



Summer 2011

### INTRODUCING THE NEW STUDENT COUNCIL



Top row left, Dan Etherton, Laura Gibbins, Srdjan Miletic, Miranda Magee, front row left, Holly Lancefield, Rory Sadler, Hannah Strachan, Ollie Clements

A new Student Council is in place for this calendar year, with Srdjan Miletic elected President and Laura Gibbins Vice President/Treasurer. They will be ably supported by Ollie Clements (Social Secretary), Dan Etherton (Charities Secretary), Holly Lancefield (Environmental Secretary), Hannah Strachan (Communications Secretary), Rory Sadler (Sports Chairman) and Miranda Magee (Equalities and Diversity). We wish them all the best for the year in fulfilling their new roles and representing the student voice at Esher College.

Vice-President, Laura Gibbins, said of her colleagues, "I guess it's just refreshing to know that there are people at College who think about others around them, and enjoy coming up with ideas. That's what we're here for." So far, the new Council has arranged a successful Krispy Kreme sale with

proceeds going to the Shooting Star Hospice and a brilliantly organised and fun Valentine's Day with roses and chocolate hearts delivered anonymously to students and staff. They have also raised money for Red Nose Day, contributed to Green Week and are planning a joint event with the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA).

Most recently, the Council organised a Japanese themed day at College to raise money for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami. Using the Tabanata Festival theme, where one of the customs is the making of wish trees, staff and students were encouraged to make their wishes on special strips of colourful paper, which were then folded and tied around trees.

Japanese food was on offer in the canteen along with Japanese pop music and a raffle with prizes such as Reading

Festival tickets. The money raised went to Save the Children to open child friendly spaces in evacuation centres across the affected area, making a difference to the 100,000 children caught up in the disaster. Furthermore, the Council decided to donate another £1,000 to the Esher College Africa Trust and sponsored Victoria Leyshon, an ex-Esher student, to run in this year's London Marathon for Sparks, a children's medical research charity.

The Council have also been working alongside the tutor group representatives to ensure the students at Esher College are represented. The Student Council have listened to the request of improving audio output in the canteen radio station and replaced the old speakers. There is still a lot to do and they are currently working on a request for sunscreens over the picnic benches and outdoor BBQs for the summer months.

# LETTER FROM DAN DEAN



Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Life in education is never dull and, perhaps predictably, my first year as Principal is flying by. By the time you read this both 6.1 and 6.2 students will be on or approaching study leave and further guidance on managing this period can be found on the page opposite. For my part, I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of using this time productively and planning a schedule for revision. I do sympathise with our first year students, in particular, as it feels like no time has passed since they joined us. In effect, AS specifications are delivered in just two terms and many of us feel that this places undue pressure on our students. However, the government is not for moving on this issue. I do wish all of our students success in their forthcoming exams and hope that they achieve the results that they deserve.

Much of this last term has been spent absorbing the implications of the YPLA (our funding agency) Funding Statement, which outlined how our sector will contribute to the cutting of the budget deficit.

All colleges and school sixth forms will face significant budget cuts in the coming years and, as with all sectors of the economy, there are some difficult decisions to be made. However, we are confident that we are in a strong position to make the required adjustments and with a minimal impact on the student experience. We are all committed to working that bit harder in order to safeguard the well-established ethos of the College.

On which note, this Newsletter gives you a real flavour of the wide and varied range of activities on offer beyond the core curriculum. I would like to draw particular attention to the College production, the Health Fair and our Green Week. In addition, our Progression Guidance Team have once again excelled themselves with the organisation of a highly successful Higher Education Day. With over 60 Higher Education institutions in attendance, the event focused our students' minds on their options after Esher. This will, of course, require even more careful thought than usual in the light of the tuition fees controversy.

As part of our strategy for managing the cuts, we will be making some minor amendments to the College timetable next academic year.

There will be no change to the start and finish of the College day. We will be informing 6.1 students of the new timetable structure once they return from study leave.

As ever, we have plans to improve the College estate, as part of our long-term Planned Maintenance Programme. This summer will see a refurbishment of B Block, including the installation of new windows and improvements to the facade. This may require some timetable changes during the second half of the summer term. Perhaps surprisingly in the current economic climate, there is even a hint of financial support from the government. We await the outcome of a capital bid in the hope that we may be able to bring forward some of our planned works to the next academic year.

It just remains for me to wish you all an enjoyable summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Dean'.

**Dan Dean, Principal**

## INTERNATIONAL PUPIL CONFERENCE

Once again Esher College hosted the third annual Elmbridge Schools' International Pupil Conference. Nine local schools sent delegates aged 6 to 14 to the conference to discuss global issues. Each school researched and represented a different country, and were hosted by Esher AS Citizenship students.

Pupils gave presentations from Esher Church of England Primary School and from Hinchley Wood School. The latter gave a very inspiring presentation about their future World Challenge expedition to Uganda, and took the lead in some of the small group activities with the younger delegates.

An addition this year was a large delegation of Norwegian sixth formers who were visiting the College. This gave a real international flavour to the event. After her return to Norway, the lead teacher sent a thank you e-mail: "Our students...had a very entertaining and eye opening day, to the extent that some of them wanted to change school! As our institution is so much smaller, the range of subjects we offer is very limited compared to Esher College, and especially your art, music and design classes impressed our students."



## GREEN WEEK

In late March, Esher College held a Green Week for the first time ever to promote and raise awareness of ethical and sustainable issues. There were activities held every day around the College including Clothes Swishing (free clothes swap), an Un-plugged gig (live music without electricity) and the Ethical Fashion group staged a Fashion Show wearing their own creations and clothes from the Company 'People Tree'. The high street cosmetics company, 'Lush', came into College and ran a workshop using raw ingredients. Students made their own chocolate facemasks and bath bombs. To encourage cycling to College the local community police came in twice and offered bicycle security tagging and advice on general bike use. The café also supported the week with organic choices on the menu.

The major event of the week was the 'Alter Eco Ethical Market' (Green Fair). There were stalls from College organisations and other outside companies selling and promoting their products, including Beeline, Riverford Foods and Juzi jewellery. I would like to thank the companies who donated to the raffle prizes: Halfords, Turtle bags and Surrey Cycles UK. There was a great atmosphere at the fair and the homemade cakes and organic wines went down a treat. The week was just the beginning of introducing students to green issues and there will be further events throughout the year with new additions to next year's Green Week. Thank you for all who supported the week.

**By Sheila MacDonald, Environmental Champion**



*From left, Claudia Walder, Maya Fitzherbert and Eleanor Calder*



*Students testing new products*

## SHOOTING STARS HOSPICE DONATION

Four ex-students of the College and Duke of Edinburgh Gold holders, Sean Fitzsimons, Amberley Self, Daniel Sikora and Catherine Humphrey attended the College to hand over a cheque for £2021 that they and other Duke of Edinburgh students raised during their time at Esher College in aid of The Shooting Star Hospice. Events included cycling across all the bridges between Tower Bridge and Hampton Court, and taking part in several mini marathons. The Shooting Star representative, Tony Leppard, was delighted to attend and receive the money. He praised the efforts and determination of the students and said that the Hospice runs on the goodwill and efforts of volunteers such as our students.



*Sean Fitzsimons, Tony Leppard, Amberley Self, Daniel Sikora, Catherine Humphrey*

## STUDY LEAVE INFORMATION

We are all aware that this is a stressful time for our students, as the external exams are almost upon us. It is a time when study plans come to fruition, and where the need to concentrate on College work becomes paramount. Whilst teachers can provide study support, it is crucial for students themselves to take responsibility and reduce their commitments to jobs, parties and other social events, so that they can focus on their studies for the next few weeks. I am sure that they will need little reminding that the festival season and the summer holidays are just around the corner.

If any student is having difficulty with managing their revision load and/or understanding aspects of course content, they should be proactive and seek advice from staff. Whilst it may not be necessary to emphasise the importance of doing well in the examinations to those completing their programmes of study at the College and hoping to go on to further study elsewhere, examinations for those in their first year of a two-year programme are now of much greater significance. AS grades will need to be entered on UCAS forms and play an increasingly important role in what is becoming a highly competitive selection process.

# EVENTS/CHARITIES

## EVENT PLANNING



*Michael Burnett at the Talent Show*

It has been another great year for the Event Planners. The 6.2 students who are completing the NCFE Event Planning qualification as an extension study raised a staggering £2,000 for charity. The successful events organised by the groups included a pub quiz, talent show, car wash, FIFA Xbox competition, Band Night and charity ball! All events were very well organised and students should commend themselves on their success.

The charities that will benefit from the money raised include Great Ormond Street Hospital, CLAW, Chilli Children, The Rainbow Trust, Help for Heroes, Joshua Dellar and Teenage Cancer. Well done to all.

## HEALTH FAIR

Students gathered at Esher College for the annual Health Fair event. Each health campaign stand had interactive activities and colourful displays presented by a team of students studying A level Health and Social Care.

The students' roles as peer health promoters are supported by a team of experienced health professionals from NHS Central Surrey Health and Surrey Primary Care Trust. There were nine campaign



*Melissa Adamou and Vicky Douglas*

stands covering a range of current health issues of relevance to young people from sexual health to breast cancer awareness.

## HIGHER EDUCATION CONVENTION



*Students assessing their options*

In March representatives from over 60 universities came to Esher College to offer first year students the chance to talk to them about Higher Education opportunities. The day started with talks and subject-related seminars in the morning, delivered by university academics. In the afternoon students toured the stands, getting information and advice from universities, gap year companies and business schools.

Parents also got the opportunity to have a look around the convention in the evening, with this year proving busier than ever. You can find the Parents Guide to Higher Education under the 'Parents' section of the website.

## PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

There is a vacancy from November 2011 for a Parent Governor on the College Governing Body, and any parent of a current 6.1 student, or prospective student for September 2011, is eligible. Parents serve for a term of two years, irrespective of how long their daughter or son remains at the College. We would encourage you to take this opportunity to become closely involved in the organisation of the College and, if you would like to informally discuss the duties and commitments that Governorship entails, please contact Sally Paton Evans, the Deputy Clerk to the Corporation, at the College (spatonevans@esher.ac.uk). If required, Sally can send you a nomination form or put you in contact with an existing Governor, so that you are able to gain an accurate picture of the commitment involved.

**We will require completed nomination forms returned to the College by Monday 12 September 2011.**

## COLLEGE PRODUCTION

Despite it being a very tiring and emotional process, the legion of students and staff involved in the College production saw their hard work pay off with a rambunctious three-night run of *The Canterbury Tales with Added Spam*.

The audience were treated to everything from strobe-effect slow-motion battle scenes to flying cows, with all four acts entertainingly acted, sung and choreographed. Everybody who took part deserves credit: the actors, the back stage team and those who produced the excellent costumes and set (but there are simply too many to mention here). However, special praise should go to the Production Manager, Malcolm Hart, the Musical Director, Claire Whittaker and the two Directors, Cathy Hudson and Gemma Wright, for the countless hours put in to make it such a success.



*Ellie Johnson and George Rextrew*

## EDINBURGH FRINGE

Esher College's very own Braindead Theatre Company presents a Blitz club New Romantic spin on George Etherege's *The Man of Mode* as it heads up to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for its eleventh consecutive year. This biting comedy sees a foolish fop strut alongside a Spandau Ballet dandy, Dorimant, as they strive to out-pose one another. Fought over by two punk princesses, Dorimant wickedly seduces his way through London until he meets his match in a Blondie bombshell! Expect decadence, depravity and bad 'dad' dancing as Braindead's ensemble piece takes you back to a time when 'ridicule was nothing to be scared of'. The show will be previewing at Esher College before its Edinburgh run on **Friday 15 and Saturday 16 July at 7.30pm** in the Drama Studio. ***Tickets can be bought on the door.***

## OXBRIDGE SUCCESS

Once again hard working Esher College students have been successful in their applications to Oxford and Cambridge. With the overall offer to application rate at both universities at just 1 in 5 this year we were delighted that seven students have been made conditional offers or won places.



The students with conditional offers include Catherine Hale, pictured left in the back row, who hopes to read Physics at Merton College, Oxford and Sarah Livingstone (right) who is aiming for Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge to read Archaeology and Anthropology. Seated are Isabella Nicholson (History at Girton College, Cambridge), Ed Bennett (Mathematics and Computing at Magdalen College, Oxford) and Joe Bateson (Computer Science at Caius College, Cambridge). Alex Botham also has a conditional offer to read PPE at Mansfield College, Oxford. The offers will only be transformed into places once the students achieve the AAA or A\*AA grades in their A levels, so we wish them well.

## GOSPEL CHOIR

Members of the ACM Gospel Choir led by the inspirational Mark Delisser came to Esher College to run a Gospel Music Singing Workshop with students from all over the College. After an energetic warm up, students took part in three-part harmony Gospel Arrangements of 'Let the Sun Shine' and 'Oh Happy Day' with some students taking solo roles.

They then went to Esher High School for a superb concert performance with other local schools who had been involved in the project. Thank you to all students who attended the workshop and those who performed in the evening. Oh happy day!



*Summer-Jade Greenaway, Florence Murray, Sarah Nacmanson with two members of the ACM Gospel Choir*

# SPORT NEWS

## SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

This award is in memory of Charlie O'Donoghue, an Esher College student who tragically died in 2003, and is awarded annually for outstanding sporting achievements and behaviour. Gemma Penwarden has been a dedicated member of the Esher College netball team for the past two seasons (pictured receiving the trophy from Dan Dean, Principal of Esher College).

Russell Tomlin, Head of PE & Sport said, "Gemma exhibits all the qualities that we look for when presenting this special award. Her passionate and committed approach to driving the team on during her two years with us has been a joy to watch. She is always willing to learn and is highly coachable. Gemma plans to go into teaching after university and she would make an excellent PE teacher."



## TEAM RUGBY

This year 6.2 students Faraz Khan (player of the season) and Steven Bonsu (most improved) richly deserved the awards given to them at the sports awards dinner.

Faraz has been the cornerstone of the scrum throughout his two years at Esher, always willing to learn and giving 100% on the pitch. Steven came into the squad with rugby league style tackling and massive amounts of power. In the squad this year there are several 6.1 players with huge amounts of potential and flair which augers well for next season.

With an eye on results, the team has enjoyed slightly mixed success during the season.



In the Surrey Sixth Form Colleges League Esher have dominated all teams bar Strode's, resulting in a very respectable second place finish in this competitive league.

The draw for the Daily Mail Cup provided Esher with tough games

against RGS Guildford and Wimbledon College. Despite valiant efforts from all concerned, Esher lost both and exited the competition in the early rounds. However, the squad's commitment and attitude has never been in doubt this season.

## SPORTS AWARDS DINNER 2011

The annual Sports Award Dinner was held at Esher Rugby Club in March. The event was organised by 6.2 Sport and Leisure students for the College sports teams (netball, cheerleading, rugby, football and basketball). The awards went to the most valuable and most improved players in each team.

The night consisted of a three-course meal, an awards ceremony and dance/DJ. Everyone had a great time and over £500 was raised for the charity CLAW, which was one of the charities that we supported during our recent trip to South Africa last October.

**By Gemma Penwarden, Elliott Jones, Olivia Marchbank, Sam Carvalho, Jack Angel and Rhodri Badham**

## RACE NIGHT

6.2 Sport and Leisure students held a Race Night event at Kempton Park Racecourse to raise money for charity as part of their Sport and Leisure Unit 8 Event Management coursework.

On the night, guests enjoyed having the chance to have a bet on numerous races.

Many of our guests made a profit on their betting and these came to large amounts in some cases. As a result, the group made £138 profit for their chosen South African charity, CLAW.

Overall, this was another successfully run event by Esher sports students.

## 1ST AND 2ND TEAM FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



*Football team 1st XI*

An impressive standard of football has been on display all season, culminating in both the 1st XI and 2nd XI football teams being crowned champions in their respective Surrey Sixth Form College's leagues. A big well done to all the players involved, with a special mention to Harry Cobb and Jacob Toft Klasse who have represented the College at county level as well. Both teams followed up their league successes by taking the

A team and B team 8-a-side trophies at the recent Strode's invitational tournament. Head of PE and Sport, Russell Tomlin, said, "It has been a terrific season for both football teams in what are very competitive leagues. The level of sport at the College alongside our recent affiliation to British Colleges Sport is really starting to put sport at College on the map, which is great for the students."

## CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONS

On the 23rd March the Esher Eagles Cheerleading team donned their new outfits and arrived, full of enthusiasm, at the Sutton Tennis Academy for the annual South London Schools and Colleges Tournament of 2011.

Esher Eagles have worked tirelessly in their own time to hone and perfect their acrobatic routine to impress the judges for the event.

Special thanks go to Tori Hardy, Director of the Unity Cheer & Dance Company, who has helped the team throughout the year.

The judges who sat in a Strictly Come Dancing style format watched several teams' routines and awarded points based on difficulty and execution. After a superbly executed routine Esher Eagles came away 2011 winners.

Well done to Elizabeth Hendry, Kellie Palmer, Jessica Kemp, Ellen Day, Fenella Hawksley-Walker, Chloe Pemberton, Jessica Lightowler, Jessica Hall, Abbie Linsey, Samantha Lawler, Louisa Feary, Kathryn Mason, Alice Kinchington, Ciara Geffryes, Fabienne Malti, Natasha Weglarz, Kirsten Damgaard-Nielson, Zoe Markell and Lara Henderson.



## TEAM BASKETBALL



The basketball season was a journey of ups and downs this year. The season started with a warm up game against St. Charles, who gave the team a real experience of what was needed if they were to succeed this season.

This gave the team, made up of predominantly 6.2 students, the inspiration they needed and coaches were incredibly impressed by their commitment to both training and matches.

This included the obligatory fitness sessions that Rommel took to a new level by making certain he had completed weight training before arriving to training.

Joe Ferrelly led the team exceptionally well and was an inspiration to the other players.

John Carruthers led the scoring for the season including 28 points against Woking College.

This individual performance was the highlight of an outstanding team performance when examinations and trips reduced the travelling team to 5 players.

Throughout the season, Sam Carvalho also produced some excellent individual performances, becoming extremely adept at stealing the ball in any part of the court.

All in all this was a very enjoyable season and we hope that all the players involved are proud of their achievements, both team and personal.

## TALKS

### ZAC GOLDSMITH MP



*Holly Morris, Lillie Fulford, Zac Goldsmith, Robert Payne, Issy Mckeever*

Zac Goldsmith is a controversial figure. Despite his good looks, £200 million fortune and new position as MP for Richmond Park, there are numerous scandals surrounding him that Esher students were keen to uncover. Mr Goldsmith began by confirming our preconceptions about Parliament. He stated that it was 'dysfunctional' and almost entirely controlled by party discipline. However, he claimed he was a permanent 'backbencher', supposedly making him a better representative of his constituency and freeing him from the influence of party 'whips'. The floor was then left open to challenging questions for Mr Goldsmith. Issues discussed included Kingston Hospital, fuel prices and the EU. When asked about the AV referendum, he was quick to dismiss it as a 'waste of time' and instead, passionately advocated the introduction of 'recall'. This is a process by which inept MPs can be replaced by their constituents. Inevitably, students were suspicious of Mr Goldsmith's tax status and were quick to confront him about this issue. He defended his position, claiming he 'paid all taxes' and slammed the newspapers for their false stories.

Finally, Mr Goldsmith argued an interesting case against the EU, highlighting its undemocratic nature and lack of scrutiny, and expanded upon the interesting reasons for his dismissal from the prestigious Eton College. Overall, his visit was beneficial, scandalous and largely satisfying for students.

**By Victoria Boyce**

### SCIENCE CAFÉ @ESHER



*Dr Sylvia Pani and Nicole Whittle*

Two Science Café talks took place at the College in March. Dr David Read of Southampton University gave an interactive presentation on biofuels using voting pads to take the pulse of current student opinion. The effects of global warming are well publicised but it is not clear what the alternatives are, especially as the media tend to focus on scare stories. Thanks to him, we all now know the difference between bioethanol and biodiesel and are wiser about the possibilities of using algae for energy (though not in the UK with our lousy weather).

Dr Sylvia Pani of Surrey University gave the second talk. She convinced us that Superman's fabled X-ray vision may have been a little impractical in the real world but X-ray imaging is proving essential in the fields of medical imaging and crime prevention.

### INSPIRATIONAL HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR



*Freddie Knoller with Jessie Martin and Laura Hornsby*

Over a hundred History students studying the twentieth century listened to a fascinating talk by Freddie Knoller, 89, a survivor of Auschwitz, on Holocaust Memorial Day. Freddie told of how he was betrayed to the Nazis by a spurned lover in occupied France and sent off by cattle truck to the death camps of the East. As the Allies advanced, he went on death marches from one concentration camp to another. His determination to live kept him going, which Freddie put down to his faith, optimism and good luck. He has written a book about his experience and has been contacted by a Hollywood director to turn his story into a film. Esher students, Jessie Martin and Laura Hornsby, who represented the College on a day visit to Auschwitz in November organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust, opened the talk by sharing their experiences of the harrowing camp. Freddie left staff and students with a positive message for the future on the most symbolic of dates.

## HISTORY TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC

After the eight-hour flight from Heathrow, we arrived in Washington DC to be met by our coach driver 'Teddy', whose only rule was 'to have fun'. On the first evening we did a night walk of the city. We saw the White House (unfortunately no Obama, though we desperately looked). We moved on to the Lincoln Memorial, World War 2, Korean and Vietnam War memorials, each beautiful and haunting in their own right. Once we returned jet lag got the better of most of us, and after a cheese-drowned pizza the majority of us collapsed at 9pm.

The next day we were up bright and early with a two-hour coach journey ahead of us to go and see a re-creation of the 18th Century capital of Virginia – Colonial Williamsburg. It was very enlightening, as well as strange, as it truly felt that we were experiencing life in 18th Century America. However, many more of us were more impressed by the visit to Gettysburg in Pennsylvania, which included a tour of the museum, cyclorama and a tour of the battlefields. When we were standing in the fields where the battle took place, one could really imagine soldiers from both sides meeting in a deadly conflict.

Our final day was spent at Arlington cemetery and the Smithsonian Museum where we saw the original Star Spangled Banner. We were encouraged to wander the museum at our leisure, so we could broaden our historical knowledge.



Whether seeing the original ruby slippers from the Wizard of Oz counts, is for you to decide.

Our last hours in Washington were spent at an outlet shopping mall. Needless to say, our bags were heavier coming back than going out. On the plane home I think we all valued the knowledge that we gained from the trip (as well as the clothes) and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

**By Anna Sagar**

## SPANISH EXCHANGE

In March, thirteen nervous Spanish AS students set off for sunny Segovia. However, we had no reason to be scared as we were greeted by a hoard of waving and smiling Spanish exchange students. After a tour through the beautiful town we knew our way around immediately. The central structure of the Roman aqueduct was breathtaking, as were the cobbled streets leading to the Jewish quarter, the Alcázar and cathedral.

We explored Madrid for two days, first visiting the Reina Sofia Gallery containing world famous works of Picasso and Dali, and then spent an idyllic afternoon sunbathing by the lake in El Retiro Park. The second day consisted of sightseeing



the highlights of Madrid including the Royal Palace and, of course, shopping around the Gran Via! After a siesta we went out in the evening, experiencing the Spanish way of life.

Overall it was an unforgettable experience. The food was delicious, the sights were stunning and, above all, we have made friends for life.

## ART EXHIBITION AT THE V&A MUSEUM

The A2 Applied Art and Design students recently completed a five-week project to design an interactive guide to the Victoria and Albert Museum. The project was designed to provide a direct experience of professional practice. Students met with museum managers and were briefed there. They then spent a day drawing to find suitable objects to link together under a given theme. On returning to college, each student produced a digital response to an exhibit developed from these drawings, including researched notes made at a museum. Then, with their team, they worked collaboratively to integrate these responses into a website. The resulting websites were presented to the V&A design team and given very positive feedback. So impressed were the clients that it is hoped that the V&A will be showing the work on its website to a global audience! Further collaboration with the museum is planned for next year.

# TRIPS AND CLUBS

## ART TRIP TO PARIS

The whole Applied Art and Design (Double Award) A2 group travelled to Paris for four days to research in preparation for their Synoptic Assignment.

The brief was to explore the city in terms of themes such as structure, movement, the figure and street life, through extensive drawing and photography. Staff worked alongside students at a diverse range of locations: Musée du Quai Branly, the Louvre, the Marais district, the Rodin Museum, Pompidou Centre, Saint Chapelle, the Arc de Triomphe and the Maison Européenne de la Photographie. The weather was, for once, kind to us which enhanced the whole experience. The students were exemplary in their commitment and conduct throughout the trip.



Students now have to develop a personal project using the research gathered in response to Paris. The brief is negotiated with teachers and represents the culmination of the course, in either an Art or Design context. The work produced will be displayed at the end of year exhibition.

## ECONOMICS TRIP TO BRUSSELS

Thirty-one 6.2 Economics students travelled to Brussels by Eurostar to put into perspective some of the topics we have learnt. After eventually finding the hotel, we visited Antwerp's diamond factory before returning to Brussels and sampling the delights of its nightlife.

The next morning we were given a guided tour of the city itself, then braved the rather confusing metro system to the European Parliament. We were hosted by a Europhile Tory MEP, quite a (disappointing!) contrast to Nigel Farage's visit to College in November! After a talk on the workings of the incredibly bureaucratic EU itself, we engaged in a series of Q&A sessions, ranging from the credibility of the Euro (which he did not rule the UK out of joining in the future) to a referendum on British membership of this rather expensive club. The following morning we visited the Stella Artois factory, and were given an insight into the complex production of Belgium's most famous export. Our guide was extremely proud of the product, less than complimentary about British beer and could not understand our



apparent obsession with cider. Free samples after the 9am tour were a bit early for some. Whether this was a cost-saving exercise on behalf of Stella, we shall never know. Before our train home, we fitted in a visit to a small independent chocolate factory where the free samples were much more welcome. Armed with chocolate and 2 litre Stella glasses, we made our way back to London, which took a little longer as HRH Prince Charles was boarding a train to Brussels himself. All had a good time, and my Euroscepticism remained intact!

**By Richard Cleary\***

*\*Richard, an A2 student at the College, stood as a Conservative councillor in the Molesey North ward earlier this month.*

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The Esher College branch of Amnesty International has held its first campaign of the year.

Claudina Velasquez was a law student shot dead in Guatemala in August 2005. Following her murder, no proper investigation was made. Her case was only reopened in November 2005, but by then a lot of the necessary information had been lost. It was concerning to us that no progress has been made since then and we were horrified to learn abandoned murder cases are common in Guatemala. The Amnesty Group decided to act

upon this by holding a cake sale and letter signings, writing for an update on Claudina's case, highlighting the unlawful behaviour of the Guatemalan state. We are delighted to announce that we collected 82 signed letters, which have been shipped to the president of Guatemala. We also raised £65, covering the cost of postage and contributing to future campaigns we plan to run. If you too want to campaign against the violation of human rights, and believe that small campaigns on a large-scale can make a difference, join the Esher College branch of Amnesty International.

**Email Rachel De Wachter: [rdewachter@esher.ac.uk](mailto:rdewachter@esher.ac.uk).**

## EXPEDITION TO WALES

Twenty-three second year Duke of Edinburgh students braved the ferocious heat of Wales (?) to complete their practice gold expedition. The unexpected good weather posed different problems than the expected rain, wind and cold. Whilst the sun was indeed pleasant, exhaustion, sunburn and dehydration created other difficulties.

They climbed the highest peak in the Brecon Beacons, Pen y Fan, and completed a ten-hour hike across the stark and barren, yet beautiful, landscape with no shade for relief. Luckily, the weather turned on the last day and they finally got to see the wetter side of Wales.

Having passed this part of their course they can now look forward to the much harder challenge of the main expedition in Tibet this summer. Walking at an altitude of 5000 metres with the possibility of hot days, monsoon showers and cold nights, the students will have an experience of a lifetime in a remote and fascinating culture and one of the most beautiful places on the planet. We wish them well.



*Susanna Shearer, Tom Horne, Jess Ive, George Blackburn*

## WINDSOR CYCLE RIDE

Eleven Duke of Edinburgh students took to their bikes to cycle from Hampton Court to Windsor and back along the Thames towpath in aid of St Raphael's Hospice. A gruelling ride through mud, puddles, grass and bumpy dirt tracks, the group achieved an amazing feat and they are rightly proud of a job well done, despite the muscular and other pains endured along the way!

Through their magnificent efforts, the students raised over £400.



*Oliver Stansfield, Nina Tanna-White, Rachel King, Rose Dunster, Jasmine Lyster, Jennifer Duncan, Eleanor Hacche, Mark Stevens, Max Williams, Robert Lane, Kieran Oliver, Charlotte Stevens*

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH PRESENTATIONS

Well done to Rachael Stevens, who received her gold award certificate from the Earl of Wessex in December, and Sam and Zak Moss, who received their gold award in February.

Rachael completed the arduous six-day trek in the Langtang National Park in Nepal. Sam and Zak were part of the teams that walked for three days across the Brecon Beacons before completing a four-day canoe journey down the river Wye, a distance slightly less than circumnavigating the M25.



*Rachael Stevens, Sam and Zak Moss*

# DATES AND USEFUL INFORMATION

<b>SUMMER TERM 2011</b>	
EXAM LEAVE BEGINS:	Monday 16 May for 6.1 students / Wednesday 25 May (PM) for 6.2
16 May – 27 June	Examinations HALF TERM 30 May – 3 June
Thursday 9 June	Back to Work Day for 6.1s Start of A2
Wednesday 15 & 22 June	Study leave for students
Monday 27 June	Art / Art & Design / Fashion Exhibitions, Private View 6-8pm
Tuesday 28 June	Leavers Festival for all students
9 - 23 July / 9 –16/14 July	D of E expedition to Tibet; Classics to Greece; PE & Sport to Lanzarote
10–16 /10-15 / 10-14 July	MFL to France; Geography/Geology to Naples; Gov & Politics to Berlin
11-15 July	Wider Skills Week
11-14 July	History to Germany; History/Art & Design to Florence
12-14 / 12-15 July	Fashion to Barcelona; Music/Performance Studies to Paris
Friday 15 July	END OF TERM
<b>PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS</b>	
	Starting Sept 2011
Introduction Evening	Wed 29 June (new parents invitation only; Art/Design/Fashion Exhibitions)
Introduction Day	Friday 1 July (ALL day, invited students only)
<b>OPEN EVENING 2012 ENTRY</b>	
	Wednesday 6 July 2011 (4.30pm-8.00pm)
<b>AUTUMN TERM 2011</b>	
	Wednesday 31 August (enrolment begins)
Half Term	Monday 24 – Friday 28 October
End of Term	Tuesday 20 December
Spring Term 2012	Wednesday 4 January
Half Term	Monday 13 – Friday 17 February
End of Term	Friday 30 March
<b>SUMMER TERM 2012</b>	
	Monday 16 April
May Day Holiday	Monday 7 May
Half Term	Monday 4 – Friday 8 June
End of Term	Friday 13 July

## ADULT EDUCATION

It's not too late to take up a new interest as we still have a wide range of courses available from our current brochure including: Teacher Training (PTLLS), Card Making, Digital Photography, Flower Arranging, French, Italian & Spanish survival courses, Life Drawing, Introduction to Apple Mac, Tap Dance, Dreamweaver, Office Skills for Beginners/Returners, Public Speaking, Photoshop, Introduction to EBay, Anger Management, Psychology, Jewellery Making, Yoga and a range of Saturday Craft Workshops. Adult Learners Week will take place again in May when we will be offering a selection of free taster sessions in a variety of subjects.

Our exciting new brochure will be available from mid-May and, as well as old favourites, we are running some interesting new courses.

*Full details of all our courses can be found on the website [www.esher.ac.uk/aded](http://www.esher.ac.uk/aded) or by phoning Maureen, Kate or Kelly on 020 8335 2544*

## BACK TO WORK FOR 6.1 STUDENTS

As a reminder, 6.2 students complete their formal studies with us after the morning session on Wednesday 25 May. 6.1 students return to College for "Back to Work Day" on Thursday 9 June, beginning A2 work in earnest from then on for a full four weeks. For this period, a block timetable will operate, with whole mornings and afternoons given over to each subject. It is imperative that all do return on 9 June so that they are fully briefed and prepared. It is highly probable that students will be required to study at times when they may previously have been free; any extra-curricular activities or commitments that clash with these block study sessions will consequently have to be

re-arranged. The last week of term, from Monday 11 July, is 'Wider Skills Week' where students have selected from a wide range of activities, some associated with their programmes of study and future career plans and others to develop a new interest. All students have enrolled for an activity and are expected to take part fully in it, as comments on their participation will be included in UCAS and other references. Student responses in previous years have been highly positive and comments from University Admissions Tutors suggest they view extension activity and skills development, such as that provided in Wider Skills Week, as extremely beneficial. Students and staff will finish the Summer Term on Friday 15 July.

## ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

Applications to Esher College for entry in September 2012 will take place online. For full details, including key dates and instructions, please visit the Admissions page on our website: [www.esher.ac.uk/admissions](http://www.esher.ac.uk/admissions)

## LEAVING PROCEDURES AFTER 6.2 A LEVELS

This year there are four dates on which 6.2 students can bring in their books and complete their leaving formalities: Wednesday May 25 for those who have finished all their courses before half term, and Tuesday June 14, 21 and 28 for students who finish after half term. Building on the success of previous years leavers' festivals, the Student Council is again planning to provide a fitting finale to our students' College experience on Tuesday June 28. Money raised will go to the Esher College Africa Trust and other charities supported by the Student Council. Let us hope that the sun stays out for everyone to enjoy the day.