



WELCOME

The start of the academic year has gone as smoothly as I could have hoped, considering the exceptional circumstances we are all facing. The staff and I were very pleased to be able to open the College on 7 September and start teaching again. There have obviously been a number of changes to the College site with one way systems to get used to and wearing face coverings in communal areas as well as three hour lessons. The teachers have been brilliant at managing the three hour lessons and are making excellent use of the technology that we have to make lessons accessible and interesting.

I have spent some time walking around the College and speaking to students about their experiences so far. Without exception, the responses to my questions have been overwhelmingly positive and there is an obvious desire from the students to get back to studying. Many of them say they prefer the three hour lessons as they can get so much done in the extended time.

I am also pleased to say that all of the students I have spoken with said that they had made friends in their classes. This is an unintended consequence of having seating plans, as all the students are mixed up and are therefore not sitting with friends from their previous school. I am very happy and proud of the way that the students have adapted to this new way of learning.

We have recently held our very first virtual Open Days which were hosted on the College website. Due to the current restrictions on holding large events, we have transformed the website which now includes lots of new video content and information about being a student at Farnborough.

We are also in the process of arranging our first ever virtual Awards Evening, where we celebrate those students who left us in the summer and present special awards. More details about this event will be published on the website shortly.

Finally, I urge all parents/guardians to sign up to the [Parent Portal](#) if you haven't yet done so; this platform is a way of keeping communication channels open. This is particularly important at the moment, as we will be using the Parent Portal to communicate with you about your child's progress. I also ask that you check the College [website](#) regularly as we are continually reviewing our provision in the light of COVID-19 and are using the website as the primary method of updating you at short notice. You should have also received an email from me recently regarding assessment, cancelled lessons and contingency plans.



'GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE' COMPETITION

Congratulations to first year students Harrison Taylor, Bethan Bradshaw Levy and Anastasia Bondsfield who each won a £50 Amazon voucher for their amazing entries to the 'Getting Ready for College' photo competition back in June. Thank you to everyone else who entered - we loved seeing all your selfies with the College rainbow pencils!



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Rotary Young Writer Competition - Four students receive awards.

Music in Lockdown - Students perform together virtually.

Rising Stars Award - Helping students reach the next level in their sport.

Results Day - Students receive A level and vocational results.

Sports Awards - Celebrating sporting achievements.

'At home' Online Art Exhibition - Organised by The Sixth Form Colleges Association.

Zonta Awards - Two of our students receive first and second place.

Oxbridge Success - 26 students receive offers of a place.

SFCA Awards - College wins award for outstanding enrichment and employability provision.

Beethoven's Birthday Concert - Music students perform in special concert.



STUDENT ASSOCIATION 2020/21

The Student Association committee represents the views of our 4,000 strong student body. As well as organising brilliant fundraising events such as 'RAG Week' and 'Children in Need Day', the committee arranges 'Freshers' Week', a fun-filled week packed with fantastic activities to help new students settle into College life. The President and Vice President also attend the College's Academy Quality Council meetings to have a real say on the future direction of the College. This way of engaging with the students to make Farnborough 'student-led' has a long and successful history.

Due to the College closure at the end of March in response to the Government lockdown guidelines, the process of becoming a member of the SA committee was very different! A total of 14 candidates applied and were interviewed, and we are pleased to announce that all of them will be committee members for the upcoming year!

The 2020/21 Student Association Committee are: **Zoe Anderton, Elspeth Blake, Alex Dicksee, Jesica Gurung, Siofra Hamill, Max Moore, Adwoa Owusu-Sarfo, Charlotte Pickford, Neelabhra Silsarma, Jamie Sweetman, Ayla Syed, Kaitlin Wells.**

The role of President was given to **Angelo Dela Cruz** and Vice President went to **Bob Wilde**. Follow the SA on Twitter and Instagram, @farnboroughSA .



COMING UP....



Take a look at our [College calendar](#) for all upcoming events.

Parents' Consultation Evenings: *Wednesday 11 November and Thursday 19 November 2020*

These consultation evenings are for first and second year students where there are significant concerns. Teachers will make appointments with the students directly so they can meet with them and their parents/guardians virtually.

Virtual Psychology Week: *Monday 16 to Friday 20 November 2020*

A week celebrating the study of Psychology! There will be a range of online opportunities for all students to take part in during the week to extend their experience of Psychology. This is the College's fifth Psychology Week, but the very first virtual one!

Chamber Orchestra and Big Band Concert: *Wednesday 25 November 2020, 7:30pm to 9:00pm*

For this virtual concert, students will be performing in the Prospect Theatre with the audience being able to watch from home. More details about this event will be published shortly.

TERM DATES

End of Autumn term - Friday 18 December 2020 with lessons finishing at 12:15pm

Start of Spring term - Monday 4 January 2021

Spring term Reading Week - Monday 15 to Friday 19 February 2021

NOTICES

Lifts to and from College and car parking - We ask that parents/guardians who are dropping or picking up their child to/from the College do so away from the site and car parks. Please do not block any resident driveways or entrances. We also strongly encourage students not to park in any residential streets around the College without a pass. We ask for your cooperation with this to help ease the congestion on the roads around the College.

Absences from College - If students are unable to attend College, we must be notified in one of the following ways:

- call Main Reception (ideally before 10:30am) on 01252 688200;
- send an email to studentabsence@farnborough.ac.uk ; or
- via the Parent Portal.

Second year students can record absences on CristalWeb as long as their attendance is above 90%. A reason must be given for their absence and contact is required for each day that college is missed. Whilst it is polite for students to contact their teachers to let them know, this is not compulsory and will not authorise the absence. Absences that are not notified are monitored carefully and we will contact parents/guardians if this occurs.

Lanyards - Students must wear their lanyard at all times whilst they are on the College site.

Photo Consent - We love to use pictures of our current students to show what life at Farnborough is like, including for website news stories, social media, advertising and the prospectus! The law requires written consent to use these photos. We ask that students set their preferences on CristalWeb. Students can update these preferences at any time by clicking their name in the top right hand corner of CristalWeb and selecting 'Consent Options'.

