

Varndean
College Brighton & Hove

UPDATE



CARDIAC TESTING FOR STUDENTS



On 14 March, Varndean College was the venue for hosting CRY CARDIAC TESTING for young people aged 14-35.

Tragically, and very sadly this only came about as a result of the sudden death of one of our students, Annie Edwards, three years ago as a result of a rare heart condition. Until then, Annie had been a fit and healthy young 17 year old with her entire future ahead of her. She was at Varndean studying A Levels in English Language, Classical Civilisation and Graphic Design and had planned to go on to study English and Classical Literature at Birmingham University.

As a result of Annie's death, Mike Bonsor, the father of Annie's very close friend Ruth, felt compelled to do something to help prevent other families going through similar tragic circumstances and in 2016 began raising money for the charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young). This funding he would then use to provide heart screening locally for young people like Annie. In June 2016 Mike made his first sponsored cycling trip, riding over 1000 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats and 18 months later is still actively raising money for the charity.

So, thanks to Mike and his family, Varndean was able to offer 100 students the opportunity to take up a place at the Cardiac Testing Day and these were all snapped up within the first day of becoming available.

If anyone wishes to contribute to Mike's fundraising page in order help provide funding for further screenings for young people, please visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mike-bonsor3

PATHWAYS INTO BUSINESS AND LAW

AS PART OF THEIR BTEC DIPLOMA, BUSINESS STUDIES STUDENTS ORGANISED A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE ON 8 MARCH CALLED 'PATHWAYS INTO BUSINESS AND LAW'. OPEN TO BOTH BUSINESS AND LAW STUDENTS, A WIDE RANGE OF WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS WERE ORGANISED WITH 11 EXTERNAL SPEAKERS FROM PLUG IN MEDIA, ACCOUNTING PLUS, NATWEST BANK, WORKING OPTIONS, FRIEND JAMES CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, INSTART, UNIVERSITY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, UNIVERSITY OF SURREY AND UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH.



A POCKETFUL OF DREAMS AT THE WARREN IN MAY!

Varndean BTEC Performing Arts students will be taking to the stage at the Brighton Fringe for the thirteenth consecutive year this May. This is a great opportunity for our Performing Arts students to be showing work in a professional environment as part of England's largest Arts Festival. The plays that the students are making and creating respond to a selection of songs as stimulus, ranging from Bing Crosby to Portishead. Come to The Warren for these honest funny and at times provocative, plays exploring how we can look to the past with an eye on the future.

A Pocketful of Dreams takes place on Mon 14 and Tues 15 May at 6.45pm at The Warren, St Peter's Church North in Brighton. For tickets go to www.otherplacebrighton.co.uk | 01273 987516

TEXTILES STUDENTS VISIT TO THE V&A

TEXTILES STUDENTS VISITED THE BALenciAGA EXHIBITION AT LONDON'S VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM IN DECEMBER. THE EXHIBITION EXAMINES THE WORK OF SPANISH COUTURIER CRISTÓBAL BALenciAGA, WITH OVER 100 PIECES CRAFTED BY 'THE MASTER' OF COUTURE, HIS PROTÉGÉES AND CONTEMPORARY FASHION DESIGNERS WORKING IN THE SAME TRADITION.



VARNDEAN COLLEGE FILM STUDIES STUDENT WINS 24 HOUR FILM COMPETITION

Varndean College A Level Film Studies student, Jules Stockwell, along with fellow student and assistant crew member Will Palmer, won 'Make it Short', a competition held as part of the Lewes Short Film Festival, in association with Brighton Film School. Budding filmmakers competed to create the best short film shot in a 24 hour period, which was launched back on 6 October at Lewes's new Depot Cinema. Filmmakers were invited to shoot and edit a 3 minute film in just one day on 7 October, using specific locations and an allocated prop. The finished piece of work could be either a drama, documentary or an experimental piece shot on either the Straight 8 app, or on a camera of the student's choice. Each film could have a crew of no more than two people.

The shortlisted films were then shown at the All Saints Centre in Lewes on 15 October with the judges being Jerry Rothwell (How To Change the World, The Town Of Runners, Donor Unknown), BAFTA winning animation director, Steve Smith, and artist filmmaker, Abigail Norris.

The winning prize of £100 was donated by the Brighton Film School.



CHEMISTRY NEWS

WHAT A LOT OF WASTE!

Vardean A Level Chemistry students had a brilliant day out back in November, superbly organised and run by Southern Water. Sally Lambert, Paul Clark and Ritchie took the students and tutors around the Peacehaven Waste Water Treatment Plant and explained the complex treatment of how our waste water is treated and disposed of.

INSTITUTE OF MINES MATERIALS AND MINERALS (IOM3)

On 14th November, four Chemistry students went with tutor John Luton to a Surface Engineering Conference in Grantham, organised by IOM3. The event consisted of various talks conducted by leading researchers and those closely involved with the field on the application and research of different aspects of surface engineering.

The group left from Brighton early in the morning and arrived at the site just on time for the first talk. The speaker, Dr David Rickerby, contrasted the development timeline of a mirror against an aerospace component in order to highlight the pace of recent developments in the field. While discussing the aerospace component (jet turbine rotor blades) he illustrated the degree to which a materials properties may be altered through engineering its surface - with a highly refined coating, the rotor blades could be exposed to temperatures well above the main material's melting point while remaining cool and solid. The talk concluded on the importance of designing a product with the functionality and properties of the surface in mind, as opposed to using surface engineering as a means of fixing issues after the manufacture of the product.



ABOVE (LEFT TO RIGHT) ARE: TASH WILCOCK, JESS SIMPSON, ANYA REHMAN-WOOD AND LOUIE GARNETT.

CHEMISTRY CONFERENCE:

For the 18th year, Vardean College's ChemSoc ran its annual Chemistry Conference at the University of Brighton on 2nd March. Supported by the RSC Downland Trust, the conference was attended by all of Vardean's A Level Chemistry students and comprised of a series of talks. Opened by John Luton, Head of Chemistry for Vardean, a welcome address was then given by Professor Andrew Lloyd, Dean of Science and Engineering at the University of Brighton, followed by talks on 'Spectroscopy & the origin of the elements, molecules and the 'early life' experiments' by Dr Jonathan Hare, University of Sussex; 'Dying to be Beautiful' by chemist and author, Dr Kathryn Harkup; 'Learning from the Leaf: Harnessing the Power of the Sun', Dr Steph Pendlebury, Imperial College London; and 'How to enjoy your job and get away with it', by Prof. Hal Sosabowski, University of Brighton.

CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

This year some 32 students were entered for the Chemistry Olympiad and we await, with baited breathe, the results. Last year the College gained an impressive 13 bronze and 6 silver medals and we hope to repeat that success again this year.

STUDENTS GET ADVICE FROM EX-STUDENT NATASHA WILCOCK

Ex-Vardean student, Natasha Wilcock, who is currently in her third year studying Medicine at UCL, gave a very informative talk to Vardean students recently. Natasha visited the College to give advice on completing UKCAT (medical school admissions tests) and three of our Year 1 IB Chemistry students also visited Natasha at UCL earlier in the year where she gave them an insight into studying Medicine at university.

INTERNATIONAL PARTY TIME



Back in December, the College hosted a tea party for its 71 International students. The tea party was a lovely opportunity for all students in college, not just the International ones, to taste food and tea from different countries and also to make new friends! The henna tattooing seemed the crowd's favourite, with many students getting their names written in Japanese and Chinese. Some students even decided to play the piano and drums which made the atmosphere even more the merrier! "I even got one of my friends to henna tattoo a Chinese character on my arm, best of both worlds!" said Stephanie Anne Rodrigues, a Vardean A Level student and International Buddy.



MUSIC FOR YOUTH REGIONAL FESTIVAL

Vardean College students participated in the Music for Youth Regional Festival in February. Two groups performed - Rose Bullen and Anna Braddick who played "Czardas", a very demanding showpiece, and the Jazz Ensemble who played "When it Rains" by Brad Meldhau. Musicians on this piece were: Isobel Manson, Rose Bullen, Ollie Fabb-Pullen, Myles Blair and Philip Carpinteiro Olofsson. The judges were really impressed with both entries. The technical and emotional aspects of the performances were particularly noted, as well as the choice of the jazz piece. The students compared highly with the standards of other performers.

LOVE POETRY CAFE

The Voice@vardean Love Poetry Cafe was an event held in February to celebrate love in all its diversity. Well attended by students and staff from across the college, students either read and performed their own work or poems written by published authors. Some of the poems can be seen on display in the English corridor and around the college. Money was raised through the sales of cakes and poems for the British Heart Foundation. We warmly thank all those who contributed and welcome all to upcoming events.



SPORT AT VARNDEAN

Varndean College boys' football has had a successful season working in partnership with the Russell Martin Academy. The College 1st team has won the Sussex 1st XI League, undefeated throughout the competition, and will be playing off for the league cup at Lancing County ground after Easter. Varndean are also looking strong in the regional league and if they can win their games in hand could finish in the top

three in the league.

The College has continued to enjoy competing in rugby, netball, basketball and cross country this year and has a growing enthusiasm for sports participation amongst the student body. We look forward to providing opportunities for tennis and cricket this summer and are excited about the development of a girls' football academy for September 2018.



VARNDEAN COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESSES IN UK MATHS CHALLENGE

Students at Varndean College achieved 5 golds, 15 silvers and 8 bronzes in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. Over 82,000 pupils from across the UK entered with the top 10% receiving a gold certificate, the next 20% silver and the next 30% bronze.

Approximately 7,000 of the top students are invited to sit one of the follow-on competitions, the British Mathematical Olympiad (BMO1) or the Senior Kangaroo (SKANG). Congratulations to Emily Kowalczyk, Liushai Nie, Francesca Parrotta and Elsa Polo Laube who were selected to take part in the SKANG.



Matthew Crees, Connor Crees, Lingyi Zhang and Eddy Stevens were also selected to take part in the Senior Team Maths Challenge. The STMC tests mathematical, communication and teamwork skills. The students had an enjoyable and challenging day competing against other teams at Bexhill 6th Form College.

UPWARDS THROUGH BUSINESS & LAW AWARDS

Our Business Studies and Law students were presented with one of Varndean College's 'Upwards Through Business & Law' awards in January. These awards are decided by the Business and Law tutors, as well as the Principal, and given out each term to those students on the Business and Law courses to recognise their marked improvement in an aspect of their performance. This could be engagement in lessons, outstanding progress, attendance or quality of course work. These latest awards were presented by the Principal, Phil Harland, on 23 January. Congratulations went to:

BUSINESS

Maximilian Meidali, Lewis O'Connell, Danny Woolven, Phoebe Belgrove, Seb Crawford, Joshua Bauckham, Leyla Ndiaye, Daniella Wilby, Cameron Byer, Milo Brookes, Laszlo Dancs, Katelyn Brown, Liam Wright, Thomas Ford, James Tree, Abigail Cosham, Renee Ambler, Nadya Jagroo, Ben Stoner, Wiktor Wawrzyniak, Hetty Lucas, Rose Fossey, Hannah Chapman, Toby Farrington

LAW

Hannah Davies, Molly Perry, Mollie Street, Yasmin Lopex, Renee Ambler, Liam Wright, Ethan Adison, Shannon Crookes, Harvey Dodds-Cridland,

Alf Mohns, Robin Gough, Daniella Wilby, Harry Buse, Wefag Idris, Georgia Read

Special mention goes to Liam Wright, Renee Ambler and Daniella Wilby who achieved awards for both Business and Law.

VARNDEAN COLLEGE STUDENTS WIN JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME (JOLT).

Varndean College students Chantelle Nye-Smith and Rebecca Williamson have won a life-changing trip to Peru after being nominated by the College for a Journey of a Lifetime (JOLT). Rebecca and Chantelle will be travelling on a funded one-month expedition across Peru, Ecuador and the Galapagos this summer.

Every 2 years, the JoLt Trust takes 18 young people on an empowering journey to celebrate remarkable young people who have overcome adversity. For many, the journey is a life-transforming event, "jolting" them out of their old lives, helping them to grow in confidence and self-esteem and giving them the ability to take control of their future.

Hundreds of young people across the UK were nominated and from these, only 64 people were shortlisted for interview. Both Chantelle and Rebecca performed exceptionally at their interview and deserve heartfelt congratulations.

They are both positive and enthusiastic members of the Varndean community and were nominated because they've both thrived in the face of additional barriers. Chantelle is deaf and comes from a strong deaf family. She is studying Chemistry, Biology and Psychology and hopes to study Veterinary Nursing at University. Rebecca has a complex and often difficult emotional and social life and is commended for her family caring responsibilities. She is currently studying Law, Philosophy and Psychology and hopes to study Criminology at university.

These students are shining examples of resilience, determination and hard work, and their progress at Varndean College has been exemplary. They have bright futures ahead of them. We raise our glass of sparkling water to Chantelle and Rebecca and wish them all the luck and happiness on this life changing adventure.



LEARNING THE FRENCH WAY

Our French A level and IB students spent a week with host families in the lovely southern town of Montpellier, France back in November. Whilst there, they attended lessons at a language school each morning for four hours and all received certificates at the end of the week. They also explored nearby towns, such as Sète and Nîmes, as well as taking part in fun workshops and tasting real southern French cuisine. The trip was a great success!



VARNDEAN STAFF RAISE FUNDS FOR PROSTATE CANCER UK

Staff at Varndean College have helped raise a magnificent £750 for Prostate Cancer UK. Initiated by Dave Smith, the College's Reprographics and Student Shop Manager, who himself has recently undergone treatment for prostate cancer, money has been raised by a Reprographics sweet fund and a bake a cake morning in celebration of Dave's 60th Birthday.

The money will go towards research into developing a prostate-specific MRI scan which will vastly reduce the need for highly intrusive biopsies and avoid exposing healthy men to unnecessary surgery.





1000 CRANES

Six Japanese students voluntarily run an Origami club open to all students and staff on Friday lunchtimes. It is believed that Origami helps to develop coordination, sequencing and attention skills and problem solving. It is also very calming and fun! The group has been making as many cranes as it can (the crane is a symbol of peace in Japan) to contribute towards the making of the 1000 cranes by our Japanese sister school, Kyoto Gakuen High School. All schools in Japan send 1000 cranes to help with the decoration of the Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima in the name of worldwide peace. Our Japanese students will take the cranes back with them when they return to Japan in June.



VARDEAN STUDENTS IN EXCITING YOUTH FILM PROGRAMMING PROJECT

Three Vardean Students are thrilled to be participating in The Depot's Young Programmers initiative in Lewes. Eden Dams, Carlos Almonacid and Phoebe Ralph all volunteered to learn about programming a year long film season aimed at young people. The Young Programmers attend

meetings every week at the Depot Cinema in Lewes for a whole academic year. They are working with education officer, Lisa Wardle, and students from BHASVIC and Sussex Downs College to programme and promote their own monthly screenings at independent cinema The Depot.

PICTURED ARE TWO OF THE STUDENTS, PHOEBE RALPH AND CARLOS ALMONACID.



BRIGHTON ROCK

As part of a collaboration with Brighton University, nine Vardean College A Level English Literature students took part in an activity based around Graham Greene's 1947 novel 'Brighton Rock' in the Autumn. They were recorded quoting short extracts from the novel directly onto a vinyl record (the act of making a vinyl record in a booth is also significant to the plot). Their voices were then featured with live music and stills from the movie, as a montage performance prior to the showing of the movie at the Duke of York's Cinema in November as part of the CINECITY Brighton Film Festival.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION STUDENTS VISIT GREECE



Classical Civilisation students enjoyed a fabulous four days in Greece packed with thousands of years of history. Arriving first at Cape Sounion to wonder at the Temple of Poseidon, the ancient Greek god of the sea, we then drove to our hotel in Tolo located in the Peloponnese region where a few brave students swam in the sea. At the Theatre of Epidaurus built in the 4th century BC, we recited poetry to the 17,000 seats! On the third day we had our own Olympic race which was won by Will Morrell followed closely by Harry Stoner and Phoebe Ralph. On the last day we enjoyed one of the most famous sights in the world, the Parthenon and the Acropolis. Finally we made our way back to the airport having worn ourselves out with so much culture, civilisation from the last 15,000 years and lots of fun.

A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENT WINS TRIP TO GOOGLE HQ IN CALIFORNIA!

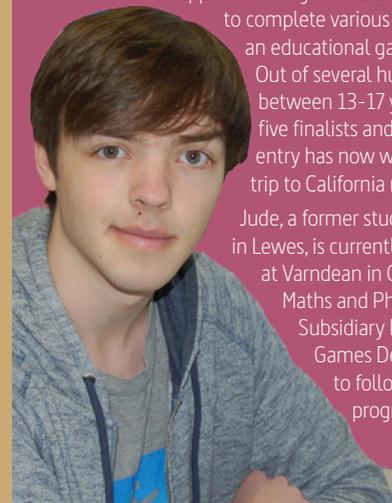
Jude Birch, a Year One A Level Computer Science student at Vardean College was one of the winners in Google's annual Code-In competition and has won a trip to San Francisco and Google's Headquarters at Mountain View, California!

An overall total of 3555 students from 78 countries took part in the competition, with 16468 tasks being completed with 25 open source organisations. Jude chose to participate with Catrobat, a company which produces free educational apps for teenagers and children, and his task was to complete various assignments and create an educational game using Pocket Code.

Out of several hundred entrants aged between 13-17 years, there were just five finalists and two winners. Jude's entry has now won him and a parent a trip to California next summer.

Jude, a former student of Priory School in Lewes, is currently studying A Levels at Vardean in Computer Science,

Maths and Physics, as well as a BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Computer Games Development. He hopes to follow a career in computer programming.



BTEC PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS VISIT WILTON'S MUSIC HALL

Last October BTEC Performing Arts students went to visit the glorious, faded grandeur that is the Wilton's Music Hall, venue in the City of London, the oldest grand music hall in the world. They went to see a revival of 'Les Enfants Terribles', self-titled, ground-breaking and highly influential show 'Terrible Infants'. A masterclass in Total Theatre; mixing storytelling, song, puppetry and physical theatre. The show has inspired many companies to produce similar work in the ten years since its creation. The students themselves got to have an exclusive Q&A session with the cast and creators after the show. They have been inspired in the subsequent weeks to apply some of the energy and ideas into their own storytelling performance work that they then performed during the Vardean College Open Evenings in November.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND PHILOSOPHY IN AMSTERDAM AND THE HAGUE

Law, Philosophy and IB TOK students relished exploring four key themes on a study tour to Amsterdam and The Hague in February. To support their study programmes students considered what are rights? The lawyers put this in context, questioning whether our 'rights' can ever be fully protected in law. They explored this concept at The Peace Palace in The Hague, home to the International Court of Human Rights. The question of a 'just' war was

seen through the eyes of Anne Frank and the memorials in the cemetery at Tyne Cot and the Menin Gate at Ypres; where over 50,000 soldiers are remembered as they have no known grave. Their final theme delved into the question 'what is the value of art?' Students compared art of the c16th with Van Gogh and a Marxist philosophical art movement of the 1950's, COBRA. Despite snow, sub-zero temperatures and biting wind - all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



STUDENTS AT VARNDEAN COLLEGE HELP SAVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE SUFFERING WITH BLOOD CANCER

Through its weekly Core Studies lessons, Varndean College has been helping to raise awareness of the Anthony Nolan charity, an organisation set up in 1974 to help match individuals willing to donate their blood stem cells or bone marrow to people suffering with blood cancer and blood disorders.

Back in January, Anthony Nolan's team of volunteers visited the College and talked to students about the charity and students were invited to join the charity's stem cell register and become a donor. Students completed questionnaires and provided cheek swabs in the hope that one day they may just save someone's life. The charity helps three people each day find that lifesaving match.

Will Guest from Anthony Nolan said "It is fantastic that there was so much interest amongst students from Varndean College. The recent activities were a huge success and it is wonderful that so many students wanted to find out about the charity, with 53 students joining the register. To everyone at Varndean College, I'd like to say a huge thank you for all your support. It has been lovely returning to the College for the second year running and we look forward to developing our partnership in the coming years."

designed to advertise the advantages of travelling by rail over the last 100 years. The Breaking Boundaries project is a collaboration between the Varndean Dance Department and the Varndean Graphics Department with all Graphics students designing posters and brochures for the show which takes place at Brighton's Sallis Benny Theatre in May. The chosen design is produced on all publicity for the show.



GRAPHICS STUDENTS FIND INSPIRATION IN LONDON

As part of the newly started Breaking Boundaries project, in November all Year 1 Graphic students went on a trip to London to visit the Victoria & Albert Museum's performance gallery. Here they encountered many artefacts that could be used as research for the project. They then went to the London Transport Museum to view the Poster Girls exhibition which displayed many excellent examples of posters

LAW STUDENTS GAIN WORK EXPERIENCE AT PRESTIGIOUS LAW FIRM DENTONS

Academic excellence, aspiration and resilience saw three Varndean A Level Law students succeed in a rigorous application process for a place at Dentons, the largest international law firm in the world. The three students, Louisa Cameron, Xander Gowler and Natalia Miernik had to fight off huge competition by submitting a lengthy application form, as well as engage in a two hour interview by telephone.

Dentons starts its recruitment process in the A Level year and applications are always received from hundreds of hopeful students each year, all desperate to get their foot in the door. The day's work experience offers interview techniques and team building exercises preparing students for the next stage of the application process. The Company take 4 law apprentices each year - paying for them through their degree and onto full solicitor qualification.

Natalia said of the day "Coming

from a state school, it's not often that I get to participate in opportunities like this one, and so it was fantastic to work with such a prestigious and renowned law firm. My experience was tremendously insightful, giving me the chance to talk to, not only solicitors from the firm, but also trainees and apprentices who provided me with a real understanding of the kind of steps an aspiring lawyer has to take when starting up their career. The highlight of this experience was certainly the 'mock interviews' whereby members of Dentons asked us few questions that we may get asked in an interview. They then gave us constructive feedback on what went well and what we could improve on which was extremely valuable. I definitely feel as though I was able to come home with a newly developed skill that I can now continue to advance on and use in the future."



BTEC PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS EXPLORE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CREATORS

In November BTEC Performing Arts students took part in a workshop lead by Sara Clifford exploring Artificial Intelligence and Creators. Sara is in the process of writing a play based on the story of Frankenstein, funded by the Arts Council England, and has selected Varndean college students to work in partnership to develop material for the project.

Sara is a Writer in Residence at the University of Brighton and Writer On Attachment at Chichester Festival Theatre; she is also a visiting lecturer in Applied Theatre, Dramaturgy and Creative Writing at Central School of Speech and Drama and Goldsmiths College.

In the workshop the students discussed their thoughts and feelings about Artificial intelligence and how it might impact on their lives; they workshoped their ideas in performance and performed sections of the current script for the writer to see how it might be interpreted by actors for performance.

Next year is the 200 year centenary of the novel Frankenstein by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley. We very much valued the opportunity to participate in Sara's project and look forward to working in partnership following the project and the potential for students to perform as part of the company.



CAROLINE LUCAS AND A 'BOOM IN THE ROOM' AT VARNDEAN COLLEGE

Friday 26 January saw the official opening of a much-needed new Science lab in Varndean College's Hutchins Wing. With 86.77sqm of workspace, it is the first new Science lab for the College in 25 years and accommodates 24 students, as well as providing a wheelchair accessible bench for students with disabilities.

As part of her visit to the College to speak to students at the weekly Politics Society, the lab was officially opened by local Green Party MP, Caroline Lucas, followed by an explosive 'boom in the room'

performance provided by Chemistry tutor, John Luton, and assistant Madeleine Buck.

Heaving with excited students, the lab was given not only the traditional red ribbon cutting ceremony by Caroline, but was blessed with a 'Whoosh Bottle' explosion of alcohol and air being ignited and combusting in a large polycarbonate bottle and two 'Ethanol Rockets' being fired across the room.

The lab is going to serve both Biology and Chemistry A Level students, as well as those studying



GCSE Science. Brian Marriott, Assistant Head of School for Science said, "We are really proud to have had Caroline Lucas open our new lab today. Recently we have had a large increase in student numbers and this lab will help meet that demand. Here at Varndean College we are dedicated to producing scientists of the future and these new facilities will enable us to do that."



BRITISH FILMMAKERS REVEAL THE TRICKS OF THEIR TRADE AT CINECITY BRIGHTON

Cosmat, the Sussex wide event for 16-19 year olds took place back on 24th November at Duke of York's Picture House Cinema, Brighton. Supported by The Brighton Film School, the event started with a Q&A between film educator, Mark Ramey, from Collyer's Sixth Form College, interviewing film director, Ben Wheatley about his journey into film-making and his film 'Sightseers' (2012). Several clips from the film shown illustrated Ben's unique brand of quirky low budget black comedy. Ben was generous with his answers and advised young aspirants not to take

no for an answer if you are turned down at the pitching for a film stage.

In the second part of the morning, the 260 A level and BTEC students and their teachers were treated to the award-winning acclaimed British documentary feature film '20,000 Days on Earth' (2014). They were able to enjoy the aesthetically filmed Brighton settings that inspire local musician Nick Cave and how he draws inspiration from his creative muses, including Kylie Minogue and Susie, his wife.

Before and after the screening its directors, Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard, took part in a

script-to-screen discussion with students led by film educator and organiser, Julian Bowker, from Varndean College. After the screening there was a further Q & A session giving everyone the chance to ask questions and offer opinions. Students from BHASVIC, BACA, PACA, Bellerbys, Collyer's, DV8, Sussex Downs, Worthing College and Varndean College all participated in the event and as Jules Stockwell, from Varndean College described it: "I was blown away by 20,000 Days; such an inspiring film for creative artists."

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Spring 2018