

MAKING

waves

The college magazine Autumn 2022



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Welcome to West Thames College



Principal Tracy Aust welcomes you
to the Autumn edition of Making Waves.

DEAR READER,

What a fantastic 2022 we've had so far.

We have seen our wonderful staff and students settle back into College life post-pandemic and we are proud to recognise them in our special Celebration Edition of Making Waves.

The College celebrated the amazing achievements of our students in the summer with our Student Awards. These awards commemorated students who overcame challenges by going that extra mile in order to achieve success. Our students received their awards in front of their families, friends and a number of dignitaries at a memorable ceremony. In the same month, we also celebrated our Higher Education and Project Search students who have worked extremely hard to achieve their respective goals. We wish them all the very best in the future.

As is the norm when we approach the end of an academic year, an amazing energy flows throughout the College as students start to showcase their end of year work. From enthralling theatre performances to visually stunning make-up shows to the exceptional carpentry skills demonstrated by our construction students (*you can read more about their exciting community project on page 11*). It is truly rewarding to see their skills realised in their work. We must also thank all of our staff in the College who nurture our students so that they can unleash their potential.

Sport is an important part of our College enrichment programme and what a successful sporting year it's been. We have excellent sports facilities, sports courses and partnerships in this area, for example, with Brentford Football Club Community Sports Trust. Our numerous successes in 2021-22 include: our College football team having a great season, finishing 2nd in the AoC League, after starting two months later than their competitors; and our Supported Learning (SLDD) students Table Cricket success. Our SLDD students competed in the Table Cricket London & Thames Valley's regional competition and had a fantastic run, only narrowly missing out on being the overall winners. The tournament featured on BBC news and one member of the team won an individual accolade for sportsmanship. A real achievement and thoroughly deserved.

I would like to end my introduction in remembering Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The College celebrated her Platinum Jubilee in the summer with a number of activities that were enjoyed by many. As we mark the end of an era of remarkable longevity shown by Her Majesty, it is worth remembering the selfless dedication she gave to duty and service. This is something I believe that can inspire us all.

Yours sincerely,



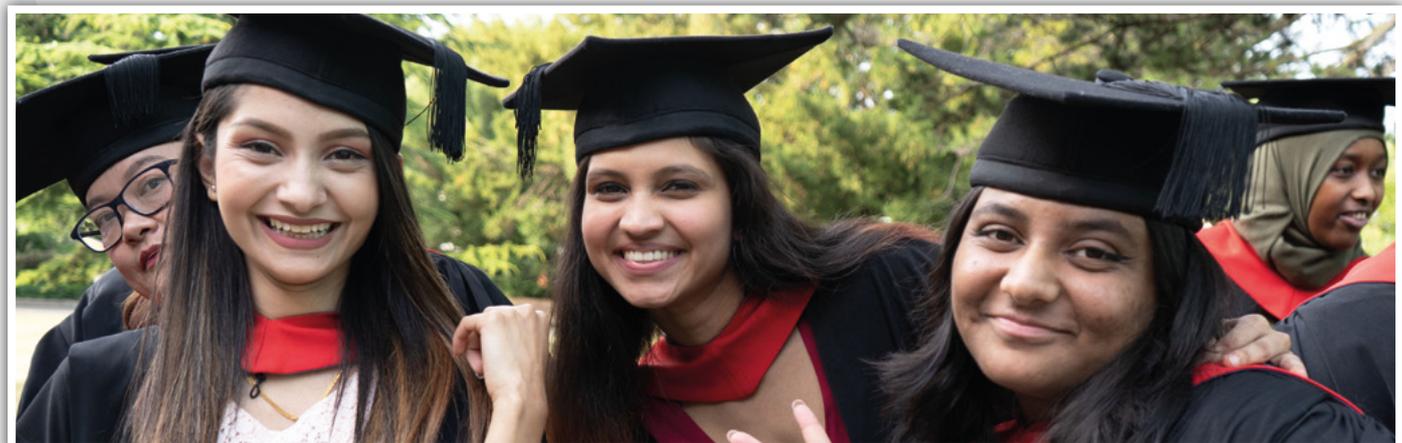
Tracy Aust, Principal



Celebrating our Best

The last few months have seen West Thames College celebrate our students for outstanding achievements on their courses in a number of award ceremonies. We also held a number of other celebrations to recognise those that have completed their courses and are now taking the next steps in their lives.

You can read more about all these exciting recent ceremonies in this special Celebration Edition of *Making Waves*.



FE Student Awards



West Thames College celebrated the amazing achievements of our students at our Annual Student Award Ceremony in June. These awards recognise students who have overcome challenges by going that extra mile in order to achieve success. They also reward those who have gone out of their way to help others succeed.

Alongside students' friends and families, a number of dignitaries were in attendance such as the Mayor of Hounslow, Councillor **Raghwinder Siddhu**, our MP for Brentford & Isleworth – **Ruth Cadbury**, our College Governors, and a number of local businesses who continuously support the College. Former alumni **Walter Denny**, a speaker on the night, shared how he progressed from West Thames College, and how he now supports current students in their own professional journeys.

Special thanks go to our partners who kindly sponsored awards at the ceremony – Blue Cube, Brentford FC, Dennis Williams Hair & Beauty Supplies, Ellisons, The Hill Group, L'Oréal and World Duty Free.

A number of awards were given out on the night. The final three awards were for students who have gone that extra mile and also recognised for their efforts across the College.

These awards were presented by the Mayor of Hounslow and the winners were:

THE CONTRIBUTION TO
THE COLLEGE AWARD:
Mars Quelch

THE DETERMINATION
AWARD:
**Myles Sandy
De Vicente**

THE OUTSTANDING
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD:
Ella Gray



Principal of West Thames College, Tracy Aust, summed up the event by saying, "This was a fantastic evening and our students truly deserve their awards and the recognition for their hard work and wonderful achievements. I am incredibly proud of them."



READ MORE
[west-thames.ac.uk/
student-awards-2022](https://west-thames.ac.uk/student-awards-2022)



HE Graduation Ceremony

In the same month, West Thames College proudly held its 2022 Higher Education Graduation Ceremony on 16 June.

Hosted by our Vice Principal, Marta Gajewska-Kopczyk, and College Governor, Bruce Armstrong, this event was a celebration of our students who have worked exceptionally hard in the last few challenging years and who should be very proud of themselves and their achievements.

They collected their certificates on the night from their tutors in front of an audience featuring their family and friends.

Vice Principal, Marta said: "It was truly amazing to be part of this graduation. Our students showed exceptional resilience and

determination to achieve academic excellence in such unusual times. We are glad they chose West Thames College to support them on their Higher Education journey and we are really proud of every single one of them. I was truly inspired to hear about their bold plans for the future and the fantastic employment opportunities and university courses they are progressing to."

We hope we've equipped our students with everything they need to kick-start a brilliant career or educational journey, and that they have also enjoyed their time at West Thames College. We're sure they'll go on to do amazing things in their lives.



READ MORE
west-thames.ac.uk/he-ceremony-2022

Let's be Social

Search for **West Thames College** on all social platforms



Trailblazing Programme Releasing Amazing New Industry Talent

Project SEARCH at GSK held a graduation ceremony on 14 June to recognise those with learning disabilities who are unlocking vital employment opportunities.

Since 2012, Project SEARCH has delivered a pioneering work-based learning programme which supports young people as they transition from education to employment. These students spend their final year of education based within business premises, where they focus their studies on employability and personal development alongside a full-time tutor. They also gain valuable work experience, supported by a full-time job coach. The project dramatically increases the chances of finding employment for our students and boasts an amazing 70% full-time employment rate – without this intervention the normal employment rate is less than 6%.

Seven students graduated and none were prouder than their Tutor and Programme Coordinator, **Mitsie Butler**, who said: “I would like to thank all who supported the Project at GSK, Sodexo, G4S Security, the Fitness Centre, Harvey Mac Hairdressers, the Industrial Placement Students and all staff at GSK who have been incredibly supportive of Project SEARCH programme this year. They have given up their valuable time to share their knowledge and expertise to help the interns gain a range of skills and experience that will carry them forward as they embark on



the new adventure into the world of work. Without all of their support, this programme and the success it has achieved would not have been possible.”



READ MORE
[west-thames.ac.uk/
projectsearch-june-2022](https://west-thames.ac.uk/projectsearch-june-2022)



End of Year Shows Conclude the College Year in Style

Many subjects recently held their end of year shows, which gave our students the opportunity to showcase the skills they have learned to an audience of their tutors, families, friends and beyond! Here's some of the best pictures from these shows.



West Thames College Sports Team of the Year: Their Amazing Story

Our Students with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (SLDD) got an opportunity to participate in Table Cricket London & Thames Valley's regional competition. They played at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury on 13 May, in a tournament organised by Lord's Taverners Middlesex.

The tournament certainly attracted a lot of attention and was even featured on the BBC which you can view on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/user/WestThamesCollege](https://www.youtube.com/user/WestThamesCollege).

Our students started well by winning three out of four games. Unfortunately, in their final match against Abingdon & Witney College, they lost the game by around 30 runs.

Despite the late disappointment, we are proud to say that our students had a very enjoyable time and look forward to playing more games in the future.

Special congratulations go to Tayyab Ahmed, who won a trophy for sportsmanship, which is an award given to outstanding individuals who uphold the spirit and traditions of the game.

The SLDD Table Cricket team went on to win the Sports Team of the Year at our 2022 Student Awards.

Special recognition should also go to the Runners-up in the Sports Team of the Year category at the same Awards, our Football Team. This diverse team with students from different curriculum areas, started their football league two

months later than other colleges but displayed some great teamwork to put together a run of results that led to a 2nd place finish in the AOC League. The team was led by our first student coach who motivated and inspired his team to this amazing finish.



VIEW MORE

[youtube.com/user/WestThamesCollege](https://www.youtube.com/user/WestThamesCollege)





A Day in the Lives of our Students

The Marketing team and student ambassadors at West Thames recently produced two amazing videos that show a typical day in the lives of our students.



Zayd, an Engineering student, was our first star who tells us about how his practical classes and our supportive staff have helped him gain a place at his dream university in September.

Rene, our second star, a Supported Learning student, tells us how her daily activities and the people who support at our College are making a big impact in her life.



Both these videos, among others, were at the forefront of our enrolment campaign called **#StartHereGoFar**.

View their stories on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/user/WestThamesCollege



Let's be Social

Search for **West Thames College** on all social platforms





Platinum Jubilee

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, the Student Experience team organised a massive celebration in the atrium in June displaying the Jubilee spirit in full swing at our College.

The atrium was full of fun games and activities with plenty of food, complete with a Victoria sponge cake featuring the British flag on top.

DJ D-Zine was on hand to provide the tunes throughout the celebrations alongside some of our dance students showcasing their amazing talent.

We concluded the day with a tree planting ceremony, as part of The Queen's Green Canopy, a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee

in 2022 which invited people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".

Principal Tracy Aust and Executive Director Michael Michaelides planted this tree on Wednesday 25 May, alongside our lovely Governors. Also giving us a helping hand on the day were some very excited and hard-working pre-schoolers from our on-site Nursery.

They were learning about the Jubilee while playing their own part in making it a memorable day for all involved.



Building Fun and Imagination

Level 1 students on our Carpentry course were recently given a challenge to inspire the next generation by building a mud kitchen for a local pre-school. Jelly Beans Pre-School Ltd commissioned our students to build a new mud kitchen that their little ones could play with as well as aide their development and sensory skills.

The project began with students constructing a frame for the kitchen in the carpentry workshop at the Skills+Logistics Centre in Feltham. After finishing the frame, they then went to the pre-school to reassemble the frame and clad it with decking boards. Finishing touches such as a

sink, plywood hob rings and a shelf were added to complete an amazing mud kitchen that will bring many hours of fun for years to come.

Svenja Doepel, pre-school Manager at Jelly Beans Pre-School Ltd, said: "I want to thank the Level 1 Carpentry students from West Thames College, who built our preschool's new mud kitchen. They did a great job and more importantly, they were polite and professional whilst on the premises with our small children around. The finished product is well-built and looks great- the children couldn't wait to play in it and have spent many hours enjoying the new equipment".



READ MORE
[west-thames.ac.uk/
student-carpenters-2022](https://west-thames.ac.uk/student-carpenters-2022)

Your Local College

West Thames College is located on two sites: the Isleworth Campus and the Skills+Logistics Centre in Feltham.

Feltham Address:

77 Boundaries Road,
Feltham, Middx TW13 5DR

The Feltham Skills+Logistics Centre

is at the end of Boundaries Road, off the main Uxbridge Road (A312). Boundaries Road is accessed by a small service road and parade of shops (opposite the Airman pub, near the footbridge). It is in TFL Zone 6.

Isleworth Address:

London Road, Isleworth,
Middlesex TW7 4HS

The Isleworth Campus is situated on the London Road (A315) between Hounslow and Brentford, next door to the Isleworth Fire Station. It is in TFL Zone 4.

