



£82,000 grant from the Karten Trust brings the print enterprise a step closer

On Friday 4th March we received the very welcome news that the Ian Karten Charitable Trust had very generously agreed our bid for £82,000 to purchase specialist print and IT equipment and software to establish a print enterprise for the learners at St. John's.

The Karten Network is a group of IT centres for disabled people. The centres are funded through the trust with the purpose of improving the quality of life and independence of adult people with congenital or acquired physical, cognitive, sensory, learning disabilities or mental health problems. The Karten Centres provide a supportive learning environment together with access to the latest in adaptive computer technology, and are located in a wide range of host organisations.

It is very important to the Karten Trust that the centre is located in professional looking premises that reflect a genuine working environment and are somewhere the learners and the Karten Trustees can be proud of.

That's why our next crucial step is securing the right building for the project.

The next step is to secure a suitable venue and, building on the success of the Crypt Cafe, we intend to open a shop in the community as well as a design studio on the Brighton campus. A great shop is available in the Marina that has adequate space for a teaching area as well as room for the printing and manufacture of canvases, cushions, mugs, T shirts, booklets, brochures and just about anything you can print on!

The marina is well serviced by buses and allows opportunities for independent travel. The shop is also accessible for wheelchair users and has the potential for further adaptation. It also has 12 large windows to publicise St. John's and to display our various talents! Commercial premises are expensive to lease and our trustees are busy negotiating on our behalf to make the project possible.

If we are successful, the shop will be open year round - during the week for teaching and work

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experience and at the weekends for supported employment opportunities - and will be a resource for the wider community. We intend to offer business administration courses at the shop as well as the manufacture of learner's designed gift items.

We hope you'll be placing your Christmas gift and card orders with us!



Hotel Du Vin take St. John's learners on a gourmet journey!

A lucky group of St. John's learners were treated to a gourmet day out by Hotel Du Vin. Dale Brown arranged for the learners to visit the hotel and the staff were only too happy to ensure the day was a voyage of foodie discovery. The Hotel had arranged for the group of college learners to meet some of the local food producers who supply the Hotel and the group were chauffeured by Dave their driver on a specially chartered luxury bus.

The first stop was the Brighton and Newhaven Fish Sales dock in Hove, where the learners had a close encounter with a wide variety of fish, lobsters and crabs! With a little guidance from Hotel du Vin's head Chef, Rob Carr, the learners shopped for ingredients for the gourmet meal that they

would be treated to back at the hotel later in the day.

Next stop was the meat course and time to see what meat and veg were produced locally with a warm welcome at Horam and Redlands Farms. After a visit to the animals, more ingredients were selected from the home grown produce in the farm shop.

Later back at the hotel, the learners tucked into a feast created from the morning's spoils: golden mountains of chunky chips, crisply breadcrumbed plaice fillets, mussels in a rich wine sauce, succulent sausages and steaks, and the more exotic pigeon breasts accompanied by tender little green peas (please see The Argus website for photos).

Innovative Communication Technology - Neil Jennings



The Speech and Language Therapy Department (Neil, Helen and Marie) joined with Martin Timmins (Deputy Head of College) and Dan Axson (Crypt Cafe) for a meeting with Speech & Language Therapist Debs Perrett from 'Therapy Box' Communication aids, based in London.

The meeting was to explore the use of the iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch for learners who have communication difficulties. This is an exciting project and Debs was able to demonstrate the scope of **Proloquo2go**, **Predictable** and **Scene & Heard** applications.



Watch this space for future developments!!

The Great St. John's Balloon Race

Coming soon - your chance to join the balloon race and raise some money for the Youth Club at the College campus.



Keep an eye out for more news on how to join in coming soon....



Strictly Ballroom

We are planning a grand summer ball to commence our 125th Birthday Celebrations at St. John's.

We are currently seeking a suitably elegant venue to host our staff, learners & families

and friends of St. John's and hope to hold the celebration during the last few weeks of the summer term. We will be bringing you updates as our plans become clearer but recommend that you keep an eye out for that dapper suit or sparkly dress...

So Long Susie P - we will really miss you



Sue Parker will be retiring after 30 years at St. John's. Sue has most recently been our manager at Café in the Crypt and central to its enormous success story. Prior to this role, Sue has been a teacher and tutor, supporting what must be thousands of young people through their School and College journeys.

Good luck Sue. Enjoy your retirement and thank you for your long and dedicated commitment to the young people we serve.

Sensory Integration project gets underway with the Occupational Therapists

Good News!

The OTs at the school and college have been allocated some extra funding until the end the academic year for a Sensory Integration project.

The aim is to assess a significant number of students and develop a sensory profile for each of them.

Poor sensory integration contributes to the learning difficulties that our students

experience.

Many of our students are challenged by processing sensory information and this influences motivation, behaviour, learning, functional skills and social interaction.

The aim of the project is to provide an additional tool to enable students, and those working with them, to understand and work with the challenges they experience on a daily basis.

Networking update

On Wednesday 16th March St. John's hosted a meeting of the Learning Disabilities Together Network.

The meeting was well attended with a wide variety of people from local organisations who support people with learning disabilities with care & housing, supported employment, advocacy, education and training. St. John's was also well represented allowing us to show off the broad range of skills within our staff team. The Crypt Cafe were fantastic hosts,

offering a very impressive buffet for the guests, all of whom were impressed with their lunch. St. John's has offered to provide the venue for future meetings of the Network, who have recently lost their government funding. This is a great opportunity for us to remain well known at the centre of local LD provision.



Brighton Fringe Festival - St. John's 'As a whole' !



The creative and Performing Arts faculty is showcasing their talents as part of this year's Brighton Fringe festival. Lisa Kyriakides' image was chosen by learners to be used on the Fringe website and brochure. A selection of short drama pieces, a range of multi-media arts accompanied by original live

music will be showcased, all created and produced by learners at St. John's College. The showcase is called St. John's 'As a Whole'. and is on the **24th – 25th May 2011, 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

Entrance Fee:
£5.00, (£3.00 Concessions)
Venue:
The Rock, 7 Rock St, Kemp Town
Fringe venue: 412

Tickets are available from the following locations:

In person: At the Dome Ticket Office at 29 New Road, Brighton, BN1 1UG
By telephone: Call the Dome Ticket Office on 01273 709709

Call the Fringe Box Office on 01273 917272

On the internet:
Brighton Festival Fringe Box Office

There is a 90p ticket fee for each ticket purchased over the phone and counter paid for by card or cheque, up to a cap of 6 tickets (£5.40). After the sixth ticket there will be no further booking fee. There is no booking fee for cash payments.

Please note there are only 30 tickets per show! So book now to avoid disappointment.



Red Nose Update - Next Issue

In our May edition, news and reports of our Comic Relief activities and Red Nose Day!



To get your copy of College Life.

The College Life newsletter is available on our website. If you would like us to email each edition to you please email Katie or Jo at reception@st-johns.co.uk and you will be included in our email circulation.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer Term 2011

Return Date		Collection Date
Tuesday 26 th April	to	Friday 27 th May
	Summer Half Term	
	30th May-3rd June	
Monday 6 th June	to	Thursday 21 st July

Summer Holidays

May Day 2011 falls on Monday 2nd May, therefore the College will also be closed on this day.

Inset Days: 2nd & 3rd September 2010
22nd October 2010
4th January 2011
28th February 2011
22nd July 2011