

Newsletter

September 2023

Aurora
Boveridge College



Message from Lloyd (Principal)

A warm welcome to our new monthly newsletter, produced by Lee Dales and Odette Osborne. I hope that you find the new format clear, concise and with information that is both interesting and useful to you. With the new term well underway, it's been very encouraging how well our new students have settled into daily college life, building valuable and positive relationships with their peers and all the staff teams here at Boveridge College. Each month a member of the Leadership Team will introduce themselves, giving you a greater understanding of the team and their responsibilities within the college. I hope you enjoy the read and if you have any feedback Lee and Odette would love to hear it.

Curriculum News- Art Photoshoot



GCSE and A Level Art & Photography students visited Southampton City Art Gallery this month, to conduct a photoshoot as part of their Fine Art Personal Investigation around the theme of women and how they are portrayed in Greek mythology. Costumes were designed and created by the students and they also directed all lighting and composition independently. Their fantastic work will go towards their final assessment and the students conducted themselves brilliantly, answering questions from the public who were very interested in their work...



Offsite Sports- Golf



Crane Valley 9-Hole Golf Course near Verwood has kindly allowed us to sponsor a tee which enables staff and students to gain access to the course once a day at any time. These sessions now form part of students' Sport and Health slots on their timetables.

Golf is renowned for developing social skills, etiquette, coordination, and fine motor skills as well as reducing anxiety and building character. Students also have the opportunity to develop their numeracy skills through their use of scorecards.

We visit Crane Valley every week. If you'd like to take part in these activities, please see Lisa Sando for details.



New Courses



We are excited to have begun delivering two brand new courses this September: A-Level Environmental Science and BTEC Health & Social Care Level 2.

Our A-Level Environmental Science course will equip students with the skills and knowledge to be able to make a difference in a world where climate change and sustainability are at the top of the agenda. It will also provide an entry route for our students to move on to further study at university or alternatively into employment.

With a focus on one of the biggest sectors of employment in the UK, particularly in Dorset, our BTEC Health and Social Care course can provide a pathway into nursing, social work and occupational therapy. Many of our students have made requests for this course to be included in our curriculum, and we are delighted to have finally got this up and running this September!

Both courses have proved very popular, with a good uptake from students and excellent feedback regarding the delivery of the material.

Enrichment



The final lesson on Friday afternoons is dedicated to enrichment, which gives our students the chance to engage in an activity of their choice. Many of our students have keen interests that they wish to pursue that are not on our curriculum and we have staff who have expertise in a wide range of areas such as music, textiles, graphic design and strategic games.

We are always open to suggestions about how we can broaden our enrichment programme so if you have any ideas about something you would like to include please speak to a member of staff.

New Students



Charlie and Pheonix joined Aurora Boveridge College in September and were keen to share their thoughts about their experience so far...

This place is amazing! The teachers are really supportive. I love the open space. It's a very relaxed atmosphere.

Charlie, said: "I have opportunities to do subjects that I haven't done for a while such as Catering and Sport."

New Staff Members

Donyae Richards- Education Learning Support Practitioner



Hi, my name is Donyae. My previous role was as a Mental Health Support Worker, helping, supporting and listening to younger and older adults. It was so rewarding, to see them well again and to rejoin the community.

I decided to join Aurora because what they stand for stood out to me. Aurora is student centred, dedicated to making their well-being a priority.

Aurora, also focuses on staff well-being and we all work as a team. I am proud to be a part of Aurora and I have been welcomed with open arms.



Graham Jones- Science teacher

Hello, I joined Boveridge College in September this year to teach the Level 2 BTEC Principles of Science course. I have taught in Further Education Colleges for over 20 years, originally teaching Music Technology and Media Production but transitioned to Maths and then onto Science. I have found Aurora Boveridge College a welcoming and friendly place and I already feel part of its close-knit community.

Hello, I'm Jenny White, and I have had the privilege of working with young people with a diagnosis of ASD and associated difficulties since 2010.

I joined Aurora Boveridge College when it first opened in 2017 and I am a Horticultural Lecturer.

Together, with the students, over the past six years we have been developing the college kitchen garden.

I can honestly say I love my job, I get to teach amazing students, and I get to watch them flourish and grow into confident, caring, responsible individuals.

Staff Profile- Jenniffer White



Careers, Work Experience and Transitions Update

Futures at Boveridge College is our programme for students to learn about careers, employability skills, and the world of work. Maximising opportunities for our students to be able to fulfil their potential, aligning with their interests and aspirations.

We regularly:

- Display up to date career related posters in classrooms
- Identify employability skills being used across all lessons
- Identify a 'Career of the Week'
- Log activities on Unifrog, a platform which enable students to identify potential future careers pathways
- Invite a guest speaker to talk about a career that links to part of the curriculum
- Organise a trip to different places of work
- Invite alumni back to college to speak to our current students about their career pathway and share their experiences



Work Experience

We aim for all our students to engage in meaningful work experience during their time with us, and if you know anyone who could support a placement, please let us know!

Our Work Experience programme has started positively in September with several students already in placements at:

- The Junction Leisure Centre
- Luccombe Hub
- The Entertainer Toy Shop
- Boveridge Kitchens
- Dickensons Gardening Services
- Bridges Café
- Swanage Railway Station
- Wardrobe Foundation
- Moreton Stables
- Cats Café
- St Osmunds Middle School, Dorchester
- Cranborne Middle School

Future Events

We will be running a trip to Bournemouth and Poole College on the 21st November for any interested students. Please let your tutor know if you are interested.

Further trips to local colleges and universities will be available later in the academic year.

Lunchtime Clubs

At college we have a wide range of lunchtime clubs. These allow students to pursue activities of interest which are not included in our curriculum, as well as offering the opportunity for students to further develop their social skills. Several of our clubs are organised and delivered by our students themselves and we are always open to suggestions for any additional clubs...

BOVERIDGE COLLEGE LUNCH TIME CLUBS 1.00 – 1:30pm

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:-

Film 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)

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

Recipe of the Month- have a go at this simple recipe...

Have a try at this recipe from Dan our Hospitality & Tourism lecturer...

Banana crumble-top muffins (x6)

Ingredients

1 lemon
60g butter
1 medium egg
115g self-raising flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp ground cinnamon
45g caster sugar
1 ripe banana
90ml semi-skimmed milk

For the crumble topping:

15g butter
25g plain flour
pinch of ground cinnamon
15g brown sugar



Method

1. Pre-heat the oven to 180°C fan /gas mark 6.
2. Zest the lemon onto a chopping board.
3. Melt the butter gently in a saucepan or the microwave.
4. Break the egg into a small bowl and beat with a fork.
5. Sift the flour, baking powder and cinnamon together into a large bowl.
6. Add in the caster sugar and lemon zest and mix.
7. Mash the banana until smooth then lightly stir into the flour mixture with the melted butter. (You could add 25g dried fruit or chocolate chips at this stage)
8. Add in the milk and beaten egg to the bowl and very lightly mix together.
TIP - Do not over mix as this will make the muffins 'heavy'.
9. Line a 6-hole large muffin tray with paper muffin cases. Divide the mixture between the holes filling just over halfway.
10. Now make the crumb topping:
11. In a small bowl add the butter, flour and cinnamon.
12. Using your fingertips, lightly rub the mixture together until it resembles fine breadcrumbs **(please ask if you are not sure about this step).**
13. Stir in the demerara sugar.
14. Sprinkle the breadcrumb mixture over the top of the muffins and cook them in the preheated oven for approximately 15/20 minutes or until well risen and firm to the touch.
15. Remove the tray from the oven and leave the muffins to cool in the tray for at least 5 minutes. Then transfer the muffins to a cooling rack to cool completely.

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.

Exam Support

The November exams are fast approaching and for many of our students, this can be a stressful time. The following support is available if you are worried about your exams...

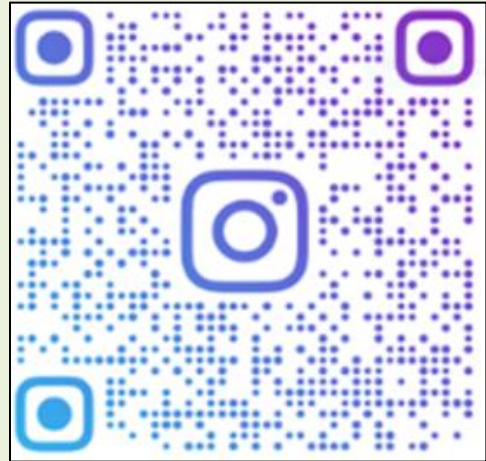
This website is a good place to start for tips about dealing with exam stress...

[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).

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