

Newsletter

October 2023

Aurora
Boveridge College



Welcome to our October newsletter. It's been a busy month as teachers and students have been preparing for the November examinations and have begun completing coursework assignments. In this edition you'll find updates on the work some of our students have been completing, charity events, new staff and clubs as well as key information about daily life at Boveridge College. We hope that our newsletter caters for everyone involved with the college including students, parents, carers and staff, so if you have anything you would like to see included in future editions please let us know.
Lee Dales, Head of Education

Wellbeing Team News



WEAR PINK. RAISE MONEY.

Thursday 19th October was Wear it Pink Day. Staff and students donated £1 to wear pink and raise money for the charity Breast Cancer Now. Students also made and sold hot chocolate and flapjacks for the cause. Thanks to the wellbeing team for organising the event which raised £93 for the charity.
Carolyn Carter, Employability Coordinator



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Curriculum News

BTEC Hospitality & Tourism

On Friday 20th October the Level 2 Certificate Hospitality students were tasked with running a 'mini event' as practice and preparation for their 'Planning and Running a Hospitality Event' unit. This unit tasks them with running a hospitality event, in May 2024, and they will do a series of 'mini events' before this as practice.

The students chose to run a flapjack and hot chocolate bar with all of the proceeds going to Breast Cancer Awareness. It was such a successful afternoon and the student's involved should be so proud of themselves. The next event they will be involved in will be a Cranborne community lunch in November, where they will plan, prepare, cook and serve a 3 course lunch to between 30 and 40 guests.

Dan Spraggs, Hospitality & Tourism Lecturer



Preparation for Adulthood- Community Volunteering at St Nicholas's Church, Edmondsham



Preparation for Adulthood students have been working on developing their community skills during their weekly sessions. They have identified potential ways to help the local community and they have begun volunteering at a neighbouring village church yard.

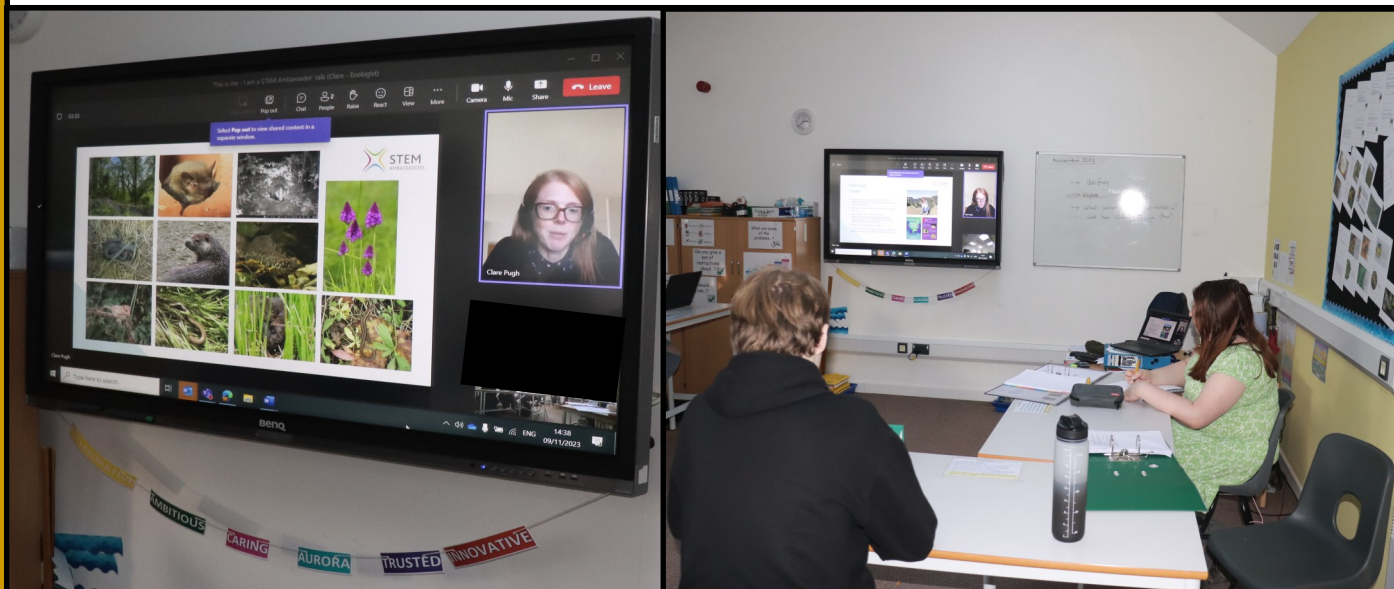
Once a fortnight, students have been working collectively to help maintain the graveyard at Edmondsham. Community spirit is an important part of a sense of belonging and it is wonderful how well the students have embraced the opportunity.

Jenniffer White, Horticulture Lecturer



A Level Environmental Science

On Thursday 9th November, the A Level Environmental Science students were treated to an online talk and Q and A session from STEM Ambassador, Clare Pugh, Ecologist. She talked about how she qualified by studying Science A Levels and Ecology at degree level. Clare also gave the students an insight into what her role as an Ecological Consultant involves. Any remaining time was spent answering questions prepared by the students. This was a great opportunity to find out first-hand what a job linked to Environmental Science could involve. Hugh Gough, Science Teacher



Exam Support

The November exams are now well underway and students have coped extremely well during what can be a stressful time.

The following support is available if students are worried about exams...

This website is a good place to start for tips about dealing with exam stress...

[Exam Stress | How To Deal with Exam Stress | YoungMinds](#)

Instagram

The Therapy Team have created an Instagram page to enable all students to access support and information in and out of college.

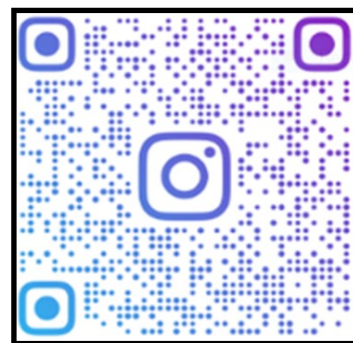
We will share positive tips and strategies that you can use at home to support your mental health and wellbeing.

Dealing with exam stress resources

Your teachers have access to a wide range of resources which can help you to cope with exam anxiety. Please ask your teachers or a member of the support team and they will help you to access these.

Please don't suffer in silence if you're worried about exams. You can talk to any member of staff here at college and they will be able to offer advice and find you the right support.

If you feel that you need any extra support in your exams such as someone to sit and guide you, please speak to Lee Dales (Examinations Officer).



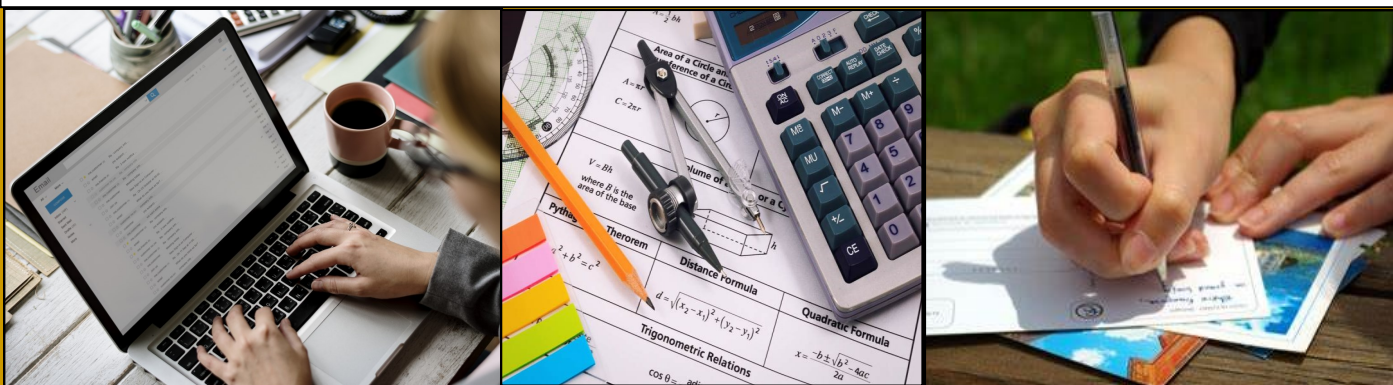
What is Functional Skills Maths and English and how is it different to GCSE?

Here at Boveridge College we deliver Maths and English through both Functional Skills and GCSE courses. Both courses have a strong focus on the basics of numeracy and literacy e.g. SPaG (spelling, punctuation & grammar) in English, and time management and budgeting in Maths.

GCSE Maths and English are what we call level 2 courses and so a pass in Functional Skills level 2 is at the same academic level as GCSE, which is also a level 2 qualification.

Functional Skills Maths and English can be studied at level 1 and level 2 and both courses provide excellent preparation for study at GCSE level as they cover many of the same topics studied at that level. Functional Skills in Maths and English has a strong focus on 'everyday' skills such as writing emails, notices, formal letters and reading articles in English, and making calculations regarding travel and finances in Maths. GCSEs are often perceived as being more 'academic', and there is certainly a greater focus in GCSE on academic skills such as inference, evaluation and analysis.

Functional Skills is a pass/fail qualification for both Maths and English, whereas when you take a GCSE in Maths and English you receive a grade from 1-9.



So which is harder, GCSE or Functional Skills?

It would be a mistake to think that Functional Skills is an easier option to GCSEs, as level 2 exams in Functional Skills are still very challenging and are subject to the same rigorous marking as GCSEs. GCSE exams are certainly longer, typically two hours, and involve three exams for Maths and two for English including a speaking and listening assessment. Functional Skills exams are shorter at around 30 minutes for paper 1, and 1 and a half hours for paper 2. Many students wish to progress onto GCSE after they achieve a level 2 Functional Skills pass. This may be because they have a career or course in mind which requires GCSE qualifications. They may also want to study Maths and English at A-Level, in which case they will need a pass at GCSE ideally at grade 6 and above.

Which qualification is more valued by employers and colleges?

Many jobs, apprenticeships and college or university courses will require Maths and English at GCSE grade 4 and above, whilst in some areas, particularly certain jobs, specifying more broadly a 'level 2' qualification is common. It is for this reason that we aim for all of our students who leave Boveridge College to gain a level 2 qualification in Maths and English, whether that be with Functional Skills or GCSE. Having a pass at level 2 in Maths and English, or grade 4 and above in GCSE will open many more doors and give our students more opportunities to pursue the pathway they want, either in education or employment.

Lee Dales, Head of Education

Careers and Transitions

Below are details of some upcoming open events which may be of interest to you...

Kingston Maurward College - Saturday 11th November 10am - 12pm & Sunday 10th December 10am - 12pm. Principal Luke Rake, will give visitors a welcome talk in Maurward Hall inside our Main House and you can find out about transport, financial support, uniform and more.

Bournemouth Academy of Modern Music - Tuesday 14th November 4-6pm. Opening evening-Meet the tutors and tour the facilities.

Bournemouth and Poole College - Saturday 18th Dec 9.30 - 12.30. You can see our amazing facilities, meet expert tutors, get careers advice and find out about a wide range of courses. You can also apply on the day! We offer a range of Full-Time and Part-Time courses, Apprenticeships, T Levels, Free online courses and Degree Level options. There really is something for everyone!

Carolyn Carter, Employability Coordinator
Heidi Stanley, Employability Assistant



CAREERS & COFFEE MORNING

For Parents, Carers & Young People in Years 10-13.

Did you know there are 600 different apprenticeship pathways? With the changing economic landscape, more people are now turning to apprenticeships as their pathway to work.

Enjoy a free coffee in the informal setting of our community venues and gain vital, up to-date information on the employment and apprenticeship landscape in Dorset. Our expert, Joanne Small, demystifies common misconceptions and answers all your questions.

Sat 11th November 10.30am - 11.30am The Allendale Community Centre, Hanham Road, Wimborne BH21 1TG WIMBORNE - REGISTER HERE >	Sat 18th November 10.30am - 11.30am Weymouth Library and Learning Centre, Weymouth DT4 8NN WEYMOUTH - REGISTER HERE >
Fri 1st December 10.30am - 11.30am RNLI College, West Quay Road, Poole BH15 1HZ POOLE - REGISTER HERE >	Sat 2nd December 10.30am - 11.30am The Exchange, Old Market Hill, Sturminster Newton DT10 1FH STURMINSTER - REGISTER HERE >

Contact us
Visit: dorsetcareershubs.co.uk
Call: 01202 969798
Email: dorsetcareershubs@bournemouth.ac.uk

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Staff Profile- Vice Principal Liz Scott



In 2017 I was fortunate to be part of the team to set up Boveridge College, we started with a derelict building, flip chart, kettle, a table and chairs, and a determination to make Boveridge College a success. This project was essentially started from scratch from the building work to the policies, systems, procedures and recruiting the right team. I am incredibly proud of the continued success of the College the dedication of the staff team, and the achievements the students make whilst attending.

My role as Vice Principal involves the operational running of the College, this includes, overseeing all administration functions such as payroll, procurement, recruitment, student administration, training. I am responsible for all things health and safety, premises, building projects, and financial management of the College.

I am head of the core department which includes the maintenance team, housekeeping, administration, and catering, so a large, varied remit.

This summer I was fortunate to be shortlisted for the 2023 TES award for "Central Team Leader of the Year" This for me was a once in a lifetime opportunity and the highlight of my career. I went to the awards ceremony, in London, this was an experience I will be boring everyone with for years to come. I even got to have a photo with the host, the actor James Nesbitt, yes, I have a framed photo, coaster, and mug on my desk of the picture!



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We're sad to be saying goodbye to the following staff...

Christina McCartney- Education Learning Support Practitioner



Working here has been such an amazing and a progressive experience! I am now going off to travel around Asia but when I come back, I hope to carry on working with SEND students and gaining more experience in this sector of education along the way. It's been a pleasure working here and I will miss both the students and staff thoroughly.

Becky McGovern Foot- Education Learning Support Practitioner



I have had such a positive experience working at Boveridge College, both the staff and students are incredible! I am now off to start a new chapter and career as a SEND Teacher.

I have learnt so much at Boveridge and this will help me with my new job role. I will miss everyone very much!

...and pleased to welcome Adrian Parkin our new Lead Mathematics Teacher



I want to thank the students and staff for the great welcome I have received at Aurora Boveridge College. I already feel at home. I came to Dorset a year ago having previously worked in two schools in Sussex and Surrey.

Latterly, I was Assistant Head of Sixth Form in charge of the day to day running and looking after over 200 students. As part of my role I ran the UCAS process as well as Higher Education applications across the world. At Boveridge College I am looking forward to helping students achieve their goals. I know there will be challenges and I am sure the students will rise to these, and I look forward to celebrating their success.

Lunchtime Clubs

Every Tuesday at 1pm there will be an LGBTQ+ club that is open for all people that are interested. The aim of the first session will be to find out what people would like to do/ talk about during the time or if they would just like a space to come together to relax.

Community & Pride Club

Everyone is welcome

We aim to create a relaxing space for all to share.

Held in - Animal Care Room 2 – Emma's Room
 Tuesdays at 1pm

Lesbian
Gay
Bisexual
Transgender
Queer/ questioning
+ plus



BOVERIDGE COLLEGE LUNCH TIME CLUBS

1 – 1:30

Every day :-

Dog Walking – Horticulture Room
 Quiet Zone – Animal Care Room 1
 Reading Club – History Room
 Craft Club – Maths Room 2
 Wii Club – Maths Room 1

Monday :-

Music Club – Motor Vehicle
 Spanish Lessons – ICT Room

Tuesday :-

Pride Club – Animal Care Room 2
 Careers & Employability Drop In – Catering Room
 Spanish Lessons – ICT Room

Wednesday:-

Football Club – Football Field
 Music Club – Motor Vehicle
 VR Club – VR Cave
 (Sign Up Sheet on VR Cave Door, 2 at a time)
 Film Club – Animal Care Room 2

Thursday :-

Nerf Gun – Outside
 Film Club – Animal Care Room 2
 Mindfulness Club – The Willows
 VR Club – VR Cave
 (Sign Up Sheet on VR Cave Door, 2 at a time)

Friday :-

Motor Skills Club – The Willows
 Music Club – Motor Vehicle

Dan's Recipe of the Month- try this simple pizza...

Pizza Margherita

Ingredients

- 150g strong bread flour
- 5g instant yeast
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 70ml warm water
- 1 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for drizzling
- Sprinkling of semolina
- 40g of mozzarella



Method

1. Make the base: Put the flour into a large bowl, then stir in the yeast and salt.
2. Make a well, pour in the olive oil and then the warm water a little at a time and bring together with a wooden spoon until you have a soft, fairly wet dough.
3. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead for 5 mins until smooth.
4. Rub $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon olive oil around the inside of a bowl, add the dough, cover with cling film and set aside on your worktop.
5. Heat the oven to 220c and line a baking tray with baking paper and a sprinkling of semolina.
6. Prepare your tomato sauce and your pizza toppings.
7. Give the dough a knead and on a lightly floured surface, roll it out using a rolling pin (the dough needs to be as thin as you can get it without it tearing).
8. Lift the dough onto the baking sheet.
9. Top with homemade tomato sauce (you could use blended chopped tomatoes or tomato puree if you do not have time to make your own). Do not put too much sauce as you don't want the base to go soggy.

Communication with College

Aurora Boveridge College creates an environment of inclusivity in which parent participation is encouraged.

The College encourages parents to contact their child's tutor as a first point of contact for general updates, questions and queries

Our priority is the well-being and education of all our students. We recognise that communication between students, parents and staff is vitally important to their education and residential care.

To ensure that all communication between home and College is positive, we ask parents, carers and guardians to follow the guidelines below when communicating with the College.

GUIDELINES

Phone calls are most appropriate for absences/lateness and immediate or urgent concerns. Parents are advised to contact the College Admin Office on 01725 551247 (8am-5pm Mon-Fri) for time sensitive or urgent issues. For the parents of residential students, please contact the Care Office. Please be aware that it may not be possible to make telephone contact with your child's tutor or teacher during the College day due to their teaching commitments.

Email/letter is suitable for non-urgent concerns boveridgecollege@the-aurora-group.com

All our staff will reply to an email/letter within at least **48 hours/ two working days** of receiving it (unless staff are on annual leave - a return email will indicate this for you). We would ask that parents/carers recognise that during that window staff will have teaching commitments, meetings and additional roles within the College that will not allow them to reply immediately. Parents are asked to bear in mind that the non-student time immediately preceding and following the College day is used for lesson preparation, marking, assessment, staff meetings, scheduled appointments, training and professional development. Therefore, for an immediate response, please use the telephone number/email detailed above.

We always endeavour to respond immediately but realise it's not always possible to address all general concerns this way as there may be further discussions and conversations to be had. In these situations a 'holding' email will be sent so you know your communication has been received and is being acted upon.

The College has a duty of care to its staff to protect them from intimidatory, threatening, vexatious or aggressive communication. We would ask that at all times you show our staff the same level of respect and courtesy that you would wish to be shown to you or your family. Our staff are very hardworking and well-meaning and undoubtedly share your desire for the very best for your child/our student. Our staff are also very busy professionals with limited time and capacity. Please be understanding and reasonable in your communications with us.

Communications that are deemed to be parental concerns/complaints will be acknowledged as such and will be dealt with according to the College's complaints procedures. These complaints procedures are available on the College website. We take all concerns seriously and in the first instance we will seek to resolve them as soon as possible and without the need to escalate through the stages of the policy.

We recognise our commitment and will endeavour to always communicate with parents/carers in a timely, appropriate and sensitive manner. Communication should be respectful, honest and courteous at all times. It should also be measured, proportionate and rational. We are committed to providing respectful and honest communication with parents. Good communication is the result of parents, staff and students working together, in partnership.

Communication with College- continued...

Depending on the nature of the concern, it may also be appropriate to contact the Head of Education - Assistant Head of Education or Head of Care - Deputy Head of Care.

EMAIL ADDRESSES OF KEY MEMBERS OF STAFF:

Principal : lloyd.richards@the-aurora-group.com

Vice Principal : liz.scott@the-aurora-group.com

Head of Education : lee.dales@the-aurora-group.com

Head of Care : jayne.shears@the-aurora-group.com

Head of Therapy : matt.harper@the-aurora-group.com

Admissions and Transitions Manager / Safeguarding Lead : polly.darch@the-aurora-group.com

Assistant Head of Education : odette.osborne@the-aurora-group.com

Deputy Head of Care : lucy.boot@the-aurora-group.com

Pastoral Lead Tutor : david.bird-hawkins@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : jennifer.white@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : paul.staniford@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : graham.haslett@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : suzanne.L-sanchez@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : janey.dillon@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : paul.mole@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : emily.sheppard@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor: adrian.parkin@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : emma.braund@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : dan.spraggs@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor: graham.jones@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor: teresa.finch@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor: maria.solis-haya@the-aurora-group.com

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

If there is anything you would like to see included in future please email:
lee.dales@the-aurora-group.com