

Specialising in Vocational Courses from September 2009!

Have you heard? Following the great success we have had with BTEC qualifications, John Ruskin College will now focus on these vocational courses. So, for students enrolling in September 2009 this will be our speciality.

The aim is for John Ruskin College to be the college of choice in the area for vocational courses. Isn't this great?

Most of you already know that BTEC qualifications are simply another way of getting into university or moving straight into employment; many John Ruskin College students have succeeded in doing just that.

The best part is that students currently taking A levels will continue here until they complete their studies. This will of course mean that they continue to benefit from the high standard of teaching and support they have always received here at the college.

These are definitely exciting times for everyone!

From our Principal



As we come to the end of the first term of this academic year I would like to thank all of you for your contribution to college life and and hope that you had a good holiday. We have been pleased with your very positive attitudes and we have been delighted that the Student Council is playing such an active part in college life. I am sure this will go from strength to strength in the terms to come.

I am a great believer in New Year resolutions and have already made mine during the holiday. However last term has gone for you, use the opportunity to resolve to try even harder this term. The work you do here at college is the foundation for your future career. The more effort you put in the more your teachers will be able to help you do the best you possibly can.

Congratulations on getting your Newspaper running. We look forward to seeing more issues!

Happy New Year

Jennifer Sims

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Awards Evening, Jan 7, 2009 @ Fairfield Halls (event held at time of print)

We are currently looking for journalists. Interested? Please contact Christiana or Natalie at Student Services.

John Ruskin College dancers impress again

The finalists of B. Young B. Supreme festival and winners of 'Dare2Dance' competition impressed the public with their outstanding performances. The dance group, known by the name 'Static', were invited by the Sports development team at Croydon Council to perform a 10-minute dance at the London Youth Games and Mini Marathon Celebrations. The celebrations were held at Whitgift School in South Croydon on the 24th of November, 2008.

The Deputy Mayor and some of Great Britain's athletes who competed at the Beijing Olympics attended the celebrations.

'Static' was one of the seven winning groups of the 'Dare2Dance' project which was held in July 2007 and saw 60 all-female hip hop groups participate in a 'performance battle' to win the chance to train and be mentored by a member of Nike's all female crew 'D-Clash'. The group later competed at the 'B. Young B. Supreme' festival in October, 2008. Both events were held at the Royal Festival Hall.

We are so very proud of you. Good job!

Congratulations to Duran, Kareen, Natasha, Matoto, Philippa, and Yasmin.

Your Student Council Executive



Ramzal Fadlu-Deen
President



Emerah Tezgel
President



Marina Ivanova
Health & Safety Officer



Zunade Powell
Equalities Officer



Tosin Nubi
Equalities Officer

The remaining membership of the Student Council Body is made up of student representatives from each of the tutor groups.

Do you have suggestions, or concerns you want to put forward? These are the people you need to contact.



'Wicked'!!!



After a successful trip to see 'Stomp' in September a group of staff and students were able to go and see the show 'Wicked'. Both students and staff alike were excited to see the smash hit show and it definitely was a treat. The show was held at the Apollo Theatre in

Victoria. The group arrived to a packed theatre entrance and a mass of buzzing adults and kids.

The show was absolutely fabulous bringing to life the story of the Wicked Witch of the west and the good witch before the carryings on of the Wizard of Oz. But all is not what it seems! The costumes, cast and effects were wonderful. It was a great evening for all, many of the students had never attended a theatre performance and others had not attended such a big production as 'Wicked'.

Even the next day students were talking about it and singing the songs. So for those who missed it don't worry, we are hoping to see the 'Lion King' in the New Year!

Sports update!

Congratulations to John Ruskin College basketball team who defeated Cambridge Tutors 68-35! The game was the third encounter between the institutes in two years with John Ruskin College winning all previous games. Having narrowly lost their last match to Wimbledon College, John Ruskin College was keen to get back to winning ways. John Ruskin College dominated Cambridge and controlled possession throughout enabling them to score frequently whilst defending with great resilience. Team captain A.J Bediako demonstrated great leadership qualities when required to marshal his team mates to a much deserved victory.

SNAPSHOT

a visual album of life at John Ruskin College



Poetry



Red Nose Day



Gospel Choir



Sport Relief



Paralympic Handover Challenge



Why don't



Talent Show

Spotlight



As a first spotlight interview we have chosen Sally Obertell, teacher and manager at John Ruskin College. The reason why we have decided to make a start with her is because she is probably the person involved in the most interesting and exciting events that have ever happened at John Ruskin College over the past 17 years... So, let's see what we have found out!

What is your full title here at college?
Student Services & Events Manager

Can you tell us a little bit about your role as Student Services & Events Manager?
Ok, there are many aspects of this role. I line manage several people with relation to various services that are dealt with in this area and the Learner Support Fund. We have a very good team here. We work very closely together supporting students either on a financial basis or by giving them information about the college. We regard this area very much as a 'one stop shop' (she laughs). My staff deal with a large number of students each day.

What types of support do Student Services offer?
We offer all sorts of services. We deal with the Learner Support Fund and the EMA. We obviously provide a lot of information to students relating to attendance, trips... We also deal with register alterations and much, much more!!

Have you always been in this position? If not, what was your role previously?
No I have not always been in this position. My previous role was marketing and external links

manager, which was very interesting. I did lots of visits to schools to deal with publicity for the college, things like the prospectus and course leaflets, and obviously we worked with prospective students.

How many years have you been working here?
Seventeen years...

Seventeen... ?
Yes, a long time. (We both laugh.) Yes, but it has been a very happy time, I have met a lot of people and I had lots of different experiences, because apart from being Student Services & Events Manager, I also teach English. This year I teach four groups for GCSE English. For the past few years I have taught A Level English as well. My subjects are English and in the past Drama. I used to work as a student adviser, doing things like arranging the proms, parties and all those kinds of events.

It seems you have had quite a lot of fun?
Yes.

What has been your happiest moment here at John Ruskin College?
Oh... Gosh...

I know it is very difficult to decide in terms of so many years experience. But you have obviously had a lot of great and happy moments ... just tell us the first thing that comes to your mind.
Well, the happiest moment I suppose was when I used to teach GCSE Drama way back, and I used to organise pantomimes for the college. They were great fun. We also used to put pantomimes together for the local primary school and senior citizens homes and invited them in. These took place in the College Hall which is now our new IT Suite.

Do you like to travel?
Yes, I do.

Where have you been so far?
I haven't done a huge amount of travel because I have a family, but I have been to Spain, quite a lot. Where else have I been...? I have been to Venice, which is probably one of my favourite places. That was probably the best place I have been to, because it was very interesting for me from a cultural point of view. Also just very relaxing, very different, because everything is surrounded by

water. I have also been to France. I have been there quite a few times, especially the South of France which is fantastic and very expensive... I have also been to New York.

Wow!!!
Yes, that was very interesting. I went there when I was eighteen and I met some people who I had studied with at university and we travelled around. That was a very exciting experience!

Was that related to your studies?
No, no, it was purely something that I did at the end of my college days.

What did you actually learn from that experience?
Well, I suppose what I did learn, was how they love English people. They loved my accent and they loved the way I talked. I had to talk a lot. Actually every time I went into a shop they would say to me 'just talk' because they loved hearing me.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Oh, I love theatre... We went to see Stomp which was organised by the college. It was a very nice experience. I really enjoyed it. I also like musicals, all sorts of musicals really, but especially the ones with famous English music. I like reading books as well which is more or less related to my job.

If you could give one piece of advice to students, what would that be?
Oh... that is the hardest one, isn't it? Well I would say: work hard and meet all your deadlines but in the meantime make sure you have a good balance. People are more than academic. They enjoy the activities that the college offers. By being here they extend their experience and are able to take part in social and enrichment activities and events, such as the Awards Evening and the Talent Show.

By Marina Ivanova,
AS Level student



Health, Care and Early Years Academy

Rhonda Kalayl Awurasie impressed the manager of the Lullaby nursery, Mrs Earnshaw, with her interest and enthusiasm to work at the nursery as part of the Young Apprenticeship Scheme. The manager said that Rhonda showed a genuine commitment.

Mrs Earnshaw said: 'From her very first day my team have had nothing but praise for Rhonda... Rhonda has always been willing to take on any task requested of her and has listened to the advice of her mentor and the nursery team.'

The Young Apprenticeship Scheme is organised so that students spend three days a week in school studying their GCSEs, one day a week with a training provider and one day a week with an employer.

We are very proud of Rhonda's success. Congratulations!

Business Academy

BTEC National Diploma in Business students got a unique 'behind-the-scenes' look into the world of work when top London-based company LexisNexis threw open their doors on Thursday 27th November.

The group visited the National Theatre to share their experiences, recorded a blog with BT, organised by

Miles Templeman, Chief Executive of the Institute of Directors (IoD). Prime Minister's Global Fellows, who have recently returned from placements in the developing economies of Brazil, India and China gave a presentation.

Marcia Grant-Che, Programme Leader, Business Level 3 said, 'Our students felt very privileged being selected to be a part of the Career Academy. They felt inspired and even challenged that their input was not only going to impact the college but at a national level.'

Competition

This newspaper needs a name! - Got one?

Put your suggestion in the 'Newspaper name' suggestion box in Student Services by the 31st of January. Who knows? You may be the lucky winner!
Oh! Don't forget to write your student number as well.

Good luck!

The Newspaper

Chief Editors: Christiana Yiangou / Natalie Walters
Journalist: Marina Ivanova

John Ruskin College
Selsdon Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 8JJ
Tel: 020 8651 1131 - Fax: 020 8651 4011
Email: info@johnruskin.ac.uk

www.johnruskin.ac.uk