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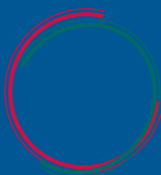
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Welcome

Welcome to Yeovil College's first Equality and Diversity Newsletter which aims 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.

What does E and D really mean?

Equality means freedom from discrimination and disadvantage. Diversity means variety and difference. At Yeovil College we are committed to recognising and actively promoting equality and diversity within our community. We wish to provide a working and learning environment that acknowledges the richness of diversity and recognises the positive contributions of men and women of different social backgrounds, race, cultures, religions, abilities, ages and sexual orientation. We wholeheartedly support the principles of equality and diversity and oppose all forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination.

Events

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. World Aids Day, World Mental Health Day, Anti-bullying Week etc.)

- * The Yeovil College Student Union successfully organised a number of events including Holocaust Memorial Day, Remembrance Day and Red Nose Day.
- * Students also participated in Operation Christmas Child by filling shoe boxes with gifts for under-privileged children.
- * Health and Care Students spent the night at the Yeovil Night Shelter to learn about the lives of homeless people and raise money for charity.
- * A group of Yeovil College students raised nearly £300 for charity by packing bags at Asda supermarket in Yeovil.
- * The money raised from the carol service went to the Cancer Research charity and an organisation dedicated to building a new primary school in a slum area in Kenya.
- * A group of nearly 100 Yeovil College Childcare students raised more than £550 for Children in Need.
- * A variety of non-traditional careers events for men and women such as the very successful 'Women into Construction' Days.

Photo shows Childcare students raising money for Children in need.



Future Events

A Diversity and Culture Week is being planned for the end of the Spring Term. This will not only involve the whole college but the wider community of Yeovil. If you are interested in helping please contact Denise Hodgson (denise.hodgson@yeovil.ac.uk) . Other events include:

Holocaust Memorial Day – 27th January 2010 (jarrett.wilson@yeovil.ac.uk)

LGBT History Month – February 2010
Milad un Nabi (Religious Festival for Sunni and Shia Muslims)
– 26th February – 3rd March

International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination - 21st March 2010

World Water Day - 2nd March 2010

Contact (angela.coward@yeovil.ac.uk or ruth.morgan@yeovil.ac.uk)



Students raise £300 for charity, packing bags at ASDA supermarket



Raising money for the Nightshelter



Students take part in Red Nose Day

The E and D Group

The E and D Group, chaired by James Hampton, the Principal, meets twice a term and the membership includes staff from wide range of college functions as well as student representatives. The Group gives a strategic lead and works to ensure that the college meets its legal requirements in terms of policies and duties but also drives forward the promotion of E and D across the college and wider community, through a number of small working groups.

In the News...

In May 2009 ten students with learning difficulties and disabilities, from Foundation Learning, took part in the Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge. Accompanied by seven staff they successfully walked across Dartmoor and camped out overnight. They will be hoping to repeat their success in 2010.

Teams representing the college in a number of different sports have continued to be successful with the women's football and rugby teams making an impression in what are relatively new sports for women.

One student, from 2008, Marlie Packer, has been selected to captain the England women's rugby team.

Krissie Harpur, a Yeovil College student, joined a Martock Christian Fellowship Group to visit Kenya in order to find out about support for children including those with illnesses and disabilities.

A team of four Yeovil College students have successfully completed a project to design a way of giving disabled access to Lynx Helicopters during Naval Open Days



Foundation Learning students complete the Ten Tors Challenge!

Legislation

Yeovil College, like all public organisations, is required to produce a Race Equality Duty, Gender Equality Duty and Disability Equality Duty with associated action plans. These duties and plans are reviewed on a regular basis by the Equality and Diversity Group and the college is pleased to report that good progress on all aspects of the schemes.

The new Equality Bill, which is currently progressing through Parliament, will harmonise the existing three duties into one equality duty which will cover all seven equality strands: age, disability, gender, gender identity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

The earliest the changes will come into force is late 2011 and, in order to prepare, public bodies are expected to start collecting information on the groups covered by the seven equality strands. In anticipation of this, Yeovil College has already produced a Single Equality Scheme and action plan which covers three of the strands - race, gender and disability. This will be extended to cover the other strands when the legislation is finalised.

Copies of all the schemes are available on the website (www.yeovil.ac.uk)



Facilities/resources

In order to assist people with visual impairment high visibility yellow strips have been installed on all steps and raised pavements on college campuses. Parking for people with disabilities has also been improved at the University Centre and a hand-rail installed on the steps from the car park. All disabled toilets have now been re-signed as accessibility toilets so that people with medical conditions or those going through gender re-assignment are able to access the facilities more easily.

Student Voice at UCY

For the first time students at the University Centre Yeovil have a Student Voice. Elected course representatives meet with the Director of UCY, Richard Foyle, to discuss non-course issues such as changes to the disabled parking. UCY students have organised:

- letter writing for Amnesty International
- ribbon selling for World Aids Day
- food collecting for the Salvation Army at Christmas.

Communication

Yeovil College now has a new and improved web-site with accessibility features and links. This includes on-line access to prospectuses for full-time and part-time courses and university level programmes. The web-site includes current news items, student success stories, details of college facilities and advice about courses and support. It also has a dedicated E and D Section - **visit www.yeovil.ac.uk**



University Centre Yeovil students find their voice...



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 Romany; (r-ro_x@hotmail.co.uk)