

NELSON AND COLNE
COLLEGE

Sixth Form

IN TOUCH

Winter 2011

Our outstanding A Level and Vocational results have once again placed us in the **top 10% of all colleges nationally**



A LONG-STANDING TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE



COLLEGE MAKES IT INTO THE TOP 10% OF HIGH PERFORMING COLLEGES IN THE COUNTRY!

Nelson and Colne College Sixth Form is well known locally for its long-standing tradition of excellence, but now it has been showcased on a national platform, for being in the top 10% of high performing colleges in the country!

The Government's Data Service has confirmed that students in England couldn't find higher quality General Further Education courses than those on offer in Lancashire. Nelson and Colne College Sixth Form, Accrington and Rossendale, Blackburn, Lancaster and Morecambe and Runshaw Colleges all made it into the top thirty, leaving 204 General Further Education Colleges elsewhere in England trailing in their wake. To make the top thirty, colleges needed to have a success rate of 83.7% or better.

Positions in the league table were determined by student success rates for A Levels and for Vocational Courses such as Catering, Computing, Accounting, Management, Construction and Health and Social Care.

In 2011 our students achieved an A Level pass rate of 99.6% and 100% Vocational pass rate. Our statistics this year are also outstanding, with 55 A Level students achieving 2 or more A*/A grades; overall 142 A Level students gained the coveted A* or A grades. Not only this, but 78% of A2 students achieved high grades A*-C, whilst 46% achieved top grades, A*-B.



"I was absolutely delighted to learn that our College had made it into the top 10% of Colleges nationally! At Nelson and Colne College Sixth Form we have an ethos of hard work and a commitment to aiming high; therefore it is wonderful to see the dedication of so many students, and their tutors, rewarded. Each year I am astounded by the achievements of the young people who pass through the College and their enthusiasm for learning is a true inspiration." Principal Lyn Surgeon



PRE-PROFESSIONAL NEWS

MARVELLOUS MEDICS!

Students on Nelson and Colne College Sixth Form's specialist Pre-Professional Programme for Medicine (Pre-Med) are proving they have what it takes to become the next generation of medics and vets, with an increasing number of students gaining offers to study on competitive medical related degree programmes.

In 2011, Sally Goldsbrough, former student of SS John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Humanities College gained outstanding results, and is now reading Medicine at Keele University. Ellie Phipps who previously attended Colne Park High School also gained excellent results, allowing her to read Veterinary Science at the University of Liverpool.

In addition to Sally and Ellie's success, in 2011, more than 30 Nelson and Colne College Sixth Form students, studying both A Level and Vocational Science programmes have progressed to degree programmes in health related fields, including Dentistry, Pharmacy, Optometry, Radiography, Pharmaceutical and Cosmetic Science and Biomedical Science, to name a few.

"Without the help and support offered by the Pre-Med course, and my tutor Brenda Rowan, I doubt I would be in the position I am today! I would definitely recommend the Pre-Med programme!" Sally Goldsbrough

"I too would recommend the College's unique Pre-Med programme due to the masses of support you get, even if you are the only one interested in a certain field." Ellie Phipps



BUDDING LEGAL PROFESSIONALS GET A FLYING START!

Our Pre-Professional Law Programme has enjoyed similar success. In 2011, more than 20 students from the College have progressed to Law, or related degrees such as Criminology at some of the UK's top universities, including King's College London.

In 2010 - 2011 participants took part in trips to a Law Conference at Salford University, the Life Behind Bars conference, visited the Magistrates and Burnley Crown Courts and local Police Stations. In addition, students were visited by guest speakers such as University Admissions Officers, Police Community Support Officers and local Solicitors.

There is also an opportunity for Pre-Law students to apply to take part in the Pathway to Law initiative, which aims to provide opportunities for students who are interested in a career in Law, and will be first generation attendees at university. Last year the College saw one student enrol on this innovative initiative with the University of Manchester, which offered a full and varied programme of lectures, seminars, advice and guidance sessions, skill development and interaction with students and professionals through blogs and e-mentoring.

"I was delighted to see that so many of the students who took part in our first Pre-Law course last year did so well in their exams. The Pre-Law course enhanced the students' academic planning and helped to prepare them for choosing to read Law at university, which in turn meant that they made a successful transition into some of the highest ranking universities, such as King's College, London. I am sure that this year's Pre-Law course will prove just as popular and successful." Law Co-ordinator and Law tutor Sharon Mellor



To find out more about our Pre-Professional Programmes for Medicine, Law, Teaching or Journalism, please call Student Services on 01282 440209



SIXTH FORM AWARDS

A CELEBRATION OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AT OUR ANNUAL SIXTH FORM AWARDS

2011 proved to be another year of outstanding success at Nelson and Colne College Sixth Form, where students continued the College's tradition of excellence to achieve some of the best results in Lancashire. To honour their achievements, the College held a glittering awards ceremony on 15th September 2011.

On arrival, students and their families enjoyed a Bucks Fizz reception with sumptuous canapés created by the College's Catering Division. Special guest for the evening was a former student of the College and local GP Dr Nazneen Begum.

Prizes were awarded in all subject areas across the College, for A Level, Vocational and Apprenticeship success, with main prizes for A Level Student of the Year, Vocational Student of the Year and Occupational Student of the Year.

A Level Student of the Year (Fort Prize) was Rose Pashley who is a former student of Colne Park High School. She studied A Levels in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Chemistry and Economics. She gained excellent results 3 A*s and 1 A. Her ability has been justly recognised and she has taken up a place to read Mathematics at the University of Oxford.

Vocational Student of the Year (DJ Moore Prize) was awarded to Luke Stone, who is a former student of SS John Fisher and Thomas More Roman Catholic Humanities College. He chose to study towards a BTEC National Diploma in Business and achieved 3 Distinctions – the highest grades possible. He was also a member of the College's multi-award winning team at Lancaster University's Voltage Project – a social enterprise challenge for students of Business. Luke has progressed to Northumbria University to read Business Studies.

Occupational Student of the Year was awarded to Ben Brown. Ben is a former student of St Christopher's CE High School in Accrington. Ben studied for a Diploma in Hospitality Supervision and Leadership and his tutors said he excelled at motivating others. Ben is now working at top local restaurant The Fence Gate Inn.

"I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today without the help I received at College." Dr Nazneen Begum



CHILD CARE STUDENT CROWNED NATIONAL CHAMPION!

Talented Child Care student Anna Romanska, who is studying for a Level 3 Diploma in Child Care and Education at the College, has won the National Heinemann and Nursery World Child Care Student of the Year Award, a competition organised by Pearson Education Limited.

Anna, who is 26 and originally from Poland has previously studied for a Level 2 Diploma in Child Care and Education at the College, and despite having only arrived in England shortly before she began the programme, with English as her second language, she gained an A and impressed her tutors early on.

With a three year old son, Anna juggles her College work alongside caring for him and her tutors say that they never need to ask her to catch up on work.

Criteria for the competition was stringent and following short listing, Anna had to submit a piece of written work which demonstrated her ability to work with children and evaluate her own practise. For the finals, Anna travelled to Pearson's Head Quarters in Oxford, where she was judged against other competitors from Colleges across the UK.

A spokesperson from Pearsons reported that this year's finals were extremely difficult to judge due to the extremely high calibre of students put forward. However, the College was delighted when Anna was announced the overall winner!



“Anna showed an excellent grasp of the key issues in her own case study and also contributed positively to the other candidates’ case studies. In particular, she demonstrated empathy by seeing things from the parents’ point of view and putting the needs of the children at the centre of her response.”

GOING FOR GOLD!

10 students are well on their way to completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award after completing a gruelling 4 day expedition in Snowdonia.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award is a nationally recognised programme which aims to inspire, guide and support young people in their self-development and recognise their achievement. The programme is highly valued by universities and employers who are seeking well motivated, tenacious and hardworking individuals. The whole award can take between 18-24 months to complete and students must successfully complete five sections; Voluntary Work, Skills (a hobby), Physical (sport activity), a 5 day Residential and Expedition.

In order to fulfil the Expedition section, 10 students travelled to a remote area of Snowdonia called the Rhinogs, having spent many hours planning routes and booking campsites for their 4 day expedition. The students also had to plan their meals, buy food and carry all of the necessary camping gear whilst hiking in the rugged welsh mountains.

The group split into two teams, boys and girls and whilst the boys studied historical sites in the area, the girls did a survey of leisure facilities. Although the weather was kind to the group, the terrain was extremely challenging, meaning that the students did not meet many other walkers.



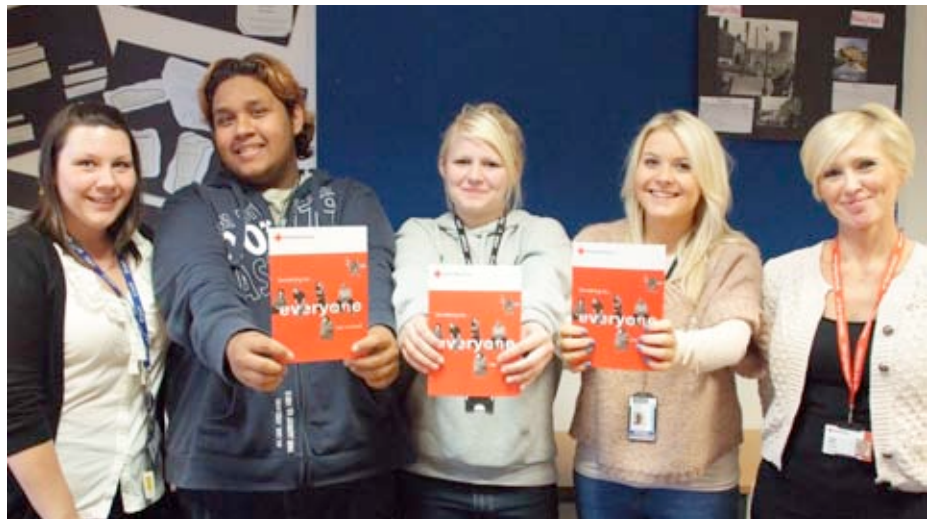
STUDENTS SIGN UP TO HELP OTHERS

This year's students are proving that young people really do care, by signing up to volunteer with Help Direct and the Red Cross as part of the College's extensive extra-curricular programme.

The College enjoys an enviable reputation for providing outstanding education; part of this success is down to the diversity of courses offered and the opportunities provided for students to take part in extra-curricular activities. These opportunities enhance their learning, broaden their outlook and help them to develop into caring and well-rounded individuals who stand out from the crowd when moving into university or employment.

Currently, the College is offering its students the chance to take part in volunteer work with either the Red Cross or Help Direct. Students from the College's broad curriculum have signed up to take part, from catering students wanting to cook for the elderly and homeless, Pre-Med students wanting to gain experience of working in health care settings, to Public Services students keen to broaden their knowledge of working with the general public.

As part of the training with Help Direct, volunteers will undergo mandatory training for CAFs (Central Assessment Framework), Safe Guarding and Confidentiality, before being placed by the charity. Those volunteering with the Red Cross will be fully funded as they receive training in Safe Guarding, Equality and Diversity and First Aid. After one year of volunteering with the Red Cross, they can apply to volunteer on a range of projects across the globe!



PAMPERING AND PR!

As a part of their Level 3 programme, Beauty Therapy students at the College were tasked with organising and managing their own event, promoting beauty services to potential clients. After considering the sort of event they could plan, the students decided to host a specialist pamper evening, offering Hot Stone Massage, Indian Head Massage and St. Tropez self-tanning on Thursday 17th November.

The class was split into groups, with each group responsible for specific parts of the event organisation; from planning the therapies on the night, to arranging PR and marketing to promote the event to the general public – all vital aspects of holding a successful event. The students were particularly interested in the learning about the business side of planning an event and spent time with the College's own marketing department to gain advice on where and how to promote the event, designing leaflets and posters and the costs associated with this.



"It's been a fantastic experience for the students to learn about planning and managing a promotional event. When they go out into the world of work, they will have transferable skills and knowledge which will ensure that they are successful in their own enterprise and business in the future. Qualifying as a therapist can open a world of opportunities for Beauty Therapy students. In the past, we've had students go on to travel the world on board luxury cruise liners, work on TV and film productions and of course, many go on to start their own highly successful businesses. Hopefully this experience will allow the students to see that starting their own business and promoting it well is a very real option for them!" Beauty Therapy tutor Gail Bailey

COLLEGE ENTERPRISE FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS

Business Studies students at Nelson and Colne College Sixth Form have been developing their taste for business with a unique and mouth-wateringly exciting enterprise workshop – with The Ministry of Chocolate!

A mixture of A Level and Vocational students took part in the event, which saw them welcome The Minister for Chocolate, Karl Turner from The Ministry of Chocolate, which is the UK's leading provider of interactive chocolate workshops and teambuilding events.

Working with large blue chip companies, professional firms, small businesses, non-profit making organisations and many colleges and universities each year, the Ministry of Chocolate runs a variety of innovative workshops which enhance creativity, team-building and enterprise skills – whilst using everyone's favourite treat – chocolate!

During the workshop, the students learnt about the history and development of the chocolate industry and then got stuck into designing and making their own chocolate products. Tasked with coming up with their own chocolate brand the students showed outstanding creativity and fantastic business skills in developing their own unique product.



“The Business Studies department at the College is dedicated to providing its students with real-life experiences which enhance their understanding of the business concepts being studied in class. Although we see a large proportion of our students head off to some of the best universities each year, a large number also decide to go out into the world of work and some even start their own businesses, based on the entrepreneurial skills they have acquired whilst at college. This event gave the students a real ‘taste’ of developing a brand and business idea and feedback from them has been extremely positive.” Business Studies tutor Justine Thatcher



FOOD SCIENCE!

Catering and Hospitality students and apprentices at the College have been learning that science can play a role in the culinary industry after making ice-cream using liquid nitrogen!

East Lancashire produces some of the finest produce in the UK and with a host of top-class restaurants looking for their next stars, the College is keen to give its students a broad but in-depth education which takes in some rather unorthodox styles of cooking! Making ice-cream with liquid nitrogen is unusual, but is a method sometimes adopted by leading chefs such as Heston Blumenthal in his restaurant The Fat Duck.

The students were assisted in the task by the College's science technicians and were taught about the precautions necessary when using chemicals and the cost implications of making products using these methods.

“After speaking with the College's Science technicians, they agreed to come along to the kitchens to demonstrate the process of making ice-cream using liquid nitrogen to our students. It is experiences such as this which really make our students stand out from the crowd when applying for jobs in the catering and hospitality industry and in the past we have had numerous students go on to be extremely successful in the industry, working in Michelin starred restaurants and opening their own business. The experiment really enthused the students and they were surprised how good the ice-cream was too!” Catering and Hospitality tutor Nick Hatch,

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Your Interview

Interviews are an important part of the process when you apply to join Nelson and Colne College Sixth Form. Not only do they give you an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about your chosen course but they allow us to ensure that you have made the right choice to help you achieve your best.

Once you have applied to the College, we aim to invite you in for an interview as soon as possible. However, due to the high number of applications we have received this year, it may be several weeks before we can see you – but don't worry! This won't affect your chances of gaining a place!

A Level and Vocational Interview evenings are held throughout the year on alternate Wednesdays, with the exception of Art applicants, where you will be seen on an A Level Interview Evening regardless of which course you chose. This is to allow an experienced Art tutor to assess your portfolio.

Interviews are nothing to worry about. The main purpose of an interview is to discuss your choice of subjects, ensuring that they match your career aspirations.

What next?

After your interview, you will be offered a place. This may be conditional depending on your GCSE results or a firm offer if you have already achieved some qualifications.

Throughout the year, we will also keep in touch with you by sending copies of our newsletter to let you know what's going on around College. You are also welcome to visit us on one of our Open Events, or you can contact our Admissions Team (01282 440272) for further advice and guidance if you have any questions.

You will also be invited to New Student Day, which will be held in June 2012. This is a great opportunity for you to meet other students who will be starting with you in September, meet the staff who will teach you and give you an opportunity to sample lessons. We will write to you later in the year with more information.

Visit our website and view our video prospectus
www.nelson.ac.uk

Or use your smartphone QR Reader to view.



Useful Contacts

Admissions Team for application enquiries
01282 440272
admissions@nelson.ac.uk

Student Services for information about finance, learning support and student welfare
01282 440209
learnerservices@nelson.ac.uk

Travel enquiries including personal travel plans
01282 440373
h.ellis@nelson.ac.uk

Not attended one of our open events yet?

Monday 6th February 2012

6.30pm - 8.30pm

A Level, Vocational and Apprenticeship programmes

Monday 20th February 2012

6.30pm - 8.30pm

Apprenticeship programmes

