

LCEM *Life*



LCEM Winter Newsletter 2010

Welcome

Welcome to our Autumn / Winter Newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We have many exciting developments to look forward to in the coming year and we are sending all our students information packs about our new courses.

*Yours sincerely,
Shekhar Sharma
Principal*

BAC VISIT

A visiting professor from BAC carried out an interim inspection on 27th October. He made a tour of our building and was very impressed with our facilities. He made a thorough inspection of our Policies and documentation and was very pleased with his findings. The visit was very successful and we are now waiting for the Report which should be positive.

NEW ENGINEERING COURSES

We are proud to announce that our new Level 5 BTEC HND Engineering courses have been approved by Edexcel and will start on 1st February 2010. We are actually the first college to offer this type of course locally. The courses are:-

- **Computing and Systems Development**
- **Electrical/Electronic Engineering**
- **Building Services Engineering**
- **Construction Management**
- **Civil Engineering**

Specially designed brochures containing detailed information about these courses have been sent out to all our students and further details are also posted on our website.

INTRODUCE A FRIEND - SPECIAL INCENTIVES & AWARDS

We are introducing a new Scholarship Policy from next term. It includes five Awards which provide real incentives to reward and celebrate excellence in achievement and attendance.

We are also introducing a Colleagues Referral Award and a Special Referral Scheme for existing students who bring new students to join us, particularly to our new engineering courses. There are some excellent financial incentives so we urge you to read the information sent out to you or displayed on the Website.

NEWLY APPOINTED PROGRAMME LEADERS

We are pleased to inform you that Sangita Marahatta and Shameem Mohamed Shaffi have been appointed as our official Programme Leaders for our Edexcel Courses. This is a very important role. They will be able to support all our students with registration, assignment submissions, support and guidance for assignments and all aspects of academic or pastoral advice.

FREE TAEKWONDO CLASSES

Taekwondo classes will be available to our students, free of charge, next term. More information will be displayed on our website and at Reception very soon.

ATTENDANCE

Here are some important reminders about attendance and punctuality :-

- It should be 85%. We take action against poor attenders.
- Lateness is recorded and action will be taken against persistent latecomers. You must be on time - classes start at 9.30am and 2.30pm.
- Have up to date contact records - you **MUST** tell us when you change your address or phone number.
- If you cannot attend class for a legitimate reason you must phone us and give us a reason. This will be recorded on your file and on the computer system.
- If you are ill you must phone us .
- When you return to college you must give us a written explanation about your absence, which includes dates **plus a medical certificate if you are ill for more than 7 days. If you do not bring a medical certificate you have 7 days to get one from your doctor or you will be reported to UKBA.**

UKBA LETTERS

Everyone is reminded to bring us all correspondence you receive from UKBA for us to make copies of for your file. **THIS IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT.**

VISA RENEWALS

We must have copies of all documents you receive from UKBA. **THIS IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT.** Please see Monika's reminders at the end of this letter.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



Father Christmas



Mince pies



Mulled wine

December is the darkest month of the year in the UK, but whatever your religion you can enjoy some of the traditions and festivities of the Christmas season. The shops are decorated, and people are busy buying presents to exchange with their families on Christmas Day. You may be invited to some parties. You may eat Christmas cake or mince pies (despite the name, there is no meat in a mince pie!), and maybe drink some mulled wine (heated red wine with sugar and fruit). You can sometimes hear people singing Christmas carols in the street, usually to raise money for charity; you can also go to a carol service in a church.

Winter Wonderland, London

A Big Wheel and other rides, an ice rink and a Christmas market are put up in London's Hyde Park.



Winter Wonderland: Big Wheel, stalls



... skating ...



... and rides (in Hyde Park)

Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree lighting ceremony, London

In the Second World War Norway was occupied by the Nazis. The King of Norway escaped to Britain and set up an alternative government in London for 5 years until the war was over. The Norwegian resistance secretly sent a tree from Norway each year to make the King feel closer to his homeland. After the war, the Norwegian government decided to offer a large Norwegian tree to Britain each year, as a symbol of friendship and to thank the nation for helping the Norwegian people. This fir tree, which is about 75 feet (26 metres) high, is put up in Trafalgar Square, London. The tree is decorated in a traditional Norwegian style with 500 white lights: these lights will be lit from noon until midnight each day during the Christmas period (until 6th January).



Great Christmas Pudding Race, London

Teams dressed in fancy clothes race around an obstacle course in Covent Garden. To make it more difficult, they have to carry a Christmas pudding on a tray. The winner receives the Pudding Trophy. The event raises money for Cancer Research UK.



Christmas Day, UK

This is a public holiday in the UK. Christmas Day is when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, so many people go to local church services. Most people spend the day together with their families: they talk, exchange presents, eat and drink, and watch television. The **Queen's Christmas Message** is broadcast in the afternoon - it is a tradition for many British people to watch this.

Most shops, restaurants and places of entertainment are closed. Hotels, pubs and some Indian restaurants may be open, but you may need to book in advance if you want a meal at one of these.



Presents under the tree



Christmas crackers



Roast turkey lunch

New Year's Eve, UK

Many people in the UK stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve so that they can celebrate the start of the New Year. As midnight approaches, British people traditionally watch Big Ben (the bell in the Houses of Parliament), and celebrate after it strikes for the 12th time: this is shown on television. It is traditional to make a New Year's Resolution (a promise to start doing something in the new year). In **London**, people often gather in the area around Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square and Parliament Square from about 9pm until the early hours of the morning. The fountains in Trafalgar Square will be turned off. The sound of the chimes of Big Ben will be heard through speakers along the Embankment near Waterloo Station.



Big Ben: the end of the year Hogmanay celebrations in Edinburgh Firework display at the London Eye

WINTER WEATHER

Snow fell across many parts of the UK (especially in Scotland and Northern England). It's the heaviest snowfall since 1993.



A ROYAL ANNOUNCEMENT...

Prince William and Kate Middleton have formally announced their engagement and future wedding. They are due to marry in April 2011. The Prince who is in line to be future king one day proposed to his long term girlfriend while they were on holiday in Africa earlier this year.



A NEW WORLD CHAMPION...

Sebastian Vettel from Germany has been crowned the world champion of Formula One 2010 racing. At 23 he's the youngest ever driver to win the title. Lewis Hamilton came forth and Jenson Button who was last year's winner came fifth.



Monika's Reminders...



Dear Students,

Those of you who recently applied to renew your visa **must** provide us with copies of all correspondence received from UKBA so that we can make copies to prove that your application is legal and that you can still study and live in UK. The following documents are required:

- Letter of acknowledgement from UKBA regarding your Visa extension application
- Biometric Letter from UKBA

Please bring them to the college as soon as you receive this letter.

Remember to **keep up to date** with your instalment plans, as a fine could be occurred.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Monika

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