

# February 09 Connect

## Principal's News

Halfway through the 2008/09 year is a good time for a "stock take". I will be covering some of this ground at the staff meetings on 16 February being held at:

9 am, 10.30 am and 12pm at APC, Second Floor, E Block  
 2.30 pm at FPC, GP Hall

This edition of 'Connect' also gives an opportunity to both celebrate how far we've come this year and signpost what is coming next.

giving learners the best possible "deal" is having an impressive impact on the ground. Learners, employers and parents speak well about the difference we are making and our results continue to improve. In the recent "League Tables", for example, our contextual value added scores places us firmly in the top 20% of colleges.

- We have made some excellent progress in rolling out the Pacific Institute "Investing in Excellence" programme to a wider body of staff and to over 100 learners. This is being very well received and is encouraging a more aspirational and ambitious culture.

- We have benefited from widespread consultation on the values and key objectives which will underpin our Strategic Plan 2009-12.

Continued on page 2...



**Launch of  
 taste.**

To find out more, see page 3

### Celebrating Progress

- Although we are constrained by Ofsted from widely disseminating their report on our pilot inspection, you will be aware that their judgements confirm that we are already a "Good" College with many "Outstanding" features. This gives us independent evidence that our commitment to

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## Principal's News



- The challenge of around 8% growth has been a tough one but in many of our income lines, we are forecasting that we will hit target.
- Despite the recent adverse weather conditions we have pulled together well as a team and we are confident that any “lost ground” can be caught up. We were grateful to those staff who took on extra duties to ensure we could open as much as possible.
- Staff and learners have continued to excel in many fields as can be seen from some of the articles that follow.

- We have introduced a new scheme for recognising the good work which staff put in. Our Staff Awards scheme has attracted much interest and as we approach the deadline of 13 February, we are pleased with the number and quality of entries.

### Where Next?

- We will develop our three-year strategic plan further and publicise the main features later in the year.
- We will implement a decision to introduce a slightly revised management structure to reflect some changed Senior Leadership Responsibilities in the light of our needing to recruit a new Vice Principal. (The revised structure will be detailed in the slides from the 16 February staff meetings, copies of which will appear on the intranet). The new structure is expected to be in place fully by 1 August 2009.
- A further “push” on employer responsive provision will be needed if we are to hit our targets on apprenticeships and respond appropriately to the economic downturn. We will need to be

more flexible than ever to ensure that we can switch people across provision as their employment status changes.

- Of course we will continue to find ways of trying to help every single learner reach their full potential. To help with this we are working hard to introduce better, slicker tools to ensure we are really on top of retention and achievement and that every learner is placed on the right programme.
- And finally we will be working hard to achieve the Training Quality Standard to ensure that we can remain leading-edge in our work with employers.

So, yet another busy period ahead but one thing is for sure, we won't be bored.

**Maggie Galliers**

## Your Connect

We wish to encourage members of the College to submit items for Connect – feel free to email stories or suggestions to [connect@](mailto:connect@)

Copy for Connect should not exceed 500 words where possible. Any articles too text-heavy or including too many tables and graphs may be edited and/or put on the intranet instead.

Deadline for the next issue of Connect is **Friday 6 March 2009.**

Connect is written and edited by the Marketing Department.

## Corporate News

### A Passport to taste: Launch of taste restaurant

The launch of **taste** restaurant on 28 January 2009 at FPC was a complete assault on the senses – in the best possible taste! With around 100 visitors turning up to sample all that the premier restaurant has to offer, the launch truly set the standard sky-high for quality, service and flavour.

On check-in, guests were presented with a “Passport to **taste**”, and were invited to explore the world of **taste** – after, of course, completing their “visas” with names, addresses and contact details. Passports had to be stamped at six stops along the journey, with completed passports being entered into a draw for a magnum of Champagne.

After the official opening and welcome by The Captain (Maggie Galliers), stalls were opened with myriad of tastes and vistas of delights to tempt the palates of the most discerning of fine-diners!

Stalls included sugar spinning, fresh pasta making, home-made chocolates, a chocolate fountain, fine wines, a cocktail bar, interactive sausage-making (and sausage linking!), flambés and fresh ice-creams and sorbets ranging from Guinness, to vanilla and lavender, and chilli ripple!

So, as well as delighting in the samples each speciality had to offer, visitors had the extra treat of seeing fine food in the making – and more importantly, the opportunity to **taste**.

The evening was rounded off by the cutting of a magnificent cake which was duly cut and added to the goody bags of infused olive oil and hand-made chocolates, given to the guests as they went through the departures gate.

With absolutely delicious items on the menu, both in look and flavour, it was a **taste** sensation.



*Maggie Galliers and Paul Stretton*



*Learners making the delicious samples*



The new **taste** menu was miniaturised for sampling, and included:

- Artichoke heart cappuccino
- Asparagus mousse, lemon and lime marinated scallop with vanilla syrup
- B.L.T. in a shot glass
- Salmon and crab roulade, baby spinach, red pepper and tomato paste
- Fresh tortellini of English peas, Parmesan foam



To make a reservation at **taste** please call 0116 224 2060 or email [restaurant@](mailto:restaurant@)

# Corporate News

## News from the Campus Wardens

A reminder that if you cycle to work, always make sure you use a security D-Lock as this makes it extremely difficult for thieves to steal your bicycle.

Please remember to lock the door to a staffroom or a classroom, if you are the last member of staff to leave. This could prevent valuable equipment from been stolen.

If you are the victim of a crime of any kind please remember to report this to the Campus Warden team straight away and they will do all they can to be of assistance.

Finally, Campus Wardens Patrick Lakin and Mick Panyda have collected a sum of money for charity recently, which they will donate to Cancer Research in the next couple of weeks. They collected the money while out on patrol of the campuses. Congratulations to both.



It is not too late to nominate that special person for an Adult Learners' Week Award. You can still send in nominations to be included in the College Awards Ceremony in May 2009.

The categories are individuals, groups, families, and Opening Doors Award.

Nomination forms are available on the intranet or from the Marketing Department. For all queries regarding nominations, please contact Kelly Grounds on ext 2188. Please return all forms to Kelly Grounds, Marketing Department, Room 1.34, SMC.

## Staff Excellence Awards 2009



### Have you nominated that special individual or team for an Award?

#### If not, do so today!

There are ten different categories of Awards covering all staff: tutors, trainers, managers, support staff, old and new.

We want as many staff members as possible to be involved in the nominations process, so we can truly celebrate and reward excellence.

Winners will be announced at a sparkling ceremony on 18 June 2009, where each category winner will receive £500 cash and the two runners-up will get a trophy and certificate.

**You can obtain a nomination form from:**

- Marketing Department
- the College website
- the College intranet
- the Moodle site
- Information Centres

## Staff Corner

### Congratulations Message

**Jay Moore**, Team Leader for the Student Liaison team, gave birth to a bouncing baby boy on 26 January 2009, weighing 7lb 1oz. Both mum and baby Samuel Harry are doing well.

## Events

### College is lighting the way

FPC was paid a visit by the second largest cherry-picker in Europe on Monday 26 January 2009. With an extended arm reaching 62 metres full capacity, the new College sign was lifted and placed at the top of the campus building above the main reception. This sign is

lit by LED bulbs and can be seen at night for miles around.

Signs with the new College branding and logo have been put up at FPC and SMC, as well as at The Foundry; and will soon be in place at APC too.

### Snow Dome visit

On Thursday 18 December 2008 the Nursery at FPC organised an outing to the Snow Dome's winter wonderland experience in Tamworth. It was a very tiring and long day but everyone enjoyed it. Ten parents managed to attend which was great, as staff wanted as many parents to join in to encourage parent/nursery relationships.

It was a great experience inside the Snow Dome as most of the children had never seen snow before. The children particularly enjoyed seeing Santa and munching on a chocolate version!

The trip was subsidised by a grant given by Leicester City Council to improve the nursery's service to their users. As this trip was such a success, the nursery is hoping to spend some of the grant on another trip, this time to Beacon Hill in the Spring.



*The nursery children enjoying the snow*

### In-spa-ring challenge

Groups of six students from Hamilton, City of Leicester, New College and Maplewell Hall Schools have been challenged to re-design one of the Spa areas at FPC, to ensure it is multi-functional and suitable for both the general public and the learners on the Beauty Therapy courses. The challenge was set on 27 January at FPC, for the Leicestershire Education Business Company (LEBC) Excellence in Enterprise Awards 2008/09.

CAM for Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy, Tina Thorpe, said, "It's been great to bring the schools into the College and involve them in a real-life challenge. We have a variety of schools involved and the students have been very professional."

All of the groups taking part in the challenge will need to present their entries to a panel of judges on Tuesday 17 March 2009. The winners will be announced at an Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 29 April 2009.

## Pamper yourself in the New Year...

### 50% Discount Voucher

This voucher entitles the bearer to a 50% discount on the total cost of any treatment within the Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy Departments.

Please present this voucher upon arrival.

**Valid from 1 February 2009 to 28 February 2009.**

Please note – this offer excludes the purchase of products and solely applies to the cost of treatment. Only one voucher per person per month

## Events

### Sir Peter Soulsby MP visits ESOL learners

On Friday 30 January, the MP for Leicester South, Sir Peter Soulsby, met with ESOL learners at APC.

The talk provided the opportunity to discuss his everyday work, which involves helping with nationality issues, housing, tax credit and government policy. Sir Peter spoke on work permits, citizenship tests, his political future and the economy in the UK. He studied in Leicester and misses being a local politician here.

On Leicester’s response to the current economic situation, he commented, “It’s a wonderful city, so diverse and so many cultural backgrounds.

This is part of the strength of the city. Leicester is better positioned to respond.”



*Peter Soulsby MP at APC*

### Healthy Living Week 16 to 20 March 2009

Following the success of last year’s Healthy Living Week, staff are again invited to participate in a week of activities, which include the following.

- Mini health-screens provided by occupational health nurses. Screens include cholesterol and diabetes checks.
- Complimentary hair and beauty therapy treatments.
- Healthy eating promotions across all College restaurants and refectories.
- For staff considering retirement within the next five years, a one day Retirement Planning course.
- Sporting activities

Activities will take place across all campuses. Look out for full programme details to be published soon. For further details please contact Bev Giddings (Weds, Thurs, Fri) on ext 2753 or email [bgiddings@](mailto:bgiddings@), or Nicola Morton (Mon, Tue, Fri) on ext 5546 or email [nmorton@](mailto:nmorton@)

Information stands will also provide details of the following:

- Care First - counselling and information and advice service.
- Bannatyne’s and Green’s Health and Fitness Clubs.
- Weight Watchers.
- Smoking Cessation Service.
- Cycle 2 Work Scheme.
- Busy Bees Childcare Voucher Scheme.
- General Health.

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## 60 Seconds With...

### Anna Jackson

#### Lecturer in Travel and Tourism, APC

**How long have you been working at the College and what part of your job is the most enjoyable?**

I started at the College as a part-time lecturer in Business in November 2005 and became a full-time lecturer in Travel and Tourism in November 2006. I really enjoy being a course team leader and helping learners to progress and achieve their full potential.

**What was the first job you ever had?**

My first full-time job was in advertising sales at the Leicester Mercury. When I was at school, I was a Saturday supervisor in Selfridges in London.

**If you were to describe yourself in one word, what would that word be?**

Motivated.

**Do you have any pets and, if so, what do you have and what are their names?**

I have a dog called Toby who is a black Labrador.

**If you were stranded on a desert island, what five things would you have to take with you and why?**

My family, especially my little boys, music, books and our dog.

**What is your idea of a good night in?**

A takeaway, a good film, and definitely chocolate of some description.

**What is your motto for life?**

Try your best and never give up.

**If you were a millionaire, what would you do with your fortune?**

Ensure my children, nieces and nephews and godchildren had trust funds for future education. I would obviously make sure the family were comfortable. I most definitely would also buy a supply of Saturation Monitors for the Leicester Royal Infirmary. These would be to supply to the parents of children who have a tracheostomy when they take them home. The monitors detect if the oxygen decreases when the trachea is blocked over night and are about £2,000 each. I would



also buy the Children's Hospital a new bronchoscope which is used for procedures to investigate breathing difficulties.

**What are your hopes for the future?**

That my children remain healthy.

**What would be your ideal holiday?**

Four weeks in America or Australia.

**Who will play you in the film of your life?**

Kate Winslet.

**To feature in next month's 60 Seconds With... please email [Connect@](mailto:Connect@) by 6 March 2009**

# Governance News

## Feedback from recent meetings

**The monthly breakdown of the major issues discussed during meetings held since the last bulletin:**

Curriculum Strategy and Quality Improvement Committee  
(21 January 2009)

- Progress Report on Teacher Education and Development
- Inspection
- The 2007/08 Self-Assessment Report/Retention Achievement and Success Rates 2007/08
- Student Comments/Feedback
- Strategy Monitoring: Higher Education
- 2008 Annual Performance Assessment (APA) for Leicester City, Children and Young People's Services

## Health and Safety

### Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs)

**What are PEEPs?**

The Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan is completed for anyone requiring assistance in an emergency evacuation to detail the correct assistance required. It enables Line Managers / Lecturers to ensure the assistance is available as and when required.

A copy of the PEEP should be available in all relevant registers.

Visitor PEEPs will be generic and will primarily devolve around all members of staff regardless of their position, giving such assistance as may be identified.

**Why should a PEEP be completed?**

All staff, learners and visitors to the College requiring assistance in evacuation from the building in the event of an emergency are required to have a PEEP completed to ensure a safe evacuation.

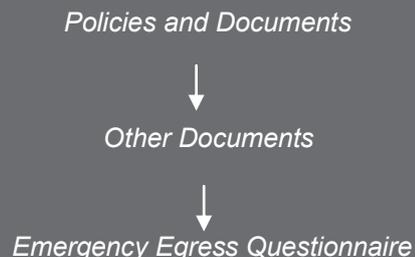
**Where can I get a PEEP form from?**

- For a Learner PEEP form, please contact Eileen Hersey on (0116) 224 2053
- For a Staff PEEP form, please contact HR or go to the intranet homepage:

**Who completes the PEEP form?**

PEEPs are prepared by Line Managers in consultation with the individual staff member, to take account of all areas occupied during the work activity.

Learner PEEPs are prepared by Lecturers in conjunction with the individual learner, support staff (where relevant), Student Services and the area PAM. This should take into account all areas occupied during their working activity.



## Equality and Diversity

### “Focus on Faith”

## Staff development programme at Leicester College

Leicester College’s diversity team have invited St Philip’s Centre to deliver five training sessions, exploring the relationship between faiths and the aspects of College life.

The sessions will explore the different cultures, values, faiths and beliefs in Leicester, and identify how the College can support learners from different faith communities so that they can achieve their full potential. It will also provide an opportunity for staff to gain confidence in addressing topical issues which impact upon the social and personal lives of the learners they work with.

The programme has been developed for staff from all areas of the College to participate and will be delivered on 18 and 25 March, 22 and 29 April and 13 May from 2.00 to 3.30pm. For more information about the programme please contact Vinod Chudasama on ext 5208 or email [vchudasama@](mailto:vchudasama@), or Ruth Pickersgill on ext 2143 or email [rpickersgill@](mailto:rpickersgill@)

## RESPECT Week: 12 to 16 January 2009

The College’s core message of ‘valuing diversity and promoting equality’ was strengthened by the RESPECT Week activities.

A Diversity Fair was held at each campus, where agencies including Action Deafness, VISTA, LGTB Centre, LASS, Refugee Action, Shama Women’s Centre, Savera, Adhar, Council of Faiths, St. Philips Centre, LeicestHERday Trust and Leicester City Council provided stalls and exhibitions to promote the services they offer to the diverse communities of Leicester. The agencies also provided workshops for learners on a range of issues and subjects. Feedback was positive and many learners appreciated the opportunity to discover how the integration of diverse groups into mainstream society is supported. The School Development Support Agency also ran a workshop on community cohesion and asked for learners’ views on the range of issues involved, which they are going to write up and provide us with a very useful benchmark.

A key aim of the week was also for learners to mix with those from other curriculum areas, so it

was really good that joint sessions were held, for example, a session on refugee issues for Continuing Studies and Hair and Beauty learners. We hope that more curriculum areas will plan to do this sort of “twinning” activity next year.

The highlight of the week was a gospel choir workshop facilitated by British Gospel Arts, who worked with learners from the National Diploma in Dance, Music and Sound. The morning finished with a performance in APC’s Atrium.

RESPECT Week provided the College with an opportunity to build upon its links with the local community and empower our learners and staff to improve their understanding and respect for diversity.



*The gospel choir workshop*

## Sustainability

### People and Planet at Regional Climate Change Conference

"Adaptation 2009" was a one-day regional conference held in Leicester on adapting to climate change. The objective was to help equip organisations to address climate change adaptation at a local level, and to help meet the requirements of the Nottingham Declaration and the new Local Area Agreement indicator 188. The conference included the launch of the East Midlands' Regional Programme of Action on Climate Change.

The event consisted of key note speeches and presentations, drama, workshops and displays. Leicester College was represented by members of the College People and Planet Group.



*Divyesh Tailor from the College People and Planet Group, with Mike Peverill, Regional Climate Change Co-ordinator for the East Midlands Regional Assembly*

### Bid success for new technologies

The College has been successful in a group bid to the FE Knowledge and Technology Transfer (FEKTT) Pathfinder project. This project has been set up by DIUS "to unlock the talent of the FE workforce to deliver business innovation through knowledge transfer". There are only five national winners out of a total of 133 bids. The bid was put together by Colin Rigo and Dawn Harris and the funding will be used to employ a specialist adviser on new technologies and to conduct a research project on heating innovation within the Construction Curriculum Area. Tony Ridgeway stated, "It's an outstanding opportunity to put sustainable construction at the College's heart."

### Mobile update

In the January edition we informed you about the mobile telephone recycling scheme

run by Steve Cox at APC. So far you have handed in 78 unwanted mobiles so keep

them coming. Please contact Steve Cox in Continuing Studies, Room 2.40 at APC.

### Reduce carbon footprint: Shut down computers

A significant step has recently been made to reduce the College's carbon footprint by shutting down its computers at night time. After a study carried out by Andre Verwijs of the Sustainability Forum, the energy-saving "Night-watchman" software, funded through a grant from the LSC and Salix Energy Saving Programme, is now being tested for us by Dell. This software will allow computers on both the Staff and Learner Networks across all campuses to be shut down remotely after 9pm – so computers will no longer be left on overnight or over the weekend. As soon as this process is completed, it will be implemented at Leicester College by the Libraries and E-strategy team.

It is estimated that this improvement will allow for savings in excess of £50,000 on our yearly electricity charges. Special monitoring equipment, installed at SMC by Estates for the purpose of measuring the differences in usage, will be able to give an exact figure of the savings and the impact this will have on our carbon footprint.

This is another step towards the College's commitment to responsibly using its resources and becoming more sustainable.

# Puzzles\_ Puzzles\_ Puzzles

## Sudoku Challenge

	5		1					
	6		3					4
1				9		5		7
					7	9		
	1	7				2	8	
		8	5					
6		9		5				3
4					3		5	
					1		2	

A brand new Sudoku puzzle for you to enjoy. Why not challenge yourself when you have a spare moment?

**Good luck!**

### Solutions for last month's Sudoku Challenge

3	2	5	6	9	1	4	8	7
8	1	4	7	5	3	2	9	6
9	7	6	8	4	2	1	3	5
7	6	1	4	3	8	9	5	2
4	8	9	2	1	5	6	7	3
2	5	3	9	6	7	8	1	4
1	4	7	3	8	6	5	2	9
6	3	8	5	2	9	7	4	1
5	9	2	1	7	4	3	6	8

5	1	7	2	4	3	6	9	8
8	3	9	5	1	6	4	7	2
4	2	6	9	7	8	3	5	1
1	4	8	6	5	9	2	3	7
6	7	3	1	8	2	5	4	9
2	9	5	4	3	7	8	1	6
3	6	2	7	9	4	1	8	5
9	5	4	8	6	1	7	2	3
7	8	1	3	2	5	9	6	4

## For Sale\_ For Sale\_ For Sale

**FREE set of golf clubs** Golf clubs are not in good condition, but fine for a knock-about for a learner, plus wheels. Free to a good home. Contact Jackie Avery on ext 2035 or email [javery@](mailto:javery@)

**Horse** Horse for sale on behalf of a friend – 15.3hh Piebald Cob, 9-years-old, in need of a loving home. Up to date with vaccinations and worming, feet trimmed regularly (solid feet so no need for shoes), lovely nature. Would make superb show Cob as this is what he used to do. Jumps, hacks alone and in company, could also be a dressage star again with the right owner as he has lots of potential. He travels in a box or trailer. All tack and rugs would be included, very sad sale but he is being absolutely wasted at the moment. To find out more, contact Holly Rhodes in Sport and Uniformed Public Services (FPC) on 0116 224 2130 or [hrhodes@](mailto:hrhodes@)

**Holiday chalet in Wales for rent** Chalet situated in the heart of Snowdonia, near the historic town of Caernarfon. Two-bed chalet with lounge, kitchen and bathroom. Fishing, walking, entertainment on-site, as well as an outdoor heated swimming pool. For full brochure contact Carole Bastock in Continuing Studies on [cbastock@](mailto:cbastock@) or on ext 2632

**Brand New Samsung J700** Very good mobile phone in dark purple colour. An unwanted gift. Currently on Orange network, although I believe it can be unlocked. Sim card not included. £30. Contact Becca Taberner in the Information Centre on [rtaberner@](mailto:rtaberner@) or on 07773 108 64

**Vauxhall Astra** P reg, white colour, 12 months MOT, reliable. £500. Contact Karen Turner in CHUB APC on 07795 627 796 or [kturner@](mailto:kturner@)

**FREE antique sewing machine** Approx 120-year-old Singer sewing machine operated by turning handle. Still works well but does not have fancy gold paintwork intact. Comes with a wooden carrying case. Free to a good home. You must be able to collect from Narborough Road area. Contact Ruth Chalk in Student Services on [rchalk@](mailto:rchalk@) or text 07845 008 317.

**House to rent** House in Woodgate area, three bedrooms, newly decorated. £550 pcm. Contact Anu Jalota in ESOL on [ajalota@](mailto:ajalota@)

**Fridge-Freezer** Zanussi, white frost-free fridge freezer (50/50). H1845 x D590 x W545. £80. Contact Paul O'Leary in Photography on ext 5031 or on [poleary@](mailto:poleary@)

**Traditional semi detached home** Property to rent in a good location, off Narborough Road on Sybil Road, close to motorway. Unfurnished property includes: entrance hall, three good sized bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, two toilets, garage and off-road parking/driveway, large garden, workshop/glass house/store room, pantry, conservatory, bathroom/shower benefiting from UPVC and FGCH. £595 pcm (ono). Contact Vanita Patel, ESOL Lecturer, on [vanitapatel@](mailto:vanitapatel@) or on 07973 410 664

## For Sale\_ For Sale\_ For Sale\_ For Sale

### Please Note

Leicester College takes no responsibility for any goods advertised or purchased via this page. Any purchase agreement is strictly between the buyer and seller. All goods are sold as seen. All advertisements must be legal, decent, honest and truthful. To place an advertisement you must be a current member of staff. Please remember to provide your name, department and contact details.