

IN THE LOOP



Summer's nearly here!

Welcome to the summer edition of In the Loop, the termly newsletter designed for parents and carers of students at Central Sussex College.

We hope that your young person has settled back into college life after the Easter break and the bumper crop of bank holidays we've had – hopefully the lighter

mornings and warmer weather have made their return to College a little easier! However, if your young person has any concerns about their course, or about forthcoming exams, please advise them to speak to the Welfare team (details overleaf).

We would like to wish all students sitting exams this term the best of luck, and extend our best wishes to those who are off to university or

starting work in the summer.

This newsletter has been designed to keep parents and carers 'In the Loop' with what's happening in and around the College, and we are keen to hear your feedback. We would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to answer the short questionnaire enclosed, and return it to us using the postage paid envelope enclosed.

Thank you!

College Plans University Centre

Central Sussex College will unveil a university centre this year, after refurbishment of two floors at the Crawley campus takes place over the summer. The College wants to develop higher level skills training to support local business and industry through part-time, and work-related programmes.

The College is working alongside the Universities of Brighton, Sussex and Chichester to expand its higher education programme, with a top-up degree in engineering currently in development. Other programmes already offered include Foundation Degrees in Computer Science and in Early Childhood, a Certificate of Education, and a new Level 4 Institute of Hospitality Diploma. College Principal Dr Russell Strutt said: "We're strongly committed to raising aspirations and providing local higher education

progression routes, linked to employment, for young people and adults. The opening of the university centre is an exciting move for the College and we are very much looking forward to working with our higher education partners to develop new courses for the future. In the last couple of months we have had the first groups of graduands on the CIPD Post-Graduate Diploma in Human Resources Management and the Foundation Degree in Early Childhood, and we are looking forward to celebrating the success of many more students in the future, as part of the new university centre."

Crawley MP Henry Smith said: "It's really positive that a university presence will be coming to Crawley from September. I really can't praise Central Sussex College enough for their foresight in the area."

Key Dates

Wednesday 18th May 2011

Crawley campus Open Evening, 5-8pm

30th May - 3rd June 2011

Half Term - All campuses

Tuesday 7th June 2011

INSET Day - Haywards Heath campus

Monday 11th July 2011

End of summer term - All campuses excl. HH

Wednesday 13th July 2011

INSET Day - All campuses

Wednesday 20th July 2011

End of summer term - Haywards Heath campus

Thursday 18th August 2011

A Level & Level 3 Results Day

Thursday 25th August 2011

GCSE & Level 2 Results Day

Tuesday 30th August 2011

Year 2 re-enrolment starts

31st August - 2nd September 2011

Main Enrolment

Thursday 8th September 2011

Start of autumn term - All campuses

24th - 28th October 2011

Half Term - All campuses

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College Life

Top Tips for Exam Success!

Many students find exam time stressful. By using tried and tested techniques you may be able to help them cope with this pressure:

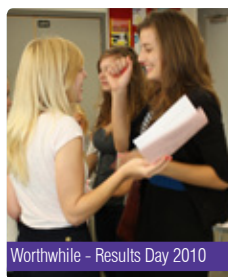
- **Planning** – make up a study timetable, be realistic with goals, and ensure they stick to it!
- **Revision** – use techniques and resources including notes, diagrams, internet, Blackboard/ Moodle, the College's virtual learning environments (VLE) - see below right for details of how to access.
- **Preparation** – ensure there is plenty of time to revise, that all equipment is ready the night before and they know where and what time the exam is!
- **Be sensible** – encourage them to take regular breaks whilst revising, to drink plenty of water and eat well (especially breakfast the morning of an exam) and exercise - all of which help to boost concentration levels.
- **Ask for help** – in areas that are difficult. Talk to their tutor, a member of the Welfare Team (see contact details to the right), or classmates.

There are plenty more tips on getting the most out of revision, available online. Suggested websites include:

- www.direct.gov.uk (Education & Learning section)
- www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Revision_Notes
- www.s-cool.co.uk

Most importantly encourage them to:

- ✓ **Stay positive and believe in their ability to do well in the exam.**
- ✓ **Try not to panic, it will only make things seem worse.**
- ✓ **Talk to someone who can help if they are really worried.**



Accessing the VLE from outside College:

(HH students) <http://acad.hhc.ac.uk/>

(Other students) <http://blackboard.centralsussex.ac.uk>

Student Travel Discounts

Due to cuts in government funding, existing travel discounts are under review. A survey amongst students, parents and teaching staff has been carried out, and resultant changes may include charges for travel cards, and in some cases,

withdrawal of travel discounts altogether. The College is waiting for further information from West Sussex County Council regarding these proposals. Please see 'Financial Support for Students' section overleaf for details of funding in place.

What's Next?

Many students will have already applied for courses for next year, but inevitably, some students will still not be sure what they want to do in September.

It is important for them to discuss their options with their tutors or with a member of the College Careers Team as soon as possible. There are Careers Advisers based at both the Crawley and Haywards Heath campuses. At the Haywards

Heath campus, students can book an appointment via the Careers Team, and all other students can arrange appointments through their PA. Contact details for both are in the box below.

Alternatively, Connexions also offer a careers advice service, call **01293 528374** or visit the website for more details:

www.connexions-direct.com

Whatever they want to do, don't leave it too late, as courses fill up quickly.

Welfare Contacts:

Crawley campus

Carole Findon - PA Service Industries:
01293 453436

Nicky Beard - PA Construction:
01293 453110

Natasha Braine - PA Technology:
01293 453437

Angie De Ath - PA BMIT & Training Solutions:
01293 453430

Janet Findlay - PA Health & Community Learning:
01293 453428

Rosie Clements - PA Skills for Life:
01293 442269

Haywards Heath campus

Sue Skarstein - Welfare Adviser:
01444 446823

Fiona Wiltshire-Brown & Sabine Van Slageren
Careers Advisers (HH):
01444 446847

Burgess Hill campus

Jacki Batt - Student Support:
01444 242751

East Grinstead contact:
01342 321874

Hot off the Press!

Our new Part-time course guide is out NOW!

Visit the website to download a copy!

www.centralsussex.ac.uk/downloads





Student Life

College 'Cleans-Up' at the Spring Awards!

Four exceptional College students were recognised at the annual FE Sussex Spring Awards, which celebrates outstanding achievement in training, development and learning, in the Further Education sector throughout Sussex.

Two Crawley-based learners scooped prizes on the night. George Sinclair (above, second from left) was awarded runner up in the Sussex Work-based Learner category. He studies Bench Joinery and works full time for local firm Wood & Wisdom. His employer says: "George is a great person to have in the workplace and has taken to the trade extremely well."

Lewis Leake (above, left) works for joinery firm D.G. Clifton & Son and also studies Level 3 Bench Joinery. He was presented with the runner up award for City and Guilds Learner Making the Most Progress. Tutor Jeremy Ridley said: "In the past, Lewis struggled with some aspects of the work, but he has more than made up for this through hard work and determination."

Two students from the Haywards Heath campus were also honoured. Will Newman (above, right), who studies BTEC Technical Theatre was named runner

up in the Pearson Award for Most Improved Learner. Tutor, Paul Tilbrook said: "Will is very creative and capable of designing and running a full theatrical production, which sets him apart from his peers." Inspirational student, Luke Chrimes (above, second from right) won the University of Chichester Award for Academic Excellence. After leaving school at 16, with mediocre GCSEs, Luke tried several jobs before his experience with the Territorial Army led to him attaining an exceptionally high IQ test result, and discovering his true vocation - medicine.

Two years on, and Luke, who is dyslexic, has been working hard towards achieving his dream at Central Sussex College. He studies A Level Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths, which will enable him to study Medicine at university, and he is aiming for either Cambridge, or the University of British Columbia in Canada.

Curriculum Area Leader for Science, Andrew Cornall said: "Luke has really turned his life around. His dedication to study is outstanding in all of his subjects. His teachers cannot speak highly enough of his commitment to learning."

Financial Support for Students

Students will no longer be able to claim EMA from September 2011, due to cuts in government funding. The College has been awarded funds through the Discretionary Learner Support Fund that may be able to contribute towards fees, travel costs and equipment for some students.

Further information will become available during the coming term, however, if you have any specific questions or concerns, please contact your young person's PA, or a member of the Student Support Team on: **01293 442269** (Crawley, East Grinstead or Burgess Hill students) or **01444 446823** (Haywards Heath students).

A little bird told me...
...a great way to keep up-to-date with news, events, activities and updates at the College...

f Become a fan of our Facebook page!
www.facebook.com/centralsussexcollege

t Follow us on Twitter!
www.twitter.com/CentralSussex

Equality & Diversity

What to wear in College as the temperatures rise

The College supports diversity and respects individuals' freedom of choice in respect of their appearance. However, there are some over-riding factors:

- **Health and safety requirements** - think about hazards like moving machinery in workshops.
- **Decency** - don't go too short and skimpy this summer!
- **Dress codes** - some courses and employers require a certain style of dress.
- **Offensive slogans** - wearing offensive slogans or symbols is not permitted, and may result in disciplinary action.

Inappropriately-dressed learners may be asked to go home to change or to take off or hide items in order to comply e.g. jewellery. If in doubt, ask the Student Support team, or visit the Equality and Diversity pages of the website or student intranet and read the Dress Guidelines for Learners.



The College supports diversity in learners - including diversity in dress!



Enrichment

Enrichment in 2011

Students are encouraged to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities to enrich their time at the College. These include College sports teams, the Student Executive, charity fundraising, groups, trips and awareness events.

A range of enrichment activities take place on Wednesday afternoons, and the College encourages students to suggest additional activities, not currently on offer.

Enrichment contacts:

Crawley campus - Student Liaison and Sports Co-ordinator, Tom Hilson, is available in the Common Room, 8.30am – 5pm.

Tel 01293 453422

Haywards Heath campus - Student Liaison and Sports Officer, Matt McKew, is available in Room O15 8.30am – 5pm

Tel 01444 456281 (ext 2832)

Informative Events

A number of events take place throughout the academic year at both the Crawley and Haywards Heath campuses to provide information, advice and support to students about a variety of topics.

The Careers and Finance Fair took place at the Crawley campus

in January, followed by the Volunteering and Charities Fair in February. Both events saw external organisations on-site to speak to students about future opportunities, and both were extremely well attended. At the Haywards Heath campus, Careers and Finance information will be offered during the E2011 enrichment week in July. The Welfare Team also arranges regular information stands for students to visit throughout the year, offering advice on a range of issues including sexual health, bullying, and substance misuse.

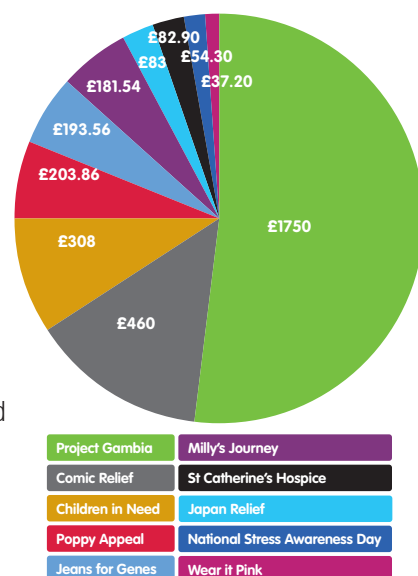


Good advice at the Careers & Finance Fair

Fabulous Fundraising!

Students (and staff) based at all campuses have made a sterling effort this year when it comes to raising money for local and national causes.

So far, money has been raised for national appeals such as Jeans for Genes, Comic Relief (pictured top left), Children in Need, and the Poppy Appeal, the international appeal after the earthquake in Japan, as well as local causes such as St Catherine's Hospice and Milly's Journey. In addition, Project Gambia spanned both campuses and raised a staggering amount of money, and Project Provide continues its work. A total of **£3,354.41** has been collected this year - well done to everyone who contributed!



Spring Sports Round-up

Haywards Heath campus

Spring has produced promising results for the Haywards Heath sports teams, with 3 sides reaching regional play-offs.

The Hockey team reached the mixed regional cup final, the premier competition in the region, before a narrow defeat to the established Chichester College. The run to the final included a fine win over local rivals Collyers.

The Basketball team made it through to the play-off semi-finals of the Sussex League, after finishing 4th in the regular seasons - quite an improvement from last year in which we failed to register a single win.

The Rugby team reached the semi-final of the Sussex League Cup before a narrow defeat. They also took part in the world's biggest sevens competition at Rosslyn Park, against some of the UK's best teams.

The Football teams enjoyed a mixed season with both the first and second team missing out on the end of season play-offs. Despite this, both teams performed competitively and enjoyed more wins than defeats throughout the season.

The Netball team are playing Sussex's top division, and performed well against larger colleges, gaining wins over both BHASVIC and Varndean.

Crawley campus

A series of great performances from the Crawley campus football team led to them winning their division of the West Sussex FA Colleges League, and earning a place in the Sussex Schools play-off. The play-off match against St. Bede's was a tight game with few chances for either side. The match finished 1-1 after normal time and the sides could only be separated after St. Bede's converted a well-worked set-piece deep into injury time. In other sports news at the campus, cricket and self defence have now both been added to the list of enrichment opportunities available to students on Wednesday afternoons.



Campus Life

...Crawley, East Grinstead & Burgess Hill campuses

New Fences

A new fence is now in place along College Road at the Crawley campus.

Two gates at the front of the main entrance and a further gate next to the Longley 1 building provide access to the campus, and new recreational spaces have been created on the grass areas opposite the bike park. Students tell us in surveys that they feel safe at College and this is another step to ensure your young person's safety whilst they study with us.

WiFi Access

Students at the Crawley campus are reminded that WiFi is now available in a number of locations:

To access personal login details for the College WiFi network, students should email: wifi@centralsussex.ac.uk. They are able to access the network in the following locations at the Crawley campus: the Student Common Room, the Food Court, the refreshment areas in the Longley building, and in the Tower Block (T92).

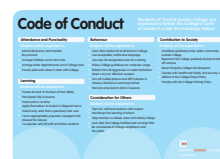
Key Dates

Wednesday 18th May 2011
Crawley campus Open Evening, 5-8pm

9th, 10th and 11th June 2011
Student chefs take part in the South of England Show

Wednesday 6th July 2011
SCAMP (Media) Awards, The Hawth Theatre, 7pm

Code of Conduct



Students at Central Sussex College are expected to observe the College's Code of Conduct, which relates to these key areas:

- Attendance and Punctuality
- Learning
- Behaviour
- Consideration of Others
- Contribution to Society

The College expects all students to behave in a sensible, considerate and well-behaved manner, and show respect to others whilst at College. If you would like to see the full detail of the Code of Conduct, visit the Student Support Policies and Procedures section on our website.

Parking Reminder

Several College students have had their cars clamped this term because they have parked illegally in Prior's Walk, behind the Longley Building car park. Please remind your young person to park in the red bays within the College car park, but if full, Kilnmead, behind the Town Hall, is the cheapest alternative - don't risk getting clamped!

Job Shop at the College

The Job Shop is a service where local employers can advertise vacancies, and College students can look for a job.

- It **promotes** job vacancies to learners who are completing their courses and who are looking to progress into work with on-going training (Apprenticeships or NVQs in the workplace).
- It **supports** learners with gaining part-time employment whilst in College, and also when they progress

to full-time employment, with on-going training.

- It can also **develop** employability skills via the Job Club, which can be found in L034 in the Longley 2 building, Crawley campus on Wednesdays and Fridays 1-4 pm. For more information on how the Job Shop can support students please call 01293 442320 or encourage your young person to drop in!



Open Evening

**Better career prospects?
Improved skills and knowledge?
A new hobby?**

Come to our Open Evening at the Crawley campus on **Wednesday 18th May** from **5pm to 8pm** to find out more.

Pre-register Now!

Go to the website to skip the queue and enter a draw to win an iPod Nano!
www.centralsussex.ac.uk/open





College in the News

...Crawley, East Grinstead and Burgess Hill campuses

A Royal Engagement

A group of eight hospitality students based at the Crawley campus played a vital role in the 50th anniversary celebrations of medical research charity, Blond McIndoe Research Foundation, in East Grinstead, when their skills were called upon to look after the guests, including patients and patrons of the foundation, and guest of honour, HRH Princess Royal. Led by Jo Chappel, Course

Co-ordinator for Hospitality, the group greeted guests, and served champagne, buffet food and canapes on the day. Student, Georgina Rhodes, 17, said: "I felt very privileged to be asked to work at the event, as it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience to attend a function with a member of the Royal Family." Jo Chappel said: "What an honour it was to be asked to bring the students along to such a high profile event - we had a great day!"

Enterprise Classes

The University of Brighton has joined forces with Central Sussex College to help students develop enterprise and employability skills.

Thirty students based at the Crawley campus are attending seven specially designed workshops that aim to build general business skills in a practical way. Learning from the sessions will be put to the test as the programme reaches its climax in a 'Dragons' Den' style competition, this June, where the ideas that the students have developed and refined over the course of the sessions will be judged by a panel of local business people.

The College has been working with university staff to create the programme, which is based upon the University's own enterprise and entrepreneurship package that has been running for the past six years.

The workshops inspire students to 'think outside of the box' so that one day they might set up in business themselves.

Maureen Kilminster, Deputy Principal for Teaching, Learning & Quality



Building entrepreneurial skills can be surprisingly fun!

Students Track-side Taster

College Motorsport students got the chance to design, modify and test a vehicle at one of the UK's top motor racing venues this February, when they arrived at Goodwood with two modified Ford Fiestas that they had been working on.

Students carried out preliminary checks, before the cars were driven onto the track by tutors Dean Hamilton and Georgina Betts. The group watched from the stands as the cars raced round the track and recorded lap-times. The cars were then driven back to the paddock area for a 'pit-stop'

and after a quick tyre-change and windscreen clean, they raced back onto the track to see if they could improve on their initial lap-times. In addition to testing their modifications so far, one of the aims of the day was to identify faults and possible areas for improvement, and by the end of the day, students were keen to get back to College to make further modifications and repair the problems they had identified. Course Co-ordinator, Mark Jones said: "It was a fantastic day and a great start to the Motorsport course at the College. The

students excelled themselves track-side, and were keen to get back to College to start making improvements for the next track day, which will take place in late May or early June."



A quick pit-stop before heading back on track

Building Benches

Thirteen construction students used their skills for a very good cause, when they designed and built two picnic benches for local independent cancer charity The Olive Tree, based in Crawley.

Building Craft Occupations students drew up a pattern, and constructed the benches, before Painting and Decorating students finished and varnished them, ready for delivery to the charity.

Lecturer, Dave Pickett said: "The group involved with this project gave their time for free, and we've all been very impressed with the end result."

Food Court Takeover!

The heat was on for a group of trainee chefs, when they got the chance to take over from the staff Catering Team at the busy College Food Court for a day.

Not only were they in charge of ordering ingredients, they cooked enough hot dishes to feed seventy customers, prepared fresh ingredients for the salad bar, made and packaged two hundred sandwiches for the snack shop, and served hot snacks at the breakfast bar. Professional Cookery student, Reis McCreadie, 18, said: "I think it's a great idea for us to get involved and gain more experience of a working environment."



Campus Life

...Haywards Heath campus

Key Dates

Monday 23rd May 2011, 1.30pm or 6pm
Access Information Afternoon/Evening

Monday 23rd May - Friday 10th June 2011
Study Leave for all year 1 students at the HH campus

Tuesday 31st May 2011 onwards
Study Leave for all year 2 students at the HH campus

Wednesday 13th July
MAFIA (Media & Film) Awards at The Hub Theatre, 7pm

6th, 7th and 8th July 2011
E2011 Enrichment Week

Study Leave

Year 1 students will be on study leave from Monday 23 May until Friday 10 June, however some revision classes and BTEC courses may take place during this time and students should check with their tutors when they are required to attend. Year 2 students commence study leave at half term. Teaching will recommence for those continuing on into the second year of their course on Monday 13 June. All students are expected to be in College to start their A2 lessons or the second year of their BTEC until the end of the summer term (Wednesday 20 July). They should not go on holiday during this time.

E2011

E2011 will be taking place over three days, and all Year 1 students are expected to participate in at least two days worth of enrichment activity. With a wide variety of activities on offer including a College theatre production, cookery, a day trip to Paris and volunteering opportunities, this is the chance for students to try out new and interesting experiences.

Access Information

Do you know someone who's keen to go to university but doesn't have the qualifications?

The College offers a one-year Access Diploma which allows candidates to progress to Higher Education. The pathways available are Health & Social Care Professions, Health Professions and Biosciences and Arts & Humanities - come along to the Information event for more details, Monday 23 May, 1.30pm or 6pm, Haywards Heath campus

Adam's Story

Adam Allnutt, 22, is studying for an Access Diploma. Having left school after GCSE, Adam is now back on track to pursue a career in Politics, and has been offered a conditional place at the University of Hull. His degree includes a year-long placement working as a research assistant alongside an MP in the House of Commons!



Adam Allnutt

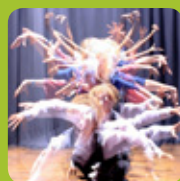


Keep up-to-date with events and performances at The Hub, and book tickets by visiting the website: www.hubtheatre.co.uk

Coming soon...



Solo Voice - An evening of monologues. 23 & 24 June, performance starts 6.30pm



BTEC Year 1 Physical Theatre Performances - 4 & 5 July, shows start at 7pm

The Hub your local arts venue



Do you need a venue to hold an exhibition, stage a show or for regular classes?

Our superb facilities are available for hire to local organisations:

- **The Hub theatre** uses the latest industry-standard technology and can seamlessly change its setup, allowing for a full technical foundation in every scenario;
- **two rehearsal studios (Pods)**, one of which can be blacked out;
- **a Dance studio** furnished with a mirrored wall, ballet bars, sprung floor, theatre lights, lighting bars and desk.

For more details visit our website, or contact **Jonathan Goodwin** on 01444 456281 or email jgoodwin@centralsussex.ac.uk



www.hubtheatre.co.uk/hire



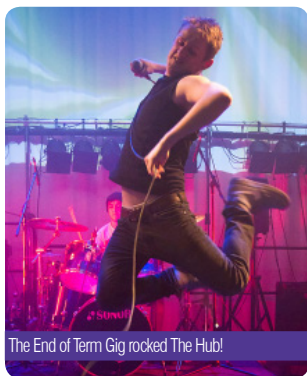


College in the news

...Haywards Heath campus

Spring Concerts

Two spring concerts took place at The Hub last term, with a range of musical styles raising the roof! The AS Music Spring concert attracted an audience of more than 80 people, and the End of Term Gig was equally successful, with a record number of bands playing tracks from various genres. For the first time the gig also featured an ex-student band. The next end of term gig takes place on 15 June.



The End of Term Gig rocked The Hub!

A Different Perspective

Health and Social Care students were offered the chance to put themselves in the place of a person with a physical disability, when they embarked on a day trip to Brighton with a difference! They travelled to the Daily Living Centre in Brighton, on public transport, whilst using a variety of props and devices to simulate a number of physical disabilities. The eventful journey saw students take it in turns to experience buses and trains as a wheelchair user, and with a round-trip which included two train journeys and three bus trips, all the students

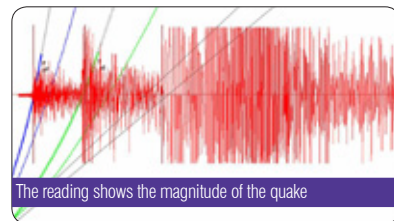
involved got the chance to test the ramp and other facilities in place to aid mobility. They also got to experience a game of ten-pin bowling, using visual impairment simulation glasses, which demonstrate symptoms of cataracts, tunnel vision, hemianopia, and macular degeneration. Subject Leader, Barbara Bond said: "Health and Social Care students are often very empathic but this gave them even greater insight and I believe will be of benefit to their future clients by developing their understanding."

Japan Quake 'Off the Scale'

Central Sussex College's seismometer recorded a reading described as 'off the scale' in March, in the wake of the huge earthquake measuring 8.9 on the Richter scale that struck Japan.

The College runs a 'Quake Club' at the Haywards Heath campus, where members record seismic activity as part of the School Seismology Project, as an officially recognised recording station for the British Geological Society. Since August 2009, staff and students have been able to track seismic activity across the globe, and have recorded significant readings from the earthquake in Indonesia in September 2009, in Haiti in January 2010, and another huge reading from the Chile quake in February, which at 8.8, also produced a reading which was off the scale. Deanna Nicholson, who runs the 'Quake Club' (including members pictured top left) at the Haywards Heath campus, along with Subject Leader for Geography and Geology, Helen

Hore, said that the Japanese earthquake is the largest that has been detected by the College's apparatus so far. She said: "The earthquake hit at 5.46am GMT, and it took twelve-and-a-half minutes for the first pressure waves to reach us at 5.58am. For the next forty minutes, we were detecting movement that was so large it could not be recorded to its full extent, so the data recorded shows a flat-looking wave, where the highest readings were cut off (see below)." Physics and Geography students at the campus arranged a collection for survivors of the Japanese earthquake, which has now been sent to the appeal.



The reading shows the magnitude of the quake

A Tough but Important Message

Second year students attended the Safe Drive, Stay Alive roadshow, at The Hub theatre this March. The College was selected to host the event, delivered in partnership with Sussex Police, Sussex Ambulance Service and the NHS, as research shows that drivers under the age of 24 are

more likely to be involved in fatal collisions than any other age range. The hard-hitting show educates young drivers about road safety issues, and the students watched short films and heard talks from a local Police Officer, Firefighter, Paramedic and Nurse about their

experiences of dealing with road traffic collisions. They also heard from Georgina Dey, whose two sons had died in separate road traffic collisions and from Spencer Aston, who was severely injured in a collision. Despite being difficult to watch, the safety message is vital for students.



Speakers included Georgina Dey (Centre), and former County rugby player Spencer Aston