



# Students, Agents and Host Family Newsletter February 2010

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## **2010 A New Year**

A very happy new year to all our students, agents and partners. The coming year promises to be a successful one for the International department at Llandrillo College with our recruitment reaching almost 90 students, with more new students expected in February.

## **Welcome to our New Students**

A very warm welcome goes to our new students joining us from Myanmar, India and Bangladesh this January. We hope you soon settle into the College and wish you success with your studies.

## **Overseas Visits**

College representatives have recently visited Pakistan, India, Nepal, Croatia and Hong Kong. This includes a visit by our Principal, Mr Evans to our partner tourism College in Croatia. As a result of these visits recruitment activity has taken place in Delhi, Jalandher and Hong Kong. New agents have been appointed in Nepal and our partner institutions in Croatia, New Delhi and Pakistan have been visited.

## **British Council Beacon Award for International Student Support – presentation ceremonies**

Mel, Charlotte, Louise and the Principal will visit the Houses of Parliament in London on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010 to receive the award. There will be a presentation ceremony at the College on the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> February. A number of international students will be involved in the formal part of the event, followed by a party for all international students and to which you are cordially invited.

## **Staffing changes**

We are pleased to welcome Gill Hughes and Amy Bennison to the International Team. From 1<sup>st</sup> February Gill will work as International Student Adviser on Mondays

and Tuesdays. Amy has joined the English team from the beginning of January. Many thanks to Debbie Owen for the work she has done with us, Debbie will be leaving the team at the end of January.

### **Changes to the visa system - Points Based System (PBS) - Tier 4 Student Visas**

From the middle of February we will be introducing the new PBS tier 4 electronic student visa system. No more manual students offer letter will be issued and these will be replaced by the Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) on-line course offer system.

### **Course Fee and registration fee changes**

From September 2010 onwards the new course fee will be £4,500 for Pre-Degree courses including English and £6,500 for Degree level courses. If you are continuing on the same course of study your course fees will remain the same as for 2009. However if you are progressing onto another course the higher fee will apply.

For September 2010 applicants we will be requiring a registration fee of £1000 before a CAS can be issued. £900 of this may be refunded if the visa is refused.

### **Course Progression**

If you want to progress to another course at the College please discuss this with Mel Charlotte, Gill, Sarah or Louise and we will arrange an interview with the tutor. Our courses fill up very quickly so please apply early.

### **Visits and Activities**

We will be arranging a visit to Manchester for the Chinese New Year celebrations on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February if there is enough demand. Please see the notice board and put your name on the list if you wish to come.

### **International Week**

This will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>h</sup> February. We are planning to hold a range of activities across the College during the week focussing on different cultures, religions and languages across the world. I may be asking some of our students to help out with this.

### **Erasmus Partner Search**

Erasmus is a scheme in the European Union to create opportunities for students from the UK and EU to understand exchange programme for study and work placements. We have recently asked for partner institutions to link with us and we have had lots of interest from Colleges and Universities in Spain, Germany, Turkey, Italy, France and other countries.