

SFX LIFE

NEWSLETTER ISSUE SEVEN

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ST FRANCIS XAVIER
6TH FORM COLLEGE

www.sfx.ac.uk

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October 2015

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Message from Student President & Vice President

As your Student President and Vice President we would like to welcome you and encourage you to study here at St Francis Xavier 6th Form College. SFX is a wonderful place to continue your studies with fantastic teachers and staff and the amazing facilities we have to offer. Coming to SFX has definitely prepared us for university life and the world of work as we are encouraged to become independent and prioritise our time wisely.

SFX is also a fun place to learn and interact with other students through events and activities. We as your Presidents and the Student Council will organise these – including the charity work we do and putting on the Student Talent Show, amongst many other things.

Our advice to you as you take the jump from year 11 to year 12 is that you should take every opportunity as it comes, experience is what the top universities are looking for, and achieving the best grades you possibly can. Your main priority right now is to make sure you pass your GCSEs to proceed to the next chapter of education. You may have to leave your social life behind for a while to make sure this happens but that's just a small sacrifice for your big success.

The best of luck in your GCSEs and we hope to see you in September.

Olivia-Hope and Joao



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Students on results day 2015

September 2015

More A level courses with 100% pass rate than in previous years

Students were both excited and nervous on A level results day, but despite the much publicised crack down on results a vast majority of the 750 A level and Level 3 Diploma students will be taking up places at their first-choice universities.

SFX Principal, Stella Flannery, was delighted that over 1 in 4 of our students achieved A*-B with 19 of our A level subjects achieving 100% pass rate (17 in 2014).

Our students worked extremely hard with the majority entered for Italian achieving a grade A (60%) and the remaining gaining a grade B. Whilst 78% of our Dance students walked away with a B grade. Four of our BTEC courses achieved 100% pass rate, with 51% of our Business BTEC Level 3 Ext Diploma and 44 students across all BTEC/UAL courses gaining D*D*D* (equivalent to A* A* A*) grades.

SFX star A level students:

Lisa Economics A*, History A, Mathematics A
Now studying at: Queen Mary University London - Economics, Finance & Management (BSc) (Russell Group university)

Elizabeth Biology A, Chemistry B, English Literature A*
Now studying at: Kings College - Extended Medical Degree Programme (MBBS) 6 years (Russell Group university)

"I liked having independence at SFX. I joined the Medics Club in my first year which was great - it helped me prepare for my interview along with visits to University Hospitals."

SFX star BTEC/UAL Level 3 students:

Aminat BTEC L3 Applied Science D* D* D* (equivalent to A* A* A*)
Now studying at: University of Surrey (4th in UK) - Nutrition/Dietetics BSc (Hons)
"The BTEC was so rewarding and the people I've met at SFX are friends for life. If it wasn't for my teachers I don't know where I'd be today."

Malise BTEC L3 Applied Science D* D* D* (equivalent to A* A* A*)
Now studying at: University of Surrey (4th in UK) - Biochemistry BSc (Hons)

Ben BTEC L3 ICT D* D* D (equivalent to A* A* A*)
Now studying at: Kings College - Computer Science BSc (Hons) (Russell Group university)

"SFX is like a community and family all rolled into one with great facilities."



Elizabeth with her results



Aminat and Chinaza with their results

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Joshua (former student at St Thomas the Apostle College) and Chinaza (former student at Harris Academy East Dulwich)

Southwark Scholarship Scheme pays university fees for SFX students

September 2015

The Southwark Scholarship Scheme was set up in recognition of the struggle young people face in funding their studies to Higher Education. Southwark Council awards the scholarships to a selection of young residents with good academic records, who have acted to make a positive contribution to the community - providing them with the support to attend university which they otherwise would not have had.

Among these residents are SFX students, Chinaza who graduated from SFX this year (2015) and has just started a degree in History at University of Southampton and Joshua who graduated from SFX in 2014 and is now in his second year of a Law degree at Birkbeck University of London. Read on to find out how the scholarship has helped them to go to university and continue on their path to success.

CHINAZA

Graduated: 2015

Former school: Harris Academy east Dulwich

Courses at SFX and final grades: EPQ (A*) Politics (A*) English Language (A) Classical Civilisation (B) and History (C)

University and course: History BA (Hons) at University of Southampton

How did you feel when you were awarded the scholarship?

I can't truly express how amazing it is to know that I can pursue my academic career without worrying about student debt after graduating. I'm sincerely thankful to my home borough for being so generous!

What are your plans for the future?

I'd love to work within education, I'm hoping to become a lecturer.

What is your advice to Year 11 students?

What you do today matters - which can be quite daunting if you procrastinate like I do! So I try to work hard and pray, 'Lord, bless every effort I make' - because He is in control (Proverbs 16:9).

JOSHUA

Graduated: 2014

Former school: St Thomas the Apostle College

Courses at SFX and final grades: EPQ (A*) Government & Politics (B) Sociology (B) and History (C)

University and course: LLB Law at Birkbeck, University of London

How did you feel when you were awarded the scholarship?

I always wanted to study law but my decision centred on whether I had the financial support. The Southwark Scholarship made university a reality for me.

What are your plans for the future?

To train as a barrister

What is your advice to Year 11 students?

Do what you enjoy. Do something today that your future self will thank you for.

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SFX Oscars Ceremony 2015

September 2015

Last month the annual 'SFX Oscars Ceremony' took place. The red carpet was rolled out as students and staff alike arrived in glitzy dresses and dapper suits ready to hear the winners announced!

Helen Everett, Head of Performing Arts at SFX, hosted the show with the help of other staff as guest presenters. The evening included some fantastic performances from a number of our students including a dance performance from Shona, as well as singing performances from Lois and Beryl, last year's SFX Student President.

Congratulations to all the nominees and award winners!

And the winners are...

BEST ACTOR - Jeremy

BEST ACTRESS - Tobi

BEST DIRECTOR - Nequa

BEST SOLO CHOREOGRAPHY

- Michaela-May

BEST GROUP CHOREOGRAPHY - D'Jon

BEST DANCER - Monique

BEST MUSICAL PERFORMER - Juan

BEST SOLO PERFORMANCE - Beryl

BEST GROUP PERFORMANCE

- No Blacks, No Irish, No Dogs

BEST DEvised PRODUCTION

- Moving Forward

BEST SCRIPTED PRODUCTION

- Bouncers

BEST OVERALL PRODUCTION

- Our Country's Good

COMMUNITY AWARD - Lois

The ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Shona

The STELLA FLANNERY AWARD - Carlos



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"Miss Ahmadian is great – she makes it really fun and interacts with us. If we don't understand something she goes through it with us until we do."
Rachel, UAL Creative Media L3 student

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Miss Ahmadian with UAL Creative Media students; Santino and Rachel

5 minutes with...Elle Ahmadian - Media Studies, Film Studies and UAL L3 Creative Media Production teacher

Q. What do you like about working at SFX?

A. I enjoy working with my team and the students we have on our courses. My team is very supportive, hardworking and creative. These are qualities we try our best to instil in our learners, whom we enjoy nurturing, educating and supporting during their time at SFX.

Q. What do you like about being a teacher?

A. This quote sums up what I like about being a teacher:
"The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called 'truth'." (Dan Rather, American Journalist and CBS news anchor)

Q. Do you have any advice for someone thinking of taking Media or Film?

A. Read newspapers, engage in current affairs, consume classic film texts, build a voice of your own and be prepared to delve into a world of creativity and craftsmanship.

Q. What are your students like to teach?

A. In one word, active participants. Part of teaching Media and Film is encouraging students to become active rather than passive individuals. My constant insistence on becoming 'active readers' is certainly making them more inquisitive, which is great!

Q. Can you share an inspirational student story with us?

A. Several years ago a student of mine was depressed and alone, having many days before the exam sitting alone in the College corridor crying. She didn't see the point of living. I encouraged her to go home and read Paulo Coelho's book 'Veronica decides to die', as she was an avid reader. The next time I saw her was in the exam. She seemed quiet but hopeful. She excelled in her exam, achieving an A, but I never had the chance to say goodbye or congratulate her...until she wrote to me a few months later to thank me for sitting with her that afternoon and reminding her that 'there are moments, when troubles enter our lives and we can do nothing to avoid them. Only when we have overcome them we will understand why they were there!' (P. Coelho)

Q. Tell us about a project you are currently working on with your students?

A. My UAL Creative Media Production students are currently working on a remake of a film storyboard, called *P is for Psycho*. For this project they have had to use their creative and technical skills to master the original storyboard then plan an extended sequence, considering representations and genre conventions, whilst also assessing the health and safety risks, prior to their filming and editing in November/December 2015.

Q. Why would you recommend SFX as a place to study?

A. Teachers at SFX are not only good at their jobs but are also experts in their subject areas with a vast amount of knowledge. They are supportive, inclusive of all learners, enthusiastic and want all their students to succeed.

Q. Where did you study your degree?

A. I studied Media Arts (BA) at Royal Holloway, University of London and my teaching degree (PGCE) at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Q. Finally what did you have for breakfast this morning?

A. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so for me it's 2 slices of toast and a warm cup of tea, but at 5am, the time I wake up every morning.

Q. Miss Ahmadian's top tip:

A. 'Strike when the iron is hot'. Engage in thorough revision and practise essay writing throughout the year, so that you don't face a mountain of work and stress at the end of the academic year!

Wandsworth Achievers Event

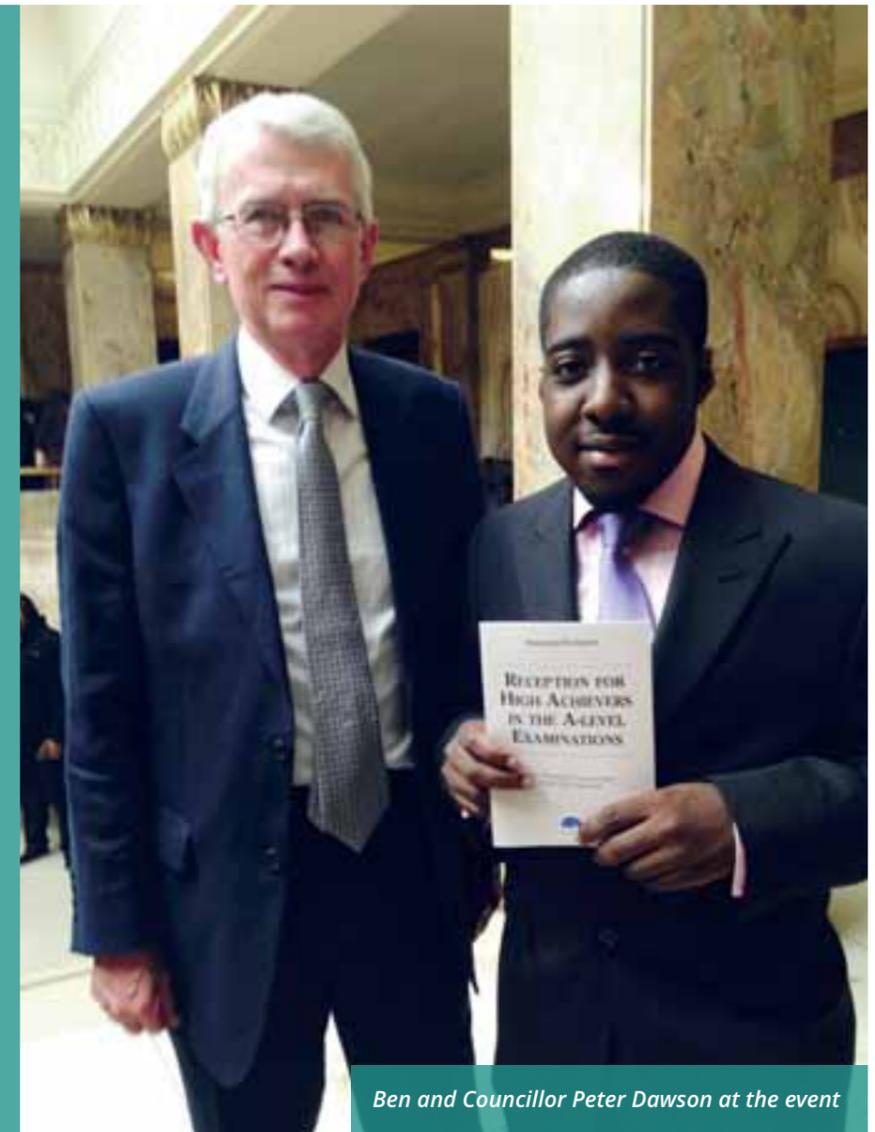
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We took along a small selection of our many star graduates of 2015, to the Wandsworth High Achievers Ceremony last month. The event which was held at the Town Hall, aims to recognise and celebrate the successes of students at A level and BTEC level 3 in the borough.

Council members and representatives from Department for Education and Children's Services welcomed the students and delivered inspiring speeches in the Grand Chamber.

The students will soon be enjoying their freshers' week before they begin their degree courses at University. Malise (front row, 2nd from left - BTEC L3 Applied Science D*D*D*) will be studying Biochemistry at University of Surrey, along with Aminat (front row 2nd from right - BTEC L3 Applied Science D*D*D*) who will be studying Nutrition/Dietetics.

Chinaza (back row, top right - Gov & Politics (A*) English Lang (A) Classical Civilisation (B)) will be attending Southampton University to study History, whilst Sian (front row far left - Dance (A) Sociology (A) Psychology (B)) is going to study a Dance degree at Coventry University.



Ben and Councillor Peter Dawson at the event

Back row left to right: Jonah, Nicholas and Chinaza
Front row left to right: Sian, Malise, Ben and Imani



New course for 2015

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Production & Performing Arts Equivalent to 3 A levels (UAL Awarding Body)

About this course

In the first year of the course you will develop your performance technique across the art forms through participation in singing, acting and dance workshops. You will also have the opportunity to perform with live audiences. In the second year you will participate in two productions, a full-scale musical and a pantomime. You will experience live theatre, music and dance performances in professional venues.

Topics covered include:

- Principles of Performance
- Production and Performance Skills and Context
- Collaborative Performance Project
- Developing Performance and Production Skills

What this course can lead to

Progression to university to study a degree in a Performing Arts subject, entrance to a Drama or Dance School or Music Conservatoire. A wide variety of careers in the theatre world including working as an actor, musician or dancer.

Why take this course?

- You are assessed on your practical performance work and your understanding of the performance process shown in a log book or journal
- Provides a qualification which is the equivalent to A levels with excellent progression to university
- Prepares you to work in the industry through work experience and research projects
- Develops a wide ranging skills set in different styles of performance and backstage roles

About Performing Arts at SFX

The SFX Performing Arts department offers A levels in Drama, Dance and Performance Studies and the UAL course in Performing Arts - Musical Theatre (equal to 3 A levels).

Many of our students also take part in Performing Arts enrichment activities such as the Gospel choir or the Music Collective alongside their exam courses. Performing Arts students enjoy watching a diverse range of live theatre music and dance and take part in at least one full-scale production a year. The SFX Performing Arts Department also runs a college trip to study and perform in New York City.



Head of Performing Arts, Ms Everett said;

"I am very excited about the new course, it involves putting on three full-scale productions. It's such a creative and flexible course, we are looking forward to working with all the inspirational people who join the SFX UAL Performing Arts course next September!"

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