

14 December 2023

Dear Students and Parents/Carers

The first term of college has flown by and we are all looking forward to some rest, relaxation and time with family and friends. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank students, parents and carers for their support and hard work this term; we have seen some fantastic progress and successes from many learners.

Below is a selection of activity that has happened across the college group that I'd like to share. I could have filled many more pages! I hope this showcases the diversity and brilliance of our staff and students.

John Ruskin College Art and Design - Art student Kelvine Bersamin took a lead role in designing a giraffe statue as part of the 'Croydon Stands Tall' initiative and we were successful in bidding to adopt the statue! It will now stand tall at the JRC Reception to greet us in the morning.



East Surrey College Public Services - Public Services students undertook their first expedition in much better weather than we are experiencing now thank goodness! They also led a moving Remembrance Day ceremony. It was amazing to see over a thousand students standing in silence for 20 minutes whilst we reflected.



East Surrey College ESOL (English as a Second Language) - Our ESOL learners took a trip by train into London to visit the Houses of Parliament. This was planned as a reward for good attendance, behaviours and attitudes and also supported their studies with British Values and Culture. Everyone had a great day and students were excited to see some of the famous sites of London.



John Ruskin College Beauty Therapy and Hair and Media Make-Up - Level 3 Beauty Therapy and Hair and Media Make-Up Students hosted the annual intergenerational event in celebration of Black History Month on 18 October. 20 guests were offered back, neck and shoulder massages, styling hair services, make up application and mini maniures, with Level 3 Spa and Hair and Media Make-up students.



John Ruskin College Sports - Level 1 Sports students led 160 year 4, 5 and 6 children through a day of orienteering activities. They led, they communicated, they inspired, they learnt and they had fun. Thank you to the Croydon Schools Sports partnership.

East Surrey College Beauty - Level 1, 2, and 3 Beauty students attended MAC in Carnaby street. They were given a make-up tutorial and were able to ask questions to develop their skills. Some students have applied for part-time jobs here following the session.



East Surrey College Motorsport - L3 Motorsport students finished 2nd in the student Motorsport Challenge, came 1st in the student pitstop challenge, and won 1st place in the Best Car Build. For finishing 2nd in the competition, our students have been invited to a day at the McLaren Technology Centre.

East Surrey College Metal Fabrication - Metal Fabricator apprentice James Dickman competed in the national finals of Skillweld this term along with 9 other students from across the UK. James was selected for the finals after competing in and winning the regional finals held at East Surrey College during the Summer. Well done James!



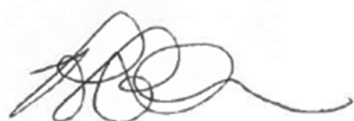
We return to learning on 3 January and will be working with all students to support their progress and attendance. Where students are not meeting deadlines for work submission, struggling to manage their time, or attending poorly, we may timetable them to attend college on an additional day to make up these hours in a supported setting. During January, we will also begin formal discussions with students around their progression plans. Lower attendance and progress may impact on students receiving an offer of progression. Please get in touch with us via the course tutor if you have any concerns about this; there will also be an opportunity to discuss this further at our Parents' Evenings in February.

Whilst it may feel as though there is a lot of the academic year in front of us, we have approximately 20 weeks of learning remaining when we return to college in January. This is even less for our GCSE courses - 17 weeks of study before the first exams begin. There is still so much that can be achieved in this time but every lesson lost creates a larger challenge for our students to perform their best.

As always, we very much appreciate the support parents and carers provide; this makes all the difference to the progress and achievement of our amazing students!

Have a wonderful holiday break.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Taylor

Vice Principal - Curriculum and Standards (College Group)