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History of Art is guaranteed a future at A level

Head of History of Art, Sarah Phillips has been instrumental in saving the History of Art A level from extinction after AQA decided that the course was no longer financially viable. In a written announcement, the Schools Minister Nick Gibb confirmed that the exam board Pearson would offer the qualification from September 2017. Godalming College is one of the biggest state providers of the History of Art A level in the country with more than 30 students each year completing the qualification, many of whom continue their studies at degree level.

'History of Art' Sarah says 'is very relevant to young people today. They can enjoy unprejudiced intellectual enquiry and learn to respect difference and individuality. It is the study of humanity, politics, literature, science and society and I am delighted that it has been saved in the nick of time.'

Photograph by Katrina Campbell

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NEWS

HESA statistics 2016

October 2016

The degree classification students obtained at universities in the 2014/15 academic year				
Degree Classification - All Institutions (%)	Percentage	First class honours	Upper second class honours	First class and upper second class honours
	Godalming Sixth Form College	23.39%	60.86%	84.25%
	Sixth Form College	22.59%	52.21%	74.80%
	Independent	22.49%	55.98%	78.47%
	State	21.64%	50.78%	72.42%
	Unknown	21.38%	48.14%	69.52%

Degree Classification - Russell Group (%)	Percentage	First class honours	Upper second class honours	First class and upper second class honours
	Godalming Sixth Form College	26.01%	63.01%	89.02%
	Sixth Form College	26.50%	54.59%	81.09%
	Independent	23.54%	57.10%	80.64%
	State	26.32%	52.79%	79.11%
	Unknown	22.79%	50.72%	73.51%

HESA Statistics 2016

Recently published data from HESA (Higher Education Statistics Agency) once again confirms the College is one of the best in the country at preparing students for higher education. The table above shows the percentage of Godalming College students who gain a first class or upper second class honours degree

compared to students who studied in other education sectors.

ClassAction at the Waverley Borough Council Awards

16th November 2016

"All the world's a stage and the men and women merely players..." This was the case on Wednesday 16th November when ClassAction entertained the guests at the Waverley Borough Council Awards with extracts from Shakespeare's plays to celebrate the 400th anniversary of his death.



ClassAction practitioners greeted the guests in role, and took them to a corner of the room. Once there and settled, the theatre adventure began with each character performing a soliloquy or monologue to their chosen audience member.

"The students were amazing ... committed, focused with wonderful delivery of the text ..." Charlotte Gardener, Arts Development Officer

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Technology in New York

5-9th December 2016

On a very cold moonlit morning the BTEC IT students accompanied by staff set off at 4am to travel from Heathrow Airport for a trip of a lifetime to New York .



The trip to the Museum of Moving image, where we looked around the wonders of animation, cinematography, and computer graphics was fascinating and we could have stayed longer than the allotted time. However, the next stop a trip to Nintendo and the Anime store was equally fascinating as we explored the wonders of computer gaming.

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Christmas Music Concert

7th December 2016

Godalming College's Christmas Concert was a triumph! The evening contained lively performances with around 100 musicians performing to a packed hall of 200 people. Ceilidh Botfield, Head of Music said 'I continue to be astounded by the talent, dedication and professionalism of the students. Each year they work incredibly hard to produce fantastic performances and I am very proud of them all. I wish them all a well-deserved rest over Christmas and am looking forward to working towards our Spring concert next term'.



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RENT

13-15th December 2016

ClassAction Theatre were one of the only companies to have been given permission to stage this legendary and landmark musical for its 20th anniversary at the end of 2016 outside of the professional production that will be playing in London at the end of the year.



This exhilarating landmark musical tells the thrilling story of a group of impoverished young artists struggling to survive in New York City's East Village in the thriving days of Bohemian excess. Inspired by Puccini's classic opera La Boheme, RENT features unforgettable music and lyrics by Jonathan Larson including the much-loved songs Seasons of Love, Take Me or Leave Me and La Vie Boheme. Winner of four Tony Awards, six Drama Desk Awards and the hugely prestigious Pulitzer Prize for Drama, it ran on Broadway for an astonishing 12 years.

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Secular Society students attend unveiling of the bust of Charles Bradlaugh MP 1833-1891 in Parliament

1st November 2016

Lisa Baker and Sam Bickerdike, leaders of Godalming College's Secular Society were honoured to be invited by the National Secular Society to a special reception in the Houses of Parliament on the evening of November 1st. They witnessed the unveiling of the newly commissioned bust of Charles Bradlaugh MP (human rights activist and atheist) and founder of the National Secular Society. The bust has now been placed in the Palace of Westminster.



Orchestral Manouvers

November 2016

Music Students have enjoyed three fantastic trips this term to experience outstanding live orchestral music. Firstly, a visit to the Albert Hall for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's 70th Anniversary Concert. The second was again the Royal Philharmonic at the Albert Hall but this time the performance was Best of Broadway. The third a visit to St Luke's to see the





London Symphony Orchestra AS and A2 set works, Schumann's Piano Trio in G minor and Mozart's Piano Sonata in Bb.

Eoghan McCarthy said 'The concert was so enjoyable due to the varied programme of contrasting pieces. The Royal Albert Hall is a beautiful venue with incredible acoustics and it was very exciting to see such a prestigious orchestra perform there'.

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Robotics



October 2016

We have a team of 10 students who are building an autonomous robot that will be playing a series of games against other robots in the student robotics competition. The competition 'kicked off' with an event at the university of Southampton in October where kits were handed out and the rules were set. The teams need to build the hardware and program the robots to choose the best strategy to win the game. The competition will be two frenzied days of competing in the Spring.

A Mathematical Challenge!



December 2016

In the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge, we gained 14 Gold, 19 Silver and 11 Bronze Certificates. Our top scorer Oscar Thickpenney and runner-up Jonny Butler, together with eight other students, qualified for the Senior Kangaroo competition.

Our team of Millie Clarkson, Matthew Eldridge, Dougal Houston and Julian James put in a strong performance in the Surrey heat of the Team Maths Challenge at Surrey University, achieving 8th place.

A group of Upper Sixth Further Maths students attended the Maths in Action Lecture Day at the Institute of Education for an interesting series of talks, including "From Euclid to the Electric Guitar" and a demonstration of an "Enigma" coding machine.

Networks and Sharing



5th December 2016

ClassAction is built on a shared narrative between practitioners – old and new, and it is within the fusing of past, present and future that meaningful links are created between current practitioners and those that have gone onto further training and professional work. We encourage our training practitioners to network and form professional links both face to face and in the virtual world. This networking was formalised at the end of this term as we hosted a Practitioner's Panel, where we welcome back ex-practitioners who are currently studying drama, dance, performing arts, in some of the country's top Drama and Dance Schools, for a question and answer session with our current practitioners. Schools represented included Drama Centre, Mountview, Arts Ed, PPA, The Place, Oxford School of Drama and Performers. Audition advice, funding ideas, typical training days and production work were all discussed in this lively and dynamic forum.

ClassAction have also supported the Waverley Federation and hosted an ACTING UP Day, of workshops, seminars and question and answer sessions for 80 Year 9 students from our feeder schools. The day involved all these young practitioners working together exploring: Mime, Mask Work, Voice Work, Devising and Physical Theatre – followed at the end of the day by a performance from current practitioner Liv Owen who presented a brand new Verbatim theatre piece that she has developed for her EPQ qualification.

International School Award



November 2016

Godalming College has received the International School Award from the British Council. It is in recognition for the work, particularly in languages departments, that supports students in their exploration of culture in different countries. It celebrates the links that exist with overseas organisations whilst also encouraging the promotion of positive global attitudes and the appreciation of diversity, other countries and culture.

French Teacher, Françoise Marteel says, 'the Modern Foreign Languages department works hard to make sure the students gain an excellent education with opportunities to enrich their experience through visits, work experience and lots of regular discussion with native speakers I'm delighted that our efforts have been recognised'.

Robert Honey, Engineering Ambassador

20th October 2016

Our huge congratulations go to Robert Honey who received an Engineering Ambassador Award from the GASP Motor Project, which provides courses in practical engineering skills and motor mechanics for young people in Surrey.



The award ceremony took place at McLaren's headquarters which was a great experience in itself. All the award winners were treated to a behind the scenes tour of the factory which included the assembly plant, the research 'pods' and the display of McLaren Formula 1 cars from the last 50 years.

Robert who has been involved in building a Formula 24 racing car, learning how engines work and how to fix them and now has a project to build his own car from scratch - engineering all the parts himself. His award reflects the work he has done by attending events and promoting GASP on social media and also for approaching local business for advice and tools. He is very grateful for the support from GASP and his social media followers and to those who have sponsored his car building project.

Robert loves designing and engineering things and intends to do a mechanical engineering degree.

EVENTS



The Dan Eley Spring Benefit Concert

29th March 2017

The Spring Benefit Concert at the Godalming United Church provides a great experience for over 200 students to perform in a venue outside of College. The Concert will involve the Godalming Concert Orchestra, the Jazz Band, The Chamber Choir, The Godalming College Singers, Ensemble and individual performances to delight all musical tastes. The aim of the concert is to raise money for the Dan Eley Foundation who in turn use the proceeds to support young disadvantaged people in Surrey through their Fresh Start initiative. Rachael Morris is a special guest and will provide an insight into her experiences of training and competing in world class events including the Paralympics. Tickets for the concert are priced £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/godalmingcollegemusic

NEWS FROM EX- STUDENTS

Success for Matt Harris (aka Hyrogifics)



August 2016

Matt Harris went from Music Technology A level at Godalming College to take a degree in Creative Music Production at ACM, Guildford. Matt now produces music under the name Hyrogifics and is signed to Critical Music. His recent EP All Talk reached number 3 in the Beatport chart within days of its release. He has been headhunted by the prestigious Red Bull Academy and has won many awards this year. If you went to the Boomtown Festival in Winchester this summer you will have seen him on the main stage.

Critical Music says 'Carving out a distinctive path for himself well into 2017 and beyond; we can only expect the high-end futuristic freshness to keep flowing from this exciting, young producer.'

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