

Newsletter

Autumn 2018



2018 Results

Esher College is pleased to report a 99.2% pass rate at A level (59.9% A* - B grades). All of the College's A level results were above national benchmarks. The proportion of students achieving the highest grades is particularly impressive. Students studying BTEC courses also achieved excellent results, with high grades for the Subsidiary Diploma at 74.7% and for the Diploma at 84.5%.

An impressive 152 students achieved three or more A Levels at A* or A grade, including 19 students who achieved 3 or 4 A* grades; a remarkable achievement. The College is also extremely proud to report that a total of 199 A* grades were awarded at A Level. A full breakdown of results is available on the Esher College website.

Lucy Peggs, who gained 3 A* grades in Maths, Further Maths and Physics said, "I couldn't be happier with my results. I can't wait to go to university to study the subjects that I love. Thank you so much to all of my teachers for their support and guidance!" Lucy, who came to Esher College from Hinchley Wood School, is off to Bath University to study Maths and Physics.

Max Davies, who gained an A* grade in Politics and an A grade in both History and French is off to Exeter University to study History and Italian. Max, who came to Esher College from Orleans Park School, said, "I definitely couldn't

have done this well without the support of the teachers at Esher."

Hannah Cullen, who gained an A* grade in Biology and A grades in both Chemistry and English Literature said "I'm so happy with all of my results. Thanks so much to all of my teachers!" Hannah, who came to Esher College from Tormead School, is off to Bath University to study Psychology.

Alex Maisky, who gained three Di* awards in BTEC Music Technology, BTEC Art & Design and BTEC IT is off to Kingston University to study Music Technology. Alex, who came to Esher College from Hinchley Wood School, said, "Esher gave me the opportunity to study the subjects I love in a way that I enjoy learning by enabling me to take the BTEC qualifications."

Ben Williams, who gained an A grade in both Drama and Politics and a B grade in English Literature said "Leaving Esher with the required grades to go to Leeds is the perfect way to end a wonderful 2-year journey, in which I have grown both academically and personally." Ben, who is the former president of the Student Union came to Esher College from Tiffin Boys School.

Dan Dean, the College Principal, said, "We are thrilled to report another set of exceptional A level and BTEC results. They are particularly pleasing in the more rigorous context of reformed

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Letter from Dan Dean



Dear Parents, Students and Friends

Welcome to the first update of the 2018/19 academic year. The term got off to a great start with some fantastic exam results and you can find details on the front page and on the website. The A level results were particularly satisfying as they mark the culmination of the second phase of the government's reform programme and are based on a total of 2256 entries. To pick out a few highlights: the headline data shows the pass rate is again well above 90% and the A*-B rate touching 60%. A*s were once again above the national average at 9.1%. The raw results tell us so much, but as important is value-added data which shows that our students progress beyond expectation. The widely-used and well-regarded ALPS measurement places the College in the top 10% nationally for adding value. As for BTEC results, the high grade rates in Subsidiary Diploma and Diploma courses were magnificent at 73% and 84% respectively. We are proud of our students' success and performance at this level significantly enhances future prospects. On which note, if university is the goal, then the last report from the Higher Education Statistics Agency demonstrates that our students are well prepared for the challenge of degree-level study. 89% of the last cohort of ex-Esher graduates achieved a first or an upper second, over 12% above the average for state school sixth forms and over 3% above the average for the independent sector.

It was a pleasure to welcome both our new 6.1s and the returning 6.2s at the start of term. The timetable is now well underway and I have been impressed by the way in which our new students, in particular, have hit the ground running. It is so important to get into good study habits from the off and this promising start bodes well as the students seek to match or exceed our outgoing students in less than two years' time. Amongst other new developments, students can't fail to miss our new observatory, which was installed in the summer. This will benefit not just our Physics A level students, but enthusiasts of astronomy in general and there are few more enthusiastic than our Head of Physics! You can read about his thoughts and plans elsewhere in this newsletter.

The range of extension opportunities underpins the success of the Esher College learning experience and you will find plenty of examples throughout this newsletter, including those that took place at the end of the summer term. The variety of trips and visits is a real strength of the College, as it both underpins academic success and provides opportunities for personal development.

On administrative matters, if you have recently had a change of address, telephone number or e-mail could you please ask your daughter/son to check their student records on the portal, as a matter of urgency, and to use the link to e-mail our MIS Helpdesk with any

amendments, so that we know where to contact you if necessary.

I must make my regular mention of ECAT, the official Esher College charity, and our adult education portfolio. Any support you are able to give to the former would be much appreciated and please do pick up a prospectus for the latter. We are constantly adding to our evening courses and there may well be an opportunity you find hard to resist!

Finally, I would like to wish all our students an enjoyable and successful year. I look forward to meeting many of you at the various College events over the course of the academic year.

Dan Dean
Principal

2018 Results Continued

A levels and they reflect the enormous efforts our teachers have expended in getting the delivery of the new specifications right. Most importantly, students on all courses deserve many congratulations as their hard work has clearly paid off. We wish them every success as they embark on the next stage of their careers, be that to higher education, apprenticeship or employment."

Students in the photo on the front cover (from left to right) -

Abigail Barrett - achieved a Di* Di* award in BTEC Art & Design and an A* grade in Fashion and Textiles. Abigail is off to do an Art Foundation Course at UCA Epsom.

Alex Maisky - achieved three Di* awards in BTEC Music Technology, BTEC Art & Design and BTEC IT. Alex is off to Kingston University to study Music Technology.

Hannah Cullen - achieved an A* grade in Biology and A grades in both Chemistry and English Literature. Hannah is off to Bath University to study Psychology.

Amy Grant - achieved an A* grade in Psychology, an A grade in Biology and a B grade in Chemistry. Amy is off to Reading University to study Food Science.

Max Davies - achieved an A* in Politics and an A grade in both History and French. Max is off to Exeter University to study History and Italian.

Lucy Peggs - achieved three A* grades in Maths, Further Maths and Physics. Lucy is off to Bath.

Ben Williams - achieved an A grade in both Drama and Politics and a B grade in English Literature. Ben is off to Leeds University to study Politics.

Isobel Hawkins - achieved three A* grades in Maths, History and Biology and an A grade in Physics. Isobel is off to Merton College, Oxford University to study Biology.

History Lecture

Dr Patrick Doyle, a specialist in Modern American History and a lecturer at Royal Holloway University, visited Esher in June to give a talk about the American Civil War. Students on the History (Oppression and Equality) course are studying the war as part of their History coursework.

From a first-hand perspective of a visiting history professor, Dr Patrick Doyle's lecture on the Civil War helped me to look at our coursework question, "What is your view about the extent to which it was the Northern advantages that won the war?", from a new perspective. Dr Doyle addressed both sides of this discussion, 'why the north won due to successes' and 'why the south lost due to their errors'. His lecture was engaging and thought provoking, due to the use of extensive statistics and the large variety of topics he covered within his argument.

For example, he made points such as it being a 'rich man's war and a poor man's fight' and the idea of the King Cotton Diplomacy, which are concepts I had little knowledge of prior to this talk. Alongside this, the statistics around how much further the Union's resources extended over that of the Confederacy's, really helped me grasp an idea of why the Civil War ended the way it did and to compare this easily to other historians' points.

Dr Doyle's lecture brought together several different factors studied in lessons in order to consider how historians gather their evidence and select it to support their interpretations. This was good preparation for researching other historians' views for the History coursework.

Iona Reininger

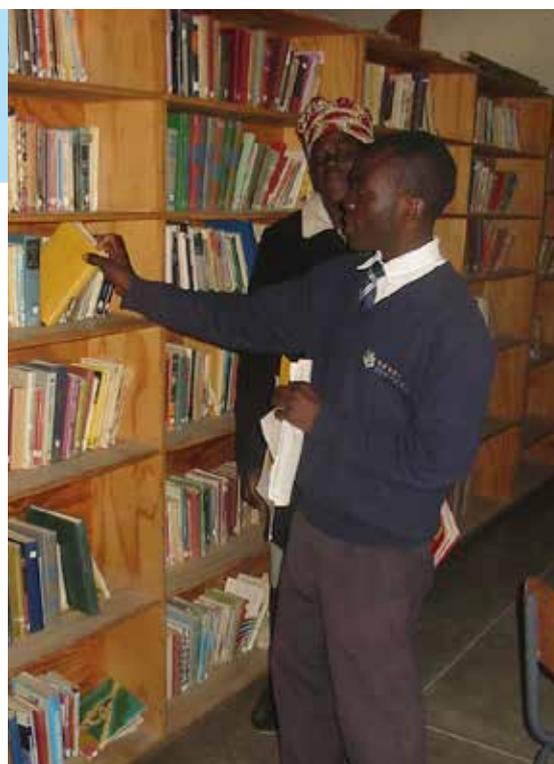
ESHER COLLEGE AFRICA TRUST (ECAT)

Esher College offers all of its students, and indeed their parents, a very special opportunity to get involved in our own College charity, the Esher College Africa Trust (ECAT).

ECAT is a fully incorporated UK Charity, No. 115651, that began as a link in the 1980s, when our students first started raising funds for AIDS orphans at a school in rural Zimbabwe. The objective was to pay their school and exam fees, thus helping these orphans to remain at school and acquire the qualifications necessary to secure their futures.

We believe it is of real benefit to our own students to have a direct link to a school where the students have a completely contrasting life experience. All the funds we raise end up at the Zimbabwean school and, over the years, many letters have been received to testify that our financial support has genuinely positive, and often life-changing, outcomes.

The actual number of orphans we can support depends on the amount of money we manage to raise. The last few years have been increasingly challenging, with a disadvantageous exchange rate and the Zimbabwean government's insistence on increasing fees. Our objective is to sustain support at the current level. We hope that you will want to become involved and help us achieve this goal.



After Esher Day



'After Esher Day' takes place at the end of the summer term every year. Students are offered a choice of a programme focussing either on university applications or on apprenticeships and employment. Representatives from local universities lead a variety of sessions including what to consider when choosing a course or university, and how to write a good personal statement. Students thinking about apprenticeships take part in a selection centre exercise, developing their teamworking, problem-solving and presentational skills. They could elect to undergo a filmed mock interview and receive feedback from the assessors.

As part of our 'After Esher Day' this year, we were very fortunate to have Arnon Woolfson, from the Speakers for Schools programme, come to give a talk. Arnon, an Esher College alumnus, has a world-class 20-year track record in music, marketing and entertainment. He creates strategies for brands, artists and labels and executively produces music for brands, sports federations and broadcasters. Arnon inspired all those he spoke to and gave students valuable insight to the music, marketing and entertainment industries.

Nicola Wilberforce

Scuba Diving



I recently went to a conference on Conservation and listened to the key note speaker, television presenter Paul Rose, former vice-president of the Royal Geographical Society and Chair of the Expedition and Fieldwork Division. He stated, "The most important thing for ocean conservation is to get scuba diving into schools". Well, we have been doing that in Esher College for 11 years, initially as a Wider Skills activity and for the last 8 years as a part of the Complementary Studies programme.

We started with just 8 students but the popularity has grown, as has the the provision and this year we certified our 100th girl and 100th boy! Unfortunately, we will never know which one from the pictures above actually qualified as the 100th, but it is a strange coincidence that in last year's cohort we had certified in conjunction with Aquanaut Scuba, exactly 101 boys & 100 girls!

The open water assessment took place over a sunny weekend in June after 2 terms of theory and training in a swimming pool. Everybody who stayed with the course obtained their qualification

and as you can see in the pictures, looked very happy.

Since then Luke Wivell and Tom Whitehead have completed their advanced qualification and a number of others who were unable to do this at the time have been given a further opportunity with Aquanaut.

We have 2 groups again this year and are expecting to certify even more 'explorers of the deep'!

Post script – Lucy Holloway from last year's group has gone to study marine biology at Plymouth University. She was given an unconditional offer and she said that at interview they were particularly impressed by her completing the Padi course followed by a number of dives with Kingston University sub aqua group during the second year of her A levels.

Norman Glennard

A Blast from the Past!

Former student, Theo Darlow, came back to tell us about what he has been up to since leaving College. Theo left Esher College in July 2018 to pursue his long-term passion, rowing. Theo shows how it is possible, though not always easy, to continue with your studies whilst training for a sport at an international level.

What subjects did you study at Esher?

"Classical Civilisation, Biology and Psychology."

How easy was it to balance your studies with your rowing training?

"There was a definite point when I had to choose between my GB hopes and really doing the best I could in my A levels. I was learning as much from rowing, and the experiences it was giving me, as I was from studying my A Levels. I also felt that I was being given a once in a lifetime opportunity that if I passed up, I would be sure to regret later in life. Therefore, to the annoyance of most of my teachers, I decided to focus heavily on my rowing. Fortunately, my tutor was much more understanding than I could have hoped and helped support me throughout my time at Esher. This meant that I wasn't put in a position where I had to choose between finishing my A Levels and continuing with my rowing."

What have you been up to since leaving College?

"I'm not planning to go to university, at the moment, as I am



rowing full-time as a member of the senior squad at Molesey Boat Club. With the club's support, I am hoping to push my junior success's into U23 GB vests and then hopefully onwards from there. Shortly after completing my A Levels, I won the Junior World Championships in a cox-less four and set a new Junior World's Best time. I was thrilled to be selected for the Junior Olympics, which are taking place in Buenos Aires this October."

What advice would you give to your 16-year-old self and anyone hoping to pursue a career in their chosen sport?

"Education is far more than your exam results. You will know what is important to you and it is important to follow your passion. Don't let any opportunities to fulfil your dreams pass you by."



Meet the Teacher

Name: Natasha Mirghani

Position: Teacher of Psychology

From: 2015

1 What inspired you to go into teaching?

"I have always been a real people person and really enjoy being around people. When I was a student, I loved being at school and I have many positive memories from my school days. I really wanted to be able to inspire today's students, the way my teachers inspired me, and to be a positive and encouraging influence on them."

2 What were you doing before you came to Esher?

"After taking my A Levels, I took a gap year and studied hard for my SAT exams, which are aptitude tests that students are required to take before applying to universities in the USA. I also spent a month volunteering in an orphanage in Croatia. After gaining a place at The University of California, I then spent 4 years studying Psychology in Santa Barbara. After graduating, I came back to the UK and worked in health and fitness for a while before teaching at Esher College."

3 What is the best thing about your job?

"I love many things about my job. I love the people I work with and working at Esher College, but the best thing for me is being in the classroom, teaching."

4 What are you most proud of?

"Moving to a new country at a young age, living independently, and succeeding in my degree."

5 What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

"I enjoy going to the gym and exercise in general. Since going on the Duke of Edinburgh trip with the College this summer, I have discovered how much I enjoy trekking. I also thoroughly enjoyed my first visit to Asia and plan to do more travelling in the future."

6 What words of wisdom would you pass on to your sixteen-year-old self?

"Don't be afraid to fail. Try new things – you are stronger than you think! Enjoy life and soak up all of the memories. The quote that I have always lived my life by is, 'Go confidently in the direction of your dreams and live the life you've always imagined!'"

Back Up Charity Climb

In July, Esher College student, Matthew Hutton and his family took part in a fundraising event for the charity, Back Up. The event involved pushing a young 11 year old boy, in his wheelchair, up Mount Snowdon in Wales. Matthew and his brothers, together with the Samuels family pushed him to the summit of Snowdon, making him the youngest person in a wheelchair to reach the summit. The round trip took the team 9.5 hours and they raised nearly £5000 for the charity Back Up. Every 8 hours, someone in the UK is permanently paralysed. The Back Up charity supports people affected by spinal cord injury and helps them to get the most out of life.

In the photo, Matthew is third in from the top left behind the BackUp sign.



Roll of Sporting Excellence (ROSE) Student of the Month

I got into triathlons as I had always liked swimming and running, so triathlons seemed like a natural progression for me. My brother also did triathlons and this helped me to decide to join the local club. Initially I was part of a social club but then two years ago I moved to a more competitive club and this helped me to reach a national level. I am currently part of the England Talent Squad, which is a small group of the best ranked in the country and we compete/go on training camps together. Training for triathlons involves a lot of hard work and I currently train 18-20 hours a week. Training involves swimming most mornings and then a bike/run in the evening.

My biggest achievement to date is winning a gold medal in the European Mixed Relay at the European Youth Championships. This was a team event where you each do a smaller triathlon and then tag the next person. At the European Youth Championships I also finished 11th in the individual final. In the winter I enjoy Cross Country and in January 2018 I became the Middlesex Cross Country U17 Champion. In the future I want to qualify for more international races and I would love to compete in the Youth Olympics.

If someone was interested in getting involved in triathlons I would suggest researching clubs in your area. There are lots of social clubs where people are involved just because they enjoy it. Many clubs will offer a free trial to see if you enjoy it.

Freya Thomson



Our New Observatory



Over the summer holidays construction of Esher's observatory was completed. The 2.7m high dome houses the College's collection of 4 telescopes and will be used by the astronomy club after College, once the clocks change in October until around February half term. For those willing to brave the cold winter nights, there are many impressive sights to be seen. The motorised mounts compensate for the rotation of the earth, allowing long exposure photographs of the night sky to be taken using the College's DSLR Cameras (such as the photograph of the Orion Nebula shown top right). Solar filters also allow BTEC science students to track sunspots by photographing the sun. Contact the Physics department if you are interested in getting involved!

Why not explore the night sky by downloading Stellarium – the free planetarium program which we use to drive our telescopes.

Jonathan Poole

Wider Skills Week at Esher College – July 2018

Wider Skills Week provides students with an opportunity to get involved in activities that will help them develop their skills, introduce them to new skills or benefit their A Level studies. Taking part in Wider Skills Week will also help to strengthen the students' university or employment applications.

With approximately 50 different courses to take part in, students were able to choose from a range of trips and activities. The following are just a few of the courses that took place this summer.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh group had another extremely successful trip to Nepal in July 2018. The two-week trip to the other side of the world involved several days trekking throughout the Annapurna mountains, as well as time spent exploring Nepal's capital city, Kathmandu, and it's second city, Pokhara. In total 40 students made the trip a rip-roaring success and all successfully completed the expedition component of their gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

Our latest intake of 1st year students has seen more Duke of Edinburgh interest than ever before and they will be leaving for their Nepal trip in summer 2020. There still may be an opportunity to join them - to find out more, please speak to Jason or Emma in the Biology department O205.

Jason Rynn



Wider Skills Week - Fashion

It was a very busy week for the Fashion department during Wider Skills Week. We had a menswear designer, Stephen Cole, visit and do a mood board workshop with the students. He was very impressed with the standard!

We then had two days in London. We visited Vivien Westwood's World's End shop, and had a fantastic presentation from the store manager, Sarah, who gave a real insight into the business, Vivien Westwood's character and some celebrity gossip!

We also visited three businesses; a very successful Print studio, Baxter Fawcett, who are ex-Brighton students and have been going 28 years (one of them went to Esher College!); a garment manufacturer, Coverup Clothing, who explained the garment - making process and the jobs available in the industry; and Stylus, a very sophisticated trend and forecasting company.

The students were excellent fashion ambassadors!

Nicola Walker



Drama Workshop

Special thanks to former Drama and Theatre students, Skye Hallam, Lucy MacKay and Holly Williams for coming back to Esher College to help with a Drama Workshop for Wider Skills Week. Skye, Lucy and Holly were able to work with our current students and offer advice, top tips and feedback on material performed.

Skye Hallam graduated from RADA in 2016. She is known for *The Crown* (2018), *The Alienist* (2018) and *Intrigo: Samaria* (2018). Lucy has completed an Actor-Musicianship degree and Holly graduated with a Drama degree and is about to start an MA in Directing at Drama School.



Economics Wider Skills

London. The world's leading financial centre. A city known, across the world, for its banks and financial institutions and a place many of us are lucky to call home. Twenty of our Economics students were fortunate enough to witness the inner workings of the world's financial capital and most, if not all, were taken aback, not only by the hectic atmosphere, but also by London's overall prestige globally. This prestige was particularly evident on Monday 9th July – the first day of our trip – where we all took part in a guided walking tour of the City of London. We saw and revelled over many sights, including: the Rothschild bank skyscraper, the Leadenhall 'Cheesegrater' building and even the notorious Bank of England museum – where we held an actual bar of gold! To round off the day, we enjoyed a highly beneficial lecture at the LSE, given by Jesse Norman MP, called 'Adam Smith - What he thought and why it matters'.

The following day (10th July) we were all back in leafy Surrey undertaking a research task discovering more about the 2008 Financial Crisis. The presentations we created were informative as well as comical, but overall it was extremely alarming to learn that this crisis had occurred within our lifetime and that the UK as an economy has still not recovered from its effects.

The final day (Wednesday 11th July) saw us travel to Stamford Bridge in West London – home to Chelsea Football Club. It was a fascinating tour which allowed us to understand the business elements behind football, particularly transfers, ticket sale revenue and the influx and influence of big money sponsors within Premier League clubs. We ended our three-day feat with a visit to Fullers Brewery in Chiswick, where we learnt in depth about the internal structure within a mass producer. This allowed us to witness specialisation and the division of labour first-hand; topics we had studied this year. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to sample any of their products, maybe next time though!

Benjamyn Awuah



PE visit to Lanzarote



The PE department and students had a fantastic week training in the sunshine at Europe's top sports resort Club La Santa, Lanzarote. During the trip, they lived the life of an athlete training up to 6 hours per day in a range of exciting activities. Mountain biking, surfing and beach volleyball were highlights of the trip, along with many more! It was great to see so many students develop their sporting abilities and independence. The students' good spirits, discipline and politeness on the trip has made the PE department very proud!

Lianne Purvis



Wider Skills Week – History Trip to the National Archives

During Wider Skills Week, a group of students had the opportunity to visit the National Archives, gaining access to millions of British historical documents, from the Domesday Book to the present, and each carried out an investigation into any historical area of their choosing. Whilst some focused on familial history, other students chose to explore personal interests, with topics ranging from Sir Francis Drake, the origins of the car, the suffragettes to the death penalty. The sheer number of records stored at the archives meant the possibilities were quite literally endless and it was a unique experience being able to handle such crucial documents, giving us all a renewed interest and appreciation for our rich British history.

Following our 2 days spent researching our chosen topic at the archives, we each presented our findings to the rest of the cohort, hearing about a multitude of new topics, reflective of the variety of documents available to us. The trip was an interesting and informative experience and a unique opportunity to delve into previously unexplored portions of British history, something I would recommend to anyone with an interest in the past.

I personally chose to explore my interest in the abolition of the British slave trade, gaining access to documents dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries, detailing the compensation of slave-owners following this event, broadening my knowledge of the topic considerably. It was interesting to be able to study the documents themselves, rather than having my views clouded or influenced by the standpoints of historians and writers, with the facts in front of me I was able to draw my own conclusions about this shocking period of British history.

Freya Reynolds

I enjoyed going to the archives as it gave me the opportunity to order and hold the real documents. The main topic I focused on was Dr. Shipman, the serial killer, but I managed to focus on different topics as well. The level 2 reading room was really good and we managed to use one of their film reel machines, which was very interesting to figure out and look at. Overall, it was a good experience, I particularly liked the fact the ID cards last for three years as I can continue to go back for help with College work and my EPQ!

Emily Forey

I chose to carry out my research based on a collection of letters sent and received by British general Charles Cornwallis from



1779 to 1781, at the peak of the American revolutionary war, using them to investigate the treatment of prisoners of war during this conflict. Reading these handwritten historical documents was a unique experience because it gave a deeply personal insight into the war. It was really clear how important the fair treatment of prisoners was – and how controversial any perceived injustices were – in a period where honour and reputation was so fundamental.

Overall, it was a really valuable experience because it gave us the chance to work independently at studying and then presenting historical research, allowing us to take control with what and how we wanted to learn.

Abigail Stevenson

Before Wider Skills Week was even upon us, I was searching through thousands of documents on their website, in the hopes of finding an intriguing one to view once we got there. On the first two days all of us were focused on researching a topic that interests us. The documents I had chosen were not quite what I had expected, but I did find some very interesting cases of 'criminal lunacy' and some wonderful pictures in a box of 500 or more copyright documents. I would highly recommend this to anyone who wants to experience handling primary sources and has access to the archives for the next few years.

Georgia Madden

Programming

Over Wider Skills Week, 20 students did a 3-day intensive programming course in C#. They learnt to write console programs using Microsoft's Visual Studio. The sessions covered for loops and while loops, the 'switch' statement, arrays, filestreams, random number generation and grouping code into methods. Participants wrote a high-low guessing game, a Caesar cypher, a sorting algorithm and a O's and X's game among other projects.

Why not teach yourself a programming language? Visual Studio Community Edition can be downloaded for free and there are many apps out there such as SoloLearn which teach you the basics. Fancy pushing yourself? ProjectEuler.net contains over 600 programming problems of increasing difficulty to challenge yourself!

Jonathan Poole

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
high low guessing game.
I am thinking of a number between 1 and 100, can you guess what it is?
50
your guess is too low, try again
75
your guess is too high, try again
63
congratulations, you guessed correctly!
it took you 3 guesses
Press any key to continue . . .
```

Volunteering Abroad

This year the volunteering abroad group went to Nepal.

At the beginning of the year, the entire group completed a day of volunteering for the Surrey Wildlife Trust at Norbury Park. They pruned small branches from trees and worked in small teams to make faggots, which the trust uses to support riverbanks and the edges of small waterways. The group worked hard for the whole day despite the cold weather.

Throughout the year, each student had to individually raise the funds for the cost of their trip by either approaching people for sponsorship, taking part in challenges or hosting events. The students also researched and presented to the group topics surrounding Nepalese culture, as well as working in groups, to prepare for the trip. They also took part in the leadership scheme through which they learnt about leadership and team-working skills, which culminated in them leading the group with another student for one day of the trip.

During the trip, the students travelled to Kathmandu before heading out to the rural municipality of Tarakeshwar where they stayed with a local family in very basic conditions. This was challenging for the students, but they adapted wonderfully and showed real resilience and maturity. After a day of orientation, they started their 5 days of volunteering work. They worked on a construction site for four of the days, helping to level an area in preparation for building two new houses for women left homeless after damage suffered during the 2015 earthquake. This meant having to dig continuously all day in high temperatures and monsoon rain. All of the students

worked extremely hard and continued to push through the challenging conditions - determined to finish the area before they left. They worked together to work out a system that worked for them and allowed them to be more productive. This showed real teamwork and problem-solving.

On one of the days, the students volunteered at the local school playing sports & English games, singing songs, doing arts and crafts, and presenting photos of Esher College and the U.K. to the pupils. The students very much enjoyed this day and the pupils of the school were very happy to meet, and learn, from them as well as teach them some Nepalese! We also left gifts for the school - sports equipment, arts and crafts, some English and Maths games, as well as a variety of useful other things, which was very much appreciated.

During their time, the students engaged with the local culture, met the people and visited Buddhist and Hindu temples. They also went to Pashupatinath one evening to witness the burning of the dead; this was an eye opening experience and something that they will remember forever.

All of the students were absolutely wonderful on the trip, showing empathy and maturity to each other and the local people, together with great work ethic. I can safely say it was the best volunteering trip I have been on and a wonderful way to end my time at Esher College. Nat Cotterill will be taking over Volunteering from next September - I can thoroughly recommend Nepal!

Blue Turner



Performing Arts



The BTEC Performing Arts students worked with two theatre companies during Wider Skills Week. Both *Sleeping Trees* and *Cold Dinner* performed to the students and then led workshops. The students also went to see *'Strictly Ballroom the Musical'* at the Piccadilly Theatre and *'A Monster Calls'* at the Old Vic.

The picture here shows *Sleeping Trees*, who are a multi-award winning, three-piece, comedy trio who like to spend most of their time creating surreal, physical and fast-paced comedy.



We were delighted to learn that in May, Olivia Bremner, Second Year BTEC Creative Media student, achieved 'Highly Commended' in the Pearson BTEC Media student of the year awards. In June 2018 the first year BTEC Creative Media Production students completed a week's work experience, hosted by companies including Sony Music, Ogilvy, Rogue Pictures, Britannia Row and ITN. Below, Ella Risbridger-Smith, shares her experience with us.

Lucy Beeharry

My Work Experience at Ogilvy & Mather Group UK

During the five days that I worked at Ogilvy, I worked under Christopher Wall, the Head of Creative and Content. I was working on the pre-production aspect

of advertising. Christopher gave me tasks each day, including looking at the following areas:

- Observing the ways to portray superheroes in advertising (Fruit Shoot, Innocent smoothies, and 'Not All Heroes Wear Capes'; campaigns for certain companies)
- Discovering the meaning of yellow – the colour that most brands are deciding for Generation Z (ambition/kindness/happy/dedicated, people born between 1996-2010)
- Researching Generation Z - I sat in with the meeting and this was discussed thoroughly.
- Pre-production for TK Maxx and Homesense social media shoot; objects needed, i.e. furniture, bits and

bobs from said shops. For summer experiences; tropical BBQ, outdoor cinema, etc.

I also created the pre-production list for the Homesense and TK Maxx shoot; including the schedule/timings for each shot, breaks, lunch and added time; location recce, and crew. I was named the assistant producer as I was following the producer of the shoot, as well as being a runner on said shoot.

In addition, with my dad's connections in Ogilvy, I was able to have a discussion with Kathy – the Head of Dove's PR team – about the documentary I created last year ["What is Beautiful?"]

Literary London

Day 1: On day 1 we visited the British Library and had a guided tour of the Windrush exhibition which explored the experiences of West Indian immigrants in England from 1940 up to the present day. The music, letters and pictures within the exhibition helped us to visualise and understand what they went through. We then had the opportunity to reflect upon what we saw by writing a creative piece and sharing it with the group.

Later in the day, we visited the National Portrait Gallery and focused on the portraits of famous women throughout history in the gallery. We also visited the flagship store of Foyles that is the largest bookshop in London. We were able to explore the bookshop for as long as we wanted and it was enjoyable to have access to the wide range of books available to us.

Day 2: We started off the day with a backstage tour of the National Theatre; it was fascinating to see the amount of work that goes into constructing the sets used in various productions, as well as the technology such as a rotating stage.

The highlight of the trip was watching a production of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' at the Globe Theatre. It was a great opportunity to see a contemporary approach to Shakespeare's work; the play was well executed as it brought Shakespeare's

characters to life and made the audience laugh. It was also great to see the historic Globe Theatre and be part of its unique atmosphere.

Day 3: On day 3 we were given a literary tour of the Southbank by Chris McCabe, the leader of the poetry library in the Southbank Centre. As part of the tour, we visited the site of William Blake's house and a local mural inspired by Blake's art work and poetry.

We then returned to the poetry library, where Chris McCabe discussed various poets in the collection who were inspired by London and their own unique approach of the city. We then independently explored the library and its collections of poems, focusing on those inspired by London.

As a conclusion to the trip, we reflected on the poems we had read in the library and our experiences of the trip as a whole to produce a poem. We then presented our work to the group and discussed what we had taken from our experience on the trip.

Overall, we had a really enjoyable trip that made us better appreciate the history of London and its influences upon literature, which continue today.

Grace Loader and Lily Martin

Politics Trip to Berlin



On the morning of the 7th August, filled with anticipation and excitement, Esher College Politics students travelled to Berlin. The trip began with a smooth flight into one of Berlin's international airports from where we then travelled to drop our bags and inspect the rooms at the '5-star hotel' that was 'City Hostel' – rumoured to be the property of the North Korean Embassy. We only had a short amount of time to settle in before we went to watch England v Sweden in the quarter finals of the World Cup. In Berlin's centre there was a public viewing place with a giant screen where we were able to watch the inevitable success of English football. Football seemed to be coming home! This was followed by a trip to a beautiful lake where we were able to swim out, relax on the beach and prepare for the next few days to come.

We were woken up the following day for a bike tour around Berlin. The enthusiastic tour guide helped us understand the history of Berlin and how it's developed in recent years; this allowed students to understand why Berlin is the way it is today and gain an understanding of the city and what it has been through. After a few bumps in the road, it was time for joint lunch. Following this, the group split and half of us went on a Revolutionary Berlin tour and the other half went to the city's acclaimed Jewish Museum. In the Jewish Museum students were able to learn more about the Holocaust and understand the reasoning behind certain memorials and why they were presented the way they were. That evening, we had our first night out in the neighbourhood of Friedrichsein. The place was vibrant with lots going on and everyone enjoyed their night.

The next day, students were divided into two groups. One group went on a tour led by a Syrian refugee as part of 'Refugees Show Their Berlin' project. The other group went on a 'Dark Worlds' Berlin from Below tour where they could see the actual bunkers used to shelter citizens in WW2. Following this, students went on a tour of the Stasi Prison (East German secret police) and then had another night out in the lively Kreuzberg quarter of Berlin.

The following morning the group split again with half of the students going on the 'Queer Berlin' tour and the other half attending a street art workshop. On the street art workshop, the instructor gave students a basic tutorial of how to produce street art and showed us a range of different techniques and styles we could use. While it's fair to say it came more naturally to some than others, by the end of the day, everyone had created masterpieces that they were then allowed to bring home. After a creative morning, if students hadn't had enough of street art, they could then either choose to go on a graffiti and street art tour or to go on the 'Green Tour of Berlin'. The street art tour of Berlin showed students the most famous pieces of street art around the city and

the knowledgeable tour guide explained the in-depth history of the art that covered almost every surface in Berlin. Students then joined together again to share what they had learnt and watch the World Cup Semi-final, between France and Belgium in Prenzlauer Berg.

The next day, we had the pleasure of visiting the city of Potsdam, just outside Berlin. We received a tour of the beautiful Sanssouci Palace that was once the home to the King of Prussia and learnt about the history of the beautiful city. That night, students were able to watch England again and tensions were running high throughout the game. Not only did frowns become more prominent as the game went on but the sky grew darker and in the most fitting way, there was a huge downpour as the whistle blew to coincide with England's semi-final defeat by Croatia. Disappointed and drenched, we went to bed that night with only one day in Berlin left.

Despite the disappointing result, we somehow managed to get out of bed the next day and go to the Bundestag. We received a tour of the building and were able to understand how the building ran day-to-day. The final activity we completed was a Topography of Terror guided tour and we were able to learn more in-depth about Germany's place in WW2 and about the secret police state in the 1930s. We then sadly said goodbye to the city of Berlin and headed off to the airport.

Overall, Berlin was an amazing trip and city. Everything we saw and everywhere we visited was interesting and engaging and not only was the trip enjoyable, but it also helped enhance our political understanding and hopefully will help us next year when sitting our politics exam.

Catherine Cape

City of London University Engineering Taster day

For our second Wider Skills Week visit our Physics students were welcomed to City of London University by Kat, their enthusiastic Schools Liaison Officer. They were then taken to one of the large lecture theatres where they received an interesting overview of what is involved in engineering, by an engineering professor. This excellent speaker not only described the sort of character traits possessed by a graduate engineer, but also how these highly regarded traits open doors to a wide variety of careers.

We were then taken on a guided tour of some of the university's facilities. In each department both lecturers and students demonstrated and explained the equipment they were using or the work they were doing.

Firstly, we got to see the flight simulators they are building in the aeronautical department and the range of different wind tunnels they use for testing aerodynamic properties. In the mechanical engineering department, we witnessed students putting the final touches to the racing car they had built from scratch ready for the 20th anniversary of the Formula Student race at Silverstone, which was only days away! Formula Student (FS) is the world's largest student engineering design competition, attracting entries from around the world, including USA, Australia, India, Canada and the Far East, as well as a wealth of European teams.

After lunch we were taken to the electrical and biomedical departments. We saw demonstrations of some of the latest

developments in renewable energy (solar cells and wind turbines) as well as the use of biomedical sensors to monitor various bodily processes.

Finally, we visited the civil engineering department, admired the structures their students had constructed for a bridge-building competition and got to see the huge centrifuge the department uses to scale up the stresses on their models. Hopefully our students now have a better idea of what being an engineer entails, as well as the various engineering disciplines available to them.

Sue Lawton



Wider Skills visit to the Emirates

The Physics students who opted for the "Fun with Physics" Wider Skills option got to explore the world of aviation with a full day session at the Emirates Aviation Experience, enjoying a guided tour, a "How aircraft fly" workshop, a 1 hour simulator experience and the interactive exhibition.

In the morning they explored the forces needed to generate flight and the crucial factors they require such as air, aerodynamics, ideal gases and science laws. They were able to investigate how weight, drag, thrust and lift affect flight with the interactive wind tunnel.

They looked at how aircraft are designed and examined the inner workings of a real Rolls-Royce Trent 900 jet engine to learn how the essential forces of lift and thrust are created.

[Did you know that the temperature in the core of a Rolls-Royce Trent 900 jet engine is 2000 degrees Celsius, half the temperature of the sun?]

Emirates Aviation Experience features four state of the art fixed based Flight Simulators; two Airbus A380's and two Boeing B777's. After lunch our students took over all four simulators and guided by a trained simulator instructor, they were able to pilot the plane

through a take-off and landing from any of 10 destinations. They could even choose the time of day and weather conditions to make it trickier! It was a great way to gain an insight into what it takes to fly a commercial aircraft.

The day ended admiring the breath-taking views of London on the Emirates Air Line. Our students journeyed to a height of 90 metres as they travelled the 1.1 km across the river Thames from the North Greenwich peninsula to the Royal Victoria Dock and back.

Sue Lawton



History Trip to Munich



For the final week of College, 30 history students had the excellent opportunity to go to Munich giving us a great chance to get a head start on our coursework. The trip began with a very early flight to Munich and although we arrived in Germany half-asleep, we looked forward to the full day planned ahead of us. On the first day, we got to visit the BMW Welt and go on a tour of the stunning Schloss Nymphenburg Palace. As well as this, we had time to ourselves to get lunch in the German markets and wander around Munich's beautiful city centre.

The trip to Dachau was very difficult. We had a guided tour around the concentration camp where we learnt the horrific conditions people had to endure. Despite learning the facts in our history classes, it is impossible for us to imagine the difficulties and horrors that occurred, but nothing can compare to walking around what was once a concentration camp and seeing it all in real life. This was a moving but deeply invaluable experience.

To learn more about Hitler and Nazi Germany, we went to Hitler's Eagles Nest in Berchtesgaden. We had a fascinating tour of Hitler's mountain retreat where the Nazi party frequently met. We had an hour to ourselves to explore the ruins, so we took the opportunity to walk along a trail around the cliff edge. Unfortunately, it was so foggy we could not see what would have been a view of the Alps. Despite the awful weather, it was an incredible view and certainly worth getting drenched in the rain to see it.

On Wednesday night, we went to an outdoor screen and with a beer in one hand and the England flag in the other, we were ready for the England Vs Croatia match. Scoring a goal in the first two minutes left us feeling hopeful but as the match went on we had a bitter realisation that football wasn't coming home... Croatian supporters drove past us cheering and waving their flags as we waited for the tram. It was a sad end to the night but otherwise a great evening spent cheering on England (a bit too loudly for Giles' liking).

On our final day, we enjoyed walking down the beautiful streets of Munich with our enthusiastic tour guide. We got to see many of the interesting sights of Munich's cultural city and we also learnt about its links to Hitler and the Third Reich. To end the day, we had time to go to St Peter's Church, near Marienplatz, where we climbed the tower to see the beautiful city from above.

Overall, we learnt many fascinating lessons both about Munich's present and past. We had a great time in Munich and we were sad to return home so soon, but it was the perfect way to finish off our last week of college.

Report by Dona Gyshinca, Photos by Francis Redfern

Media and Film workshop

As part of their Wider Skills Week activity, exploring Nordic Noir Crime Dramas, Media and Film students were lucky enough to complete a workshop with professional make-up artist, Monika Swiatek. Known for her work creating make-up effects for a variety of films, TV shows and music videos, Monika introduced students to a range of clever techniques. Not only were they taught the skills of replicating burns and bruising, but also how to construct grizzly make-up typically used in car accident scenes and serial killer abductions. This hands-on workshop enabled students to experiment for themselves with silicon and fake blood. Monika was particularly impressed with a couple of individuals who took her techniques and used them as a springboard for designing bespoke wounds: an example of independent learning at its best.

Becky Voller



Update from the Student Union

It is safe to say that the Student Union have not been bored over the past few weeks. The 2018 Summer Festival proved to be a fittingly sunny way of seeing off the Second Years' and celebrating the end of 6.1: the fairground rides were, as usual, a hit; the SU's face-painting stand provided all sorts of artwork; and the obstacle course race was far more competitive than anyone thought possible!

In an incredible show of community spirit, the Green for Grenfell day event saw students dressed up in green whilst raising money for Centerpoint. There were some incredible performances on the open mic, and even a visit from Dominic Raab; hopefully that won't be his last visit to the College, what with his newfound role as Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union.

During the holidays, the Student Union were in college to give prospective students some insight into life at Esher, as well as welcoming the new students at enrolment and induction. We are sure the SU aren't alone in wishing them the best of luck during their time here, the first year is over worryingly quickly!

Currently, we are working with the 6.1 Tutor Reps to organise the Freshers' event in October, selecting themes that the First Years' will be able to vote on very soon. In terms of charity events, Jeans for Genes day is coming up, coinciding perfectly with the onset of Autumn. Following the triumph of previous open mic events, we are preparing some more opportunities for Esher students to demonstrate their considerable talent to their peers, alongside some more festive bake sales in the run up to Halloween.

We look forward to working closely with the staff and students to continue the exciting atmosphere of these first few weeks.

Ben Jureidini
President



The Esher College Oscars



The annual Media, Film and Photography Oscars award night was held in college on the 24th May 2018. It was a wonderful evening celebrating student achievement as well as students commitment to their subjects and a lovely opportunity to share a selection of work with friends, family and staff. Students and staff dressed in black tie, and the winner for each category received a miniature Oscars trophy engraved with their award. The evening was a fitting send off for the departments' second year students, many of whom are continuing into creative and media based careers, universities or apprenticeships this year. Thank you very much from the Media, Film and Photography departments to everyone involved!

Fiona Thornton



Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2018

Friday 19th October	INSET
Monday 22nd to Friday 26th October	Half Term
Thursday 22nd November	Progress Review Evening (surnames A-F)
Tuesday 27th November	Progress Review Evening (surnames G-N)
Thursday 6th December	Progress Review Evening (surnames O-Z)
Wednesday 19th December	End of Term

Spring Term 2019

Thursday 3rd January	Term begins
Friday 11th January	'Catch Up Day' – no lessons
Thursday 7th February	Progress Review Evening (by invitation only)
Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February	Half Term
Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th March	Higher Education Evenings
Tuesday 19th March	Higher Education Day and Evening Convention
Thursday 4th April	6.2 Progress Review Evening (by invitation only)
Friday 5th April	End of Term

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23rd April	Term begins
Thursday 25th April	Apprenticeship and Employment Seekers Evening
Monday 6th May	May Day Holiday
Wednesday 8th May	6.1 Exam Leave
Monday 20th May	6.2 Exam Leave
Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May	Half Term
Monday 3rd June	6.1 students return to College - Start of 6.2 study
Wednesday 5th June	INSET
Friday 14th June	INSET
Wednesday 3rd July	Progression Exam Clinic (by invitation only)
Thursday 4th July	After Esher Day
Monday 8th to Friday 12th July	Wider Skills Activities
Friday 12th July	End of Term

Dates for Prospective Students and Parents (September 2019 admissions)

Thursday 17th January	Information Evening (parents)
Thursday 31st January	Information Evening (parents)
Tuesday 25th June	Introduction Evening (parents)
Thursday 27th and Friday 28th June	Introduction Days (students)

Start of Year 2019/20

Tuesday 27th to Thursday 29th August	Enrolment for new students
Monday 2nd September	Start of 6.2 Day

Dates for Prospective Students and Parents (September 2020 admissions)

Monday 1st July 2019	Open Evening
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Social Media

For more information on what's happening at Esher College, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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Adult Education Evening Courses 2018/2019

Our new leaflet is now available and offers a diverse range of courses including:

- IT
- Languages at various levels
- Counselling, Life Coaching & CPD workshops
- Art, Interior Design & Photography
- Health, Exercise & Therapies

Full details of all of our courses can be found on our website www.eshercollege.ac.uk/adult-education, or by calling Maureen or Leena on 020 8335 2544

Apprenticeship and Employment Seekers Evening: Thursday 25th April 2019 from 6.30 – 7.45pm in the College Theatre.

Parents and 6.1 students thinking of applying for an apprenticeship are invited to hear more about apprenticeship opportunities, how applications are made and what support Esher College provides for students during the process.

Speakers from apprenticeship providers and former students who have gone on to apprenticeships from Esher College will contribute to the presentations.