CONTENTS

03 Chefs Restaurant reopens to public

04 Graduation

06 News and views

- 07 Students' choice with poet laureate
- 07 Woods visit for business students
- 08 Monster Invasion
- 08 Lecturer receives prestigious award

10 New £1m Nursing Suite officially opens

12 Degree students engaged in Study Retreat

13 HE Construction student awarded top honours

14 World of Work

- 14 College hosts Constructing Excellence Croydon Club breakfast
- 15 Disability Support worker info evening

16 Celebrating Black History Month

18 Coulsdon recognised for going above and beyond

19 Gatwick Airport supports our students

20 Introducing T Levels

21 College Alumni

22 News and views

- 22 Building experience at construction expo

24 Diary Dates

Follow us [!\[\]\(23a2e9ddc7bb0ef55393d38b772a848d_img.jpg\)](#) | [!\[\]\(cdc5d03852d90f3a0d1df88fd5fca224_img.jpg\)](#) | [!\[\]\(2d0e2388c5813d8a3a70734d8b66a310_img.jpg\)](#) | [!\[\]\(bdaaf4c97b2c34e53b2e8ba5bd765616_img.jpg\)](#)

DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN PERSON

It really has been wonderful to see everyone in-person again this term, a sentiment shared by our management team when asking for their highlights of the academic year so far!

Seeing staff teaching and supporting full classrooms, students smiling and laughing as they collaborate is great to see.

With some return to normality we have been able to make progress supporting the local community as we know best.

We've opened our state-of-the-art Clinical Simulation Suite, which is training the borough's next generation of nurses – something desperately needed. We have started welcoming groups and organisations into the College building, including the recent Croydon Constructing Excellence Club breakfast, and a My Ends Croydon meeting organised by Croydon Voluntary Action who utilised our conference space for this key community session.

We have also been engaged outside of the College, highlighted by our support of the Develop Croydon Conference. College representatives took part in two key panel debates, meeting and networking with key players in Croydon's future growth.

Great summer results have given us cause for celebration – at Coulsdon Sixth Form College 74% of our Level 3 students progressed to University. And we brought Croydon University Centre's classes of 2020 and 2021 together at the Fairfield Halls for a double celebration with a graduation ceremony fitting for all their hard work. It was so pleasing to see our graduates celebrating their achievements with family and friends after three or four years of resilience, tenacity and determination.

As you'll find out in this newsletter, we've had so much more going on – all aimed at enhancing our students' learning opportunities, enabling them, with the support of our talented staff, to reach their full potential and give them the best possible experiences alongside the skills needed to see them through to the next stage of their careers.

Please enjoy reading this newsletter, and to all staff and students – thank-you for your efforts this term. I wish you all a happy Christmas and I look forward to a successful new year.



CAIREEN MITCHELL
Principal & CEO
Croydon College Group



CHEFS RESTAURANT REOPENS TO PUBLIC

As Croydon College continues to welcome the community back into the building, our state-of-the-art onsite training restaurant - Chefs Restaurant - has reopened to the public.

The restaurant is run by Catering and Hospitality students, giving them the experience of working in a commercial environment, supported and taught by highly-skilled tutors with years of industry experience.

Accessed via Park Lane, Chefs Restaurant allows members of the public to enjoy restaurant-quality food and service at a fraction of the usual price. In the run-up to Christmas there was also a festive menu for diners to enjoy.

Clare Price, Curriculum Manager for Hospitality and Catering, said: "I'm so excited our students, ranging from entry level 3 to level 2, will experience the best possible real-life experience be that from front of house to professional cookery - and we're looking forward to welcoming more customers back to the restaurant."

Chefs is open every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 12pm and 2pm, and reservations must be made.

→ MAKE A RESERVATION
To make a reservation at Chefs Restaurant scan the QR code.



DOUBLE CELEBRATIONS AS CROYDON UNIVERSITY CENTRE STUDENTS GRADUATE

Croydon University Centre has celebrated the remarkable achievements of its students with a graduation ceremony for classes of both 2020 and 2021.

Taking place at the Fairfield Halls, the ceremony marked the fantastic success of both classes, who achieved their successes despite the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic.

Friends, family, Croydon Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning Cllr Alisa Flemming and the Mayor of Croydon Cllr Sherwan Chowdhury joined more than 100 students and senior figures from Croydon College and Croydon University Centre for the celebration.

Getting graduates and their friends and family in the celebratory mood were the Soul Symphony Choir, who gave an upbeat performance with those in the Ashcroft Playhouse clapping and singing along throughout.

Students graduated across a number of subjects including degrees validated by the University of Sussex

– Business & Management, Early Childhood Studies, Public Health & Social Care, and Criminology, Psychology & Social Justice. Other graduates on the day were celebrated on their achievements in Construction and the Built Environment, Education & Training and Law. It was a diverse showcase of graduates' achievements from across the local borough and beyond.

Speakers throughout the ceremony all acknowledged the hard work of graduates, and the support of their families and friends through a demanding 18 months studying against the difficulties of lockdowns, remote studying and applauded their determination to online collaboration with staff and fellow students.



CROYDON UNIVERSITY CENTRE GRADUATION CLASS OF 20 & 21

“It was wonderful to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our 2020 and 2021 classes with a double graduation ceremony. Congratulations to our students – who have been resilient, tenacious and absolutely determined to achieve – and I wish them every success in the future.”

Caireen Mitchell, Principal and CEO of Croydon College Group



NEWS & VIEWS



GUEST SPEAKERS JOIN STUDENT CONFERENCE

The importance of skills, wellbeing and equality was the key focus of Croydon College's Student Conference, with delegates inspired through workshops and keynotes from two guest speakers.

Patrick Hutchinson, who received worldwide attention after being photographed carrying an injured counter-protestor at a Black Lives Matter demonstration, spoke at the conference, along with Jo Small from Optima Training - an international executive coach and trainer providing lightbulb moments all over the world.

Jo told an engaging story about when she worked in a female prison as an ESOL Teacher, teaching student reps about the power of small



differences and the importance of being willing to step out of their comfort zone for the betterment of others.

Patrick inspired students to have the important conversations about race and to work together to learn how to respect other people's perceptions, ethnicities and inequalities.

Students also took part in workshops, one of which was on how student leaders can become 'wellbeing champions', led by Gemma Sparks, the College's Student Wellbeing Lead.



Have your say in graduate survey

All Croydon University Centre graduates are asked to take part in an annual survey once they complete their studies.

The Graduate Outcomes survey is the biggest annual social survey in the UK and captures the perspectives and current status of graduates.

All graduates will be asked to take part in the survey 15 months after they finish their studies, with their response adding to the collective voice of graduates, giving current and future students insight into career destinations and development, as well as helping the University Centre evaluate and promote its

offerings too.

It also helps the government, charities, journalists, researchers and others understand the higher education sector and the state of the graduate labour market.

Only graduates will know if they left education with the skills and knowledge they needed to get to where they are now. Employment isn't the only successful outcome: we want to know what you do, and really understand what you see as fulfilling.

To find out more about Graduate Outcomes statistics, visit www.hesa.ac.uk

Tutor adds BBC films to her credits



From left: Michaela Hennessy-Vass, Abigail Cruttenden and Miranda Walker. CREDIT: Neil Hennessy-Vass, Xavicus Media.

A Croydon College tutor's work is available to watch on BBC iPlayer.

Michaela Hennessy-Vass, a freelance producer, tutor and assessor on the College's Junior Content Producer apprenticeship course as well as the Business Administration and Customer Service apprenticeship courses, produced Face It, two comedy drama monologues commissioned by the BBC and Arts Council England under the Culture in Quarantine season - celebrating the work of disabled creatives responding to lockdown.

The Junior Content Producer course gives students a practical understanding of the industry and sets them up for a career in media, film and TV. Teaching at the College for more than two years, Michaela is a former ITV Comedy Commissioner and has more than 20 years' experience in television broadcasting to her name, with credits including popular ITV comedy Benidorm. She said: "I hope students understand the importance of practical experience, getting out there and meeting people. You've got to grab these opportunities and run with them because you don't know where they'll take you."

LOVE COLLEGES



Students from both Croydon and Coulsdon Sixth Form Colleges celebrated Love Colleges Week with a variety of activities which included the opportunity to win £100 by submitting a video about why they loved being at college.

THE WINNING VIDEO →

The winning entry was created by Enzo Lima, starring Ethan Townsend Bailey. Both students are studying Art & Design BTEC Level 3 at Croydon College - scan in the QR code to watch the video.



STUDENTS' CHOICE WITH POET LAUREATE



Croydon College students took part in a workshop with the borough's first Poet Laureate to mark National Poetry Day.

Students joined Shaniqua Benjamin (left) to take part in the workshop, hearing about how she draws inspiration from her life experiences to create meaningful pieces of writing.

Open to all students, the theme of National Poetry Day (7 October) was choice, and those attending were also treated to a live performance from the poet.



WOODS VISIT FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS

Level 1 Business students visited Frylands Woods Outdoor Centre to develop their skills of working as a team, participating in various team building activities including orienteering and building barrel carts, in a beautiful natural environment.

The aim was to develop team skills between students; to develop friendships, strengthen communication skills among team members, bring out hidden strengths, create memories, boost team spirit and morale, learn about conflict resolution and self-reflection. The visit enabled learners to achieve a unit towards their overall qualification.



OPEN ENROLMENT EVENTS TARGETS THOSE NOT IN EDUCATION

Croydon College hosted two open enrolment days this term, giving an opportunity for those who hadn't yet secured study for this academic year the opportunity to sign up and begin a course immediately.

The days were open to those not in education, employment or training, as well as those who were looking to change their career prospects.

A number of courses were open for enrolment, including Hair and Beauty Level 1, Construction Multi-Skills Level 1, Motor Vehicle Level 1, Introduction to Hospitality Level 1, Business/IT Level 1.

NEWS & VIEWS

LECTURER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



Dr Pauline Aweto, a lecturer at Croydon University Centre has received the Achievement Recognition Award for Professional Leadership in Public Health and Social Care in partnership with Building Blocks Initiatives.

Miemie Neethling-Taylor, Head of Higher Education said: "This is such a well-deserved award and Pauline's continued and exemplary leadership has been evident to those of us who have worked closely with her, and I am honoured to be working with her."

The event was held on 30 October and attended by the Mayor of Southwark, councillors, academic professors, and professionals.

Monster Invasion



Students arriving at Croydon College in September were greeted by an unusual sight – a giant pair of eyes peering over the rooftop.

The eyes belonged to a gigantic street art monster, one of a series that appeared across Croydon town centre between 29 September to 3 October as part of the Croydon Monster Invasion, organised by Croydon BID.

As well as making themselves at home at the College, the monsters also appeared at other Croydon locations including AMP House on Dingwall Road, Suffolk House on George Street, Fairfield Halls, TMRW on the High Street, Croydon Clocktower, Hewitt's on Church

Street and Electric House on Wellesley Road.

Croydon College Chief Executive and Principal Caireen Mitchell said: "We are delighted to support Croydon BID on this initiative to encourage people back into our town centre and it certainly led our students, staff and visitors to smile as they enter the building."

College Group lends support to Croydon at Christmas Appeal

The Croydon College Group supported the Croydon at Christmas Appeal by encouraging staff and students to donate and help residents across the borough who need it most.

The Croydon at Christmas Appeal is run by Croydon Commitment and Croydon Voluntary Action, and College Group this year stepped in to help residents who were still struggling after a difficult couple of years.

Students and staff donated toiletries, Christmas treat items and non-perishable foods.

Playing a key role in discussing Croydon's future



Croydon College Group played a leading role at this year's Develop Croydon Conference.

The Conference, titled Live/Work Croydon, returned to Fairfield Halls for the first time in two years and shone the spotlight on topics including education in Croydon, and how pioneering partnerships can deliver essential talent for the future.

The Careers not Courses session, sponsored by the Croydon College Group, explored the role of Higher Education in creating employment opportunities for students.

Fadia Clarke, Vice Principal of Croydon College, joined the panel discussion which was chaired by Sarah Sturrock, Director of the South London Partnership and also featured Carol Squires, Head of Economy and Employment at Croydon Council, Vanessa Clark, Founder of Sinclair Clark and Alex Elkins, Director of South Bank Innovation.

The College Group also took part in a conversation about supporting Croydon's young people outside of the town centre in the huburbs session, which explored what Croydon's suburbs have to offer in the wake of the pandemic, and what



makes a neighbourhood dynamic.

The Principal of Coulsdon Sixth Form College Odette Carew joined the panel discussion, which was chaired by UK Regeneration's Chief Operating Officer Jackie Sadek and also included Barnabas Shelbourne, Chief Executive of Youth Legacy Zone, Joe Garner, Co-Founder of NewPlace and Steve Dennington, Croydon Council's Head of Spatial Planning.

FIND OUT MORE

To read more about the conference → scan this QR code.



WORKING WITH NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DIVERSITY

The Croydon College Group works against the FREDIE principles following work carried out alongside the National Centre for Diversity (NCFD).

The work has been carried out to ensure the College Group invests in diversity, with both organisations now working to establish a plan to make sure staff operate against the FREDIE principles, which are:

- Fairness for all is a reality
- Respect for all is the norm
- Equality of opportunity for all is embedded
- Diverse staff and students that feel that they belong
- Inclusion is widely understood, where we all are committed to inclusive behaviours
- Engaged - where everyone lives and breathes the College values and goals

A key priority for the College Group this year, work has been ongoing throughout 2021, including a session during staff learning week in July with Heena Mistry from NCFD highlighting how important diversity is and how impactful working with them is for many organisations, as well as hosting a survey for staff, which closed in November.

If you would like to be involved in the equality steering group, or any part of the project, email helen.langford@croydon.ac.uk

NATIONAL
CENTRE FOR
DIVERSITY

AHF VISIT COLLEGE



The AIDS Health Foundation (AHF) visited Croydon College this term, educating students on HIV and sexual health.

AHF also carried out rapid HIV testing and were handing out free condoms to further promote safe sex.

Find out more on AHF by visiting www.aidshealth.org



WHERE CAREERS ARE MADE

in partnership with



NEW £1M NURSING SUITE OFFICIALLY OPENS

Senior figures, stakeholders and dignitaries have come together to officially open Croydon University Centre's new £1million Clinical Simulation Centre.

Developed in partnership with the University of Roehampton, the state-of-the-art facility will train the next generation of the borough's nurses.

Students enrolled on the University of Roehampton's BSc Adult Nursing degree have been using the nursing suite since the beginning of term, benefitting from unrivalled practical training and the opportunity to safely practice clinical skills under the guidance of experienced clinical and academic staff from the University of Roehampton.

Work on the nursing suite was completed by Croydon fit-out and refurbishment specialists ITC Concepts and the facility includes a six-bed hospital ward, and clinical simulation areas including care home settings and GP surgery rooms.

Caireen Mitchell, Principal and CEO of the Croydon College Group,

said: "We've officially achieved our long-held ambition to bring nursing education to the town centre for our local community.

"Hearing first-hand from students, we know how well-received the new facility has been and we're excited to see them grow, develop and become leading nurses - hopefully right here in Croydon."

Professor Jean-Noël Ezingard, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Roehampton, said: "The new Clinical Simulation Centre has already started to benefit students, offering them an optimal real-life setting to learn not only the theoretical knowledge, but also the essential practical skills needed to embark on

a rewarding nursing career."

As part of their degree, students will also take part in placements at Croydon Health Services NHS Trust and other local health providers.

Mike Bell, Chair of Croydon Health Services NHS Trust said: "This incredible facility makes Croydon the place to be for the highest grade of clinical education in one of London's biggest and most vibrant boroughs. The £1m Simulation Centre brings to life what it's like to work in both hospital and community services, and I look forward to it becoming a beacon of excellence that brings a wealth of home-grown talent to train the next generation of nurses to care for our community."



THE FUTURE OF NURSING

We catch up with three of Croydon University Centre's Adult Nursing students about the course and how they're finding it so far.

What made you want to do Adult Nursing at Croydon?

Kittanya: The main reason I chose Croydon is I'm not a person who likes too much change, so this was an easy decision. I was in familiar territory and it would be easy to adapt, even though it was a different course and new tutors. It also gave me a chance to be a part of history as one of the first set of nursing students to ever set foot in Croydon.

Dolika: I did Access to Nursing at Croydon College. I chose Adult Nursing as I was already working as a Healthcare Assistant in a general ward in my local hospital.

Ayyodeji: I'd been looking to begin a new career path and I decided I wanted to study nursing as I found this appealing. I did some research and found out that as a mature student I could do an Access to Higher Education Diploma at Croydon college. I was excited as the College is one bus ride from where I live and it only takes 30 minutes.

How are you finding it studying at Croydon University Centre?

Kittanya: Studying at Croydon University Centre (CUC) as an Adult Nurse is an amazing and exciting experience. Since I have started the knowledge and skills I have gained are phenomenal.

Dolika: I enjoy my studies at CUC, it is local and easy to get to. It is a town I am familiar with and diverse in culture.

Ayyodeji: The staff at CUC and Croydon College have been very helpful and dedicated to helping students achieve their goals. There is also a good community feel about studying here and I have had good relationships with a number of staff and students.



Kittanya Demar Lewis



Dolika Boodhoo



Ayyodeji Charles Adeoye

What are your lecturers like? Anyone in particular who stands out and inspires you? How do they do this?

Kittanya: The lecturers are amazing. They are patient and very supportive, always responding to any queries. Their knowledge and skills are so amazing and they always give good advice and inspiration. All four lecturers stand out in their own way and are inspirational. They are like spices - one cannot work without the other. They all have to be combined together, which makes it work perfectly. As all the lecturers have different nursing backgrounds, when they share their experiences we hang on to their every word.

Dolika: The lecturers at CUC are always willing to help. They take time to explain things we do not understand and are approachable. CUC provides lecturers who have a wealth of knowledge in the teaching subjects.

Ayyodeji: There are two lecturers in particular that really inspire me. Lucy and Paulette are very knowledgeable about all things nursing and share a lot about their experiences.

What has been the highlight for you so far on your course?

Kittanya: The highlight so far for me has been putting the theory into practice. I am a hands-on learner so actually doing the practice helps me relate more to the theory.

Dolika: The highlight for me so far is meeting a lot of other students who share the same goal. Now I am able to understand in depth why I am doing a nursing task and how it helps the patient recover in their journey.

Ayyodeji: The highlight so far has been the clinical skills sessions we have at the Clinical Simulation Centre. Practicing skills like vital signs and other clinical skills made it seem real that I am going to become a registered nurse pretty soon.

What do you think of the Nursing Ward and facilities at Croydon University Centre?

Kittanya: The Nursing Ward and the facilities make the experience so much greater. For people who have never worked in a hospital ward setting, this gives us a chance to relate more to it.

Dolika: The Nursing Ward at CUC is an excellent facility that, from talking to other students I've met on placement, is unique. It prepares students to understand and experience an environment they might be going to in advance, creating a sense of ease in what to expect in different clinical settings.

Ayyodeji: Students at CUC and Croydon College also have a library which covers three floors and has very good IT resources.



WHERE CAREERS ARE MADE

in partnership with



DEGREE STUDENTS ENGAGED → IN STUDY RETREAT

Final year BA Public Health and Social Care students attended a Study Retreat during the October half term.

At a time when most learners take a well-earned break, these degree students attended a full-on day at Croydon University Centre with

Programme Leader, Dr Pauline Aweto. Students were encouraged to attend in casual clothes ready for a day of expanding their knowledge and skills and to develop their research projects in a comfortable and inviting atmosphere.

Dr Aweto said: "It's lovely to see how passionate our final year Public Health students are about their studies and how supportive of each other they are as a group. Their professionalism will take them far in their careers."

HE Wellbeing Café returns in-person

Croydon University Centre's HE Wellbeing Café has returned in-person this academic year.

Run by HE Coordinator Kim Meyler-Vincent, the café provides a safe haven for students to drop in and have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

The café has also been developed as part of the tutorial programme with this term's focus on mindfulness.

Kim Meyler-Vincent said: "It is always lovely to see how open and receptive students are to the concept of mindfulness and wellbeing, especially those that typically shy away from enrichment activities."

Zareena Motala, a final year FdA Public Health and Social Care degree student said: "The Wellbeing Café, as well as the focus on mindfulness and wellbeing, provides an opportunity for students to contemplate and enjoy some self-awareness on their own self-actualisation, which enriches their studies."

NEW YEAR – NEW START!

A range of courses at Croydon University Centre are ready to start in January 2022.

These courses come at an ideal time for those thinking about changing or launching their career to new heights with a fresh start in the new year.

Courses ready to start in January 2022 include subjects within:

- Construction & Engineering
- Business & Management
- Computer Science
- Psychology
- Teacher Training

These courses typically start in the last week of January, with teaching continuing until June and assessments taking place in July.

All Higher Education courses at Croydon University Centre are Level 4 and above.

To enquire about starting one of the courses in January 2022, scan the QR code.



HE CONSTRUCTION STUDENT AWARDED TOP HONOURS



Construction graduate Clare Shearer has been awarded the prestigious Construction Student of the Year award.

Clare completed the Croydon University Centre's HNC in Construction and the Built Environment course part time over two years while working at a construction firm. Supported by her employers and an active spokesperson for her peers, Clare not only received a Distinction, but also secured a place on the BSc Quantity Surveying course via advance entry at the University of Westminster.

Clare said: "Despite the pandemic and initial issues, I was able to achieve this result with the help of my lecturer, classmates and other members of the Construction department.

"Studying this HNC course part time is a great way to further your construction knowledge while applying the information to real life operations in the construction industry. It's also great for meeting other likeminded students to share project experiences and knowledge with."

Fadia Clarke, Vice Principal for Training, Skills and Higher Education, who has

a keen interest in Construction and Engineering, was delighted with the result for Clare, and said: "I am so very proud of Clare and what she has achieved over the past two years. She is a very determined individual who has shown fantastic commitment to her course and positively supported her fellow students on the course.

"It goes to show that the world of construction need not be a male-dominated sector and that this is an exciting sector for people from all walks of life to enter into."

New HE Student Executive Officer

Croydon University Centre has successfully appointed a new HE Student Executive Officer.

Andreea Ilca is a final year BA Business and Management student and has also been a student representative. She works closely with the Quality Assurance and Registry teams to ensure student feedback is acted upon and steers student initiatives both academic and extra-curricular. Her appointment coincided with the first Higher Education Group meeting, chaired by the Chair of Governors.

Fadia Clarke, Vice Principal for Training, Skills and Higher Education, said, "It is great to be working with Andreea this academic year. She has a good insight and understanding of quality processes and knows the student body well."

RECORD NUMBER OF NURSING STUDENTS ENROLLED



Croydon University Centre, in collaboration with the University of Roehampton, has enrolled a record number of nursing students on this year's BSc Adult Nursing programme.

With the coronavirus pandemic and focus on the NHS, there is an increase demand from students who want to pursue nursing as a career.

The programme is delivered under the leadership of Jo Rixon, Head of Nursing, and supported by a team of academics including Professor Ian Peate, MBE.



WORLD OF WORK



COLLEGE HOSTS CONSTRUCTING EXCELLENCE CROYDON CLUB BREAKFAST

Croydon College sponsored a Constructing Excellence Croydon Club breakfast event at Chefs Restaurant in November, giving professionals within the construction industry the opportunity to start conversations with College staff on new partnerships to ensure skills needs are met and the right qualifications are provided.

Croydon College Vice Principal Fadia Clarke emphasised to those attending that the College offered a range of vocational courses, specialising in construction and engineering courses. She added that by working collaboratively, the industry could help the College to continue to deliver Careers not Courses - a key priority for the College.

Nicola Tarry, the College's Head of World of Work, and Miemie Neethling-Taylor, Head of Higher Education, discussed the existing courses in business, marketing, and finance, as well as developing a curriculum and creating training development programs that

meet industry demands. Martin Silverwood, Vice Principal Education and Quality at Croydon College gave a presentation on the new T Levels coming in September 2022 - as the College will be facilitating and teaching an Engineering and Construction course, designed with input from industry employers.



Apprentice Julius shortlisted in student of the year awards

A Croydon College apprentice who finished his studies this year was shortlisted as part of this year's Association of Colleges Student of the Year Awards.

Julius Lewis was a Level 3 Contracting Construction Operations Apprentice and had been at the College for more than four years, previously doing a bricklaying course.

He said he was "very proud" to have been shortlisted for the award, adding: "I'm very grateful to the teachers who put me through. It was also nice the Principal of the College (Caireen Mitchell) personally came and congratulated me and gave me a handwritten note. Things like that push me to be successful."



Julius also thanked his tutors for helping him develop as a person and giving him the confidence to pursue his dream of having his own construction company.

For prospective and current students, Julius has the following advice: "Always be determined by your goals. Never get distracted by someone who doesn't want to do as good as you. There will always be obstacles in the way, for anybody doing anything. So, as long as you can overcome the obstacles in the correct manner, you'll be striving for success."

Nicola Tarry, Head of Apprenticeships at Croydon College, said: "A huge congratulations to Julius! The award shortlist is a testament to his determination and talent."

APPRENTICESHIP VACANCIES

Interested in earning while you learn?

Croydon College has a number of live Apprenticeship vacancies, allowing residents to gain technical and functional knowledge in the classroom alongside the real-life practical experience required in the workplace as well.

Croydon College is one of the largest Apprenticeships providers in south London, and if you're interested in kickstarting your career to new heights, scan the QR code below. Roles are regularly updated as the College continues to work with employers across the borough to establish and promote new opportunities.

Scan the QR code to see current vacancies.



Working with employers to support people with disabilities

The Croydon College Group is proud to be working with employers to improve opportunities for disabled residents across the borough.

On 19 January, the College's Employability Hub will be hosting a disability support worker information evening at Croydon College.

Odette Battarel from Croydon Vision - and a former College student - will explain all the ins and outs of a support worker and how they can help people with disabilities into the jobs market, as well as the support available and how to apply for a

grant and the interview process.

Staff from the College will also be on hand to talk through the adjustments Croydon College can and will make to support those with disabilities to complete their educational goals. Croydon Employability Hub Manager Mike Davies said: "We are really pleased to be putting on this evening to provide key guidance and insight to young disabled people in the borough in their pursuit of employment opportunities. It is also a fantastic way to start 2022 in the Employability Hub where we are rolling out a far greater provision with partners from Croydon

Vision, Autism Voice, and Scope, to provide a regular presence to help some of the most disadvantaged people from around Croydon."

The information evening follows the College's Disability Confident Jobs Fair, which took place in October and was attended by 28 employers including Natwest, NHS, DWP, Education Development Trust, Pension Protection Fund, Optivo, Mind, Croydon Vision and the World of Work team at Croydon College, with more than 300 people attending looking for support.

FREE online learning opportunities

If you're unable to visit us in person, there are a number of Online Distance Courses hosted by the Croydon College Group - and a new brochure has just been put together to showcase what is available for those learning remotely.



Leading towards a nationally-recognised qualification, and available throughout the year, our expert tutors will support you remotely on a course flexible to your needs.

A number of opportunities are available in subjects including Business Leadership and Management, Retail and Hospitality, Health and Social Care and Childcare and Education.

All Level 1 and 2 online learning courses are free to enrol, and you can find out more, and apply, by scanning the QR code.



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Croydon College Group worked with Croydon BME Forum to celebrate Black History Month (BHM) - with events and activities across all three campuses.

Following the theme of Black History Month 2021 - Proud 2 be - Croydon College's Creative Arts Department created a 10-minute vox pop in collaboration with Croydon BME Forum and photographer John Matthews, which aims to spark impactful conversation and celebrate the culture and heritage of black British people at the College. The interviews allowed staff and students to tell their own story and what makes them proud of their culture and heritage.

The video - which can be viewed using the QR code - was shown at in-person events as part of BHM, providing an open forum for debate and conversation after the video is shown.

CROYDON UNIVERSITY CENTRE

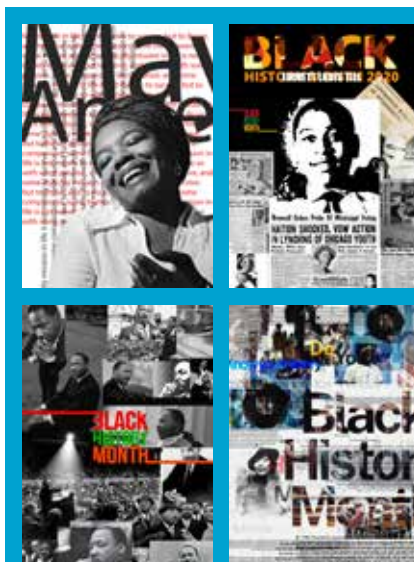
Croydon University Centre also marked BHM as Andrew Brown, CEO of Croydon BME Forum, gave a talk to all HE students, with lectures finishing at 11am to allow for all students to attend and participate in the event. This was followed by an interactive BHM workshop hosted the following month for University Centre and Access to HE students. Special guests included Andrew Brown,



who gave a keynote with a powerful statement - "Make sure you are nice to people" - along with addresses from Croydon Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning, Councillor Alisa Flemming and Patrick Hutchinson - who was pictured helping a counter-protestor at last year's Black Lives Matter rally - who delivered powerful messages on purpose, taking opportunities and ultimately being responsible and caring citizens. Lecturers Dr Pauline Aweto and Dr Philomena Osseo-Asare also shared powerful moments from their journeys and making the most of what is around us but also what is within us.

Miemie Neethling-Taylor, Head of Higher Education, said: "It is always inspiring to see students and staff willing to share the journeys that brought them here and how passionate they are about community and a sense of belonging."

Caireen Mitchell, CEO and Principal of the Croydon College Group, said: **"We have a diverse community at the College, one that embraces inclusivity, and we were delighted to be able to celebrate Black History Month in person once again. This is an extremely important month across all three of our locations and we hope students and staff take part and enjoyed what was planned."**



COULSDON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

At Coulsdon Sixth Form College, AS Level Graphics students created posters on Adobe Photoshop, mixing photographs with inspirational quotes and/or facts from iconic Black History figures or events.

Part of the AS Graphics curriculum for many years now, the project gives students the opportunity to follow a live brief and display their work in the College for all to see for the next year.

FRESHERS WEEK 2021



With the return to in-person teaching, new students headed to Croydon College to get familiar with their new place of study, make friends and take part in some all-important fun.

Brands based in the town centre came along and got involved - including Lush, who were offering freebies and fun activities, including a scavenger hunt. For those who wanted a healthy kick to the week, the blender bike was brought in, for students to cycle their way to a free smoothie.

Student Services supported the event, as a hub of information and guidance to support all students, and they were joined by other organisations including the Met Police and FTF Football Academy.

The event also offered students the opportunity to find out more and join some of the many societies located at the College as a further way to connect with people with similar passions.



COULSDON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

COULSDON STUDENTS GAIN REAL-WORLD DESIGN EXPERIENCE AT IKEA CROYDON

Coulsdon Sixth Form College Upper A Level Graphic Design students gained first hand experience of industry design during a visit to Croydon IKEA's store.

They were able to meet with IKEA's in-house design team as part of the highly successful Retail Project, which included a tour of the design work around the store, a comprehensive demonstration of the roles of the design team and a chance for the students to get feedback about their own work.

Krina Patel, head of the in-house graphic design team, along with other members of the team, took time out



to explain how their roles work to improve the customer experience and maintain the IKEA brand. Based in the IKEA Croydon store, the team has included three Coulsdon Sixth Form College alumni, which made the experience particularly relevant. Students gathered valuable primary research before having a sketchbook critique with team members,

responding well to feedback and receiving advice on how to develop their ideas.

Coulsdon Sixth Form College have worked with the IKEA team for the Retail Project for the last six years. This link, established by Visual Arts teacher Helena Vaughan, has developed over the years to provide graphics students with first hand industry experience.

Coulsdon recognised for going above and beyond

Coulsdon Sixth Form College won the COVID Above and Beyond award at the Sixth Form Colleges Association (SFCA) Awards, recognising the college's commitment to its students' wellbeing throughout the pandemic.

Odette Carew, Principal, at Coulsdon College, said: "I'm so proud to see the hard work initiated by the team at Coulsdon Sixth Form College recognised nationally."

Rebecca Cristaldi, Course Leader Media, Ernest Muzungu, Course Leader Media, and David Allan, Head of Year, collected the award.

Going above and beyond during the pandemic wasn't the only area where Coulsdon College received national recognition.

Rebecca Cristaldi and Haydn Hoskins were nominated for Curriculum Innovation; Clair Platt, Sarita Lightfoot-Taylor, Kadian Facey and the Mathematics Assistants for



Health & Wellbeing; Phil Castile for Governance; and Paul Tornbohm for Community Impact.

All the nominees were presented with a certificate.

The SFCA Awards celebrates best practice across the sixth form sector and its impact on the lives of young people.

Students help out at Graduation ceremony

Students studying hospitality, business and music courses at Coulsdon were all given an exciting work experience opportunity supporting the Croydon University Centre Graduation Ceremony that took place at the Ashcroft Theatre in Croydon in October.

Music students - Leon Henry Hoffman, Jacob McKoy and Callum Balme provided music to entertain the 400 guests in the foyer area whilst event

management duties were carried out by Nataly Vicanco, William Wesley, Summer Desira, Stacey Fomufod, Kacey Willis, Melissa Mills, Chloe Lisher and Isoji Toluwa. A big thank you and well done to the team for their support!



GATWICK AIRPORT SUPPORTS OUR STUDENTS



Hospitality students Katie Digg and Aaliyah Decosta were among a group of successful students selected for interview at Gatwick Airports', No1 Lounge.

The students completed a trial shift, with hopes of a flexible contract and their air side pass, to support their work experience and future career in hospitality.

Aaliyah said: "I researched No1 Lounge so I had a good understanding of the company before my interview. I was relaxed and found the process less tough than I thought."

Katie said: "I was nervous, but was supported by my teacher Donna Hollick, Head of Travel, Tourism and Hospitality."



South End Music Concert

Coulsdon Sixth Form College Music and Performing Arts students have been treated to a live music concert by teachers from the South End Music School.

On Friday 10 September, guitarist Mike Bennett, bassist David McLeod and drummer Noel Joyce set up in the College's Performing Arts theatre, performing lively jazz fusion pieces before inviting students up to play along and sing.

The South End Music School in Croydon offers private music lessons in rock instruments and vocals and is open seven days a week.



TO WATCH THE VIDEOS

← scan this QR code



INTRODUCING T-LEVELS TAKE YOUR FUTURE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Both Croydon College and Coulston Sixth Form College will be hosting new T Level courses from September 2022.

T Levels follow GCSEs and are equivalent to three A Levels. They are developed in collaboration with employers and businesses to ensure the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study.

Designed by employers, T Levels offer those aged 16-

18 a headstart in their career through a mixture of classroom learning and on-the-job experience via an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days).

T Levels enable students to develop practical skills, knowledge and behaviours that show they're occupationally competent and apply theory in real workplace settings. Students will take an exam at the end of each academic year to test their understanding of the subject, along with a

skills assessment and a project to complete at your work placement.

At Croydon College teachers will be leading a course in Engineering and Manufacturing, while at Coulston Sixth Form College there is the opportunity to study Laboratory Science. Teaching time will be spent in specially-designed classrooms that mirror a working environment, which will further enhance the learning experience.

Apply Now for September 2022

CROYDON COLLEGE
**ENGINEERING AND
MANUFACTURING**
Maintenance, Installation
and Repair for Engineering
and Manufacturing

To find out more
scan in QR code →



COULSDON COLLEGE
SCIENCE
Laboratory Science

To find out more
scan in QR code →



COLLEGE ALUMNI

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

COUNCILLOR ALISA FLEMMING

CROYDON COUNCIL'S CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING

Alisa went to both Coulston Sixth Form College and Croydon College, with both institutions playing a key role in her career. Educated locally at Kensington Avenue Primary School and Norbury Manor Girls, Cllr Fleming then studied A Levels in History, English Literature and Psychology at Coulston College.

"I think that's why I always loved history, I had a fantastic teacher, his name was Patrick. It was like he was out of the film Dead Poets Society; he was the type of lecturer who would get on the desks and re-enact what we were studying, bringing history and, as a result, politics, to life."

After studying at Coulston Cllr Fleming lived outside of London for a while and continued with her studies in History and Politics. After having her two daughters - who are also Coulston alumni - Alisa worked for the late Rt. Hon Malcolm Wicks MP, the former Member of Parliament for Croydon North, who was her mentor at Norbury Manor Girls. After her mother passed away, she looked at what it was she had always wanted to do - study Law.

"I needed somewhere that gave me the flexibility to be able to study, work and raise a family and Croydon College was that place. I remember pulling up to just inquire and I was asked to speak to Simon Coates, the Head of the Law department. I thought we were going to just have a conversation and I remember leaving that meeting having just signed up to the course, as you do!

"It was really, really good. I was able to study between campaigning for my councillor seat - going from the town hall to the College to study in the evenings and I received a lot of support there to complete the programme.

"I did that for four years part-time and I came out with my Law degree, which has been really helpful for me in so many different areas of my life, particularly working as lead member for social care, where I've been able to utilise some of what I did at Croydon College in that role.

"The gift for us as Croydon residents is that education is all on our doorstep. I'm a huge believer in what accessing local provision can do for you and it doesn't need to be traditional routes. One of the things I really like about Croydon College is the access courses back into mainstream opportunities and I think that's excellent.

"At Coulston my daughters were able to do BTEC



"Both Coulston and Croydon played a key role in my life and career, but it's not just the academic side that benefitted me. At Coulston, in terms of putting myself forward for public appointments it played a big part because that's where I first became president of the African Caribbean Society and also part of the Student Union movement. It empowered me and gave me the confidence to then go on to where I am now."

combinations, and they wouldn't have been able to do that mixture at other places, giving them different career pathways that otherwise wouldn't have been open."

NEWS & VIEWS

CROYDON CREATIVE ARTS



BUILDING EXPERIENCE AT CONSTRUCTION EXPO



Croydon College's Level 1-3 Electrical students attended London Build 2021 Construction Expo in Olympia, the UK's biggest festival of construction.

The event featured more than 250 exhibitors and 300 speakers across six stages, as well as networking events.

Students made the most of these opportunities to speak directly to industry employers in a professional setting.

They were also fortunate enough to get up close and personal with some of the new developments within the electrical and construction industries.

WORK EXPERIENCE GOES GLOBAL

Students at Croydon College have got their passports out this term to take part in work experience placements.



Students studying Construction, Hair and Beauty, Sport and Hospitality packed their bags and caught flights to get to their placements in locations including Alicante, Marseille and Seville.

A total of 15 students travelled abroad in November and December, making the most of the opportunity to enhance their learning experience while at the College.



New Governor for College Group



Croydon College Group has welcomed a new Governor - Chartered Surveyor Niral Patel. Niral, who has lived

in the borough for 20 years, is Senior Development Manager at Hammersmith & Fulham Council.

BLAH BLAH BLAH? GETS STUDENTS TALKING



Students have set up an exhibition following COP26 which aims to get students talking about climate change.

Blah Blah Blah? has been installed in the Parfitt Gallery and boasts three large-scale installations, sculptures, paintings and audio visual artwork as well as an interactive element asking 'what will happen to our world post-COP26?' 'has anything changed?' and 'who needs to make the changes?'



The installation has successfully got people talking, with shocking information about climate change and the state of the world we live in, as well as getting people to question what their role is in the present day.

Oh yes they have! Students have a go at designing Panto Dame's costume



Level 2 Art and Design Students have been taking part in a Panto Dame Costume Design for Stanley Arts.

With students having the opportunity to pitch and make a design for a real client, students considered practical applications, technical and descriptive explanations, and technical construction of their designs.

Every student put forward at least one application, with feedback from Stanley Arts saying "We are SO impressed! These ideas are incredible - we're so excited by them!" upon receiving the designs.

Student Rosa Enver was announced as the winner in the 14-18 age category, receiving four tickets for Dick Whittington, this year's Pantomime at Stanley Halls.

The overall winner of the competition was announced on 10 December at Stanley Hall's Christmas Market, where the winner saw their designed created into a real-life costume.

CHRISTMAS ARTS MARKET PROJECT

Level 2 and 3 Art and Design students have been taking part in TURF Projects' Christmas Market - the Festivus Shoppe.

Students have been taking all the steps needed in preparing to sell their work, giving them experience in a number of areas including selecting what pieces they want to sell, how to display their work, how to interact with potential

customers, as well as bringing up challenging conversations around pricing and presenting artwork - a skill all professional creatives need to tackle.

To view, and buy some of the artwork, visit TURF, which is located in 46-47 Trinity Court in the Whitgift Centre, and open 11am-5pm Wednesday-Saturday, before 24 December.

END OF YEAR SHOW ON THE VIRTUAL STAGE

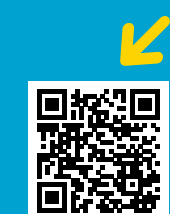
After a year of many online and on-site workshops, Croydon Creative Arts students have put together a virtual end of year show to highlight their hard work this year.

Throughout the year students collaborated together to develop their skills and creative ideas

to great success gaining skills and confidence in dark-room, woodwork, ceramics, animation, photography, and printmaking.

Scan the QR code below and unravel their online exhibition with a huge variety of work produced by students in Animation and Game Design, Performing Arts,

Film & Photography and Music Production.



To hear in the students' words about their experience scan in the QR code and visit the CELEBRATION page.

DIARY DATES 2022



EVENT

DATE

Christmas Holidays	Monday 20 December 2021 - Tuesday 4 January 2022
Spring Term	Wednesday 5 January - Friday 8 April
Spring Half Term	Monday 14 February - Friday 18 February
Open Event	Thursday 24 March, 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Easter Holidays	Monday 11 April - Friday 22 April 2022
Summer Term	Monday 25 April - Friday 1 July
Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May
Summer Half Term	Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June
Croydon Welcome Day	Tuesday 28 June
A Level Results	Thursday 18 August
Croydon Main Enrolment	Monday 22 August - Friday 26 August
GCSE Results	Thursday 25 August

Christmas Holidays	Monday 20 December 2021 - Tuesday 4 January 2022
Semester 2	Wednesday 5 January - Friday 27 May
Open Event	Wednesday 12 January, 4pm - 7pm
Open Event	Thursday 10 March, 4pm - 7pm
Reading Week	Monday 14 February - Friday 18 February
Easter Holidays	Monday 11 April - Friday 22 April 2022
Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May
HE Taster Week	Monday 9 May - Friday 13 May
Summer Half Term	Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June
Open Event	Wednesday 29 June, 4pm - 7pm

Christmas Holidays	Monday 20 December 2021 - Tuesday 4 January 2022
Spring Term	Wednesday 5 January - Friday 8 April
Spring Half Term	Monday 14 February - Friday 18 February
Career Pathway Open Event	Wednesday 2 March, 5.30 pm - 7.30pm
Career Pathway Open Event	Wednesday 9 March, 5.30pm - 7.30pm
Career Pathway Open Event	Wednesday 16 March, 5.30pm - 7.30pm
Easter Holidays	Monday 11 April - Friday 22 April 2022
Summer Term	Monday 25 April - Friday 1 July
Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May
Summer Half Term	Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June
Coulston Welcome Day	Wednesday 29 June
A Level Results	Thursday 18 August
GCSE RESULTS	Thursday 25 August
Coulston Main Enrolment	August 2022 (dates TBC)