



## New Principal - One Year On

Tim Eyton-Jones joined John Ruskin College as Principal in August 2009. He is interviewed here by Amy Goodger, a current John Ruskin College student and Executive Member of the Student Partnership Council.

### What would you say is your proudest achievement since becoming Principal at John Ruskin College last year?

Without a doubt it's the 14% rise in success rates for students from the previous year. Success rates is a measure of those students that joined us in September compared to those who get their qualifications in July that academic year. Prior to coming to the college the year before they were 68% and last academic year they were 82%, which puts us at the national average for all sixth form colleges in the country.

### This academic year we saw the development of the Hair and Beauty department and digital media suite. What areas are you hoping to develop next year and will there be any new courses starting?

Yes there will be some new courses starting. The first thing that I want to say is that we will be

continuing to expand Hair and Beauty by installing a spa so we will be London's only spa training facility, and we will open the facilities to the general public. We're going to continue developing digital media by converting our performing arts studio into a broadcasting studio enabling us to do film and radio. This will allow us to do broadcasting, special effects and everything digital. Finally we are going to continue updating the site, in particular the toilets, canteen, as well as general maintenance work to keep the college in tip top condition.

**“We've got to continue our development of implementing high quality teaching and learning throughout the whole College.”**

### Are you focusing on any other areas?

We are going to do some general decoration in areas like Health and Social Care and some work in the Business rooms as well. We will be improving our use of technology by installing more wireless stations around the site, and replacing computers with laptops.

### Whilst at John Ruskin College you have made many improvements to the college and student life. What are your main aims for the next academic year?

We've got to continue our development of implementing high quality teaching and learning throughout the whole college. We are going to develop E-Progress and internet access of resources and materials. Plus we are going to be

doing some more work around Enrichment. One of our priorities is to introduce Higher Education courses in four of our key strategic areas: Sport and Science, Business, Creative Industries and Health and Social Care. So we are looking at developing either a foundation degree or HNDs that won't have the high level of fees that most university courses will be charging. I think generally there's a real market for a good quality HND or a foundation degree that local people can access.

### Can I ask you something a little more personal? Did you make any new year's resolutions this year and have you stuck to them?

Yeah I want to try and lose a bit of weight and get fitter. And I'm struggling to keep to that promise.

### (Tim) What are you hoping to do for the future Amy?

I'm hoping to go university to study Diagnostic Radiography. My top two choices are University of Exeter or Canterbury Christ Church University, however I've got three offers and two more interviews to come.

### (Tim) What do you need to do in order to achieve this?

I just need to upgrade some of my assignments to distinction.

**(Tim) Well done. It is great to see that you are aiming to achieve good grades. Good luck with your work over the next few months and best of luck for the future.**



## Spotlight feature on our Vice Principal for Equalities and Safeguarding



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Vice Principal for Equalities and Safeguarding at John Ruskin College which involves ensuring every learner receives a quality education within a safe, respectful environment. Since joining the College last year, I am proud to be contributing to a culture focused on student learning, a commitment to high expectations, innovation and collaboration that will contribute to making the learning experience at John Ruskin College second to none! We are already building on our excellent success of our learners last year which

has seen an increased interest in applications to the College for the September 2011 intake.

I have had meetings with members of local community groups as well as Head teachers this year to learn more about the local area and discuss opportunities for working together to enrich the learning experience of young people in Croydon. I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months and I would welcome contact from yourselves if you are a local community group or business. My contact details are provided below for your information

Through an effective partnership with everyone associated with John Ruskin College, I am confident we can make John Ruskin College an even a better place for our students to learn and grow in the next year.

**Mohammed Ramzan, Vice Principal Equalities & Safeguarding.**  
Tel No: 020 8651 1131

We will be featuring our other new Vice Principal in our next edition

## A warm welcome at John Ruskin College

An **Admissions and Reception Services** department has been established to ensure that the College maintains an orderly, professional and welcoming image to learners and visitors alike. Initial assessment, advice and guidance has been introduced at an early stage to ensure we place learners on the right pathway and at the right level.

The newest member of the department, Tolu Magbagbeola, comments on her receptionist's role and the reasons she joined John Ruskin College:

“Living in Croydon it was important for me to find employment in the local area. I enjoy working in a learning environment and this position affords me the opportunity to engage with young people and the local community. I work alongside the Admissions team assisting with the enrolment procedures and provide a friendly and professional front of house service to the College.”





The Hair & Beauty Salon at John Ruskin College formally opened in September 2010 and we are very proud of what we have already achieved in such a short time.

We have started to build up a regular clientele from the local community and our most popular treatments are facials, manicures, cut and blow dries and colouring. Our salon name, **Mimar** reflects our ethos, it means pamper in Portuguese! We can offer you a relaxing and enjoyable experience with highly qualified staff that are training and overseeing stylists of the future.

We are looking forward to the future with plans for a Barber Shop and a Spa.

Contact us if you would like to be pampered on 020 8651 1131 ext 245



## Entrepreneurs from John Ruskin College raise money for Whitgift SNAP

At the end of the last academic year, Business students engaged in fund raising activities involving car washing, hairdressing, nail painting, as well as pool tournaments and photo shoots in order to raise money for their chosen charity, Whitgift SNAP, a leading special needs charity which provides summer schemes for residents in the London Borough of Croydon. The total money raised was £248.39. The cheque was presented to members of the Whitgift SNAP team on 12th January. A comment from the team included;

"Your students have done a fantastic job raising money for SNAP over the last 2 years and the money donated is very much appreciated by the whole of the SNAP team."



## Collaborative College & County Cricket commences at John Ruskin College

John Ruskin College in association with Surrey County Cricket Club launched an Indoor Cricket Tournament for John Ruskin College students on Wednesday 10th November 2010.



Cricket is a new and innovative addition to the College's vast range of Enrichment activities.

"This was a fantastic opportunity for John Ruskin College learners to engage in Cricket and promote our collaborative enrichment ethos. We were proud and honoured to be delivering this event in conjunction with Surrey County Cricket Club and we thank them for their support," said JRC Vice Principal Mohammed Ramzan.

Awards for the winning team were presented by John Fry, Surrey County Cricket Coach. John stated, "It's fantastic to be working alongside such a high inspiring College such as John Ruskin College to help promote the development of Cricket. I'm certain that both establishments can combine their skill sets to provide a flourishing Enrichment Cricket Programme."

## ESOL Forum

*English for Speakers of Other Languages*

On Wednesday 26th January 2011, John Ruskin College hosted the first ESOL Forum of the year. Head teachers, deputy heads and ESOL teachers from local secondary schools were invited to join the College for an evening of food, drinks and discussion. Schools represented included Addington High, Edenham, Quest Academy, St.Mary's, Norbury Manor and The Archbishop Lanfranc as well as some partners from Croydon LA. Colleagues enjoyed a presentation from the Vice-Principal and from the Head of Department for ESOL and Skills for Life. Two of the College's current ESOL learners were on hand to chat to the guests about their course, their current progress and their future progression pathways. The representatives were then treated to a tour of the College facilities and got to see our new Hair and Beauty Salon and Media Suite. We look forward to seeing some of the local EAL learners in September 2011.

## Employer Forum

On Thursday 25th November 2010 we held our third employer forum at the College. The interest is growing rapidly as 14 local employers attended this event. Some valuable cross networking took place providing mutual benefits for both the employers and the College. Partnerships are beginning to build as a result of these forums and we are looking to create partnership boards for the future. If you are a local employer or organisation who would be interested in attending our next event, please contact the College and we will provide you with more information.

## Students at work in the community



**Natalie Bailey** "I am a level 3 student, studying Children's Care, Learning and Development and have been at the College since September 2010. Part of my course is to attend a work placement 2 days a week. We have to do 800 hours of placement over 2 years, working with different age groups. I have already completed my first placement and got 220 hours and have now started my second placement. Firstly, I worked with the 3-5 years age group and am now with the 5-8 years age group. I worked at Selsdon Primary School for my first placement and I really enjoyed it. I received positive feedback, and this enabled me to stay there for my second placement as well. It's lovely getting to know the children and seeing them improve. It's also interesting to see how my role differs when working in different parts of the school. When I was with the 3-5 year olds, my duties included preparing, setting up and tidying away activities, playing with the children in role play, and reading to the children. Now I am working with 5-8 year olds I have new duties such as keeping their reading record books up to date, filing the children's work and taking groups of children out of the classroom to help them with their work."



**Marta Mrowiec** is in the first year of a 2 year BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care and has been undertaking her work experience at the Selsdon Centre for the Retired which is an important venue for the local community which allows the elderly to get together for lunch or simply a coffee. Marta has proved herself to be a vital member of the volunteers who work there. Mike Rundle-Brown, the senior manager said, "Marta fits in so well with the staff and clients. She is confident, reliable and committed and of all the students we have had over the years from various schools and colleges, Marta is one of the best!" Marta has certainly raised the bar for our students!

# Leisure and work - the JRC way!

## A student perspective on the trip to the House of Commons



On Tuesday 14th December 2010, a group of first and second year students from the Business Department were taken on a trip to the House of Commons.

We set off from East Croydon at 09.30 and arrived with plenty of time to spare for a quick trip to McDonalds for a much needed hot chocolate while taking in the breathtaking view of the river Thames. We soon made a speedy journey across Westminster Bridge towards the House of Commons (meeting a few acquaintances along the way) as we were given a precise time to be there.

Once in the House, we were all in awe and amazed to see the tiny details which are not visible on television. We were all tired but soon found out that we were not allowed to sit as this privilege is only given to those who have been elected as an MP. (This news came with much disappointment to Shavina's aching feet!) It is seen as an honour to be seated within this room where critical matters and decisions which affect the whole Nation have been debated for over 150 years.

Being a very historic building it was interesting to learn about all the different traditions that are still kept intact even today, such as the peace keeper bearing a sword. She was seated at the back of the Commons and for the first time in 150 years the role is occupied by a woman! Her role as a peace keeper is to maintain order within the room and if anyone was to misbehave, she has the authority to imprison them within the cells, found half way up the tower of Big Ben!

It was fascinating and to many of us a revelation to learn about the many different roles of our political system and the power of the monarchy as well as the restrictions it faces!

Issues about student fees and scrapping EMA were high on our agenda. To our surprise our next destination was with our local MP, Mr Gavin Barwell. It's fair to say Mr Barwell was faced with a very enthusiastic and passionate group of students and a barrage of questions.

As individuals we all benefited from this trip in many ways. We had learnt a great deal about our country's democracy, and the power we hold as voters as well as the process involved before a proposition becomes law. It was also insightful for a lot of us as many of us wish to pursue a career in this field.

## Using the little grey cells - forensic sleuthing at JRC

Second Year Applied Science students have been busy successfully completing a Forensic/CSI Crime Scene Investigation as part of their Diploma. Preparation for this was started in October with mini cases to help the students understand and follow the type of analysis they would be expected to do for the crime scene eg hair sampling, blood grouping, fingerprinting, chromatography and chemical testing of unknown white powders. In their separate groups they were presented with a crime scene at the beginning of December which they had to record, using sketches, video and audio commentary. Other members of the group then collected evidence so they could analyse this in another session.



The analysis sessions allowed students to look at what they had collected, and using their previous experience and scientific knowledge they had to discover unknown powders or inks that were found with the body and compare them to any evidence found on the suspects. The students were then given the opportunity to "interview" 5 suspects, who had to be cautioned and then go through a rigorous interview to find out what they knew. Results were then collated and presented to a court and jury.

## Dancing on ice - JRC style!

As a tutorial activity the Health, Care and Early years department took their National Diploma second year students on trips to the Natural History museum as well as ice skating. The idea was to get their students to face personal challenges. Two students, Pooja Sookun and Guilelly Gaviria made the following comments about their experiences:

"Ice skating was very entertaining thanks to George and Philippa (our tutors). We had a great time and got the chance to strengthen our friendship bonds. Those who could not skate were motivated and managed to somehow have fun. It was very enjoyable to hang onto the penguins and have others laugh at us! The most important thing we realised was that we could skate if we just tried!"

"At the Natural History museum, we got to think like professionals would, to stop a major disease from spreading, endangering children's and grown ups' lives. We came up with different strategies, within our groups. It was a challenge for us to think outside of our comfort zone and I think that's what motivates us to go further."



## BBC JRC 21CC!

Graphic Design and Print Media students from the Creative Industries Department, visited 21CC, which stands for 21st century classroom. They worked with practising artists on a live brief, to create a poster for 21CC. They got to use the BBC's state of the art equipment and created some outstanding work. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience; working at the BBC provided them with insight into a professional environment. The artists at the BBC were very impressed with the outcomes.



## John Ruskin College students visit Arnhem to remember Operation Market Garden

(15th to 19th September 2010)

Six students, two members of staff and the Mayor of Croydon spent a thought provoking 4 days in



Arnhem, Holland representing Croydon young people at their Airborne International Youth Conference. Nilojh Sandrangsakumar, President of the Student Partnership Council, commented

that he had 'experienced exceptional things at Arnhem.' One of which was to lay a wreath at the commemoration service at Ede, Holland to remember the courageous and heroic soldiers many of whom lost their lives trying to gain control of the bridges over the Rhine. 'We had the opportunity to talk to WW2 veterans and listen to their amazing stories which was a privilege and humbling.'

In November, a few weeks after the trip, the Executive Committee of the Student Partnership Council, as well as the staff involved and the Principal, Tim Eyton-Jones, were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Avril Slipper, to the College to reminisce with the students about their recent visit to Arnhem.

The link between Arnhem and Croydon has existed since 1946. The link exists because both towns suffered extensive bomb damage and there was a mutual interest to foster friendships.



Are you looking for a place to study for September 2011?

## 5 reasons why you should choose us...

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# open EVENT

For 2011 entry

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**Hair and Beauty**

**Creative Industries**  
- Creative Media Production, TV & Film, Photography and Graphic Design

**ESOL**

**Health, Care and Early Years & Public Services**

**Sports Coaching, Fitness Instruction, Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy**

see you at the OPEN EVENT!

Selsdon Park Road South Croydon CR2 8JJ  
Telephone: 020 8651 1131 - Email: info@johnruskin.ac.uk

## Adult courses for the local community.

**New courses start Tuesday 3rd May.**  
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**WWW.JOHNRSUSKIN.AC.UK.**

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- Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology
- Introduction to Cutting Hair
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*'Instruction was excellent and friendly'*  
*'Look forward to further tuition'*  
*'I found the course very useful'*

# Celebrating student success

## Business students take another step towards their future careers

On Thursday 3rd February an event was held at John Ruskin College attended by students, parents and employers, to celebrate the achievements of 20 first and second year Career Academy students.



Set up by the business community in 2002, Career Academies UK is a registered charity which leads and supports a movement of over 900 employers, and 120 schools and colleges, working together to raise the aspirations of 16 to 19 year olds.

The students went through a competitive process to secure a place on the programme, which complements the work they are undertaking in business and law. The students spoke of how their 'Partner in Business' mentors had helped them make valuable life choices and prepare them for the world of work. The 'jewel in the crown' of the programme, is a six week paid placement with an employer which is invaluable for the students, as it gives them direct experience of the workplace, and puts their academic work into practice.

The event was hosted by the students themselves. Master of Ceremonies Tolu Olaodudu (a second year Business student), said in his opening remarks, "Being part of the Career Academy programme has opened different opportunities for me. I received internships with Bloomberg and Channel 4, and was short-listed to be on the Young Apprentice. I'd like to thank my mentor at Mott McDonald, and the College for all their support. My skills have definitely been enhanced, and I've secured a place at Aston University. I would recommend this programme to any student."

The event also celebrated the successes of those who graduated from the programme in 2010. Of the ten graduates, seven are now at the Higher Education institution of their choice, with the other three either in employment or continuing alternative study.

## Celebrating mid-year achievements

Mid year achievements in the Sports and Science department have reached new highs this year with more Sports and Biomedical Science students completing work to their target grades than ever before. 39 learners celebrated their achievements at an annual achievers grand prix at Buckmore Park Karting Circuit where Formula 1 drivers Lewis Hamilton, Jenson Button were discovered.

The students who participated were very impressed:

'Go Karting was excellent. Having trips like this inspires me to keep my work up to date.'

'Awesome!! Mind blowing experience. Had a great time... Sport & Science Team Rock!'

