EALING INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

EIC Insights

Summer 2018

Leading Independent College in West London

www.ealingindependentcollege.com

Contents

2 Welcome from the Principal

3 Results and Prize Giving

6 Teaching and Learning

9 University and Career Planning

12 Events and Visits

14 Clubs and Activities

16 International Students

17 Alumni: Where are they now

Welcome from the Principal

I wrote my last Insights Welcome Message in the first term of this academic year. As this academic year now draws to a close I thought it would be appropriate to pick up on what I said in that message. This academic year has seen some of the biggest changes in secondary education for almost a quarter of a century. There have been radical changes at both GCSE and A-level.

The College has embraced the greater demands of the new syllabuses through inspired teaching and shifting the emphasis a little more towards student based learning. The new specifications place much greater demands on the student: there has been a conscious shift away from teacher led and teacher focused learning. When students move onto university, it is very important that they have the tools and discipline to work more independently otherwise they will not succeed. I believe that we are equipping the students with the necessary disciplines to make a success of their university careers.

Supervised study has been a central part of the College ever since I took on the role of Principal almost 18 years ago. However, we are now consciously encouraging students to aim for greater independence by aspiring to work unsupervised in the Reading Room. Students who show a mature and responsible approach to independent learning are rewarded with an 'exemption card' which enables them to study without supervision in a more informal environment. Students realise that this privilege is earned and not a right. I have been very pleased to see the large numbers of students gaining this privilege, and more important, to see how well this large group of independent learners approach their studies.

Clearly, the teacher is still of pivotal importance in guiding the students on the right path and inspiring excellence. We have a very strong team of dedicated staff. Our progress score remains amongst the highest in the country, and that is only achieved through outstanding teaching which in turn inspires in the student a desire to work hard and achieve their very best academically. The College has little difficulty in recruiting the highest calibre of staff despite there being a shortage of strong teachers in London, especially in Mathematics and Science. Teachers want to work in the special environment that is the hallmark of the College: small classes; strong pupil teacher relationships and a purposeful, academic ethos that is very evident when walking around the building in lesson time.

The new A-level specifications now enable us to focus on teaching right through to the end of the year. AS examinations are now largely a thing of the past and these have been replaced with rigorous internally assessed examinations, the results of which are used with other key performance indicators to formulate the UCAS prediction which is also the student's target grade for the start of their Year 13 programme of study. Students in Year 12 will leave at the end of this term with a UCAS application well underway with predicted grades known and a very good idea about which university and which course they want to study after A-levels in 2019.

UCAS week this year has been tremendously successful largely because public examinations were not the focus of the summer term. Instead, students were focused on their end of year internal assessment, their progress throughout Year 12 and their university and course of choice. During this period we took all the students to Oxford to experience a university city: visiting speakers from universities and our own alumni coupled with one to one interviews between students and their personal tutor have enabled students to focus on what is really important at the end of Year 12.

So, I am pleased to conclude that the College has embraced the challenges of the new demanding syllabuses in a very positive way. The College has embraced the significant changes that have been introduced by the Government and equipped the students with the necessary tools to succeed in the new environment.

Dr Ian Moores
Principal

Results and Prize Giving

Dfe Result Announcement January 2018:
Another Year of Strong Results

Earlier this year, the Department of Education published the annual GCSE and A-Level performance of schools across England, and we are delighted that Ealing Independent College continues to be amongst the top in the country in securing academic progress for our students.

With an average Progress Score of +0.37* for the last 3 years, this puts the College amongst the top 5% of schools and colleges in the country in helping students improve their grades.

Principal of Ealing Independent College, Dr Ian Moores, commented: "I am delighted to see that the students have performed very well again this year in the DfE Performance Tables. The consistency of a strong Progress Score is now a major feature of the College: this is a reflection of the strong teaching, monitoring and pastoral systems that create the very individual and special ethos of the College. The College has also performed creditably in the other key areas measured given that our intake is non-selective. Parents can be re-assured by the College's performance and confident that students will reach their potential in the supportive academic environment we offer."

Following last year's changes to how data is presented and performance measured, further were made by the Department of Education this year with the most significant being the new Progress 8 and Attainment 8 GCSE measure. It focuses on the results of the student's best eight subject in GCSE, including English and Maths. Last summer, GCSE students across the country also sat new and tougher exams in English and Maths, which were graded through the new numerical system from 9 to 1 (9 being the top grade).

We are delighted to say that our GCSE students performed very well in these subjects, with 50% gaining Grade 5 or above in English and Maths. This is way ahead of the national average of 39.6%.

Ealing Independent College has always placed a strong emphasis on providing the best guidance and support for their students to secure academic progress. The consistently strong Progress Score and excellent individual student achievements is a testament to the hard work the Principal and teachers put into ensuring each and every student that joins the College reaches his or her true potential. To learn more about our 2017 results and student success stories please visit our website: **https://www.ealingindependentcollege.com/results-and-destinations**.

*The Progress Score is measured through an interval of +2 to -2. This year the best performing school came in at +1.63 and the worst performing school at -1.22

Prize Giving 2017 - 2018:
Celebrating our Students' Achievements

At Ealing Independent College, we aim to ensure a learning environment where students support and encourage each other to perform their very best. We believe that hard work and dedication should be rewarded and acknowledged within the College community, and each term achievements are celebrated in the end of term assemblies and prize givings. It is truly heart-warming to see students cheering each other on, celebrating each other's progress. As a small College, we believe that our friendly learning environment is an integral element of ensuring success for each of our students, and the end of year prize giving assemblies is an important part of that.

Autumn Term 2017

Friday 15 December 2017 marked the last day of the Autumn Term at Ealing Independent College. The first mock exams of the year are always very important, as it allows students to see where they are against target grades set earlier in the term. Prizes were awarded to students from Year 9 up to Year 13 for their academic progress as well as exceptional performances on the exams.

Video of assembly: https://youtu.be/RoLFW7mV-d4

Prize Winner Profiles

Thanusree

Thanusree joined the College in September 2017 as an international student for Year 12. She quickly found her place at the College, joining the Student Council in the Autumn Term and participating in a MUN trip to Boston during the Spring Term. She was awarded for her strong results in the Autumn Term mocks.

Jack

Jack joined the College in September 2017 as an Intensive Year 13 student. Receiving disappointing results at his previous school, Jack quickly gained the support and encouragement at the College to perform according to his true potential and has as such received awards at every single end of term prize giving assembly this academic year.

Spring Term 2018

Thursday 29 March 2018 marked the end of Spring Term at Ealing Independent College. The results of the mock exams this term allow students to identify knowledge gaps and set Easter revision work with their personal tutor and teachers accordingly.

Video of assembly: https://youtu.be/Z2rN4TnfpII

Prize Winner Profiles

Riyal

Riyal has been a student at the College since her GCSE studies, and embarked on her last year of A-level this academic year. A member of the Student Council, hardworking and deemed a joy to be around by both staff and students; Riyal has performed exceptionally well on all of her mock exams this year.

Fabien

Fabien has completed the first year of his GCSE studies at the College this academic year, and has consistently performed well throughout the year. A talented young man with ambitions to pursue a career in the creative industry, we look forward to welcoming Fabien back for Year 11 and his last year of GCSE.

Summer Term 2018

Friday 29 June 2018 marked the last day of the academic year, and an end of year assembly and prize giving ceremony was held for all Year 9, 10 and 12 who recently sat mock exams. It was joyous occasion where students who have consistently worked hard throughout the academic year received their prizes to great cheers from their friends and classmates.

Photos of assembly: https://www.ealingindependentcollege.com/college-life/photo-gallery/end-of-year-prize-giving-assembly

Prize Winner Profiles

Madiyar

Madiyar joined the College as an international student from Kazakhstan in September 2016. Having worked hard on his English language and subjects, he performed really well on his mocks in the first year of A level and we look forward to helping him reach his true potential in Year 13.

Naoya

Naoya joined the College for Year 9 in September 2017, and he has consistently performed exceptionally well throughout his Pre-GCSE year. He absolutely deserved this final award of the year, and have no doubts that he will perform even stronger when he returns for Year 10 in September.

Teaching and Learning

A.I.M - Our approach in supporting students in the run up to exams

Allan Cairns
Vice Principal (Academic)

The examination period is a difficult time for both staff and students. While a feeling of too much to revise in too little time can often drive students to the habits they should be avoiding - rereading notes exhaustively or cramming the night before an exam - the College's whole school approach is one of direct confrontation of the problem, utilising a system based on research which has picked out the fundamentals of effective revision.

Assessment and feedback occurs regularly during the College year, summative in Mock exams (December and March), and formative in class tests, where, due to our small class sizes, feedback can be deployed promptly, individually and in detail. This video is a good example of the partnership between students and staff at EIC in marking and assessment: **https://youtu.be/ENfp4Fye9Vg**.

As tensions rise in the run up to exams, the College raises it's game to meet the challenge. Month's Marks, given throughout the year to track progress, become Week's Marks, based on weekly assessments made by our staff to reproduce the rigour of the exams. The three steps to this approach are:

A - ASSESS
students take the weekly test, marked quickly

I - IDENTIFY
students see where your strengths and weaknesses lie

M - MODIFY
where appropriate, they then adapt their approach

This helps in a multitude of ways, from perfecting student familiarity, timing or technique in exams, to ensuring there is a sufficient grasp of knowledge across the syllabus. Repetition breeds confidence.

Our level of monitoring thus becomes even closer and in order to further enrich the approach, data is fed back by personal tutors to parents; they can be involved throughout, offering further support at the time it is most needed.

The regularity of the approach means that we ask a great deal of our students, and indeed our teachers in this period, but we refuse to miss an opportunity to add value.

Talented and Dedicated Teachers:
Welcoming New Team Members

Ealing Independent College would not be what it is without our team of truly passionate and dedicated teachers. Teachers at the College genuinely want their students to do well and go above and beyond to support students' learning journeys.

The College has little difficulty in recruiting the highest calibre of teachers, as we provide the perfect environment of small classes, strong student teacher relationships and a purposeful, academic ethos. Contrary to many other colleges, we boast a large number of full time permanent staff members, with a smaller ratio of part time teaching support.

Whilst we have now waved goodbye to some staff at the end of this academic year as they embark on new challenges, we are delighted to welcome some new members to our team for September 2018.

James Garside

Head of GCSE and Teacher of Geography & Psychology

Mr Garside brings 20 years of experience acquired from independent and state schools in South Africa and England. Most recently, he has been working in a London inner city school (Hackney New School) as Head of Geography where his remit was to help set up new A-Level departments and syllabuses for Geography and Psychology. Prior to this he was Head of Geography and Head of House at an international independent school in Surrey. It was here that Mr Garside developed many online learning opportunities for the students where the focus was - '*learn anywhere anytime*'. Due to much of the work he did here Mr Garside became a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society (FRGS).

Prior to working in the UK he taught in various schools in South Africa. Mr Garside worked at Camps Bay High School (Cape Town) as Head of Guidance & Counselling and Geography and at St Andrew's College (Grahamstown) as a Geography teacher. He is a Geography and Psychology graduate from the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS, Johannesburg), has a Bachelor in Education (Bed) from the University of South Africa and holds a Masters in Environmental and Developmental Studies from London, South Bank.

"I am delighted to be joining Ealing Independent College as Head of GCSE and teacher of Geography and Psychology", Mr Garside commented. "I look forward to working with the Principal and colleagues in ensuring the GCSE students' time at Ealing Independent College is a positive and rewarding part of their learning experience".

Along with his teaching and managerial roles Mr Garside has been passionately involved in extra-curricular programmes. He has coached various sports including Cricket, Rugby and Football (boys and girls) and organised many excursions ranging from geographic trips to hiking and camping expeditions (Duke of Edinburgh Award).

Naushad Sheikh

Head of Physics

As the new Head of Physics at Ealing Independent College, Mr Sheikh brings 18 years' experience of teaching A Level and GCSE Physics. In that time he has been Head of Physics in secondary schools and Sixth Form colleges. He has worked in North London at two major secondary schools, Kingsbury High and Christ's College Finchley, each with successful Physics Departments. After all this time, he still gets the same sense of excitement at the start of each new academic year.

Mr Sheikh commented: "I very much look forward to joining Ealing Independent College as the new Head of Physics. I always enjoyed Physics more than Mathematics, as I could see how it related to the physical world around us. Ultimately the same laws of Physics govern how the universe works. As the Head of Physics, I want to make sure every student at the College studying Physics fulfils her or his academic potential. Studying Physics is rewarding and opens career choices in many fields."

Jaspreet Sangha Hothi

Teacher of History and Sociology

Ms Hothi is an experienced and passionate practitioner in both History and Sociology, teaching across Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, seeking to inspire young people to meet their potential and to create a lasting appreciation for history. Ms Hothi has a proven record of helping children progress, providing positive learning experiences as well as building and maintaining effective behaviour management systems. She is passionate about developing each individual student within a culture of high expectations and respect.

Ms Hothi is a History graduate from Queen Mary University, and holds a Masters degree in Gender, Society and Representation from University College London. She completed her teaching qualification from the National College for Teaching and Leadership in 2015 and has since excelled in each and every role she has endeavoured. During her previous teaching role at St Marylebone School, Ms Hothi was Head of Key Stage 5 EAL and Linguistic and Cultural Inclusion across the school, and her responsibilities have included ensuring that students are given the support and access to English that they need at all levels, training new staff and organising cultural events to promote diversity and inclusiveness across the school. This soon led Ms Hothi to her roles as an Interfaith Advisor for Westminster Schools, working alongside Westminster University in supporting SMSC in schools across London. Ms Hothi previously had the pleasure of being a Year 12/13 form tutor, providing UCAS application and future pathways support, including, personal statement review and interview preparation, with a high success rate of Oxbridge specific applications, including a number of EAL/IELTS students. During her second year of teaching, she was also promoted to Head of Sixth Form Committee and Student Voice. This additional role allowed her to support the Sixth Form Committee in organising charity events, whole-school initiatives, open evenings and fresher's fairs.

Her implementations of extracurricular activities, such as Feminist Societies and Debating Clubs, have been a credit to her role as a teacher outside the classroom. She has organised weekly sessions, such as talks, guest speakers, presentations and debates, on a number of topics. This has led to exciting opportunities such as taking part in interviews with ITV News and working with the United Nations on the HeForShe campaign. The concept of empowerment is something Ms Hothi is passionate about within school and through her personal endeavours as a TED speaker and an award-winning poetry performer.

"I am delighted to be joining the College in September", Ms Hothi commented. "From the outset, I knew that Ealing Independent College is a school I could truly envision myself working at as it upholds the key values I encourage as a teacher. By teaching top quality, exciting and challenging lessons of History and Sociology, I feel I will be able to promote and increase the high levels of academic achievement that the school already attains."

University and Career Planning

At Ealing Independent College we believe that the guidance and support we offer our students through the process of choosing their field of study and university is crucial for their future success. Each academic year begins with visits from some of the top universities in London, and have for the last few years been Queen Mary University, University College London, King's College London and London School of Economics. Towards the end of Autumn Term we also welcomed UAS London to the College; an organisation that assist students with applying to colleges in the US.

We aim to ensure that our students obtain as much information and advice as possible before choosing their university and career. We provide trips to universities and careers fairs and have a plethora of expertise on our staff in addition to the visiting speakers we engage to inspire our students about Higher Education - so whether their interests be Architecture and Zoology we are confident we can provide the help, support and up to date information our students need to secure a place at their desired destination - and this all starts with the UCAS Week.

A Visit to Oxford University

Adrian Winiecki
Head of Engineering

When June arrives at Ealing Independent College it's that time of the year again, where scarves have been swapped for sunglasses, heads are down in anticipation of the summer mocks and guests speakers are being booked up for the yearly UCAS week at the College. A period of time allocated so that Year 12 can make some educated choices about how they are going to invest into the next chapter of their academic lives.

Some students seem to be born with it all sorted, a clear idea of what A levels, University and career awaits them. However these students are few and far between and the reality is that most students don't know and that's just fine; hence UCAS week.

But prior to UCAS week students needed some inspiration and our first day of that led us to Oxford University.

After a short trip by coach we arrived in Oxford and were greeted outside the wonderful Ashmolean museum by Peter and Paul, undergraduate students of Oxford University studying Law and Mathematics.

They took the lead and gave the students and teachers a really engaging personal tour of New College and Divinity School. Giving students a wonderful insight into the daily life of a university student at Oxford University. The students were really inspired by the beauty of the two colleges, but also there was no getting away from the aura of academia, it's in the walls. Whichever college you entered it was clear they were places of learning and the students found this really inspiring, especially as they had their own summer mocks around the corner.

After a great lunch at the Vaults cafe, it was time to experience the local pastime; punting. Surprisingly the boys were a little shy of taking control of the Punts, but luckily we had two tough girls in the group, Camilla and Farana, who proved themselves to be excellent captains. Gladly the students suffered no more than a few sprinkles of the local river, but did arrive back home in London with a good understanding of what it takes to be a student at Oxford University.

Careers Fair

Adrian Winiecki
Head of Engineering

On the 12 June, New London Architecture hosted a special careers event, giving our students an exclusive preview of the London Real Estate Forum (LREF) exhibition and an insight into the future growth and direction of development and regeneration across London. The event provided updates on new buildings, new transport projects and area development plans.

Tours of the exhibition stand, facilitated by industry professionals, gave students an opportunity to meet with architects, engineers, developers and others working in the built environment sector. The event opened our students' minds to the diverse range of careers which are available within and outside the construction sector.

After a wonderful lunch students were given a master class in powerpoint presentation. A specially curated conference programme featured a range of presenters working on exciting architecture, transport and planning projects across London, including The Shard, The Olympic Park and major housing projects.

The speakers:

Tony Pidgley CBE
Chairman, Berkeley Group plc.

Roma Agrawal
Structural Engineer, AECOM

Cannon Ivers
Director, LDA Design

Liz Waters
Stakeholder Communications & Community Manager, Sir Robert McAlpine

It was an honour to listen to a titan of industry such as Tony Pidgley. All speakers were wonderfully engaging and spent the time to explain to students their own path into industry, which the students really seemed to connect with.

After a day of networking and presentations the students were inspired and keen to see more of London. Since we were attending a real estate conference it only seemed right to explore one of London's most iconic buildings; St Paul's Cathedral. It was the perfect end to great day. The students of EIC proved themselves to be excellent ambassadors.

UCAS Week

Claire Greenwood
Head of English

The sun was shining at the end of June as our Year 12s were spared the pressure of public examinations, but instead focused their minds on the next stage of their lives after Ealing Independent College.

We believe it is never too early for Year 12 students to start thinking about university applications or other routes that may interest them such as apprenticeships. To get students started on this path, our supportive and informative UCAS week is a three-day, one-stop workshop of activities, tutorials, mini-lectures, and visiting speakers to give a robust yet supportive introduction to the UCAS process.

Many students may still be unsure which career direction they hope to follow, or if they have some ideas about this, may be unclear about which universities may be the best choice for them. During the days we provided them with a fully comprehensive programme that explained how the UCAS process works, from filling in the application form, to choosing courses and destinations, to what students can really expect from university life. We explained to students how universities are ranked in the UK - and indeed internationally should students wish to pursue their studies overseas and what it takes to submit a truly winning application. We encouraged our students to be aspirational, yet also realistic in their five choices and we provided guidance in researching courses thoroughly so they are able to select those that suit them best in order to pursue the career of their dreams.

Our distinguished guest speakers this year included Dr Lawrence Greenfield of Royal London A&E, EIC alumni and Queen Mary student Gina Jandu, and Dr Dónal Hill of Oxford University & CERN Geneva.

Events and Visits

There has been an abundance of activities and events on offer this year to provide our students with opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Some of our students jetted off to the US to participate in a MUN Conference at MIT, our Government and Politics students have been able to visit the Houses of Parliament, and our art students have visited some of London's trendy art galleries. To celebrate the hard work and dedication our Year 13 students have put into their last year of A levels, we also invited their families for an end of year bash at the College in early June.

MIT Model United Nations Conference 2018

Allan Cairns
Vice Principal (Academic)

Over the weekend of February 9 to 11 this year, a delegation of Ealing Independent College students, along with the Vice Principal, made their way across the Atlantic Ocean to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston for the tenth edition of their Model United Nations Conference. There were 550 students from across the world at the conference, and it provided an excellent opportunity for our students to forge new relationships, enhance their public speaking, problem solving and negotiation skills whilst putting the students in a context outwith their collective comfort zones.

Students, having been assigned countries to represent, researched and then wrote position papers, stating their respective stances on a range of topics, from the Nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula to the Proliferation of Cyber weapons. Following UN guidelines, these areas were then debated and discussed in moderated and unmoderated caucuses, resolutions were proposed, subject to friendly or unfriendly amendments, and voted on accordingly.

Alongside the conference, students had time to visit the impressive campus of MIT and the Ivy League facilities of Harvard, as well as taking in some of Boston's historical highlights by walking the Freedom Trail. Our students valued the experience immensely. Peter, in Year 13, who studies Maths, Computer Science and Sociology, stated that "I've met numerous wonderful people, and have gained further knowledge of the political climate. This trip greatly assisted my critical thinking and leadership skills, along with watching others grow too."

Jay, who is in Year 12 studying Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, called the trip "an amazing experience, which was challenging but fun. I learned how to communicate more effectively with people and also learned the art of debate in an incredible environment."

The College will be looking to participate again next year.

A Visit to the Houses of Parliament

On Friday 4 May our Head of Social Sciences, Phil Brack, brought a few of our A-Level Government and Politics students to the Houses of Parliament. It was a highly educational and interesting visit for the group.

GCSE Art

Dimitrios Oikonomou
Teacher of Art

During Summer Term our GCSE Year 10 students worked on projects of their own choice, as they were preparing for next year's exams. In their exams, they will respond to an external subject and create a personal body of work based on prior research.

One of the students worked on his subject 'light and dark' by investigating the style of Patrick Caulfield. He was trying to make his own artistic attempts. Another was exploring examples of body forms and sculptures. By drawing them and using different colourful variations he created images that he can use for his paintings. Our international student from Vietnam has already investigated her subject 'interiors' and has been working on her paintings. By examining the work of the artist Laurie Simmons she has created her own ideas and style.

All the students worked on acrylics and will create a number of paintings on canvas. Some of those canvases we are looking to use for October's ISA National Art Competition.

To complement this work our students have also been visiting art galleries such as the Tate Modern for inspiration throughout the year.

End of Year Celebrations

On Friday 25 May, Year 13 students and their parents were invited to an end of year drinks event at the College. The event was a welcome break from exam revision and preparation work, and allowed parent, staff and students to come together and celebrate the hard work and dedication students have put into their final year of A Levels. Dr Ian Moores, Principal of the College, and his staff were delighted to have so many families join them for the event, and in his speech he reminded students of the importance of being true to themselves and their goals as they move on to the next chapter and start their university studies in the autumn.

Clubs and Activities

It has been an eventful year at Ealing Independent College with a range of clubs and activities on offer for our students; Mindfulness, debating, art and photography, engineering and football to name a few. In recent years our programme has expanded, and next year promises to be just as eventful with opportunities both led by students and staff.

A Year of Highs and Lows for the EIC Football Team

Allan Cairns
Vice Principal (Academic)

The College football team, having won their first league title in the 2015-2016 campaign, then retaining their championship in a superb unbeaten season in 2016-2017, experienced a year of change this term. Coming into a new, stronger league, and playing established sides like MPW, Ashbourne and CATS College London for the first time, the step up asked questions of the strength in depth within the squad of football players at the College, and, though the side could never be faulted for a lack of effort, the end result was not quite what was optimistically hoped for at the start of the season.

An opening day goalless draw with Ashbourne showed that the side were up for the greater challenge, but they then lost their 23 game unbeaten record to DLD in a narrow 2-1 defeat. It was a record which had stood for almost 1000 days, and the aftershock, despite bouncing back with wins over CATS and MPW, was to be felt in the months which followed. Again, they could only muster a 0-0 stalemate with Ashbourne, before a record 7-0 defeat was inflicted by DLD, a side clearly in the ascendancy, who would go on to win the winter league. Poor performances in the remaining games of 2017, perhaps still smarting from such a big loss, meant that Ealing could only manage fourth place.

The second half of the season saw wholesale personnel changes among the team, and a new direction for the side. The first match of 2018 against Ashbourne showed that the fledgling line-up had a great deal to learn, with many new players making their debut and an unfamiliarity plaguing many facets of their approach. A pleasing improvement, however, then showed that football at the College was certainly not dead. Wins against MPW and CATS, along with a tough 1-1 draw with Albemarle College gave some confidence back to men in white. This upturn in fortune, however, was brief. A classy Collingham side inflicted a deserved 2-0 defeat, and this was followed by a comprehensive reverse to MPW. However, the last game of the season saw perhaps the best performance from the side, battling superbly in a 2-2 with Collingham, with Luc scoring one of the finest goals the College has ever produced.

The penultimate match may not have been one which will go down as one of the College's finest, but it was important in that it signalled the passing of the torch of the position of Manager. Academic Vice Principal Allan Cairns, who set up the team and guided them to success over the last few seasons, managing almost 50 games, winning over half of them and overseeing almost 100 goals, has 'moved upstairs' and is delighted to welcome as his successor Josh Vale, Registrar at the College. He departs with having brought many happy memories and two league trophies to the College. Highlights include the 3-1 victory over Albemarle to secure the first championship win and the tense 1-1 draw against DLD which brought the second. His final match in charge, the 2-2 draw, was also one which brought great joy to the coach.

While not leaving a winning team to Vale, Cairns is proud of the efforts of the team this year. When asked for a quote which summed up the season, he stated that *"it's a case of sometimes you win, and sometimes you learn. The most important thing for me this season was that the students were able to represent the College in a positive manner. There have been many setbacks this year, but the lads involved at the end of this season have conducted themselves in the right manner, with dignity and humility."* Player of the season James has enjoyed the weekly games despite the season of ups and downs. He says that "Playing this season for the College was a pleasure; we have had our ups and downs, however the whole team always had a strong desire to improve in each game and I feel like we did that from the start of the season to the end".

EIC Alumni Football Match

Read the match report and view video here: **https://bit.ly/2MN9JGG**

The EIC Engineering Club

Askhan Ajeer
Head of Physics

A popular club amongst our budding engineers is the engineering club led by our Head of Engineering, Adrian Winiecki, and Head of Physics, Askhan Ajeer.

The main goal of the engineering club is to develop the problem solving skills through a methodical scientific approach. Our first project was to design and develop an electric motor. This was a great opportunity to get first-hand experience of taking a seemingly abstract theory, such as electromagnetism and using it to make a very useful product. The difficulty of making a functioning motor also served to highlight the complexities which arise when taking an idea from paper to production.

During the second term, the focus of the club turned to the use of models in engineering. We wanted to test which forms of damping would work on a high-rise building. To do this, students built a model building and connected it to a mechanical vibrator to simulate an earthquake. It was very encouraging to see the students use theories they learned during the first project to develop a sensor used to measure the frequency and amplitude of the vibrations.

Participating in the engineering club helps students recognise the time and effort that goes into the development of everyday products we take for granted, and ultimately makes them more inquisitive. The methodical approach and trial and error nature of engineering are transferable skills which can aid students in many areas of their lives; hopefully helping them to see that most problems are merely projects that can be solved with the right approach.

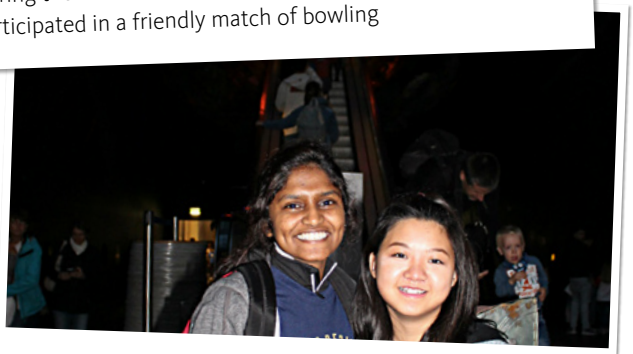
The EIC Debating Club

Run by our Head of English, Claire Greenwood, the Debating Club has been very popular this year. Normally on a Tuesday afternoon, the students are provided with a topic, separated into teams and work on their debating techniques on the given topic.

International Students

London sightseeing, museum visits, West End musicals, bowling and a visit to a trampoline park. These are just some of the activities our international students have participated in this year. From around the world and places like Vietnam, Poland, Kazakhstan, Russia and Malaysia; they have become a close knit group. Every month our international students meet with our International Welfare Officer to check in on everyone and to discuss upcoming activities and trips the group will take together. Plans are already starting to be made for next year, with bubble football high on the list of activities for the Autumn Term.

During the Autumn Term our international students participated in a friendly match of bowling



For some culture, our international students visited the Natural History Museum

During induction the College organised a day in London to visit all the top sights

A visit to the West End for a musical is a must

Our international students started Spring Term with a visit to a trampoline park

Alumni: Where Are They Now

We are incredibly proud of the achievements of our students during their time at the College and beyond, and are delighted whenever former students make contact and come by the College to share their news. The EIC alumni network is ever growing, spanning across the world and at top universities and career fields.

Vivek Badiani

Cambridge University

My time at Ealing Independent College has continued to bear a positive impact on me throughout my studies. Although it is difficult to say which factor played a major role in my academic journey thus far, one of the biggest lessons I learned was practice. Learning without practicing merely commits concepts to short term memory. EIC allowed me to realise this as it fostered informal relationships between the high ratio of teachers to students due to its small size and friendly environment. This allowed free expression between the students and teachers, and luckily in my case, although my grades from my first year AS-level grades suggested otherwise – it allowed my true potential to be seen.

I entered the College with BBC in Biology, Chemistry and Economics, and with much hard work I left with AAB – the first thing I never thought I would achieve.

Upon leaving EIC I took up a place at the University of Nottingham to study initially a 3-year BSc in Chemistry. Using the principles of practice, I swiftly achieved above 70% in my first year which allowed me to switch to the 4-year integrated Masters course with a year in industry, which led me to spending my 3rd year working for a major pharmaceutical company in Parma, Italy, in the field of drug discovery research. This was a major influence in my chosen career path and I implore students who are deciding which course to take to choose courses with years in industry or abroad. I then returned to the University of Nottingham for my final Masters year, where upon spending my time conducting my research in the exciting field of nanotechnology and carbon nanotubes, I achieved a first-class degree with honours.

My wonderful experience in research in both industrial and academic settings led me to securing a place at the University of Cambridge, where I am currently reading my second Masters in Graphene Technology at the Department of Engineering.

Currently, I am conducting research and sitting exams on condensed matter, theoretical, and quantum physics, as well as electrical engineering and nanotechnology.

Five years prior to now, if you found me at EIC, sitting in the break room next to the red lockers, I would never have imagined I would have achieved this, especially seeing as my highest qualification in Mathematics is a GCSE! However, I remained in touch with the idea of practicing everything I learn in order to cement my understanding, something which I owe credit to the college for.

Upon (hopefully) passing my Masters later this year, I will remain at the University of Cambridge to pursue my final qualification - a PhD in the exciting field of two-dimensional materials. My academic journey from having achieved low grades in my first year of my A-levels to where I am now is largely due to the principles I gained while at Ealing Independent College. I was lucky enough to have Dr. Ian Moores (Principal of EIC) realise my potential, and lucky enough to have an informal relationship with my teachers where I could maximise what I learn within and outside of a syllabus. This has helped me to continually challenge myself in fields I never imagined I would be able to attempt.

For current students who may be reading this, it is important to realise the idea that everything is learnable. Whether you are studying for GCSEs, A-levels, or in my case, graduate level Physics and Engineering at Cambridge, we all have the capacity to learn new things, and all concepts out there are ready for you to understand – you just have to practice.

Ali Al Sibahi

UCL

My name is Ali and I am currently in my third year of a four-year Masters of Pharmacy degree at University College London (UCL).

When I was asked to give a speech and write this article for Ealing Independent College, I was in equal parts nervous and excited. After all, it is a considerable honour to be asked by one's former college to return and inspire a new generation of students, as well as to be able to extend a heartfelt thanks to the teachers who made such a difference in my life.

Attending UCL was a dream of mine all the way back when I was a young student at EIC, fresh from GSCEs. While I worked hard at my previous state school, I wasn't working to my potential, and I had three terrible grades. Cs in Biology and English Language, as well as a shocking D in Chemistry – it's hard to believe now, but I was not motivated to excel in the sciences. If I wanted to achieve my goals, I needed to step things up.

I took a year out in order to retake these three subjects at Ealing Independent College for the GCSE Intensive Year Programme. With the guidance and skill of the teachers at EIC, I began to 'fall in love' with the sciences.

Chemistry, the very subject that used to give me the most trouble, became my passion, and Dr Moores, Principal of the College, inspired me to push myself even harder. We made a deal – if I improved my grades (in Chemistry in particular) we could have a chat about attaining a scholarship in order to take my A Levels at EIC. His encouragement worked.

At the end of my GCSE 'retakes' year, I emerged with an A in Chemistry and 2 more As in Biology and English Language.*

I then went on to achieve good grades in my first year of A Levels. I began to recognise that I had a particular love for organic Chemistry, and my teachers cheered me on and pushed me towards success.

When the time came to apply for university, Fleur, my GCSE English Language teacher, helped me to revise my personal statement multiple times in order to help me gain acceptance to my first choice – UCL. Within a few weeks, I received an offer from UCL without interview, and I accepted immediately.

I am now coming to the end of my third year at UCL, and I have been offered a highly competitive place to conduct my fourth year Masters research project at the University of North Carolina, the number one pharmacy school in America.

I will spend three months there from October to December 2018 and then come back to UCL for the second semester to write up my dissertation. This is an incredible privilege, one that I never could have imagined back at my state school and before my time at EIC. I plan to continue my education to the PhD level, and see myself working for a global pharmaceutical powerhouse when my education is complete.

I will never forget Ealing Independent College for helping me to boost my grades, believe in myself and achieve my goals.

Whilst I used my own sheer determination and hard work to get where I am today, the support, teaching quality and atmosphere at EIC played a big role in helping me realise my own potential. Without EIC, I don't know where I would be today.

I truly appreciate the stellar performance of the entire EIC faculty, but I want to extend a special thanks to Dr Moores. You inspired me, instilled confidence in me and helped me to accomplish everything I have been able to achieve to this point – and beyond. Thank you for everything.

EALING INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

83 New Broadway, Ealing, London W5 5AL

+44 (0)20 8579 6668
FAX +44 (0)20 8567 8688
info@ealingindependentcollege.com
www.ealingindependentcollege.com

facebook.com/ealingcollege

twitter.com/ealing_college