



Message from the Principal ...

After the excitement of exam results, and very busy enrolment period staff and students are settling in to the new term. I am delighted to welcome 790 new students to college, and to see 660 students return for a second year. I enjoyed meeting new parents at the Transition Evenings in October. We were very pleased with the A level examination results in the summer. 52% of our entries were awarded A*/B grades. 63 students gained all grade A*/A results. The value added assessment, which takes account of students' performance at GCSE, places us in the top 10% of colleges.

SSFC students come from a very wide geographical area and over 40 different schools. This provides a tremendous opportunity for students to find new friends, interests and a new perspective.

We have recently completed refurbishments to the roof of the main building. During the year we will start the building work on the new Earth Sciences teaching block, and we plan to develop a new social space for students, which we hope will be ready soon after Christmas.

Support for students is particularly important at the beginning of the year. We encourage students to get to know their Group tutor, Wendy Challinor (the Youth Support Worker) and Jeevan Jones and Holly Shaddock (the Presidents of the Student Council). They are housed in the student common room known as the White House. We also encourage students to become familiar with "Moodle" – which is the main computer based communication tool, where in addition to subject learning materials there is information on how to make best use of "non-teaching" time.

This year sees the launch of the 16-19 Bursary Fund. It is designed to give financial assistance to students based on household income. We have already allocated funds to nearly 100 students. For more details please contact Cathy Sheard at Student Services (cas@ssfc.ac.uk). EMA (Educational Maintenance Allowance) is only available to second or third years who were receiving the maximum (£30 per week) support last year.

Over the course of the year there will be formal and informal opportunities to come into college to talk to staff about the progress of your son/daughter, and there will be opportunities to see events such as drama productions, musical concerts and the celebrating achievement evening (8 March 2012).

There are two parent governors on the Board. It is important that the parental perspective influences the decision making of the college, although parent governors will be full governors in their own right and not expected to canvass opinion or "represent" all parents. I am very appreciative of the commitment and sound advice that we currently receive from Chris Romberg and Janet Barlow. Further details about governance are on our website.

If you have a comment to make about the college or the progress of your son/daughter please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to sharing a very successful year with you and your son/daughter.



Martin Ward



Madagascar Expedition

For many Sixth Form students I'm sure the first thoughts that come to mind when the island of Madagascar is mentioned include a scheming group of penguins; a hypochondriac giraffe and dancing lemurs. However last summer, ten Shrewsbury Sixth Formers managed to raise the funds for the chance to experience the real Madagascar for two weeks.

Although disappointed to find no lions, zebras or penguins in the forests we did see many beautiful lemurs (unfortunately no dancing), chameleons, tenrecs and snakes.

What makes Madagascar's wildlife so exciting is the fact that over 80% of it is unique to the island. The second week was spent on a marine site, ie. a tropical beach, where we experienced scuba diving or snorkelling whilst exploring a coral reef habitat. It was also one of our group's 18th birthday while we were away and so we all celebrated in the traditional Malagasy manner.

Overall it was an incredibly exciting and interesting two weeks from which we all came away with a better understanding of a very different culture and country and formed new and lasting friendships. We would all like to thank Andrew Wilson for the organisation of the trip and his patience!

By Lorna S. and Hannah T.L.

Students Collaborate with Shrewsbury Baptist Church

Matt Burgess, Mitchel Baitey, Maria Howland and Ellie Walker (All Second Year Graphic Communication students) met with Jude James and Steve Barnwell from Shrewsbury Baptist Church to discuss the branding project for the new community building (currently under major renovation) and to outline the project brief.

They are subsequently working on initial ideas around the notion of centrality and relevance to the town and its community. They will be submitting initial ideas for a logo by the 4th November for an initial review. An exhibition of the students work is to be held during the opening of the new building once completed.

Parental Contact

We want to maintain effective communication with parents. We will use a variety of approaches although core reports on students will still be sent on paper. Other information will be sent by e-mail, and posted on the parents' section of the website (www.ssfc.ac.uk). Please let us know if you change your email address. Parents can use the email address parents@ssfc.ac.uk to raise any concerns, or make suggestions. We hope to set up a parental portal during the first term. You will receive separate specific information about this development.

Amnesty Card Competition Success

Congratulations to Tom Carey and Maddie Deane (Second Year Graphic Communication students) who were successful in being selected for the Shrewsbury Amnesty Group Greeting Card competition. Selected out of more than 50 strong entries they have been published by Amnesty and will be on sale from St Marys Church and other Amnesty outlets around Shrewsbury.



Christmas Concert

7 December 2011

Tickets are now available for this concert which is to be held at Wakeman School. More details are available on www.ssfc.ac.uk or by emailing boxoffice@ssfc.ac.uk.

Key Dates


Yr 2 UCAS submission deadline 7 Nov
 Yr 2 Consultation Evenings - 25th & 30th Nov
 Yr 1 Consultation Afternoon (for invited parents) - 14th Dec
 End of Term - 16th Dec (teaching finishes at 12:20)

Spring Term 2012:

First Day of Term - 3rd Jan
 AS Exams - 10th to 20th Jan *
 Yr 2 exam leave - 17th to 18th Jan *
 A2 Exams - 19th Jan to 2nd Feb *
 Yr 1 Consultation Evenings - 2nd & 7th Feb
 Half Term - 13th to 17th Feb
 End of Term - 30th Mar
 * provisional dates. Subject to change

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