

A FOND FAREWELL TO ALL OUR LEAVERS!

So, as we come to the end of the most extraordinary year that I can certainly remember, we must say a very fond farewell to all our leavers. This cohort of students have suffered disruption like no other but they have shown incredible resilience and resolve in dealing with it. We should never underestimate our young people and the significant majority have worked hard and demonstrated great strength of character and a boundless capacity to achieve their very best and secure their progression opportunities, whether that be moving on to university, taking up an apprenticeship or entering the workplace.

So good luck to you all in your future endeavours, I can't wait to hear of your future successes of which, I am sure, there will be many. Don't forget to sign up to become a member of the College's Alumni society so that we can keep in touch. Details of how to do this are overleaf.



AWARDING OF GRADES SUMMER 2021

As you are aware, grades this summer have been based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). TAGs were submitted to the exam boards by the College and were based on a holistic assessment of each student's performance in a subject, following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance.

These grades are currently going through a process of external quality assurance checks before being approved by the relevant exam board.

This year, grades will be published earlier than usual; on **10th August for A level and Level 3 BTEC/CTEC/UAL** and on **12th August for GCSE, L1/L2 BTEC courses**. All students should have received an email from Mr. White, the head of examinations on how to access your results on 10 or 12 August 2021

I am confident that the grades that have been awarded through this process are in-line with students' achievements and our analysis has shown that, by and large, students have achieved slightly better than we might normally have expected.

Students will, however, have the opportunity to appeal their grade if they meet the strict eligibility criteria below, as dictated by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ):

- You think we have made an administrative error: an example of this would be where the college has put the wrong information into a spreadsheet.
- You think we have made a procedural error: this means we haven't properly followed our own process, as approved by the exam board.
- You think the evidence used to grade you was not reasonable.
- You think the academic judgement on the grade you were given was unreasonable.

It is important to note that an appeal may result in a grade being lowered, staying the same, or going up.

COVID-19

Thank you to everybody for complying with our Covid guidelines whilst on the College site, this year. I shall write over the summer outlining our plans for the new term. In the meantime, don't forget that if you are over 18, you can now receive a Covid vaccination.

COLLEGE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

I am delighted that since the gradual easing of "lockdown", departments have been very busy putting on a whole host of activities and events, this term:

VISITING SPEAKERS

Our students have been incredibly fortunate to hear from an array of visiting speakers, some in person, some remotely, but all experts in their respective fields. We heard from Hassan Mahamdallie, a noted journalist, to mark Stephen Lawrence Day. Whilst Stephen's brother, Stuart, addressed students at the House Day in July. Life coach Yasmina Hedhli delivered a virtual workshop to students from health and social care. Students also heard from former student Janet Leigh about her journey into creative writing and the inspiration behind her new fantasy novel "Gothic Angel".

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:

- Xavier James for securing a £15,000 sponsorship from SacLaUK
- Aleksandra Gruda and Xavier James for winning a Principal's Award for consistent effort and commitment to their studies
- Niyah Costley, Shiloh Wright-Taipow and Je'nae James on being selected to represent London Schools at the English Schools' Athletics Championships

ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT

Congratulations to the Additional Learning Support team who have won a national award at the annual Sixth Form College Association Awards, for the work they have been doing with our learners with a higher level of need. This is a prestigious accolade and recognises the work of the department in putting together a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) curriculum. Very well done to all the students and staff involved.



THE CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplaincy here at SFX is at the heart of our college. The Spirit of the Gospel is at the centre of our way of life, relationships and community. We want to accompany each student on their journey through college, offering support and opportunities to develop spiritually, morally and intellectually. We are proud of our Catholic tradition whilst also welcoming students and staff of all faiths and none. If you are keen to get involved with the Chaplaincy, then please email our College Chaplain, Kate: K.West@sfx.ac.uk

STUDENT WELFARE—MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

We recognise that students may be facing additional mental health challenges due to the disruption and uncertainty caused by Covid-19. We offer a number of wellbeing activities which are open to all students. Should a young person of the College be struggling with their mental health, please remember that they can access support from our Student Welfare Officer and/or College Counsellor. Alternatively, they can also access support via [the NHS](#) and online resources from [Public Health England](#), along with support from mental health charity [Mind](#).

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

TERM	FIRST DAY OF TEACHING	HALF TERM	LAST DAY OF TEACHING
AUTUMN 2021	MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2021	MONDAY 18 OCTOBER to FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER	FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER 2021

MONDAY 23rd - THURSDAY 26th AUGUST 2021	ENROLMENT FOR NEW STUDENTS
THURSDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2021	INDUCTION FOR NEW STUDENTS
FRIDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2021	INDUCTION FOR YR13 STUDENTS

I was so pleased for our UAL Performance and Production Arts students who were finally able to show off their talents in front of an audience, earlier this term. Their production of Fame was, quite simply, a triumph. Congratulations to all those involved.

FAME! THE MUSICAL



A LEVEL RESULTS DAY TUESDAY 10 AUGUST 2021
GCSE RESULTS DAY THURSDAY 12 AUGUST 2021

SFX ALUMNI

Each year students leave SFX to start their journey towards a great future, each through their own unique path. Help us grow the network, so that together we can help inspire and support current students. Sign up on the College website [here](#) or by emailing Natalie Green via alumni@sfx.ac.uk

DIGITAL INNOVATION

As you may be aware, the College has been on somewhat of a digital journey over the past 18 months or so. I strongly believe that this helped tremendously with our smooth transition to on-line learning during lockdown. A significant aspect of the digital strategy has been our partnership with Apple and the roll-out of Ipad across a number of courses. We intend to extend the strategy to include all courses from next year. If you are interested in finding out more about the strategy or how to acquire an Ipad then please contact the digital team by emailing: innovation@sfx.ac.uk

PARENT GOVERNOR

There is a vacancy on our governing body for a Parent Governor for which we are seeking a volunteer to be elected to serve for 2 years. If you are interested, please email the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Eleanor Lewis, e.lewis@sfx.ac.uk

ART EXHIBITION

A big shout out to: Lucy Cueva Castillo; Janelle Morrison; Scarlet



An Exhibition of my dreams by Scarlet Yaselga Vargas (UAL Art and Design)

Yaselga Vargas; Diana Guzman; Cecil Okoro whose art work has been selected to be exhibited at the Sixth Form College's Art Exhibition. The theme, this year, was "Fake News" and I'm sure you'll agree, the submissions from all exhibitors is simply amazing. Well Done!

The exhibition can be accessed by following this link: <https://www.sixthformcolleges.org/1551/sfca-art-exhibition-2021-fake-news>