











WELCOME | NEWS

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Welcome

to our first ever Orbital South Colleges The ZONE, Student Newsletter!

Orbital South Colleges comprises East Surrey College, John Ruskin College and Reigate of School of Art.

Together, our Colleges form a substantial college group in the Southeast and are a leading further education group, trusted by schools and employers across Surrey, West Sussex and South London.

From June 2022, the Group also includes Orbital South Colleges University Centre as the umbrella organisation for our higher education provision.

Find out more about Orbital South Colleges at www.osc.ac.uk.



No doubt you've spotted our new set of posters, focusing on your College and learningready behaviours.

Our expectations in terms of lanyards, smoking and respectful behaviour has not changed, but we have adjusted some of the language around this to emphasise the importance of belonging and contributing to the College community.

We appreciate the efforts made by our students and staff, all of which make our Colleges such a great place to learn!



ANNUAL FRESHERS FAIR



To kickstart the Autumn term, our Enrichment team hosted two Freshers Fairs, one at East Surrey College and the other at John Ruskin College. The aim of the Freshers Fair is to encourage new and current students to interact with College activities, as well as speak with employers and think about their options.

Students at ESC were able to speak with external visitors such as YMCA East Surrey, Geek Retreat, Mental Health Foundation and Surrey Police. Students at JRC spoke with AHF - UK, NHS England, Croydon Drop-in, Play Place and Croydon Youth Centre.

Students had access to College information stands including Enrichment/Student Union, Student Magazine and a Careers table offering impartial advice and guidance.

There was also a range of entertainment including sumo wrestling, FREE hotdogs and candy floss, VR gaming and a photo booth to capture the moment!

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE QUEEN

During the national period of mourning, level 1, 2 and 3 students from our creative industries department at John Ruskin College produced a magnificent display as a tribute to the life and service of Her Majesty and to mark the beginning of the reign of King Charles III.

The assignment, titled 'Majesty', was given to students to reflect and capture the mood of the nation, by producing symbolic, popular, and local cultural pieces. Thank you to our students for this creative and respectful display and thank you to our tutors Tracy Carrington and Andrew Stockwell for their support and guidance around this assignment.



3D PRINTING TECHNOLOGY COMES TO EAST SURREY COLLEGE

A NEW set of 3D printers have arrived at East Surrey College! Staff enjoyed a live demonstration of the four NEW 3D printers, which were in the process of converteing a CAD drawing into articulated slugs. The printers are the current industry standard and are widely used in businesses and education.

Our Engineering, Construction and Motor Vehicle & Motorsports students are first in line to benefit from these fantastic Ultimaker printers. Explore our facilities at our next Open Event.



STUDENT SUCCESS AT THE BTEC AWARDS



From the thousands of entries across the UK, four students from East Surrey College were recognised with three Silver Awards in the BTEC Science Learner of the Year category, and one Bronze Award in the BTEC Public Services Learner of the Year category.

The BTEC Awards is an annual event that recognises and celebrates the hard work and dedication of BTEC learners. tutors, teachers, schools, and colleges around the world. Ahead of the event, tutors put forward the names of students who they thought had shown outstanding commitment to their course, support for their peers, or dedication to their career goals.

Lindsay Pamphilon, Principal of Orbital South Colleges, commented:

"We are extremely proud of all our students who were nominated and recognised with BTEC awards – a true testament to their determination and hard work."

Well done to Jhalak, Maya, Harriet and Matthew for this fantastic achievement.



Students studying Hair & Media Make-up level 2 and Theatrical, Special Effects & Media Make-up level 3, enjoyed two professional live demonstrations.

Witch Workshop

Students learned how to build up make-up to age a character, how to secure a stage wig, and techniques for creating finger waves and period curls.

Face Painting Workshop

Students were given tips, tricks and techniques on how to perfect a face painting design, this specialised in insects and bugs.

After both demonstrations, students were able to put their learning into practice, with close guidance from our visitors and their class tutors.



This October, departments across both East Surrey College and John Ruskin College came together to acknowledge Black History Month, an annual observance that promotes and celebrates Black contributions to society.

Cultural Events

At East Surrey College and John Ruskin College we hosted Cultural Events. For these celebration of diversity, students and staff were encouraged to wear their traditional clothes, bring music reflective of their background as well as bring the flag that represents their country. It was a fantastic day at both Colleges, and wonderful to see the variety of cultures that came together to share and learn.

College Displays

Throughout the month, it has been great to see the range of art and information on display around both Colleges. Reigate School of Art created a display in the Winter Garden at East Surrey College highlighting equality, diversity and inclusion.

At East Surrey College, the library had a display of books to inspire and educate, as well as the LRC at John Ruskin College exhibiting informative non-fiction and literary books by iconic Black figures.

Want to learn more about Black History Month? Visit www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

Intergenerational Event at JRC

John Ruskin College welcomed members from the local community to be treated and pampered courtesy of our Hair & Media Make-up and Body & Spa students for the third consecutive year. This event was run in partnership with the Manju Shahul-Hameed Foundation and the Croydon BME Forum, bringing older and younger generations together.



A Celebration of Diversity

JRC SUPPORTS WITH DEMENTIA CAFÉ



John Ruskin College again partnered with the Manju Shahul-Hemeed Foundation to help run the Dementia Café. This event was created to offer a place to socialise, learn more and enjoy something new.

35 guests attended the event, where students from Health & Social Care supported the elderly in providing teas, coffees and cake. Guests enjoyed taking part therapeutic drawing and painting.

HAIR AND MAKE-UP GET INTO THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT

For Halloween, the Hair & Media Make-up students at JRC were busy creating some fantastic designs and illusions. With the assistance of tutors, the students spent around five hours creating their designs, using silicon and blood effects skills. Our students were able to showcase new techniques, building confidence in their newly learned skills. This workshop was a great opportunity for them to gain inspiration for their projects while also studying aspects such as character design and









ESC ESOL SUMMER



We ran a six-week English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Summer School to help improve students' English communication skills. This was available to anyone wishing to improve their speaking and listening skills.

Oleana joined the ESOL Summer School as part of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) programme for Ukrainian women to learn English and introduce them to life in England. She believed it was essential for her to improve her English language skills to enable her to integrate into British society.

"I really enjoyed the writing and reading parts, I want to improve my English for my future".

The course also gave Oleana the opportunity to meet and make friends with fellow Ukrainians and people from many other countries including Russia, Iraq, Iran and Salvador. Oleana plans to continue her English Language studies at the College!

SUTTON UNITED

Sutton United have three teams participating in college leagues this season – SCL Whites, SCL Blues and Sutton United's tactic team. All three teams have had a positive start to the season, all progressing through to the last 16 of the College Cup in their respective divisions.

"It is my first year running the Sutton United College Academy programme and I couldn't be happier about what we've created in such a short space of time. The players have been very professional in their approach this season and their positive results so far are the evidence of their hard work. The support from JRC has been nothing short of fantastic – they

have allowed us to move to a professional, brandnew, state of the art 3G facility for the players to play matches and train, and for this I thank them immensely."

Harry Martin, Head Coach of Sutton United College Academy.



POLICE ENGAGEMENT

As part of a new initiative, we will be welcoming Community and Engagement Offcer Paul, from Surrey Police, to take part in activities at East Surrey College. Maisie, our Safeguarding and Wellbeing Manager commented:

"We're wanting to create a positive environment, where students can interact with the police and not feel intimidated by the person in the uniform."

Paul recently came to the College to play table tennis with our students. Future activities will include netball, football and more!



CROYDON CONSTRUCTING EXCELLENCE BREAKFAST EVENT



This event at John Ruskin College saw construction companies from the local area network and share ideas on the direction of the construction industry.

In the morning, employers and staff discussed the skills needed for the future construction industry, and how we work with sustainable futures in mind. Later in the day. the event concluded with a tour of our brand-new construction facilities for students, including workshops for carpentry and joinery, painting and decorating, plumbing, and the Construction Skills Centre.

JRC HOSTS CAREER EVENTS

JRC recently hosted two career-related events – the first was a Careers Fair, in partnership with the JRC Youth Hub and the Department for Work and Pensions via the Jobcentre. The event aimed to support those aged 18–30 and unemployed. Visitors met employers, training providers and attended information sessions.

The second event saw JRC host the College's first-ever Hospitality Recruitment Day, in conjunction with Off to Work.

Of the 15 attendees, all were offered jobs or further work training. Our full-time students were given the chance to attend



a day in London, to explore opportunities for part-time work.



Art & Design level 2 students enjoyed a number of workshops with Same Sky, a community arts group based in Brighton, who specialise in creating art for, among other events, lantern parades, carnival processions and fire and light spectaculars.

The first set of workshops supported the students' current Winter Wonderland project. They scuplted willow into structures, then covered them with strengthened tissue paper to create lanterns.

In the second set of workshops students used the designs of William Morris as inspiration, and explored flagmaking. They created shapes out of vinyl and applied them to Ripstop fabric.

Their work will be displayed at the upcoming Winter Lights Festival, taking place at Stanton Gardens. The flags will be mounted on poles at the entrance, and the lanterns will decorate the Christmas tree.

Lecturer Rosie Mastrandreas commented:

"Students gain experience of a workshop situation, working as a team. They learn how projects are put together and will be excited to see their creations come to life."

COLLEGES **WEEK 2022**

STAFF STUDENTS SKILLS #LOVEOURCOLLEGES

17 - 21 OCTOBER

East Surrey College and John Ruskin College celebrated Colleges Week in collaboration with the Association of Colleges and with colleges from across the UK. The theme for the year was 'Staff, Students and Skills' - the fundamentals of what makes a college.

STAFF

- · Every July, staff members head out into the local community to share their time, skills and expertise with charities and groups.
- · Sue Bennett, Science Lecturer at JRC, received an award for her hard work and dedication to students at the Best Teacher Awards, organised by the Committee of South London Principals and held at the House of Lords.
- · Jose Aguiar, Teacher Training Lecturer and Mentor at ESC, was awarded The Butler Trust Commendation by HRH The Princess Royal for his tireless work and innovative and creative approaches in Prison Education.

STUDENTS

- · The former Student Union President at JRC was recognised for her fantastic progress and achievements at the South London Best Learner and Teacher Awards, which took place at the House of Lords.
- · Four creative writers from ESC were chosen from 19,000 entries and were included in the Young Writer's Publication 'Twisted Tales - Beyond the Tale'.
- Two students from RSA had their submissions selected from nearly 500 entries from students in further education nationwide. Their work has been exhibited at Origins Creatives 2022 show in London.

SKILLS

- JRC was proud to launch its brand-new Construction Skills Centre, enabling us to deliver an extended construction course offer in modern, high-spec surroundings to all areas of the local community.
- · With ESC's brand-new, purpose-built T Levels Centre, we are at forefront of promoting the potential, relevance and importance of T Levels, providing skills employers need in the workplace, now and in the future.
- · Last year, John Ruskin College was proud to partner with Jobcentre Plus to deliver a brand-new Youth Employability Hub, part of the government's multimillion pound Plan for Jobs, and is one of dozens of similar hubs being opened across the country.

MOTORSPORT CHALLENGE - THE FINAL

On Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 October, the Motorsports team at ESC headed to Silverstone International Circuit to undertake the Student Motorsport Challenge - The Final. After a thrilling league of racing over the past seven months, our team was heading into the final event with 162 points, 15 points ahead of other colleges and universities.

It was a game of cat and mouse on Saturday for our professional driver Andy Burgess – he was on the hunt to capture Northbrook College and Oxford Brookes University in the first two races (rounds 16 and 17). We achieved the necessary third place wins before the final race day.

Our luck ran out in the final six minutes of the Challenge, when Andy Burgess took a hit to the rear bumper resulting in the car spinning off the track and into the barriers. Luckily there were no injuries, but due to the car being severely damaged, the team was unable to continue, and the car was written off.

Out of eight college and university teams we are pleased to say we came second in the Student Motorsport Challenge. Our students and staff were thrilled with the outcome, especially as this was the College's first year of being involved in a motorsport championship.

We'd like to thank the organisers, our sponsor Boss Dog for wrapping the car, and Andy Burgess our professional driver.



HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

Wednesday 16 November 14:00 - 17:00



Orbital South Colleges University Centre offers a diverse range of higher education courses designed to provide the skills and knowledge required to take your career to the next level.

Join us for the opportunity to explore your options, tour our first-class facilities, chat with industry experts and discuss the best course for your chosen career! Book your place today!



ORBITAL SOUTH COLLEGES EMPLOYER BREAKFAST EVENT

In partnership with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, East Surrey College hosted the Orbital South Colleges Employer Breakfast Event. This event provided employers with the opportunity to work collaboratively on ways to shape the context and delivery models of our provision, to support training, upskilling, and recruitment of staff. Employers had the opportunity to network with other employers, as well as tour our vocational training facilities, including our new T Levels Centre and view our 3D printers.



LOOKING TO IMPROVE YOUR MATHS SKILLS?

At East Surrey College and John Ruskin College we're excited to be offering NEW, bespoke Multiply courses to help adults in the local community boost their numeracy skills. The courses are designed to help individuals unlock their full potential:

- ► Support your children with homework
- ► Manage your money better
- ▶ Reveal new job opportunities or progress in work
- ► Take the next step to higher levels of training or qualification

Find out more at www.esc.ac.uk/multiply www.johnruskin.ac.uk/multiply





Careers Advice and Guidance

We're here to support you with career planning and preparing for your key steps towards employment and work readiness. Helping you with:

East Surrey College:

Visit www.esc.ac.uk/careers-hub, or contact the team on 01737 788444

John Ruskin College:

Visit www.johnruskin.ac.uk/careers-hub, or contact the team on 020 8651 1131

Alternatively pop into Client Services or email careershub@osc.ac.uk

- Exploring career pathways
- Improving your job search
- ✓ Identifying your transferable skills
- CVs & job applications
- Advice on alternatives to university
- Managing career change plus more



East Surrey College and John Ruskin College recognised important key dates such as Dyslexia Awareness Week, World Smile Day and World Mental Health Day!

If you need a bit of support or want to find out more, visit Wellbeing Hub online. This is your one stop shop, packed with resources for taking care of your mental health, including contact details for the Safeguarding team.



VISIT

www.esc.ac.uk/wellbeing-hub

www.johnruskin.ac.uk/wellbeing-hub



Make the most of your College experience by taking part in an enrichment activity! Meet new people, learn something new and have fun. Both Colleges offer activities for you to take part in outside of your College timetable.

Download the full programme at www.esc.ac.uk/ enrichment or www.johnruskin.ac.uk/enrichment. Book your place by popping into the Activity Hub at ESC or Client Services at JRC, or email Harvey Kellard.

ESC STUDENT UNION TO LAUNCH OPERATION **EAST SURREY HOSPITAL!**

We caught up with members of the Student Union at East Surrey College and there's a lot going on!

OPERATION HOSPITAL!

In the next couple of weeks you'll see posters going up around the College and receive an email letting you know about **Operation East** Surrey Hospital!

Michael Dance works as a Premises Officer at East Surrey College (pictured below with

members of the Student Union), and volunteers at East Surrey Hospital in his spare time. He told the members of the Student Union about what happens there.

He explained that a huge number of people come into the Emergency Department on a daily basis. People arriving by ambulance usually have a more serious injury or condition, and often need to stay at the Hospital overnight. Some of these people are moved to a specific ward where they are looked after by the nursing staff. There are, however, a number of people who need to stay in the Emergency Department overnight, while they wait to be moved to a particular ward. Many of these people will not have been expecting to be in hospital and have nothing with them. Some people have friends and family who can help, but some don't.

This is where **Operation East Surrey Hospital** comes in! Michael and members of the Student Union enthusiastically agreed to run a campaign collecting items to make people's overnight stay in hospital more comfortable, such as a toothbrush, a comb, a puzzle book - Michael has put together a list.

Towards the end of the term, staff and students will visit East Surrey Hospital and present the items collected to the Hospital's team of volunteers, who will put them to good use!

The details are still being discussed, but keep your eyes peeled for more information. Start squirrelling away those bits and bobs, and let's make Operation East Surrey Hospital a great success!



APPRENTICESHIPS

* RATEMYAPPRENTICESHIP

BEST 50 **TRAINING PROVIDERS**

Get in touch to find out more about apprenticeships!

2022 - 2023

VOTED NUMBER 1 FURTHER EDUCATION TRAINING PROVIDER IN THE UK

We are delighted to announce East Surrey College was ranked 11th in RateMyApprenticeship's Top 50 Training Providers for 2022-2032, placing us as the top FE College Training Provider in the UK, as voted by apprentices themselves!

If you're interested in apprenticeships, book to attend our next Open Event to speak with our Apprenticeships team, or get in touch - at ESC call 01737 788316 or email employerservices@esc.ac.uk, at JRC call 020 8651 1131 or email jrcapprenticeships@johnruskin.ac.uk

APPRENTICE TO FULL-TIME JRC EMPLOYEE!

Bradley has been working at John Ruskin College since January 2021 as part of his Business Administration level 3 apprenticeship. He has been based in the Directorate Administration department, and has worked predominantly supporting the ESOL team and the Maths & English team. Bradley completed his apprenticeship over the summer and achieved a Distinction grade. We are now pleased to report that he has earned a full-time role with us as Generalist Administrator. Bradley told us a bit about his apprenticeship journey and how he feels about his new position.

"An apprenticeship was ideal for me: I could get the best experience possible while gaining a qualification from it! I'm not the biggest fan of sitting in a classroom all day – I'd much rather be earning money and working. But, if I can gain a qualification from it, it's all the better! I knew John Ruskin College was a great college, it was very local for me, and I have had a few friends of mine come here. I really enjoyed how friendly and welcoming everyone was, it made me feel like I had been working here for years.



I would definitely recommend an apprenticeship, especially working at JRC. It was an amazing experience and I really looked forward to waking up in the morning and going to work! I feel like working at JRC is an amazing opportunity to get some experience and it looks good on my CV. I'm thrilled that I have now been employed full-time at JRC as a Generalist Administrator. I enjoyed my apprenticeship. so to continue building my working relationships and to be able to do this full-time is great – I'm very grateful to the College."

Apprenticeships are designed for students of all ages. You'll earn a wage while you learn, build your skills and gain a nationally recognised qualification.

"I NEVER **THOUGHT I COULD LEARN** THIS MUCH IN **18 MONTHS"**



Michael enrolled at ESC onto our Computing level 3 course in 2018 and completed his studies in 2020. He described the students and tutors as super friendly, and overall found the College to be a good working environment.

Michael chose an apprenticeship as he wanted more hands-on experience in IT. He had the fundamental knowledge but wanted to put his newly learned skills into real-life situations.

Michael started his apprenticeship with us in August 2020 and signed an 18-month contract working four days a week and spending one day in the classroom. Michael was shown insights into Microsoft Endpoint Configuration Manager, Networking, accounts handling and deploying infrastructure.

"I've really developed my social skills, as well as gained invaluable experience for university and my future career. I've gained IT certificates and I'm officially certified in Networking which is nationally recognised!"

The apprenticeship also gave Michael the opportunity to learn leadership skills as towards the end of his contract, he worked with a small group of IT interns. During this period, interns would shadow his work and would work alongside Michael to complete the job.

Since leaving ESC, Michael has progressed onto the Royal Holloway, University of London to study Computer Science BSc.

HIGHER EDUCATION | T LEVELS

HIGHER EDUCATION **PROVISION PROUDLY TITLED ORBITAL SOUTH COLLEGES UNIVERSITY CENTRE**

We are proud to announce that the Department for Education (DfE) has approved the title Orbital South Colleges University Centre for our growing higher education provision.



NEW HIGHER EDUCATION COURSE GUIDE FOR 2023-24

Orbital South Colleges University Centre has launched its new Higher Education Course Guide for 2023-24, comprising an extensive range of university level courses, professional qualifications and apprenticeships.

Our courses are designed to equip you with the skills and experience that employers are looking for, to help you stand out from the crowd. Our aim is to make sure you leave us with a valuable qualification to progress in your career. Pick up a copy of our new course guide today!



www.esc.ac.uk/higher-education/course-listing

HE & PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AWARDS



For the first time in over three years, we hosted our in-person annual Higher Education & Professional Courses Awards, in the beautifully decorated Winter Garden at East Surrey College.

We welcomed over 150 guests including staff, students, family and friends from the classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022, to celebrate their incredible achievements and successes.

We were also delighted to welcome Claire Coutinho, MP for East Surrey, as a guest speaker who presented students with their awards.

ESC'S BRAND NEW T LEVELS CENTRE

At the beginning of the new academic year, we launched our brand-new, purpose-built Digital T Levels Centre! The new state of the art facilities provide excellent, high-quality teaching and learning accommodation.

T Levels are increasingly recognised as crucial to building an agile and adaptable workforce. With our T Levels Centre, we will prepare our students with the skills needed to build careers in all sectors from construction and surveying to electrical and manufacturing engineering, gaming, digital design and cybersecurity.

Our new T Levels Centre includes four state of the art computer labs, two collaboration classrooms, two meeting rooms and one large conference room.

Jayne Dickinson, Chief Executive of Orbital South Colleges commented:

"We place employers at the heart of developing our programmes, tailoring our courses to meet the needs of businesses, to ensure people can gain skills to access great jobs as well as upskilling and reskilling to take advantage of opportunities in growth sectors."

For September 2023, East Surrey College and John Ruskin College have expanded their T Level offering, with courses in Business & Administration, Construction, Digital, Education & Childcare, Engineering & Manufacturing and Health.



Find out more about T Levels at www.esc.ac.uk/tlevels or www.johnruskin.ac.uk/tlevels



Course Guide 2023-24

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OPEN EVENTS

Our Open Events in 2023 are the perfect opportunity to find out all the information you need to take your next steps!

EAST SURREY COLLEGE

Wednesday 22 February......17:30 – 19:30 Saturday 10 June.....10:00 – 12.30

JOHN RUSKIN COLLEGE

Tuesday 28 February 16:30 – 19:30 Saturday 17 June 10:00 – 12:30

Book now for East Surrey College at www.esc.ac.uk/events, or for John Ruskin College at www.johnruskin.ac.uk/events



PICK UP OUR NEW FULL-TIME GUIDE TODAY!

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new full-time course guides!

They are jampacked with a wide selection of exciting

and high quality courses for the next academic year, plus everything you need to know about academic life at Orbital South Colleges.

Pick up your copy of the full-time guide at reception now, or visit our websites to view online!

Part-time Courses for Adults (19+) 2022-23

Whether you're looking to learn a new skill, improve your career prospects, or just want to try something new, we have a course for you. Visit our websites to find out more: www.esc.ac.uk/part-time-courses www.johnruskin.ac.uk/part-time-courses



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