



A Hartlepool Sixth Form College Newsletter

# HSFC International

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99% pass rate in A levels

100% pass rate in 17 subjects

98% pass rate on Vocational Programmes

80% high grades across vocational provision (100% high grades in 6 subjects)

More students than **ever** secured their first choice university places

## Welcome!

Welcome to the second edition of our International Students' Newsletter. We have had another busy term with three new students joining us in January to complete their A-Level preparation course. In this edition, we would like to share some of our students' experiences with their host families, some very talented Art students' work and let you know about our exciting trip to London.

## Hartlepool Sixth Form College

There are many benefits to coming to Hartlepool Sixth Form College and they are not just academic. Living with a local host family, students gain experience of new cultures, practise their English language, have 24-hour support and gain invaluable life skills to help them prepare for university life.

Hartlepool Sixth Form College has welcomed students from China for 8 years. During this time over half of all our students who went on to University in the UK have progressed to prestigious Russell Group universities, including Yang Shanghao who studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge.

## New Students

In January, we welcomed 3 new students to College. Du Jiawei (Jason), Kang Xi (Bella) and Wang Jue (Daphne) are in Hartlepool to complete a 6-month A-Level Preparation course. This involves tasters in a range of A-Level subjects, intensive English tuition, an introduction to the local area and some cultural trips and visits. So far, the students have sampled Economics, Mathematics, Media, Physics, Music and Computer Science.



## Learner Voice

This term we asked our students to write about their experience with their host family. As this is a very important aspect of life in the UK, we were interested to hear how everyone was getting on. We had some lovely comments about our hosts and students seemed very happy with the food, care and attention they received. Here is what some of our students had to say:

*"When I first arrived in the UK everything was not as familiar as in China so I became a little stressed. Fortunately my host was so kind and invited my parents and me to have a cup of tea with her and we talked a lot and that made me relax and I started to look forward to life in the UK with my host family." - Li Zixuan*

*"Food in my homestay is amazing I was so surprised that my host mum can cook various types of foods. Sometimes host mother cook Thai sometimes Malaysian, Indian and also Chinese! She is marvellous." - Xu Sijie*

*"So far my hosts have been doing everything they can to make me feel at home. They would hold a little party on special events such as our birthdays and Chinese New Year and we are allowed to invite our friends over to join us" - Li Xinying*

## Student Work

At HSFC, there are 11 subjects available to study in Creative Industries and these have proven very popular with students from China. We have students studying Art & Design, Photography, Media, Product Design, Textiles and Film Studies.

Below are some images from student Xu Sijie (Grace) who is in her final year studying A-Level Photography. This is what she had to say about her course;

*"I am a Chinese student who comes from Guangzhou. I chose to study Photography, Art and Design and Graphic Design as my major. However, Photography is my main passion and I also applied for Photography and Video in university. I am highly interested in Photography, because, in this course, you might need to travel several places to find inspiration, to meet new friends in college, to take pictures in college studio and analyse images.*

*College always provides our equipment, such as media camera, tripod and spotlights. As we all know, in China our school does not have those art courses, so those courses were brand new for me. At the beginning, I was struggling with this subject, but my art tutors Richard and Lindsay have given me lots of help, whether in professional camera skills and Photoshop techniques or writing an annotation. They are patient, kind and helpful; that is why I enjoy studying this course at Hartlepool Sixth Form College."*



## Cultural Trips and Social Activities

This term we have been making pancakes, ice skating and celebrating the year of the Rooster. This term Maoge arranged to cook 'Jianbing', or Chinese pancakes. Students enjoyed helping to prepare and cook these delicious snacks and some students took this opportunity to play Chinese chess while savouring this local delicacies.

Students went to Billingham Forum Ice Rink this term to sample ice-skating; some for the first time.



## London Trip

Twenty of our International students went on a College trip to London at half term. We had a fantastic time with an itinerary that took us from 221b Baker Street to The Land of Oz!

Setting off on an early train from Hartlepool, we arrived in the capital at lunchtime and immediately went to have a look at Platform 9¾ at Kings Cross, a must for any Harry Potter fans. We then made our way to our accommodation for the stay, a lovely Youth Hostel in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral, which was once home to the choristers of St Paul's. After a quick break, we headed onto the London Underground to Victoria where we boarded the London open top bus tour which took us around Hyde Park, Oxford Street, Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square and Covent Garden. The students went off to explore the sights for the afternoon, many heading to Chinatown for some delicious food or to Harrods for some shopping.

Our evening activity was a night time tour of London, based on the story of Sherlock Holmes. Several of our students had requested this and our guide Maureen was amazing. She made the tour fun and interesting and we saw many of the filming locations from the TV series Sherlock as well as the Arthur Conan Doyle locations for the original Sherlock Holmes stories. We also learnt about the Great Fire of London, Henry 8th and lots of insider knowledge about the buildings and history of the City. Day two started with a river cruise along the Thames from Tower Bridge to Westminster. We had a brilliant vantage point to see some of the most famous sights of London including Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, The London Eye, The Shard, The Houses of Parliament and Big Ben. Again, the students had the afternoon to explore with many heading to Buckingham Palace or Trafalgar Square. We met for dinner at Planet Hollywood before heading to the theatre to watch the musical Wicked, which got a standing ovation from our students. After breakfast on day three, we split the group with some visiting Tate Modern and others choosing to visit the Museum of London before heading back to Hartlepool to enjoy the rest of the half term holiday. Everyone had a fantastic time and wished we could have stayed for longer. *Maybe next year...*



## HSFC Student Ambassadors

Our student ambassadors were invited to Teesside University this month to attend a celebration event and receive their certificates for successfully completing the Ambassador Leadership Programme. This will help Daden and Wicky in the future by demonstrating their key employability skills, sought after by employers and HE institutions. Well done guys!

## Outstanding Students

Every month the Vice Principal awards two of our International students with a certificate for outstanding achievement. The winners from this term are listed below.

- **Julian**; excellent attitude and effort in Creative Industry subjects
- **Wicky**; outstanding attitude and leadership skills
- **Julian**; excellent feedback from tutors
- **Alice**; excellent organisational skills
- **John**; exceptional achievement in his computer science project
- **Erica**; outstanding effort and achievement in History

We also award certificates for 100% attendance each half term. Well done to all of our students who managed this.



## New Year

We held a week of celebrations in College to welcome in the year of the Rooster. Day 1 saw Chinese students writing the British students' names in Chinese. On day 2, we offered Chinese tea tasting and on day 3, we had a feast of Chinese food and watched some video messages from parents in China wishing their children Happy New Year. Friday saw our Chinese emperor and empress giving out red envelopes and rice crackers for good luck. We also screened a BBC documentary about Spring Festival in China with some Chinese inspired snacks. The café offered a Chinese menu all week and we had New Year quizzes in tutorials.

On 19th Feb 2017, some of our Year 12 students and their hosts attended the annual Chinese New Year celebration that was held at the Grand Hotel in Hartlepool. The event, organised by the Hartlepool Chinese Association and the local council offered a range of activities such as the Chinese culture quiz, lion dance, singing and dancing performance, and Tai Chi demonstration.

Two of our Year 12 students, Grace and Daphne performed on stage and Grace will continue to work with the association as a member of the committee. It is a fantastic opportunity for international students to get involved in community life and promote their own culture.



## Enrichment

This year we have students taking part in our Basketball and Football Academies at our College's Academy of Sport. Feng Haoxuan (Julian) has been training with the College Football Team and this is what his Football Academy Coach, Dave Newton, had to say about his progress;

*"When Julian arrived in to the Football Academy in September he had very little experience and knowledge of the sport at an Academy level. However, from the start he become very passionate and interested on how to develop as a football player and playing at a academy level. This interest followed with him having a 100% attendance record at his sessions and games and throughout the sessions he always contributes with a great work ethic and a positive attitude to learn.*

*Julian's social skills very quickly developed and he soon become a member and a friend of all the team players. His technical skills have certainly developed and because of this; Julian has taken part in the starting team and achieved lots of minutes on the pitch. Julian has also used his media skills to video games and replay games to all the players at de brief the next day. He is a pleasure to work with and he is always willing to assist in any areas to improve the team and academy on and off the pitch. Julian has improved in all aspects of a football player and I look forward to developing him further in the future."*

Julian has found playing football has helped him to make many English friends;

*"My name is Haoxuan Feng and I am one of the members of the college football team. I am so glad to share my experience of playing football in this country. I have been addicted to football since I was a little boy. However, even though I am still developing my footy skills, I still enjoy playing. The coach and all the teammates are friendly and skilfull. You will truly develop a lot if you keep training with them. Joining the football team can also help you to make more friends in the college and learn about the foreign teenager's lifestyle. Sometimes you will learn something to surprise you as well."*

Hartlepool Sixth Form College has developed an outstanding reputation for Sport and its programmes and academies are now recognised at a national level. The opportunities for students (both competitive and recreationally) are fantastic and we can support them and enhance their college experience through the wealth of sporting activity we provide. Our expansive playing fields, and fully equipped on site facilities provide a perfect setting for athlete development. The Sports Hall and changing facilities are first class, along with a state of the art health and fitness suite with specialised areas for strength and conditioning for all our academy athletes.

