

M A K I N G

waves

The termly magazine **Autumn 2017**



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College London

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Welcome to West Thames College.

Executive Director of Curriculum **Katrin Lehmann** welcomes you to the autumn edition of Making Waves.

Dear Reader

It is hard to believe another year is almost here. It feels like only yesterday we were celebrating last year's graduates at the Creative Arts Festival, [page 4](#) and Student Award Ceremonies, [page 8](#).

At West Thames College our aim is to give each and every student their chance to shine, from achieving fantastic exam results, [page 6](#) to getting the job they have dreamed of, [pages 11 and 14](#), and we are determined to make that happen.

We know that new students step through our doors with eagerness, excitement, and a bit of nervousness too, so our Freshers' Fair was the perfect opportunity to begin on a high, [page 12](#).

We hope you enjoy reading these stories and we look forward to welcoming you to the college at one of our many open days and events this year.

Yours sincerely,
Katrin Lehmann



New year. New courses. New opportunities.



You don't have to wait until next September to start a new course.

Maybe you've realised that the course you started in September isn't right for you. Perhaps you weren't sure what to do after leaving school.

Don't worry!

West Thames College has a range of courses starting in January to help you get back on track.

If you're still not sure what to do next, book an appointment with an independent careers adviser. Contact the Information Centre for more details.

✉ info@west-thames

☎ 020 8326 2020

Art, Design and Media. Introduction to materials and processes.

Cabin Crew. Airline safety and security, responding to emergencies and making on-board announcements.

Childcare. Setting a routine with babies and children, healthy lifestyles and the importance of play in learning.

Creative Media Production and Technology. Graphic design, moving image, visual effects, photography, coding and web development.

Customer Service. Communication and sales skills, dealing with customer queries and identifying methods of boosting business.

Electrical Installation. Basic theory and practice.

Food Preparation and Cooking. Storing, preparing and cooking food and maintaining a safe and hygienic working environment.

Hair, Beauty and Makeup. Professional techniques, caring for clients and presenting a professional image.

Creative Arts Festival 2017



Our Creative Arts Festival celebrates students' hard work and undeniable talent in spectacular shows and exhibitions, giving visual and performing arts and media students a chance to show employers what they've achieved at West Thames College.

Our Music showcase was an artistic expression by soloists, small ensembles and bands in multiple genres of music. Performing Arts students gave us drama in *How to Disappear*, depicting a man's struggle to get lost in a world of surveillance. *Love and Information*, by playwright Caryl Churchill, was a series of interconnected and standalone scenes, while the coming of age play *Boys* by Ella Hickson dealt with suicide. *Network Part 1* and *Network Part 2* examined human behaviour and how emotion can make us behave in ways society would deem less than appropriate... but oh so funny to watch!

The Dance show was an outstanding array of contemporary and street style productions, while Specialist Makeup students showcased stunning creations in their graduate show *Mirage*, which featured spellbinding makeup, costumes, hairstyling, special effects, prosthetics and body painting. Art, Design and Media students exhibited their work in a visual delight of sculpture work, installation art, photography, 3D design and costume design. Please visit our website west-thames.ac.uk to see more images and videos from these shows.

Aiming high.

Higher education students celebrated in style on the evening of Wednesday 28 June with a grand ceremony.

Excited graduates embraced the chance to don caps and gowns and were applauded by families, friends, lecturers and guests as they collected their scrolls.

The event was led by Director of Hair, Beauty, Specialist Makeup and Higher Education Nicky Miles, with a speech from former student Zobia Baqi. Dr Elisabetta Canetta, programme director of BSc Applied Physics at St Mary's University, handed out the scrolls to our graduates.



The fruits of their labour



L-R: Nimesh, Yukta, Jainisha and Rani

There was tension in the air on results day as BTEC students arrived at college to discover whether their hard work had paid off.

Aviation student **Daiana Mora** was elated to open her envelope and see Distinction* Distinction*. Daiana credits her great teachers at West Thames College for her success and feels she is one step closer to studying Aviation Management at Coventry University.

Nimesh Samgi exceeded his own expectations with Distinction* Distinction* for his first year studying on the BTEC in ICT. He hopes to achieve a similar result in his second year before heading off to either Brunel or Queen Mary's University to study Computing.

Jainisha Navinkumar achieved a merit grade in her first year on Level 3 Health and Social Care. "As part of my course I gained work experience in the

college's supported learning department. It was really useful because it enabled me to put into practice the safeguarding framework that we were learning about in our classes. I am hoping to do something similar next year." Jainisha plans to study child nursing at Surrey University after completing her course with us.

Rani Morar also passed the first year of her Level 3 Applied Science BTEC. "I already feel well prepared for university. We are lucky to have lots of universities visit the college who explain what is expected of us and what we can expect studying our chosen degrees."

Visit west-thames.ac.uk to see our courses and begin your journey towards your dream career.



GCSE results

Amanda received A* in GCSE English and is now studying at the University of Creative Arts.

Ikra and **Mihaela** were overjoyed with their Bs in GCSE English and are now studying Level 3 Aviation.

Sayimah achieved As in Maths and Chemistry and Bs in Biology and Physics, while **Rameez** achieved As in Chemistry and Physics and a C in Biology. They are both now studying A Levels.

Insia received As in Chemistry and Biology and Bs in Physics and Maths. She is studying A Levels and hopes to become a doctor.

The shining stars of West Thames College

Our annual Student Award Ceremony in June shines the spotlight on the achievements of the college's most outstanding students.

The awards celebrate students who achieve academic excellence, as well as those who have overcome difficulties in order to succeed, or gone out of their way to help others.

Our guest speakers, former students Neil Reynolds and Walter Denny, presented the awards alongside Principal Tracy Aust. Neil and Walter spoke fondly of their time at West Thames. Their journeys to success and the adversities they have both faced were an inspiration.

Three students were chosen from the award winners to be the overall Students of the Year 2017: **Jade Cumberbatch** for Contribution to the College, **Sebastian Arnold** for Determination, and **Chaima Bouchetta** for Academic Achievement. The winners (pictured below) received trophies and certificates from the Mayor of Hounslow, Councillor Sue Sampson.



Meeting the challenge!

In November the college hosted a Skills + Logistics Challenge at our campus in Feltham.

The event gave local school pupils and our own students the opportunity to speak directly to employers about paths into their future careers.

Representatives from the engineering firm Russell Finex attended, as well as construction companies including BAM Construction, Millwright Plumbing, Notting Hill Housing Trust and Priority Plumbing. Students were also interested in speaking to Premier Inn, Honeywell and Heathrow Academy about job opportunities after they complete their courses.

To find out more about our courses and our upcoming recruitment fair Aspire 2018, please see our website www.west-thames.ac.uk.

**The SKILLS+
LOGISTICS
Challenge**



On track to deliver

The Logistics Skills Alliance (LSA) aims to bridge the gap between young people and the logistics sector, providing training opportunities for this thriving local industry.

The college recently began offering Level 1 Warehousing & Storage and Level 2 Forklift Truck qualifications. Working with the Institute of Couriers and the University of West London, we are planning apprenticeships in express delivery and management from Levels 2 to 6.

To find out more about the LSA, please see www.lsa-skills.co.uk.



Fresh faced fun

We kicked off the new academic year the best way we know how, with fun filled Freshers' Fairs that left students eagerly looking forward to the year ahead.

Starting college can be an exciting but also a daunting time for many new students, so each year the Freshers' Fairs at both Isleworth and Feltham help to alleviate nerves and start the year on a high.

The crowds were entertained with live music and mind-blowing tricks from magic Singh, while beauty students provided free treatments.

Thank you to all of the companies and organisations who gave our students information, support and freebies.



An international success

Four months into her work placement at The Eighty Sixth Floor, former Level 3 Media student **Miranda Evans** was promoted to full time production coordinator. Miranda now travels across Europe producing various successful short-films and videos.

"We recently have enjoyed great success on one of our Miraculous Ladybug themed videos which has accumulated over 10 million views on YouTube and has been viewed all around the world!" Miranda says. "I was creative lead on that video so I am very proud of what I achieved with help from my team."

We are incredibly proud of Miranda and pleased to hear she is enjoying her career and fulfilling her potential visiting comic conventions in cities such as Spain, Ghent, The Hague, and Paris, making a video of the event as well as covering it on social media.

Visit the 86th Floor YouTube channel via bit.ly/2iQSIHB to see a selection of their cosplay music video projects and videos from comic conventions around Europe.

Miraculous Ladybug and Chat Noir cosplay music video can be found at youtu.be/Af51bi5Dklc.



"I am very proud of what I achieved with help from my team"

A bright star at sky



Azeem Zakria completed the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Media in 2017 and has joined Sky as a Freelance Production Assistant.

"Freelancing with Sky is great! It's a paid full-time position and I am able to continue here for as long as I choose.

"The hours are long but worth it. Each shift is 12 hours and I have the opportunity to get involved in a real mixture of jobs, from vision mixing and producing to working hands on with guests, floor managers, admin work and more."

Our award winning Project SEARCH



West Thames College, along with Hounslow Council and Action on Disability, are proud providers of the **Project SEARCH** programme, working with businesses such as Hounslow Council and GlaxoSmithKline to enable young people with learning difficulties to get valuable work experience.

The programme has been recognised as one of the ten best such schemes in the whole of Europe after 70% of our trainees achieved paid employment upon completion of the programme.

Councillor Candice Atterton, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Opportunities, Hounslow Council, said: "This is a fantastic achievement and I want to congratulate everyone involved in Project SEARCH.

"To achieve this award in the first year of delivering Project Search is amazing, and I know the programme continues to go from strength to strength with another large group coming through already. I would like to thank also those local businesses who have worked with us and are giving these young people an opportunity."

For further information on Project SEARCH or to make an application, please visit west-thames.ac.uk.

"The programme continues to go from strength to strength"





Future Events

See our website or follow us on social media for more details.



2018

Open Days

Wednesday 7 February
5-7pm, Isleworth

Thursday 15 March
4-6pm, Feltham

Saturday 24 March
10am-1pm, Isleworth

Aspire 2018 Recruitment Fair

Friday 23 March
10am-4pm, Isleworth

Monthly tours

Throughout the year for Isleworth and Feltham.
Please book on our website.