

collegenews

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Contents

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- Welcome
- College Restructure
- New Building at Brampton
- SWA Exhibition
- Learner Support
- Campaign for Adult Ed
- A Fond Farewell
- Summer Festival
- Therapy Students Excel

Message from the Principal

To all our returning students and those who are attending courses with us for the first time, welcome to the start of another learning year with Adult Education College Bexley and our first edition of College News for 2010/11. With an uncertain economic climate still impacting on all our everyday lives and with so many ongoing changes happening all around us, it is particularly pleasing for us to see a 12.6% increase on our overall enrolments in comparison with the same time last year.



Alongside of this our College examination results have also seen an upward trend - with the average pass rate for GCSE

subjects increasing from an already high 96.4% last year to 98.6% this year; whilst our 'A' level average pass rate moving from 82% to 89%; together with many other successes across a range of subject areas.

For the College therefore, a very positive start to this new academic year – and we now want you to be a part of our next year's success stories. Thank you for joining Adult Education College Bexley - let me wish you a successful and enjoyable learning-year ahead.

Malcolm Tite Principal

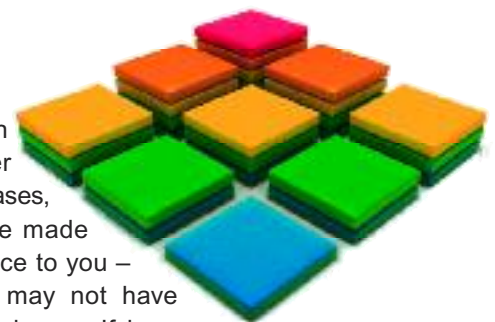
College Restructure

In common with all other adult learning providers, we have been subject to ongoing funding reductions and have had to face a reduction of just under 10% this year. This in turn has led to the College needing to review and revise all of its operational functions... and to restructure.

A major part of our restructure has already taken place with a revised curriculum management structure headed by two Heads of Department, together with a number of other changes; and the discontinuation of two of our three satellite centres at Howbury and Palm

Avenue.

Hopefully in the greater majority of cases, this will have made little difference to you – in fact you may not have noticed any change. If however you have been affected by any changes, we hope you will at least appreciate the context and see unavoidable need for them.



Opening of New Building at Brampton

Adult Education has a brand new building thanks to funding from the London Borough of Bexley and the former Learning & Skills Council.



“This new building marks the start of an exciting new era for adult education in the borough”

Cllr O'Neill

The Leader of the London Borough of Bexley, Cllr Teresa O'Neill, joined Principal, Malcolm Tite, Adult Education staff, governors, councillors, centre users and building contractors Coombs at the official opening event in July.

“Adult education is a wonderful way of learning new skills or gaining qualifications that could lead to a new career path. It's also a great way to take up a new hobby or simply meet like minded people. I hope that this fantastic new building and facilities will encourage others to find out more about the huge range of courses on offer in Bexley.” said Cllr O'Neill.

Malcolm Tite said: “This new extension provides our learners with a modern, high quality, up-to-date building with the latest technology; together with a range of specialist facilities, including a salon facility for hairdressing and beauty; fitness and dance in a large studio and a state of the art language laboratory. There's never been a better time to learn in Bexley.”



“The new room is fantastic. It is just the right size and temperature. It has everything we need - it's luxury!”

Pilates teacher Jane Percival



Society of Women Artists Exhibition 2010

This picture was taken this summer by Valerie White at the private view of the annual exhibition of the Society of Women Artists (SWA). Barbara is a former student of Adult Education College and is now the President of the SWA.

Many years ago Barbara, Phyllis, Mary Herrington and myself were students attending Barry Shiraishi's Friday morning art class at Brampton Road. Barry, a very successful sculptor and miniatures painter, encouraged us to submit work to the Royal Miniature Society (RMS) and the SWA. All of us were successful in having work accepted for these London exhibitions and Mary and Barbara have gone on to achieve world-wide recognition for their miniatures painting skills.

All of us were self-taught, under the supervision of Barry, and without him I doubt that any of us would have considered ourselves good enough to compete on a world-

wide scale to have work accepted at London galleries. Both Mary and Barbara were invited to become Associate members of the RMS and then went on to be awarded full member status.

Mary has now moved to Kent, but is still painting. Sadly Phyllis lost her sight about 7 years ago and no longer paints or attends painting classes. However, Phyllis and I travel to London a few times a year to visit exhibitions where I describe the work to her and we can enjoy the atmosphere and buzz of a private view. These days I only have time to paint on holidays.



HRH Princess Michael of Kent, Barbara Penketh-Simpson, Phyllis Vince

Valerie White DTLLS tutor

Summer Festival of Learning

Find out for a Fiver

The Summer Festival event held during July proved to be a great success. Over 400 learners signed up to the 'Find out for a Fiver' sessions; our way of helping you to try a course before signing up for longer courses in September.

There were almost 50 different sessions ranging from arts and crafts, health and fitness, languages and career information; and from the feedback we received these short sessions were really effective and enjoyable.

“Brilliant and learnt new techniques for training”

Creative Writing Showcase

The hot summer evening of the open viewing coincided with the **Creative Writing Showcase**, where learners entertained a crowd of eager listeners with their diverse and enthralling stories. A big thank you to all of you who were brave enough to stand up and tell your tale.



Summer Exhibition

The **Summer Exhibition** showcased what talented students we have at the College. There were over 70 entries including art, pottery, stained glass, woodcarving, jewellery and sewing/textile crafts. The worthy winners in each category collected a College Voucher from Principal, Malcolm Tite.

And the winners were...

Mark Watts
Margaret Robins
Christine Simmons
Sue Sawyer
Sue Bailey
Gill Heath
David Fewell

Photography
Drawing
Painting
Jewellery
Pottery
Woodcarving
Overall Winner



Therapy Students Excel

Congratulations to learners on Val Ecob's ITEC Level 3 Diploma in Reflexology this year. Lindsay Harris, Sophie Lefevre, Brenda Molyneux and Christine Ryan all achieved a distinction in their exams. A suitable recognition for all their hard work.

Fashion Week Calls

Three students who have recently studied holistic massage, deep tissue massage and aromatherapy at the College were asked to work as therapists at London Fashion Week last week. Caroline Gerrish, Mandy Jones and Simone Simmonds spent their time giving massage treatments to 150 people during the course of the week. They worked very hard but said it was a wonderful experience and are hoping to get more work in the future.

Prize Draw Winner...

During the summer the College took part in the highly successful 'Danson Festival' and what a great weekend it was. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the event and to all our visitors for stopping by to find out more about the College. Over the weekend we ran a prize draw and we are pleased to announce the winner of the £250 College Voucher is Trushna Shah.

We are not sure who to thank for the weather, but a glorious weekend was had by all!



Learner Support



The End of the Project

Our very successful project, **First Steps to Work**, sadly came to an end in August. It culminated in an awards ceremony that was partly planned by the learners themselves. They designed the invitations, made table decorations and decided on the menu.

The Mayor of the London Borough of Bexley, Val Clark came along to present the certificates and commented that she thought she was going to a wedding as the whole venue looked so professional.

Over 40 learners benefited from this project, and they gained not only in skills for work but also in confidence and willingness to "have a go" at something new and challenging. Two learners, Jane and Nimisha spoke about how much the project had meant to them.



Far left: Ian receiving his certificate



Left: Balloon decoration made by the learners

The project Manager, Angela McGowan, also gave a moving speech saying how much she had enjoyed managing the project. She would like everyone to think of it not as an end, but as a new beginning.

Learners from Inspire Community Trust also joined the occasion to receive their certificates for completing an OCR Computer course.

After the formal ceremony had taken place everyone tucked into the refreshments that were served in the beautifully decorated marquee.

Jane and Nimisha delivering their speeches



Guests in the marquee having refreshments

Campaign for Adult Ed

We are all aware of the Government's need to reduce the budget deficit. But at the moment the Treasury are not as convinced as we are about the value of adult education and there is a **very real risk** that colleges such as ours will face a massive reduction in funding. This will jeopardise our whole future provision and almost certainly would result in significant **fee increases**.

We urgently need your voice and support as we try our hardest to persuade the Government of the importance of maintaining funding for adult education so that we can continue to provide a wide range of affordable courses for you.

How can you help? Your voice is vital, so please help by either:

- ◆ writing to your local MP - the more correspondence they get the stronger our case will be.
- ◆ Visit www.petitiononline.com/adulted/petition.html to sign the on-line petition today.

Thank you for your support

A Fond Farewell

La bella Liz King

Sadly passed away on 11 August 2010. La bella Liz. Always gentle, always kind, always elegant. You will be missed so very much by your friends in the Intermediate Italian class.

Rest in peace dear Liz.

