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Welcome

Welcome to Yeovil College's third Equality and Diversity Newsletter. We aim to keep everyone informed of how the college is responding to equality and diversity issues, the events that have taken place and successes we wish to celebrate.

Equality and Diversity Group

The Group, chaired by James Hampton, the Principal, continues to meet on a regular basis. Members include staff representatives from across the college as well as two student representatives. We are delighted that, in future, a member from the Somerset Racial Equality Council will also be attending the meetings. We are currently looking to recruit at least one more student representative to the Group. If you are interested please contact Angela Coward (angela.coward@yeovil.ac.uk)

Equality and Diversity Handbooks

The college has produced a series of handbooks entitled 'All different, all equal' to provide information for staff and students. The three produced to date focus on 'Disability', 'Race and Belief' and 'Sexual Orientation and Transgender'. Further handbooks are planned to cover the remainder of the nine protected characteristics within the Equality Act 2010. The handbooks are available on Moodle and the staff portal or in hard copy from Sophie Robinson (sophie.robinson@yeovil.co.uk).

Events

A diary of events to promote national/international days are now embedded within the College calendar and are being proactively celebrated in a variety of ways (e.g. Holocaust Memorial Day, World Aids Day, World Mental Health Day, Anti-bullying Week etc.)



Gypsy Roma and Traveller Month

In conjunction with SREC, the college will be celebrating Gypsy Roma and Traveller Month in June. During our own Festival Fortnight, on 21st June, there will be a display in the marquee and students from the Faculty from the Preparation for Work and Life will be cooking and serving food made from traditional gypsy recipes. Students from the Construction Centre have built a Gypsy Caravan which will be on display.

Alcohol Awareness Week

The Student Support Services Team had a stand outside the Leonardo Building on 24th May during Alcohol Awareness Week. Information was given about safe levels of alcohol consumption.

Easter Around the World

Yeovil College's Health, Care and Teacher Training Faculty hosted a presentation by international speakers about Easter celebrations around the world. Sally Abudayyeh from Palestine, Nael Haj from Israel and Beata Jaszczuk from Poland visited the College to describe how Easter is celebrated in their own countries.

Jewish Festival of Purim

The corridors of Yeovil College echoed to the sound of drums and cheering when groups of Health and Social Care students celebrated the festival of Purim, sometimes called "Jewish Mardi Gras".

Future Events

October 2011 - Black History Month

23rd October 2011 – One World Week

1 December 2011 – World Aids Day

10 December 2011 - Human Rights Day

For further information contact (angela.coward@yeovil.ac.uk or ruth.morgan@yeovil.ac.uk)

International Partnership

Yeovil College is set to welcome students and teachers from China during June and July. The students will undertake taster classes in Science, Maths and English to prepare them for starting 'A' level programmes and the teachers will learn how 'A' Levels are taught in this country. The visitors will stay with host families to experience the English way of life.

Legislation

The Equality Act 2010 came into force in October 2010. It provides a new cross-cutting legislative framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all; to update, simplify and strengthen the previous legislation; and to deliver a simple, modern and accessible framework of discrimination law which protects individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a fair and more equal society. The Act:

- distils nine different Acts into one
- harmonises definitions and exceptions
- places a new Equality Duty on Public Bodies
- bans age discrimination
- extends positive action provisions
- strengthens protection for disabled people
- strengthens equal pay provisions
- strengthens protection from indirect discrimination

It also introduces the nine protected characteristics of disability, age, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership.

Section 149 of the Act (Public Sector Equality Duty) requires that, in the exercise of its functions, the College must have due regard to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The College is required to produce and publish its Equality Duty by July 2011 and clear equality objectives by April 2012. A college working group has been established to take this work forward.

LLUK E and D Framework

Yeovil College has worked with Lifelong Learning UK, as part of a national initiative, to develop an Equality Framework which will act as a continuous improvement tool, enabling it to meet the diverse needs of staff and learners and promote good practices. The framework will inform the college's duty under the new Equality Act 2010.

Student Successes

Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge

For the eleventh year in succession, students from the Foundation Learning Work Preparation programme at Yeovil College successfully took part in the Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge. This Foundation Learning Work Preparation programme is designed to teach those with moderate learning difficulties the skills necessary to join other courses, live independently and gain employment. The eleven students trained for six weeks leading up to the event and had to master such skills as map reading and putting up tents! They all completed a practice event to be sure they were ready to tackle the main Ten Tors Challenge. All the preparation finally paid off and all the students completed with excellent times.

Students Design Garden for Hospital

A group of Yeovil College Horticulture students designed and planted a new flower bed for Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The group of nine BTEC National Certificate and BTEC Diploma students came up with five different designs for the circular plot, each inspired by the Hospital and its important work. The successful design was chosen by the Chair of Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Angela Dupont MBE.

YCSU Fundraises for Lord's Larder

Yeovil College Student Union (YCSU) collected nearly 100 food items for local charity Lord's Larder, as well as toiletries and cash.



Beauty Fundraising Event

Yeovil College's Beauty salon, Inner Beauty, raised nearly £800 for the Friends of Somerset Young Carers during its annual charity open day, smashing last year's total of £500.

Get Involved

If you want to get involved with E and D at Yeovil College, contact either Angela Coward (angela.coward@yeovil.ac.uk) or student representative Rachel Wiltshire (rach199112@hotmail.com)