



Orchard Hill
College



Family Matters

March 2018

Welcome

Congratulations to all our students for their fantastic achievements this term. Many of our students started new work placement opportunities this term and it's been great to hear the positive feedback from students and employers. We also had a brilliant 'Celebration of Digital Discovery' this term at the Virgin Lounge in Piccadilly where some of our students showcased their work in developing digital products. Thank you to all of you who are attending our coffee mornings and engaging in discussions with us. Hopefully, some of you will be able to visit the CAOS Festival in July to see some works of expressive art by our students from Carshalton College centre (VPC).

Best wishes for a Happy Easter.

Dr Caroline Allen OBE

Principal & Chief Executive Officer, Orchard Hill College & Academy Trust



Expressive Art from VPC to be exhibited at the CAOS Festival

Students at the Vocational Progression Centre have been taking part in expressive art sessions. Teacher Gemma Collins encourages students to use a range of unique materials and innovative techniques to create some stunning pieces of art.

This piece was made by a student who poured the paint directly out of the bottles and then formed the patterns using a broken wooden paintbrush. He worked very fast and enjoyed the repetitive sounds the wooden brush handle made against the canvas.

Other methods students have used include pulling string through paint, using a fly swat to splatter paint and blowing glitter paint down a canvas.

Gemma commented: "This art project truly captures the students' creative abilities and enables them to express themselves independently."

If you would like to see the artwork, it is being exhibited at a new exciting community festival CAOSart18 on 1st July 2018 in Carshalton. www.carshaltonartists.com/artists



Supermarket Work Experience

Beaconsfield student Nasir has begun work at Sainsbury's in Kingston. He is currently gaining valuable work experience and is growing in confidence and acquiring some great independence skills. Nasir stacks the shelves and makes sure they are full and well organised. Nasir said: *"I am really enjoying my work at Sainsbury's, I work on Thursday morning for an hour and half each week."*



Nasir in action at Sainsbury's.

Home grown Apprentice

Aaron, a former Orchard Hill College student who is currently progressing well on his Customer Service Apprenticeship, has successfully passed his Functional Skills exam this month.

Aaron said: *"I am really enjoying my apprenticeship, it is great being part of the digital team and learning so many skills. I can now code and have my own webpage."*
Congratulations Aaron!



Apprentice Aaron being congratulated by Simon Gale, Creative Director of The Digital School.

Celebration of Digital Discovery

Our Digital School hosted an event at the Virgin Money Lounge in Haymarket in February with students from Orchard Hill College and Academy Trust.

Guests from the technology and education sector gathered for a “Celebration of Digital Discovery” where students displayed their digital talents with a range of products.

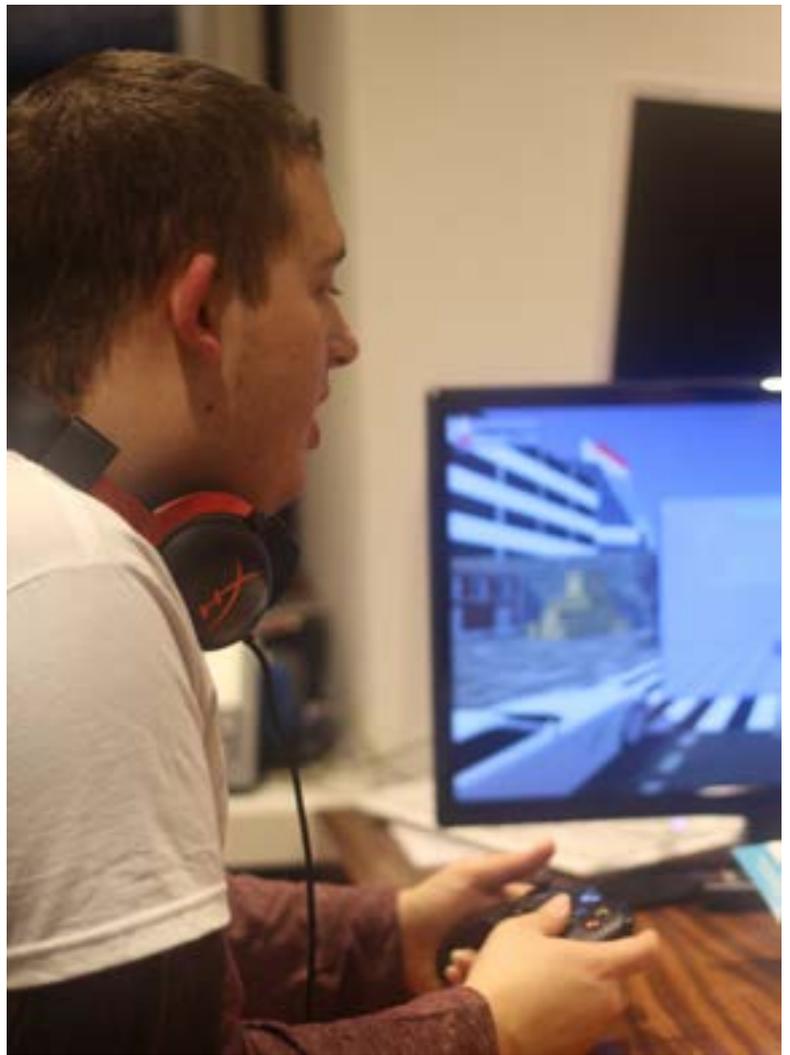
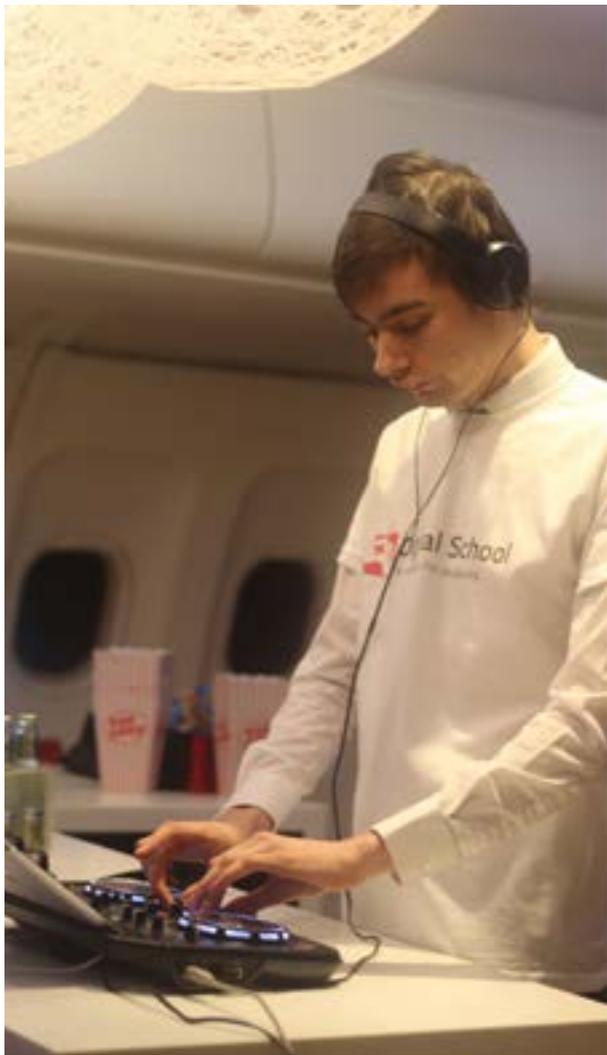
The Digital School was set up as a student led enterprise in 2015 to develop innovative and engaging digital resources for students, staff and the wider community. The School has come a long way in a short period of time, with a number of accessible digital products for both SEND and mainstream schools and colleges.

At the event, visitors were treated to a live podcast and a preview of a soon-to-be launched 3D game, “Road Sense”, designed to raise awareness of road safety and to promote travelling independently in a safe way. Students also demonstrated a series of augmented reality training cards which bring static items to life, making their lessons even more engaging and interactive.

Attendees were encouraged to get interactive and try out the virtual reality headsets that can transport users to Egypt or even experience life on Mars; more practically for students with SEND, VR enables them to become familiar with places and environments before they visit them.

This annual event provides the perfect platform for students to promote and showcase their innovations and hard work. The skills learnt on their journey are far reaching and impact on all areas of their lives, from enhanced communication skills to developing skills for work, which is exactly why we set up the Digital School.





Kane impresses staff at All Saints church

This term, BedZed student Kane started his work experience at All Saints church in Mitcham.

Staff observed that he was very focused and able to carry out a variety of jobs. Kane's hard work demonstrated his ability to follow instructions, stay focused and complete tasks in a work environment, these skills will be hugely important in enhancing Kane's future.



Kane taking pride in his work experience.

Great work Team Beaconsfield

Students from Beaconsfield went on an organised visit to All Saints Church in Kingston for their friendship group trip. Whilst they were there they spoke to two police officers about their new ID cards. All students carry these whilst out and about in the community. The students showed them that they contained their name and emergency contact details for the College so that in the event a student becomes separated from the group or staff member they are working with, they can be helped to be reunited quickly. The students also explained to the officers their knowledge of the safe place scheme and how if they see a shop or bank etc. with the sticker displayed they can ask the staff inside for help. Students also got to socialise together and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate.

By interacting with the Police, it reinforced for the students who it is safe to approach in the community. Staff accompanying students were very impressed with how confidently and competently the students displayed their cards to the officers and how they remembered the concept of the safe places scheme without prompting. Great work Team Beaconsfield!



Friends Reunited

Walid a student at Lomond House, went on an exciting visit to Nightingale centre where he was reunited with his previous peers Michael and Karim for a cooking session together. They were all very excited about seeing each other, Walid even chose to save a packet of crisps he had bought so he could share it with his friend Michael on arrival! Seeing the students so delighted about seeing each other, lecturers are planning different ways to support and maintain their friendship.

Walid also had a great time using public transport to travel between College centres, identifying safety procedures including; minding the gap in the underground platform and recognising his stop. This activity helped to build Walid's social and emotional skills and his interaction and connection with the wider world.

Lecturer, Cristina Salado concluded: *"It has been such a nice experience to see the friendship between the boys, which we will support them to sustain after College."*



Coffee Morning and Enterprise for Mother's Day

This term saw the introduction of coffee mornings in each of our regional hubs. The informal events provide an opportunity for students, parents and carers to engage with staff and talk through the transition process.

College students enjoyed getting involved by serving tea, coffee and biscuits and at the Nightingale session they hosted a mini enterprise selling their beautifully presented flower displays for Mother's Day.

Whilst it was lovely to see so many parents, we do understand that not all are available to attend events during working hours. With this in mind we are developing an online parent/carers forum.



Food for thought!

Students at Wyvern, Zac and George, attended their first work experience session at Uxbridge food bank this term. They both worked very hard in an unfamiliar and busy environment. Both students followed verbal instructions from staff, completing their set tasks effectively and as a team.

Learning Support Assistant Bola Ogunsola said: *“This was a fantastic opportunity for Zac and George to manage change, taking responsibilities, also to increase their listening skills and ability to follow instructions.”*



Dates for the diary

Easter Holidays

Last day of term for students:

Friday 23rd March

INSET day:

Friday 13th April

First day back for students:

Monday 16th April

Half term

Last day of half term for students:

Thursday 24th May

INSET day:

Friday 25th May

First day back for students:

Monday 4th June

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