



# CROYDON

## Education Matters

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

→  
**Game on as Croydon College introduces Esports BTEC**

Page 3



↑  
**Career opportunities through sport at Coulsdon**

Page 20



**Aiming to #BreakTheBias with International Women's Day celebrations**

Page 21



←  
**Students go for gold with copper competition**

Page 11



Croydon  
College



COULSDON  
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Croydon  
University  
Centre

# OUTSTANDING START TO THE YEAR FOR ALL INVOLVED

**It's been a successful start to 2022 for the Croydon College Group thanks to the continued efforts of our College community.**

It has been a great pleasure watching our students enjoy College life as the pandemic subsides. It has also at times been very hard work as we assess and address gaps in education through additional workshops and tuition, and support the health and wellbeing needs of our students. The effort and hard work all becomes worthwhile as we see students' progress and achieve, ready to face exams in the summer.

This term the College has continued its work with a wide range of employers - ensuring our curriculum meets local labour market needs, providing our students with work experience and 'live' assessment briefs, supporting businesses to recruit and train apprentices, and developing pathways into local jobs. Many thanks to all those businesses who are supporting and advising us.

Earlier this term we had a visit from Ofsted, who came to look at our Skills Bootcamp provision which we run in partnership with London South Bank University - the Bootcamp aims to support people back into work in engineering and construction related jobs. Feedback was very positive, we impressed them with the way the College works with local stakeholders including the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Croydon Council and employers in identifying local skills needs and ensuring our curriculum meets them. They were also very complimentary about our staff working on the programme, and highlighted how impressed they were with our teachers. Well done everyone!

We are very grateful for the support we received from a wide range of employers, the Council and DWP this term, thanks to their support we successfully made a business case to the Greater London Authority to increase the funding we have for Adult Education, both this year and next year. This means we can now support even more adults in our community back into education and employment which is an excellent result.

This term we have also had some changes within our leadership team. Odette Carew has left Coulsdon

Sixth Form College for a new opportunity which we wish her well with - I am currently acting as Principal at Coulsdon while continuing on my role at Croydon, supported by a very able senior management team.

We also have two Assistant Principals at Coulsdon, Shiraz Ahmed who joined the team in January, and Natalie Garner who was appointed in March as an interim Assistant Principal on secondment from Croydon.

As we look further ahead there are exciting opportunities on the horizon - we are introducing new new opportunities for students from September. At the Croydon campus this includes T Level Engineering and a BTEC in Esports. Our partnership with the University of Roehampton continues to strengthen and in September we plan to open a BSc in Children's Nursing at Croydon College. We have also got new courses planned in Barbering, Hospitality, and even in Gym Instructing and Personal Training which we will run in partnership with nearby employer The Gym Group - we can't wait for these to get started.

There are new courses starting at our Coulsdon campus too - including A Levels in PE and Economics, and BTECs in Criminology, Creative Digital, Cyber Security and Aviation. You can find out more about our new courses inside this newsletter.

These new opportunities come at a time where we are continuing to invest into providing new facilities at Croydon and Coulsdon.

Thanks to everyone - staff, stakeholders and partners - for their hard work this term, and to our students - for their willingness to engage, learn and exceed.

This newsletter is a fantastic showcase of the work we are all doing and I hope you enjoy reading, celebrating, and sharing our news.



**CAIREEN MITCHELL**

**Principal & CEO  
Croydon College Group**

## INSIDE THIS EDITION ↓

Follow us [f](#) | [t](#) | [i](#) | [in](#)



Page 3: New Faces



Pages 6-10: News & Views



Pages 12-13: Croydon  
University Centre News



Pages 18-20: Coulsdon  
Sixth Form College News



Pages 22-23: Art and  
Design News

# GAME ON.

as Croydon College introduces Esports BTEC



**A game-changing Esports BTEC is being introduced at Croydon College - making us the only College in the local vicinity to offer this course.**

Starting in September, this pioneering course will give students the opportunity to obtain either a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification and start a career in a fast-growing industry worth more than £1billion.

Played by both amateurs and professionals - and open to all - Esports is competitive video gaming, where gamers play against each other on online and at spectator events in large indoor arenas for medals, trophies and cash prizes.

Esports attracts millions of viewers worldwide. The entire Esports audience sat at 495m at the end of 2020. In comparison, the 2021 FA Cup Final was watched by a peak audience of 9.1m viewers and last year's Super Bowl attracted 96.4m viewers.

**The Level 2 Esports** qualification will prepare learners for work or an Apprenticeship by giving them the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge, technical and practical skills, as well as the chance to apply these skills in work-related environments - along with progression to the Level 3 qualification.

**The Level 3 Esports** qualification is aimed at people wanting to progress to employment in the Esports industry or may wish to enter Higher Education - with many universities offering degrees in the subject. Endorsed by the British Esports Association, it will be recognised by employers and could lead to a job as an Esports player, team coach, social media influencer, data analyst and much more.

The courses, accredited by Pearson, will equip learners with a number of transferable skills, including, but not limited to, development, events

management, marketing and production.

Martin Silverwood, our Vice Principal, Education and Quality, said: "Esports education is an exciting opportunity to learners in the local area and we're excited to be able to bring it to Croydon.

"While people may just think of it as playing video games, it's much more than that. By studying these courses, students can develop themselves personally and professionally while also learning a number of key, inter-changeable, skills which can be applied to a number of career options across virtually any sector."

**For more information on the Esports BTEC, and to apply, scan the QR codes below:**

**LEVEL 2** ↓

**LEVEL 3** ↓



# NEW FACES

It's not just students we're welcoming here regularly at the Croydon College Group, we're also being introduced to new staff all the time as well as we continue to improve and expand our teaching, support and enrichment offer for students across all campuses. Find out about three of our new faces below:

## SHIRAZ AHMED Assistant Principal



**Coulsdon Sixth Form College has welcomed a new Assistant Principal – Shiraz Ahmed.**

Shiraz joins the College from Sir George Monoux Sixth Form College, where he was the Head of the ICT & ALP Department for four and a half years.

With more than 10 years' experience in the areas of IT training, teaching and database design, Shiraz has a history of managing successful outcomes for students and adults in a variety of environments.

With a background in project management, Shiraz

has raised achievement to be within the top 10% nationally for value added date for four courses with more than 100 students, year on year, as well as raising diversity in the computing sector and developing a project to help raise achievement in a low achieving demographic.

A proven leader, he has managed staff, students and partnerships, working with the business community to offer innovative opportunities and further develop their employability skills, as well as embedding work experience into the curriculum.

Shiraz said: **"I'm delighted to be here at Coulsdon Sixth Form College and really excited to work with staff, students, stakeholders and employers to ensure we provide the best possible outcomes for all who learn here."**

## JEREMIE JEAN Sport Student Experience Officer



**Coulsdon Sixth Form College has a new Sport Student Experience Officer, giving them the chance to stay active and follow their passions alongside their studies for free.**

Jeremie Jean joined Coulsdon this year and has a keen interest in all sports, working

hard to invest in equipment to ensure all students, no matter their sporting desire.

Born in Mauritius, Jeremie moved to England when he was six years old, making Crawley his new home. He studied at Thomas Bennett Community College

in Crawley, including his sixth form studies. He then went on to the University of Chichester to study Football Coaching & Performance while working at Gatwick Airport's Superdry store.

Jeremie, who is a Level 2 FA-qualified Football Coach, said: **"It is vital for students to get into sport wherever they can as it keeps them active and engaged in their studies. It also helps with their wellbeing too."**

He added: **"I'm really excited to be working with the students as I have a passion for sport, and I feel like I'm good at helping people. The experience I had when I was in sixth form was great and I'm looking to bring that - and more - to our students here."**

## KIERAN DJILALI Student Experience Officer



**Kieran Djilali recently joined Coulsdon Sixth Form College as a Student Experience Office.**

Kieran has been a football coach in the borough for the last seven years and is Head Coach of the Junior Elite Football Club, supporting young talent for the Tandridge League.

Football is in Kieran's bones. He started at Crystal Place FC from 15 to 20, then went to AFC Wimbledon before playing for three different clubs in Ireland.

Kieran said: **"I'm passionate about working with young people and making a difference. I look forward to working with the students at Coulsdon Sixth Form College."**

# NEW COURSES FOR 2022

New courses are coming to Croydon and Coulsdon this September, giving residents opportunities to launch careers in a range of specialities. With applications open now, learners are being encouraged to explore what courses – and campuses – suit their learning and career ambitions and apply as soon as possible to secure their learning for next year.

Headed up by an innovative Esports BTEC endorsed by the British Esports Association, Croydon College is also introducing Level 2 courses in Barbering and Hospitality – as well as a Level 3 course in Gym Instructing and Personal Training.

At Coulsdon, there are courses in Criminology, Aviation Operations, Air Cabin Crew and Photography – all new for this year, adding to the BTEC, A Level and T Level offer from September.

To find out more information about these courses, and apply, follow the QR codes below. Remember, you can apply for as many Colleges as you like, so why not apply for both!



**Croydon  
College  
Courses** ←



**Coulsdon  
Sixth Form  
College  
Courses** ←



## Gym partnership to support students on new courses



We're introducing **Gym Instructing Level 2 and Gym Instructing and Personal Training Level 3 courses** to our curriculum to equip students with the knowledge and practical skills needed to work as a gym instructor and personal trainer.

Students embark on a variety of mandatory units as part of their course with a focus on fitness study, personal training, physiology, consultations, and understanding the leisure sector. Their achievements at Croydon College can propel

them further into higher education and other areas of fitness expertise, like sports therapy.

Croydon College has partnered with The Gym Group to give students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience that will take their studies to the next level and allow them to gain valuable insights.

↓ Scan the QR for more information and submit your application to join us this September.



## NEWS & VIEWS

### CROYDON MP VISITS CHEFS FOR FAIRTRADE AFTERNOON TEA

Our in-house public-facing training restaurant - Chefs - has hosted a Fairtrade Afternoon Tea, which was attended by Croydon Central MP Sarah Jones.

Only Fairtrade ingredients were used in the making of the afternoon tea, with Catering and Hospitality students - supported by tutors - operating in both kitchen and front-of-house roles.

Praising the event, Ms Jones tweeted: "What a joy to attend a Fairtrade Afternoon Tea made and served by students at Croydon College. Gorgeous food, lovely people. Thanks to Croydon Fairtrade Network."



### STUDENTS EXCEL IN TOQUE D'OR



Our Level 2 Professional Cookery students submitted six sumptuous dishes for Nestle's Toque d'Or competition, with teacher Clare Price praising the entrants for overcoming their anxieties to deliver top quality restaurant dishes.

Congratulations to students Ummee Mohamood, Thanya Ishaque and Jaovanni Reid have been successful in getting through to the next round of judging!

The Toque d'Or has been run by Nestle since 1989 and is considered the hospitality industry's most prestigious competition.

### Go further with DofE



Students from both Croydon and Coulsdon colleges have been taking part in this year's Duke of Edinburgh Awards, discovering new talents and interests, developing essential life skills, and connecting with others.

The Duke of Edinburgh Awards is also a recognised achievement by professionals, which means it looks great on your CV.

The Awards can be taken at one of three progressive levels, leading to gold, silver and bronze achievements, which include a range of activities like fitness and exploring, community and environmental actions, and residential projects.

Anyone can sign up to take part. The Duke of Edinburgh Awards is not about who you are, where you come from, or how you identify, it's about pushing yourself to go further, achieve more, and be your best.



More information about the Awards can be found by scanning the QR code.



### STAFF AWARDS

Staff across the Croydon College Group have been celebrated by their peers as part of the annual Staff Awards. Marking the end of an exceptional 2021, where staff worked tirelessly to ensure our community and those dependent on it were supported and succeeding, staff were asked to cast their vote in six categories.

Employees voted for their co-workers using an anonymous online portal. To see who won scan the QR code.





## SKILLS BOOTCAMP RECEIVES PRAISE FROM OFSTED

In January our Skills Bootcamps were subject to an Ofsted Thematic Survey, which took a deep dive into courses. Feedback was extremely positive with praise heaped on our work with local employers and our commitment to providing careers not courses. Our teaching staff also received high praise for their hard work and dedication in delivering the Skills Bootcamps.

Mike Davies, Skills Bootcamp delivery manager, said: "These bootcamps have been a fantastic opportunity for the college to have an impact on employment opportunities for residents of Croydon and further afield. "The relationships we continue to develop with employers, especially in the construction sector, are proving great opportunities to feedback to teachers and learners about the needs and requirements to get into a career".

We have run the Skills Bootcamps for just six months and they have already given people the chance to upskill and go further in their career.



## Ruskin Square Development – Lendlease site visit for Croydon College students



**Level 1 Electrical Installation students at Croydon College headed to Ruskin Square to visit (what will be) the new Home Office building in East Croydon, which is due for completion in April 2023.**

Students were given a tour of the site by Guy Braithwaite, Lendlease's Construction Director, and were fortunate to view some of the initial phases of the development.

The electrical installation students, along with other Construction students studying at higher levels, will be returning to the site later in the academic year to observe various stages of progress made on the project, which they are looking forward to!



← **CONSTRUCTION** **ENGINEERING** →  
To find out more about these courses  
and to apply for a place from September  
scan the QR codes.



## College of Sanctuary status for Croydon



**Croydon College has become one of the first Further Education providers in London to become a College of Sanctuary.**

A College of Sanctuary helps its students, staff, and wider community understand what it means to be seeking sanctuary and extends a welcome to everyone as equal and valued members of the college community. It is a college that is proud to be a place of safety and inclusion for all.

As a College of Sanctuary, we are committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all, especially those seeking sanctuary. It has also launched a working group made up of both staff and students, and are looking for staff and students with 'lived experience' of being a refugee or seeking asylum to join the group.

## NEWS & VIEWS

### STAR OF THE TERM



A shout out must go to Croydon College's Zainul Bangura who won a Sony PlayStation 4 for 100% attendance in English and Maths over the autumn term.

Zainul's teachers also commended him for his strong work ethic and consistently producing excellent work.

### College partnership addresses disability support for students

On Wednesday 23 February, we hosted our first Support Workers Information Evening in partnership with the Employability Hub and Croydon Vision.

The event brought residents, students, and professionals together to look at the fantastic support and assistance available through the College to ensure that no one misses out on their education.

Mike Davies, manager at Employability Hub, said: "It was a really great evening. We're really proud that we can work with local organisation, like Croydon Vision and DWP, to put on events like this which can have such a positive impact on the Croydon community."

### What's in a name?



This LGBTQ+ History Month we took the step of introducing pronoun badges to allow people to visibly identify how they choose because everyone, no matter who they are, deserves respect.

We also had a visit from The Bridge who provide emotional and wellbeing support for LGBTQ+ youth in the borough, and we celebrated LGBTQ+ authors and stories.

## Big Yellow Skills Bus School Partnership Programme

We're all about supporting local young people into Further and Higher Education and kickstarting careers, and the School Partnership Programme presents a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase what Croydon College, Coulsdon Sixth Form College, and Croydon University Centre has to offer.

This month we're springing into action by taking our Big Yellow Skills Bus on a tour of the area, introducing locals - through visits to more than 10 schools across to the borough - to the world of Further and Higher Education and our wide range of courses and Apprenticeships.

Our courses span a multitude to

industries, including Health and Social Care, Art and Design, Business Management, Beauty, Carpentry, Music, Construction, Engineering, Film and Photography, Hairdressing, Hospitality, and Esports!

The visits will also have fun activities for pupils to take part in, with prizes available - including a Sony PlayStation 4.

The tour is being arranged by the College's School Partnership Programme, who also host Taster Days, Open Events and Assemblies to help engage our community in taking their aspirations to the next level. Students can attend events virtually or in-person, benefit from engaging, interactive



lecture experiences, as well as tour campuses and meet staff.

If you know a school or Education facility that would benefit from a window into the world of Further and Higher Education, and to find out more, please email: [Natalie.Oliver@Croydon.ac.uk](mailto:Natalie.Oliver@Croydon.ac.uk)

## Grade 5 food hygiene rating for Chefs Restaurant



**Our state-of-the-art onsite training restaurant that is open to the public – Chefs Restaurant – has achieved a Grade 5 food hygiene rating from the Food Standards Agency.**

This is the highest rating possible for businesses, and lets customers know hygiene standards are very good. The rating is given following an inspection by food safety officers, which covers a number of hygiene issues, including the handling of food, how food is stored, how food is prepared, the cleanliness of facilities and how food safety is managed.

Chefs Restaurant can be accessed via Park Lane and allows members of the public to enjoy restaurant-quality food and service at a fraction of the usual price, with two courses for £10 and three courses for £15.

The restaurant is run by our Catering and Hospitality students who are taught and supervised by highly-skilled tutors with years of industry experience, offering students the experience of working in a commercial environment.

Fadia Clarke, Croydon College Group Vice Principal Training Skills & HE, said: "Fantastic news! Well done to

all. This rating is a reflection of the quality of food and the environment."

For more information on Chefs Restaurant, including opening times, visit [www.croydon.ac.uk/chefsrestaurant](http://www.croydon.ac.uk/chefsrestaurant)



QR code.

To find out more about our wide range of Hospitality and Catering courses and to apply for a place from September scan the



## Exploring role of skills in Croydon's recovery at Summit

**Business Live returned in 2022 with an exciting in-person event dedicated to helping local businesses network and work together for a better borough.**

Fadia Clarke, our Vice Principal, Training, Skills & HE, spoke at the Skills Driving Recovery session, with a focus on technology and innovation, including exciting enterprises like the Green Skills Academy and Digital Skills Hub, which is supporting learners across the borough to access digital skills training, apprenticeships, work placements, and jobs. The discussion explored how jobs, skills, culture, education, and sustainability all have an important role to play when it comes to reimagining our high streets, towns, and businesses.

## PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

**Students from our Coulsdon campus took part in the Peace Education Programme, run in partnership with the Peace Network.**

The programme featured 11 workshops on 10 themes, giving students the opportunity to explore their inner resources on topics like peace, choice, and contentment.

Certificates were presented to Kellie Figueiredo (pictured), Ruhie Palta, Grace Salami and Kymani White.

All participants highly recommend the course and there are plans to run the Peace Education Programme again in the future.



## NEWS & VIEWS



# World Book Day

We got dressed up for World Book Day, a day dedicated to making reading accessible for young people around the globe.

The UNESCO-led event highlights the benefits of a good book, from academic studies to falling in love with great stories.



## JANUARY IN BRIEF



**January was a wild month for Croydon - literally!**

We welcomed Nonu the therapy dog, trained to provide affection and comfort in times of anxiety and distress. HIV Testing Week also took place in January and we were visited by the AIDS Health Foundation who explained the importance of testing.

## Ukraine Appeal

Students and teachers came together to help support relief efforts in Ukraine through West Wickham and Shirley Baptiste Church, who were collecting donations of essential items for people fleeing their homes, including bedding, non-perishable foods, and medical supplies.

## DO MORE. BE MORE!

**Our campuses are hubs of activity outside the classroom with loads of opportunities for you to meet other people, learn new skills, and have fun!**

Our Student Experience team organise a whole host of regular free activities, including football, yoga, table tennis, song writing, quizzes and bingo, ensuring there's something for everyone. We also celebrate a variety of awareness days giving everyone the opportunity to learn about and engage with social issues.

Our Student Enrichment team has also been planning activities like gym club, arts and crafts, mindfulness workshops, book club, and lunch club. Eligible students will also receive meal vouchers for £5.50, which more than covers a tasty £2 breakfast. Yum!



You can find out more by reading our Do More, Be More enrichment programme by scanning the QR code.

2022



# A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

## Our Level 2 Carpentry students have been smashing it!

Since September they've made amazing progress with a mix of studying and hands-on practical work, including floor-laying, joisting and fitting kitchens. In July, they'll be ready to take on work placements or apprenticeships.



## Electrical Installation competition winners



### Electrical Installations students have taken part in a friendly competition to showcase their learning and skills.

The first heat, in December, saw students given two and a half hours to test two different circuits on an installation board, judged by Axis Europe's Richard Peach, who also spoke to students about his experience and career opportunities.

The final took place in February. Congratulations to winners Nicholas Stratford (Level 1), Dean Housley (Level 2) and Arthur Garcia (Level 3).

## College hosts Constructing Excellence breakfast



**We welcomed industry professionals to network and gain insight at the Croydon Constructing Excellence Club on 3 March, hosted at Chefs restaurant.**

More than 30 construction sector leaders from the local area enjoyed hot drinks and sausage and bacon rolls while hearing from Kosh Kar, Development Lead of the Greater London Authority's Infrastructure Coordination Service, the College's Head of the World of Work Nicola Tarry and Employability Hub Manager Mike Davies, as well as Miemie Neethling-Taylor, our Head higher Education.

## Copper competition sees students go for gold



### Our Level 2 Heating & Ventilation students took part in a competition to show their copper skills.

The challenge required the students to plan the task, create a materials list, complete a risk assessment and hot-works permit, then install copper pipework, fill, vent, and pressure test to 5 bar. Igors Toconovs (top left) took first place and designed the amazing Croydon College sign. Matthew Cannon finished a close second. The prize money was spent on new tools for work.





## WHERE CAREERS ARE MADE

### MUSEUM VISIT IS ON BRAND



Our Business and Management students at Croydon University Centre took a trip to the Museum of Brands to explore their collection spanning 200 years of lifestyles, culture, and social change.

The exhibition brought branding to life with one student saying: "It's really exciting to see how the concept of brands and its use have changed over the decades. It's great to go and learn in a different environment sometimes."

### Students are our Ambassadors

Our student ambassadors stepped up to the plate to help at our recent Open Event.



Ambassadors donned branded t-shirts, escorted guests on a tour of the facilities, and talked about their experience at Croydon University Centre. Miemie Neethling-Taylor said: "We are very pleased that we have such a fantastic student community

willing to participate in events and showcase what the university has to offer. It's very rewarding to work alongside student ambassadors."

## ALUMNI NETWORK

Here at Croydon University Centre we're keen to establish an active alumni network to support current and past students.

Miemie Neethling-Taylor, Head of Higher Education, said: "The alumni network has been in development for several months and we're eager to push this forward. Our University Centre has nurtured so many talented and inspiring graduates over many years. It's our ambition to create an active network to inspire lifelong learning benefiting not only our graduates but also current students."

## HIGHER TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS COMING SOON

We are very excited to be announcing the launch of Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs). A bid has been secured to prepare for the launch of a HTQ in Construction at Level 4 in September 2023. Currently, we deliver a Higher National Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment, which the new qualification will build on.

HTQs are either new or existing Level 4 and 5 qualifications (such as HNCs and Foundation Degrees) that have been approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education as meeting occupational standards for the relevant sector. These qualifications have been developed by awarding bodies in collaboration with employers and businesses so that students get the specific training, knowledge and skills required for their chosen career.

HTQs will be able to offer students high-quality courses that will be a popular choice, giving them another route to consider alongside apprenticeships, traineeships and degrees.





# ROYAL HONOUR FOR UNIVERSITY CENTRE LAW LECTURER

**A Croydon University Centre lecturer has been awarded the Queen's Police Medal as part of the New Years' Honours list.**

**Gordon Barclay, a Law lecturer at our University Centre and Detective Sergeant with the Met Police, was awarded the honour for his distinguished services and efforts as a police officer.**

DS Barclay said: "I am both humbled and honoured to receive this award."

As national policy lead for the police use and management of informants, DS Barclay played a key role working with the Home Office to bring to fruition the Covert Human Intelligence Sources (Criminal Conduct) Act 2021, which supports the informant and police to take regulated additional steps to prevent serious crime and harm. He also led a national policing review on

the options of working with young people to provide information on crime that resulted in new laws.

At the University Centre, Gordon is a sessional lecturer, teaching law modules on the BA Business & Management programme and the HNC Business course, and previously taught on the LLB (Hons) degree programme.

Miemie Neethling-Taylor, Head of Higher Education at Croydon University Centre, said: "Congratulations to Gordon, this honour is a fantastic recognition of his work. Well-liked by and an inspiration to so many students and staff alike, hearing this news was a great way to start 2022."



**Gordon Barclay, Law lecturer  
Croydon University Centre and  
Detective Sergeant, Met Police**

## Croydon Futures

**Croydon College and Croydon University Centre hosted Croydon Futures in collaboration with Roehampton University and the BIG South London Partnership.**

Croydon Futures is the careers and education fair where learners and employers can meet and explore the next steps of their journey. Some of the employers who joined us were NHS Trust Croydon, Croydon Council, HSBC, Constructing South London, Mott MacDonald, and the National Careers Services.

The event included other London-based education providers, like St Mary's University, South Thames College, Richmond College, and Kingston University.

The featured a series of workshops and activities, including how to write a great CV, and how to fund your course.

## Looking to work with early years?

**Our BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies degree focusses on child development and pedagogical approaches to working with young children, placing learners in practical settings, like nurseries, schools or playgroups, as well as equipping them with the knowledge to build a career.**

The degree was recently updated with the University of Roehampton to ensure it meets standards in the Framework for Higher Education.



Course leader Lisa Fitches said:

"This is a fantastic course aimed at those looking to enter the exciting world of early years or those already working within play settings. Our learners make this course, their experience bring the theory to life and it's lovely to see them grow during the programme."

# WORLD OF WORK

## National Careers Week 7 - 11 March 2022

National Careers Week

**NCW**  
 @CAREERSWEEK

We enjoyed a whole week of activity for National Careers Week, including an employability session from Reed Recruitment Agency. More than 100 students gained valuable insights, including expert tips and advice on how to write a great CV, and how to create an attention-grabbing LinkedIn profile. Students were also able to work together, explore ideas, and ask questions.

Bharvi Patel, regional manager at Reed, said the event was "a great opportunity to share advice with students to support them in future job searches. Well done to everyone involved!"

### School Partnership Programme inspires local students

We're all about supporting young people in Higher Education and kickstarting careers. Our School Partnership Programme is a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase what the College Group has to offer.

Our courses span a multitude of industries, including Health and Social Care, Art and Design, Business Management, Beauty, Carpentry, Music, Construction, Engineering, Film and Photography, Hairdressing, Hospitality, and now Esports!

Alfred Cardona, Head of Learning at Croydon College, and Nicola Tarry, Head of World of Work, joined Bonus Pastor Catholic College and delivered a presentation to Year 10 students on the new T Level courses and the value of Apprenticeships.

Bonus Pastor said on LinkedIn: "Thank you to Croydon College for presenting a fantastic assembly on T Levels and Apprenticeship pathways to our Year 10s. An inspirational and informative assembly to help our students start thinking more about their post-16 options."

#NCW2022

Headline Partner:



# Apprenticeship Vacancies Apply Now!

**As one of the largest Apprenticeship providers in South London, we have a number of opportunities for people to earn while they learn and kickstart a new career.**

From Administration roles, to Digital Marketing, Construction Site Supervisor, HR Support and Commis Chef positions, there really is something for everyone.

And, what's better, is these vacancies are updated year-

round, so there is no need to wait for the start of the academic career to learn a new skill or start a new career.



Visit the QR code for more information on available vacancies, and if

any employers are interested in bringing in an Apprentice, email Nicola Tarry, Head of the World of Work at the Croydon College Group:

Nicola.tarry@croydon.ac.uk





# APPRENTICESHIP WEEK TAKES CAREERS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

**National Apprenticeship Week was marked in February with the spotlight firmly on the amazing work done by Apprentices across the country, and the opportunities Apprenticeships can offer.**

The World of Work team delivered a week-long programme of events that gave participants the opportunity to discover new apprenticeships, hear from employers, and apply for a wide range of vacancies.

Students and employers discussed the benefits of hands-on training, putting skills into practice whilst earning a wage, and gaining the right skills and qualifications for your chosen career.

Apprenticeships are available across a variety of industries and available to everyone aged 16 and over, at any skill level.



← To see what apprenticeships vacancies are currently available please scan the QR code.

## APPRENTICESHIP CASE STUDY

### Izzy Reynolds – Customer Service Apprentice

**An apprenticeship is a job in training. The right apprenticeship position is the first step to starting a rewarding career. Our apprenticeship team works along with you to ensure you gain the right qualification, acquire new skills, and attain valuable experience, all whilst earning a wage. Here's what one of our trainees had to say about their experiences.**

#### Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

Because while studying my A Levels I knew university wasn't going to be for me – so I started looking at other options and Apprenticeships came up, and I love the idea of earning while learning.

#### What's the PPF experience like?

The PPF experience has been amazing. The support I get from my managers and also my tutors has been great and any questions I have I know I can go to them. The PPF have been so welcoming to me and made sure I had enough time every week to complete my College



work. I have learnt so much about what the PPF do and how we support our members, and I am able now to answer the calls we receive daily from our members. The College also supported me with weekly meetings to see how I was I was getting on and were also there for me to ask any questions.

#### What does the future hold for you at the Pension Protection Fund?

At the moment I don't know, but one of the amazing things about the PPF is that you can move around to different parts of the organisation, whether that is through a secondment or a full time role.

## NEWS & VIEWS

# COLLEGE GROUP PROUD TO SPONSOR CROYDON BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

**The Croydon College Group will be sponsoring this year's Croydon Business Excellence Awards.**

The College will be sponsoring the Business Commitment to Education and Skills Award. Leaders and staff joined Croydon businesses at the Awards Launch Event on Wednesday 23 March at London South Bank University's Croydon campus.

The Launch Event, which was free to attend, closed a day of events for Croydon businesses – the Croydon Economic Summit and Business Live Expo, which we were also present at, networking and collaborating with the borough's leading entrepreneurs and employers.

The Croydon Business Excellence Awards is the largest and most prestigious event in the borough, celebrating the businesses that have not only survived the events of the past two years, but have thrived,



become part of the fabric of the community, and gone the extra mile. This year, there are 12 awards categories, as well as the prestigious Business of the Year category.

Applicants will begin a three-part entry process, including a second-round submission and a public vote.

To find out more go to:  
[www.croydonawards.co.uk](http://www.croydonawards.co.uk)

# Helping residents learn new digital skills

**Based in the heart of the one of the top 10 tech destinations in the UK – we will be working with 17 of the borough's employers to ensure residents can obtain the digital skills needed to excel in their careers.**

The Croydon Digital Skills Hub will support learners to gain access to tech training, apprenticeships, work placements, job opportunities and increase digital inclusion, while also supporting employers in the digital sector to understand how to break down barriers and increase inclusivity.

Croydon College, who are working alongside John Ruskin College and BAPEI as well as the employers, are covering three subject areas:

**BCS Level 3 Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Advanced) (ITQ)**

**NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Cyber Security Practices**

**NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Coding Practices**

These courses are free for learners, and employers referring an existing

member of staff will co-fund the training with a 30% cash contribution. (These courses are free for learners who do not currently hold a Level 3 or higher qualification).



### FIND OUT MORE:

If you are considering a career change or resuming your career with a focus on digital skills, scan the QR code and fill in the Digital Skills Hub enquiry form.



## INTRODUCING

# T-LEVELS

## TAKE YOUR FUTURE TO THE NEXT LEVEL



Croydon  
College



COULSDON  
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



We've introduced T Levels, the new alternative to A Levels and Apprenticeships that offer a 45-day industry placement to give you valuable, hands-on work experience. Students spend 80% of their course in the classroom, with the other 20% dedicated to putting those skills to use in the real world. Significant investment has been made at both campuses to enhance the learning experience for students.

### T Levels at Croydon

You can do a two-year Level 3 Engineering and Manufacturing T Level at Croydon College, where you'll work within the sector to understand how materials,

conditions and context influence designs and products. You'll also learn essential maths for engineering and manufacturing as well as developing commercial and financial awareness.

### T Levels at Coulston

You can do a two-year Level 3 Science T Level at Coulston Sixth Form College with a focus on Laboratory Science, giving you the opportunity to explore the health and science sectors, collect and understand lab data in a clinical environment and resolve issues. This course will put you on track to career opportunities in skilled employment and higher academic studies.

Scan the QR codes below to discover more:

### CROYDON COLLEGE ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING

Maintenance, Installation  
and Repair for Engineering  
and Manufacturing

To find out more  
scan the QR code →



### COULSDON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

SCIENCE  
Laboratory Science

To find out more  
scan the QR code →



# COLLEGE ALUMNI

Even after leaving education, we love to stay in touch with our former students who remain a key part of our community.

## EMMA JONES WORK PLACEMENT OFFICER, WORLD OF WORK

"I recently joined the World of Work team as a Work Placement Officer having studied at Croydon College many years ago. My career started in human resources after completing a GNVQ3 in Business & Finance. The module ignited a passion and intrigue into business recruitment, so I did a work placement in the personnel team at Chessington World of Adventures. I then moved on to studying a Postgraduate Diploma in HR Management in the evenings at Croydon College. These studies gave me a long career in HR, most of it spent with the NHS. I'm now using my skills and experience in careers education, matching students with industries, allowing them to gain valuable experience and career insights."



## TAYLOR O'DRISCOLL, LOCAL COUNCILLOR

"I did a BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Business at Croydon College, where I achieved a D\*DD. In my final year at college, I was elected as a Tandridge District Councillor, and since finishing my course, I received offers from five universities to study Law. I also work for a Croydon-based organisation and provide digital campaigning training for government candidates in Tandridge and Horley."



## JAMIE REID, ARTIST

"I had a good and creative time at Croydon College, it was a time of inspiration and change. My fellow students were Malcolm McLaren (manager of the Sex Pistols) and Sean Scully (world-renowned artist). We all thrived at college."



## COULSDON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

# Students step up to create common room



Before

**Students at our Coulsdon campus have transformed a former dance studio into a common room for use outside of lessons.**

The College provided funding to enable the changes to be made, with students taking the lead on the branding, design and renovation of the new space.



After



After

## FULL TIME COURSES



Apply now  
for September  
[Coulson.ac.uk](https://Coulson.ac.uk)

**COULSDON**  
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE





## YouTube Reframe

**Liliana Linhares has spilled the beans on the recent opportunity she was involved with on YouTube.**

Liliana took part in a discussion on tackling online hate as part of the YouTube Reframe series, hosted by influencer Amelia Dimoldenberg.

YouTube Reframe is a new series breaking down the skills young people need for life online, and feature many up and coming names within the industry. In the episode featuring Liliana, guests discuss how they tackle online hate and how together we can stop it happening when we see it.



LILIANA LINHARES ↓



← To watch the YouTube Reframe series 1, scan the QR code

Liliana's Episode 4: Tackling Online Hate Ft. Jacob and Ollie →



## FASHION SPOTLIGHT

**Two former fashion students at Coulsdon Sixth Form College have recently been identified as leading figures in their fields.**

BTEC Fashion graduate **Josephine Miller** ([www.josephinemiller.art](http://www.josephinemiller.art)) was featured on Instagram page Metacurated by one of the leading extended reality (XR) creators, Don Allen Stevenson III as one of the top five XR designers and educators who are also building the next creative communities of the metaverse. Josephine, who went on to study Art Direction at Kingston University, was last year featured in the BIMA 100, which recognises the most influential people in Digital & Tech, for her community-based project Colouring in Kingston.

**Linus Steuben**, who studied BTEC Fashion and A Level Graphics at Coulsdon in 2018 as part of the exchange programme, has also received recognition. Now studying BA Fashion at Central Saint Martins (CSM), his garment for the annual CSM White Show was featured in Perfect Magazine, along with an interview.

## SPOTLIGHT ON AVIATION



**With new aviation courses coming to Coulsdon in September, we caught up with Travel and Tourism student Ben Roberts about his experience and hopes for the future.**

**How did you take the right steps into pursuing your dream job?**

I had to retake Maths to do Travel and Tourism at Coulsdon. Anuja Joseph was my Maths teacher, and she took me from a Grade 2 to Grade 5 with extra lessons and Zoom meetings.

**What have you liked most about your time at Coulsdon?**

The students help me feel supported in a friendly environment. I can ask anyone for help and they're happy to step up. I'd recommend Coulsdon College to anyone thinking of moving into higher Education.

**We hear you're off to university?**

In my final year at Coulsdon I received an unconditional offer for Buckinghamshire New University to study Air Transport with commercial pilot training. I feel I've accomplished so much, despite the pandemic.

**What do you plan to achieve at university?**

I hope to be a cargo pilot. In my first year I'll be getting to grips with what I'll be learning, but in the second year I'll be sent to get my private pilot licence. You need to complete 45 hours of solo flight. Once that's done, I'll be planning flights.

When I finish university, I'll get a frozen 80 PL, full pilot's licence, which will allow to move towards airlines like British Airways and EasyJet.



← To find out more about our Travel and Tourism courses, scan the QR code.

## COULSDON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH SPORT AT COULSDON



Thanks to FTF Academy for the photos

**Set in one of Croydon's greenest district centres with light, contemporary classrooms and acres of green and open space, Coulsdon Sixth Form College provides students with outstanding learning facilities.**

With courses supported by a number of enrichment opportunities, there is an exclusive opportunity for students to follow their sporting hobbies into lifelong, fulfilling, careers.

From a Level 2 BTEC in Sport to a Level 3 Diploma Sport, BTECs are also available as equivalent to one or three A Levels through Extended Certificate and Extended Diploma courses, spread over two years. New for September 2022 is an A Level PE course.

Our Health, Psychology, Public Services and Sport faculty engages with employers including the Palace for Life Foundation, the Met Police, the Army and personal



trainers to name a few, highlighting the range of career opportunities available post-studies.

Our sporting facilities include an indoor sports hall and astroturf pitch, as well as a gym with both cardio machines and weights, as well as table tennis tables and two outdoor tennis courts with markings, equipment and provision for netball and basketball, as well as a full-size football pitch for 11-a-side matches.

Carly Holness, Head of Faculty Health, Psychology, Public Services and Sport, said: "Here at Coulsdon we provide an inclusive environment which provides the facilities and support to allow our learners the experiences and opportunity to develop themselves to progress into a range of sporting and active leisure pathways.

"Through the tuition of our lecturers who have active vocational knowledge; national and international sporting experience as well as their interactions with our employer links and prospects for Extended Work Placements, our students aspire to and have progressed in to a variety of disciplines ranging from Nutritional Health, Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology, Sports Journalism and Teaching."



To find out more about the sport courses available at Coulsdon, scan the QR code.

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

**On International Women's Day we struck a pose and made a collective commitment to #BreaktheBias.**

We're an inclusive place of higher education and we want everyone to feel welcome and valued. International Women's Day is recognised every year on 8 March to encourage us all to work towards an equal and fair society.

During the week of International Women's Day, students took part in workshops on inspirational women, like Rosa Parks and her role in the Civil Rights Movement, Michelle Obama, and Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu, with one student reflecting on her own personal mentor who helped her through troubled times. Even Lucia Guetcherian, the programme leader, was credited as being an inspiration.



## ART & DESIGN

# Bringing art to life



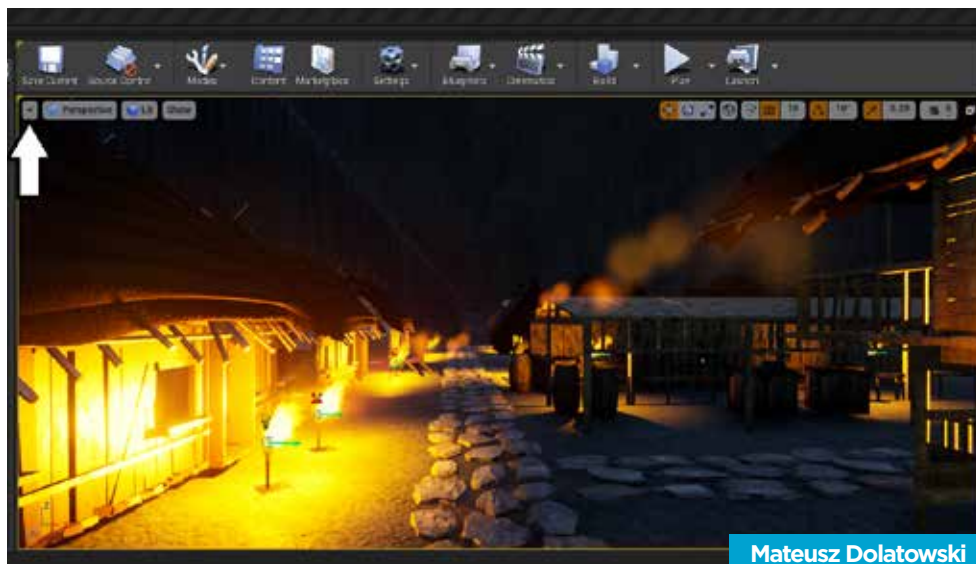
Ashley

**Our amazing Games and Animation students have been creating incredible work from concept sketches to fully realised moving characters and scenery.**



Rhiana Gordon

Over this term, our Animation and Digital Media students have been creating outstanding work, based on their own ideas, concepts and designs to create 3D environments and characters. They have been working to understand their audience, budgets, platforms, and technical limitations that aid their game design and production. Students also attended workshops to enhance their digital skills in Photoshop, model making, and creating textures.



Mateusz Dolatowski

## Turf Projects

Students were treated to a visit from Turf Projects where they were able to hear from practising artists and get tips and advice on their creative future.



## Moulding and Shaping

The Level 1 Art & Design students have been working collaboratively to explore shape and colour in their sculpture work.





## REIMAGINE THE WORLD!

**Our Art & Design students are working on their creative brief – Reimagine the World.** Two of our students were interested in using odds and ends to create their piece with a focus on technology, humans and what the future may hold. To give them some inspiration, we took them down to the motor engineering department to get a look inside the cars and start thinking about shapes, texture and colour.

# MUSIC TO OUR EARS

It's always great to hear of students going on to succeed once they leave their studies with us, like fashion designer John Rocha, comedian, presenter and artist Noel Fielding, performer and internet sensation Michael Dapaah, and multi-award-winning singer, songwriter FKA twigs. We caught up with some of our college alumni who are making waves in the music industry to find out how their experiences with us helped to shape their careers.

### RECKLESS DEMEANOUR RAPPER/PRODUCER



“

I studied Music Performance and Music Technology at Coulsdon College. I remember the practice rooms in the music department, especially room 217. The teachers were great and really encouraging. I went on to study music at uni and a lot of what I learnt at Coulsdon I applied to my degree.

If you're stepping into higher Education – stay organised. The workflow can be a lot, but if you're doing something you enjoy then it makes the subject more engaging.”

”

### JASMINE ARDLEY, SINGER/MUSICIAN



“

I studied Music Performance, Performing Arts and Creative Media at Coulsdon College. I enjoyed it very much; I developed skills in my lessons that I still use today, and my teachers were very supportive, helping me make the best decisions. My courses helped me as I moulded myself into a musician and considered my directions, career-wise. Don't hold back. If you want to go for it, just go for it – take a chance and it might be the best decision of your life.”

”

# DIARY DATES 2022



EVENT	DATE
Easter Holidays	Monday 11 April – Friday 22 April
Summer Term	Monday 25 April – Friday 1 July
Mayday Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May
Higher Education Taster Week	Wednesday 4 May – Monday 9 May
Summer Half Term	Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June
Croydon College Welcome Day	Tuesday 28 June
A Level Results	Thursday 18 August
Croydon Main Enrolment	Monday 22 August – Friday 26 August
GCSE Results	Thursday 25 August
Autumn Term	Monday 5 September – Friday 16 December
Autumn Half Term	Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October



Easter Holidays	Monday 11 April – Friday 22 April
Mayday Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May
Higher Education Taster Week	Monday 9 May – Friday 13 May
Summer Half Term	Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June
Open Event	Wednesday 29 June, 4pm – 7pm
CUC Enrolment	Tuesday 30 August – Friday 2 September
Autumn Term	Monday 5 September – Friday 16 December
Autumn Half Term	Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October



Easter Holidays	Monday 11 April – Friday 22 April
Summer Term	Monday 25 April – Friday 1 July
Mayday Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May
Summer Half Term	Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June
Coulson Welcome Day	Wednesday 29 June
A Level Results	Thursday 18 August
GCSE Results	Thursday 25 August
Coulson Main Enrolment	Thursday 25 August – Friday 26 August
Autumn Term	Monday 5 September – Friday 16 December
Autumn Half Term	Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October



\*LATE ENROLMENT DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MAY BE EXTENDED DEPENDING ON ENROLMENT NUMBERS