

CollegeNews

Issued by The Principals Office

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April 2010

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Welcome



With the arrival of Spring, let me also welcome you to the start of another term here at the Adult Education College Bexley and to all our returning students and to our new learners alike, I hope your learning experience with us is both positive and enjoyable.

You may have read or heard about some of the many changes happening across all areas of education, in our schools, colleges or universities, with the various funding reductions representing many challenges - and no less so than for us in adult education. Behind the scenes, the College is currently undertaking a

review of all its functions and activities and over the next 6 months or more will be restructuring some of our services and structures to be more cost effective and more efficient for the future.

Importantly, we are aiming to retain our broad based curriculum offer to meet your wider learning needs, and although the number of courses and programmes may need to be reduced slightly in the future, overall you should see very little difference. As always, we are keen to ensure that your choice and range of learning opportunities here at the College continue and enable you to develop and progress, whatever your area of interest.

Enjoy your learning.

Malcolm Tite, Principal

We Just Keep Getting Better!

The College is proud to announce that it has recently re-achieved the Matrix Standard. The Matrix Standard is the national quality standard for organisations that deliver information, advice and/or guidance on learning and work.

The College has also achieved Direct Claim Status for NCFE Level 2 NVQ in Advice and Guidance Support and for NPTC C&G Certificate

in Life Skills; and is recognised as a Grade A centre by the British Computer Society (BCS) - The Chartered Institute for IT and a Grade 1 centre by CACHE (the Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education). Just one thing after another!

Malcolm Tite, Principal

Creative writing

Every month, the College displays a piece of Creative Writing in main centres. The work is written and chosen by our students.

If you are interested in our Creative Writing courses, please contact **Lesley Clarke** on © 01322 552569.

Abide With Me

By Anne-Marie Tyler

Seagulls hovered over the massive warship looking down intently for scraps. Ray stopped sweeping the deck for a moment and looked up; his eyes winced at the glare from the reflected sun but he still managed a look of contempt at the birds. "Bloody parasites", he muttered under his breath. He was tired, it was New Year's Eve 1943 and Ray was trying to blank out thoughts of the past or anything the future might hold. He just had to get through today.

The ship was HMS Penelope, affectionately known by the crew as 'The Pepper Pot'. The punctured vessel had only been patrolling the Atlantic for six weeks, but this tour of duty already felt like a lifetime to Ray as he was aching to be with his wife Molly and their twins. No longer driven to serve his country he questioned the programming that forced him to think of fighting as just a job that he 'had to get on with'. That morning he and three other Royal Navy crewmen had refused to man a gun on a training exercise. Ray had told the officer in charge that the gun had been overused and was going to blow, but he'd taken no notice and said they would be court-martialled for disobeying orders. So Ray watched as the officer and six compliant sailors loaded the shells, fired the gun and blew themselves to bits. When the explosion happened he felt a massive surge of relief as no action would be taken against him, but as penance he and nine other crewmen had to clean up the carnage. This war now felt like a personal fight against everybody; for him to survive and be with his family was the only thing in the world he knew and trusted....

To continue reading this story, pick up a full copy from main centre canteens at Sidcup, Brompton or Crayford.

ESOL Class Visit

The IELTS class was taken up to London by our tutor, Amina Miles, on a very interesting trip. Firstly, we went to the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand. We were checked by security and then made our way upstairs to the court rooms where Amina introduced us to two barristers, the Defending and Prosecuting Counsels for the case we were going to attend. We asked the barristers why they were talking to each other when they were on opposing sides. They pointed out that they were allowed to discuss the case before entering the court room but could not, according to tradition, shake hands. They also told us how different we would find the legal procedures from our own countries. For instance, the final decision was taken by a Jury of eleven people from the general public, chosen at random. If you are chosen, you cannot refuse unless you are ill.

Amina then guided us up to Covent Garden where we saw the open market, the Pollock Theatre and then to Café de Paul for some delicious cakes and a hot chocolate. Our trip will stick in my memory. I personally learned a lot that day. Our next trip is visiting the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden to see the ballet 'Romeo & Juliet'. We are really looking forward to it!

Nawal Amin, ESOL Student



In your own words...

Corinne Elliott, a Cache Level 2 Teaching Assistant student at Brompton Road AEC, has written a lovely poem about her experience at Adult Education College Bexley.

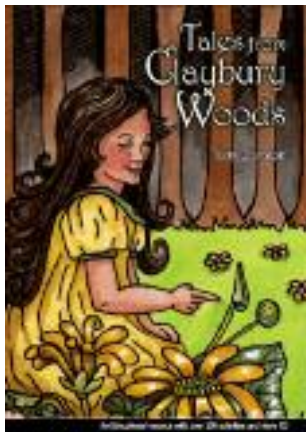
Janet's Class

*I went to the Brompton centre on a cold and windy day
To see what grades I would need to try to become a TA.
"Janet does a TA course" said the lady by the door
"I think she's got some spaces for a couple more."
I didn't think I'd be starting on that very day
Should I go to the class or turn and run away?
I went into the classroom
and knew Janet wasn't a teaching bore,
Everyone was in stitches
as she moonwalked across the floor!
I don't know if I've learnt a lot or if I'll even pass,
But I know on Fridays we always have a laugh.*

Corinne Elliott, 2010

Tutor, Tony Cranston has book published!

Tony Cranston, tutor of Yoga, Tai Chi and Alexander Technique at Adult Education College Bexley, has just had his new book published. Entitled 'Tales from Claybury Woods', the book is available to schools and education centres and is being launched in September 2010.



The activities in the book are aimed at Key Stage 1 and 2 and can be mixed and matched to Tony's stories.

There are over 100 activities for teachers and parents to explore with topics covering nature, science, arts, make & do, literacy & numeracy, drama & storytelling, confidence building, exercise & relaxation and health & safety. Many of the featured stories written by Tony Cranston have been put onto a CD accompanying the book. The book also features many fantastic pictures and original illustrations and a detailed map of the woods.

Tony says, "There is much we can learn about ourselves and our place alongside and as part of nature in these outdoor places of wonder. The stories and activities in the book have meaning and purpose. To educate and encourage the reader to see and understand the importance of the woods, our parks and gardens and their inhabitants. To take ownership of the trees, plants and wildlife. To foster an interest in, and an appreciation of, the natural world in such places as Claybury Woods."

Tales from Claybury Woods is supported by Trees for Cities, London Biodiversity Partnership, The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and London Borough of Redbridge.

Tony is a teacher with over 30 years experience teaching yoga, tai chi, stress management and Alexander Technique. He is an award winning writer of children's books and stories with a background in magazine publishing, editing and young peoples' arts. Tony has the honour of being the first westerner to work in and observe the legendary 'Children's Palace' in Beijing, China, where he returns every year.

Claybury Woods is a large area of ancient woodland, and was most probably part of the great forests of Essex, connecting with Hainault and Epping Forest. Around 100 years ago, much of the forest was converted to farmland and has now been built on for new homes. Claybury Woods is now designated as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation within the London and Redbridge planning framework and is within the boundaries of a conservation area.

Much of the work that has been happening within the woodland is all thanks to the Capital Woodlands Project. Capital Woodlands is a 3-year London Biodiversity Partnership project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project aims to raise appreciation of London's woodlands and increase public benefit and participation in woodland events and activities. As part of the project these ancient woods are now receiving sensitive management that will improve the area of wildlife and give better access for the general public to visit.



Forthcoming Events: Quiz Night

Sidcup Arts & AEC
Thursday 29th April
7.30pm start

The eagerly awaited annual BTAS Quiz Night is fast approaching. Get into teams of up to six people (entry is £3 per person) and bring your own drinks & nibbles. A raffle will be held on the night in aid of BTAS. To book your team table, contact:

Diane Smith, Sidcup Arts & AEC,
Alma Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4ED
©020 8269 8998
diane.smith@aduldebexley.org



Charity Walk

Shoreham
Saturday 18th September (TBC)
10am - 1pm

A circular walk starting in the picturesque village of Shoreham, incorporating the famous First World War Memorial. Proceeds will go towards supporting disadvantaged students within the College.

The walk is approximately 3 miles and will end with an optional lunch in the local pub. Last year, the charity walk raised £589 for BTAS.

For further details and a sponsor form please contact:

Diane Smith, Sidcup Arts & AEC,
Alma Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4ED
©020 8269 8998 diane.smith@aduldebexley.org



Recent Events: Easter Raffle

Adult Education College Bexley held a raffle at all three main centres to win Easter goodies. The winning tickets were drawn on Friday 26 March. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who bought tickets.



Bexley Trust for Adult Students Charity number 1006382

Prize Draw Winner

The winner of the Student Survey prize draw undertaken in November is Karen Cartwright - a learner in our Photography for Beginners course, whose receives £100 of College vouchers.



Learner Support

Wedding Belles

In January 2010 we started a ten week course on, Planning, Budgeting and Cooking for a fantasy wedding within a budget of £4000. Learners were encouraged to find a suitable celebrity bride or groom, make a guest list, plan the menu, make floral and balloon decorations, design invitations, chose suitable attire, and arrange car hire all within the set budget.

As the weeks progressed the learners embedded a variety of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills by researching the internet and calculating the costs for their big day.

Each week a variety of dishes were prepared and cooked, learners made informed choices on how many of each item they needed for their guests, calculated cost, but more importantly could they afford to pay for it.

On week eight we made a visit to 'Together Forever' bridal shop in Crayford. Learners were encouraged to choose and try on wedding gowns, tiaras and suits for their big day. Photos were taken and the names and prices of the outfits were identified. The following are extracts the learners said regarding the day:

“ I felt famous”

“ I felt pretty and special”

“The dress gave me confidence”

“Really nice”

“WOW factor”

“There were so many colours”

“It suited my hair I felt great”

“It made me feel like a legend”



The following week the learners were invited to have their hair styled at the Crayford Manor House hairdressing saloon, this gave the learners confidence such a boost, they used bridal combs that they made in previous weeks and some of the learners booked further appointments.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed towards making this course a great success. Great morale and team work of both staff and learners has built self confidence and self esteem. This has truly been a quality and fun learning experience.

Diane Williams, Special Educational Needs tutor

Sue Harris



I'm sure that students and staff will be saddened to know that ESOL tutor, Sue Harris passed away earlier in the year. Hear are some lovely words from Sue's learners ...

“Sue was a very kind, friendly and helpful person. As a teacher she always tried to identify our weaknesses in English and helped us in a kind way to improve. I feel our classes have lost their brightness without Sue.”

“Sue was the best teacher I ever met. She was very welcoming to me when I started the English course. She made all the lessons interesting and I couldn't wait for the next one. I had a shock when I found out that she was very sick because Sue never spoke about being ill and never let it affect our class. Sue was always smiling and was never angry. She was a very kind and patient person.”

“Dear Sue, I miss you so much. You always tried your best to help people. You were strong. I always smiled when you spoke to others - you gave me lots of encouragement when I thought I would not pass my exams. We love you and we will remember you.”

“My first memory of Sue goes back to September when I was on holiday in Italy and she sent me a text to remind me that we would start class on the 21st and that she would be happy to meet me. The first class, she welcomed me with a smile and we talked about my last year at the College. She was always very patient. I only knew she was ill when we were told that she was in hospital after Christmas. I have kept her Christmas card because it was very sweet. When I think about her, I remember her smile and I will always have good memories of her. Thank you Sue.”

“I am very sorry about what happened to Sue. The first time I came into her class I said to her “I am not very good at all!” She encouraged me and tried to help me. She was a very organised lady. She was always smiling. Sue always knew what she was doing. She liked everyone and always joined us at our break, drinking tea. We miss her. Sue, we thank you for all your hard work.”

Inspired by You!

The College is always on the look out for material for the website, brochure, newsletters and posters. Please supply:

- Quotes from learners (please include names and course details).
- Information about outstanding learners or tutors (please include names, course name, contact numbers).
- Any interesting stories / details / information / backgrounds about learners and/or tutors.
- Photos of students and/or students' work. Please supply hard copy or email images to: marketing@aduldebexley.org. NOTE: Please be aware that photographs may be used in publicity material.

Any material you have, or may have in the future, should be sent via the internal mail system to the Marketing Department or email lucy.cooper@aduldebexley.org

Marketing Department

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