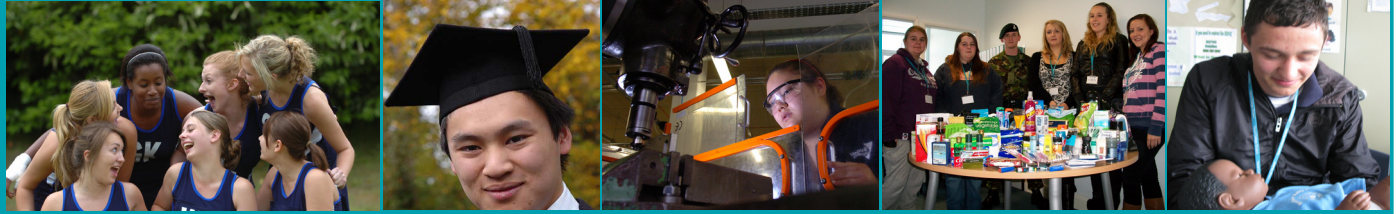




Equality & Diversity News ...



Inside:

* Page 1

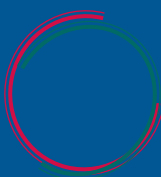
Welcome
What does E&D
really mean?
Events

* Page 2

Dates for your
Diary
E&D Group
In the News

* Page 3

Legislation
Student Successes
International
Partnership
Help at Yeovil College
How to get
Involved



Welcome

Welcome to Yeovil College's second Equality and Diversity Newsletter. We aim 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

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

In April 2010 Yeovil College Student Union (YCSU) raised more than £500 for Help for Heroes, despite having to call off part of their fundraising event due to bad weather. Dressed as 'superheroes', students waited on customers in the Da Vinci restaurant and donated their tips to charity. Two Royal Marines from RNAS Yeovilton made a tour of the college, collecting donations from staff and students.

The Student Union also raised £150 for the Piers Simon Appeal which aims to support victims of disasters worldwide. Charity founder and former Yeovil College student, Luke Simon, came to the College to accept the money raised for the Haiti earthquake victims.

A group of 14-16 year old students have been fundraising with a difference for the Yeovil Night Shelter Project - by collecting toiletries instead of cash! The Year 10 pupils are studying for a BTEC Introductory Diploma in Health and Care with the College.

Inner Beauty @ Yeovil College, the College's own beauty salon, has held a very successful charity pamper day in aid of Breast Cancer Care and raised £500.



In June, 85-year-old Holocaust survivor Harry Bibring came to Yeovil College to give a presentation about his experiences. More than 100 staff and students came to the College's Lecture Theatre to hear Mr Bibring speak about what happened to him as a victim of the Nazi regime.

Diversity Day

On 22nd June 2010 the College held its first Diversity Day as part of Festival Fortnight. Community Groups set up displays in the marquee, near the Leonardo Building, and each Faculty was responsible for organizing an event.

Future Events

22-26 November 2010 Anti Bullying Week
1 December 2010 World Aids Day
8 December 2010 Yeovil College Carol Service
27 January 2011 Holocaust Memorial Day



For further information contact (angela.coward@yeovil.ac.uk or ruth.morgan@yeovil.ac.uk)

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.

Staff undertake E and D Qualification

Over fifty members of staff, including the Principal, have undertaken a Level 2 qualification in Equality and Diversity. This involved a number of hours of self-study and completion of some self-assessments and an externally marked work-book. In some cases, several members from the same team signed up for the course and it was not unusual to hear animated discussions in staff rooms about the finer points of a particular aspect of E and D!

LLUK E and D Pilot

Yeovil College has been invited by Lifelong Learning UK to be part of the second phase of a national pilot to develop an Equality Framework which will act as a continuous improvement tool, enabling learning providers to meet the diverse needs of staff and learners and promote good practices across the lifelong learning sector. The college is one of five providers in the South-west taking part in the pilot which will involve a self-assessment of our organisational performance. We will bench-mark against three levels of performance and the identify areas for development and implement actions in order to eventually achieve the full framework at the highest level.

The Equality Review uses a wider definition of equality, based on the idea of equal life chances:

'An equal society protects and promotes equality, real freedom and opportunity to live in the way people value and would choose, so that everyone can flourish.'

'An equal society recognizes people's different needs, situations and goals and removes barriers that limit what people can do and be.'

This is an aspirational definition which focuses on creating a fairer society. It recognizes that:

- Equality is an issue for all of us.
- We don't all start from the same place
- To create a fairer society we need to recognize different needs.

During the project the College will need to consider the impact age, gender, gender identity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation may have on the life chances of its staff, learners and the local community. If you would like to be involved please contact angela.coward@yeovil.ac.uk.

Legislation

The Equalities Bill has received Royal Assent and is therefore now an Act of Parliament. The Equality Act 2010 will harmonise and in some cases extend existing discrimination law covering the 'protected characteristics' of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation. Amongst its provisions it creates a unified public-sector duty, intended to promote equality in public policy and decision-making, and proposes a new public sector duty related to socio-economic inequalities.

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. The College has introduced new policies, in line with the Equality Bill, and will extend its Single Equality scheme to cover the other strands in due course.

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

Student Successes

Yeovil College is delighted to announce that BNC Sport student Tom Minchington has been selected to train with the England Development Squad for the 2012 Paralympics.

Yeovil College Media students have been working with Preston School pupils for the BBC School Report project. First year BND Media students worked with the school children on a number of local and studio-based reports.

Yeovil College student, James Bell, has been recognised for completing over 100 hours of community volunteering. James, a second year BTEC National Diploma Sport student, was presented with a Silver Award in recognition of his achievement at the Somerset Step into Sport conference.

On a cloudy and cold weekend in early May 12 students with learning difficulties and disabilities, from the Faculty for Preparation for Work and Life, took part in the Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge. After 6 weeks of practice walks, and accompanied by an excellent group of staff, they successfully camped out overnight and walked across Dartmoor the following day. At times they were shrouded in very unseasonable fog but continued on regardless to reach the end of their challenge.



International Partnership

Yeovil College celebrated a new international partnership in June 2010 by welcoming visitors from the Wuchang Experimental High School, in Hubei province, China to the campus. A group of twelve students, from the school, will join the college in February 2011 to undertake twelve-week taster classes in Science, Maths and English to prepare them for starting A level programmes in September 2011.



Help at Yeovil College

The Student Support services team has introduced a new 'Do you need Help' button on Moodle. It will allow students to request help, report any incidents of bullying and also access information and contacts about a wide number of agencies that can be contacted outside of normal college hours.

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 Hamilton (r_ro_x@hotmail.co.uk)

