

Principal's Welcome

Welcome to our first parents' newsletter of 2012.

With the difficult economic situation likely to be with us for some time Highlands has been giving considerable thought to how to improve the employability skills of our students. We have been working closely with employers to find out what they look for in a person starting their first job.

Companies tell us that they are looking for keen, motivated young people who can work on their own and as part of a team and who are willing to learn. They are also looking for good skills in English and Mathematics. As a result we ensure that all our courses teach these employability skills alongside our vocational courses and, wherever possible, we find work placements or work-based projects for our students to give them a taste of what working life is like.

It is this approach along with the hard work and dedication of our staff and the students themselves that we hope will help the Island to weather not only this economic storm, but also those of the future.

Professor Ed Sallis OBE,
Principal and Chief Executive



An Enriching Experience for Highlands Students



Every year, just before the College breaks up for Christmas, the Student Services team runs an 'Enrichment Day' for all of our students during which a variety of speakers, activities, competitions and a fair are laid on in order to bring the term to an entertaining end. Students also engage in charity fund-raising activities and a 'Celebrating Diversity' competition.

This year's event was a particular success with a variety of new speakers and events as well as some old favourites. Mark McQuillan from Channel TV proved popular talking about his marathon run in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust and former College lecturer Paul du Feu talked about the work of the charity Hands Around the World. Other charities presenting their work included Amnesty International, the British Red Cross, the Samaritans, Autism Jersey, and the NSPCC. As usual, firm favourites with the students included Jamie Copsey's talk on Durrell's work around the world and members of Alcoholics Anonymous relating their personal experiences as well as an excellent session on Personal Branding run by NatWest.

Ethical issues were also on the menu – Emma Richardson and Melanie Le Maistre from the States of Jersey, looked at Sustainable Re-thinking and Lucy Layton from the Jersey Fairtrade Island Group enticed students with Fairtrade chocolate and footballs whilst encouraging them to take a

step for Fairtrade in 2012. Bear Grylls fans got to test their mettle at the 'Forest School', learning to put up a shelter, make their own tools, light a fire with a flint and use a storm kettle to make hot chocolate.

The Celebrate Diversity competition was won by Kelsey Jones, a Diploma in Vocational Studies student with her entry Spot the Difference; second prize went to the Level 2 Health students with The Line of Diversity and runner up prizes were awarded to Elliot Stevens from Level 3 Media and the Diploma in Vocational Studies photography group.

Money is still coming in from the students' charity fund raising efforts but so far over £300 has been raised for Children in Need, over £700 for CLIC Sargent, with money still to come in for Jersey Hospice, the Make A Wish Foundation, Hands Around the World, Help A Jersey Child, the Women's Refuge, Teenage Cancer Trust and the Jersey Sports Association for the Disabled.

A massive thank you to all those who gave their time to contribute to this fantastic event and to the students and staff for their enthusiastic participation. If you think you might be able to help in any way during our next Enrichment Day at the end of this year please do let Student Services know – the more offers we have the better the day will be!

Real men change nappies. Addressing the gender gap in childcare.

The situation facing men in childcare today is reminiscent of the situation facing their predecessors in nursing 20 years ago when the career was largely perceived as a female vocation and men were relatively rare. Nowadays a significant proportion of the nursing workforce is male and it is quite common to find male nurses at all levels of the profession.

At Highlands we believe that the childcare role already played by men in society needs to have more recognition. Men routinely change nappies, feed babies, help care for toddlers and children within their own families, yet this can be overlooked by childcare professionals and the industry sometimes doesn't seem to recognise men's innate skills when recruiting.

Highlands College is pleased to be able to say that we currently have 8 male students enrolled across our childcare provision. Where men have been employed in childcare roles the results have been very promising and they also provide an often-valuable male role model for the children in their care. Men bring important qualities into childcare and this is something that we feel society should embrace.



Staff Stories - Gill Oakes, Head of the Faculty of Community Studies reflects on the importance of the childcare industry

From little acorns...

Did you know that Jersey has the largest number of working women in Europe?

For many of them, the most important people in their lives are their children and therefore the people that look after them must be the best trained in the world. Jersey is one of the best places in the world for children and young people to grow up and therefore we need world-class childcare professionals to work with them.

When I first began to teach students in childcare at Highlands College the numbers were small, I can remember all the students from my first week of teaching! There were just 22 students, both full and part-time.

I am delighted to say that 13 years later we now have 147 students taking qualifications in this important area.

The range of courses we offer is designed to meet the needs of employers, whom we work with every day and whose enthusiasm for the work done here at the College never ceases to amaze and delight me.

Whilst we take great pride in our own internal quality assurance measures, quality sometimes needs to be measured by other people. In 2010 our Faculty was part of a full inspection conducted by a team of OFSTED inspectors for the UK and I am immensely proud to report that we achieved the highest grades possible in every single area.

To go back to my opening comments, people that work with children in Jersey should be the best trained in the world and at Highlands we are working hard to make sure that this is the case as we help to look after the most important people in parents' lives.



Students' Stories – Highlands students tell their stories

Studying for a degree in Jersey



Sian Walker

My name is Sian Walker and I am currently a second year student on the Foundation Degree in Childhood Studies at Highlands College. My first course at Highlands was a Diploma in Childcare and Education and afterwards I wanted to continue my studies in this field but was reluctant to leave the Island.

One option was an Open University course, however there were several reasons why this wasn't right for me, the greatest being that I didn't feel ready to study independently without the support of a group of colleagues and tutors. I therefore decided to postpone any future studies until I had gained some practical experiences. I secured a position as a Nursery Officer at Bel Royal School which I have been fortunate enough to be able to continue two days a week as part of my degree.

The ability to study a degree in Jersey has enabled me to enjoy the best of several worlds. I am able to be near my friends and family as well as studying for a degree on a basis that allows me to support myself financially. The most important benefit however is that I want to work in Jersey

when I am qualified. Completing my degree in Jersey has enabled me to learn about specific regulations and other factors that affect the industry locally.

Studying in Jersey has meant that I am part of a group of people with vastly differing backgrounds, which often results in interesting debates and the small group allows individual queries and interests to be explored by the tutor in each lesson. All of the tutors have relevant experience in Jersey and so can provide detailed and accurate information.

Being able to complete the first two and possibly the third year of my studies in Jersey means that the prospect of completing a year off Island in order to complete my qualifications is not so daunting or unrealistic. After completing my foundation degree I plan to complete my third year of Childhood Studies to receive a full degree before completing a Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Plymouth University to become a primary teacher, before returning to work in Jersey.



Jeremy Medley (right) shares his expertise

Another Michelin Star chef visits Highlands College

January once again saw the Highlands Culinary Arts team host a top Michelin star chef in the form of Cornishman Jeremy Medley. At 24 Jeremy became

the youngest ever chef to be awarded a coveted Michelin Star and his visit, as part of the launch celebrations for the Craft Guild of Chefs, provided an excellent opportunity for Jeremy to share some of his extensive knowledge of molecular gastronomy and other cutting edge culinary techniques.

In visiting Highlands Jeremy follows in the recent footsteps of such culinary celebrities as Marco Pierre-White, Jose Pizaro and Cyrus Todiwala.

Media Production Students help CTV Celebrate 50 Years



The Highlands Studio

2012 sees Channel Television celebrate 50 years of broadcasting and to help mark the occasion the station has commissioned Media Production students at Highlands to produce a documentary charting the station's half-century at the heart of Island life.

With such a long and varied history, the tough decisions facing the student crews will not be what to include, but what to leave out and with a tight deadline to meet, the project will provide an excellent insight into the pressures of working in the broadcast industry. Jason Grainger, Curriculum Manager for the Media Team said; "Not only were our students excited to be asked to undertake this challenging project, but the experience of making what amounts to a professional documentary for an established media client is an excellent opportunity to develop their production skills".



The Highlands Media Production Edit Suite

Fortunately the three crews that will be working on the project all have experience in writing, producing, filming and editing for television, gained whilst studying for their BTEC qualification, which is fortunate as there is no more discerning client for a TV show than a TV station.

CTV is the latest client in a long list to have worked with our Media Production Team. In recent years student crews have also produced promotional films for Mencap, Headway, the States of Jersey Health and Education Departments, Channel 103 and the Jersey Youth Service to name but a few.



Applying for another course at the College starting September 2012

Applications from current students to progress to another course starting in September 2012 should have now all been completed on-line. However, if your son or daughter hasn't yet completed their application, there is still time by collecting an application form from Student Services.

Please encourage them to do this as soon as possible and if you need any further information about the process or courses available, please contact our Information & Guidance Tutor on 608509, or ask in the Student Services office.

Offer letters for places are normally sent out by mid-May. Successful applicants will then need to come in to College to enrol on one of the following dates:

**Thursday 23rd August between 10am and 2pm, or
Friday 24th August between 10am and 12pm, or
Tuesday 28th August between 10am and 12pm**

Full-time courses will start on Monday 10 September.

If your son or daughter has chosen to leave College at the end of their current course and enter the world of work, we are also here to help with CV writing, letters of application and interview skills.