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LOCAL COLLEGE COMMEMORATES DARWIN'S BIRTH

Monday 9th February 2009

Students and staff at Cambridge Regional College (CRC) are celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth this week, by holding information stands and participating in topical discussions.

Darwin was born at Shrewsbury on 12th February 1809 and his ideas concerning evolution fundamentally changed how we view the world. This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the publication of Darwin's most important work, "The Origin of Species", which presented the scientific theory that populations evolve over generations through natural selection.

The Multi-Faith Chaplaincy is holding information stalls in the Mall, to draw attention to Darwin's life and work. Speakers will be available, on request, to talk to tutor groups and a discussion has been organised for Tuesday 10th February in the student lounge on the theme of, "Evolution - does God have a role?". This will look at the challenges arising from Darwin's work, and explore the relationship between science and faith/belief.

Rev Chris Wilson, College Chaplain and Lead on Social Cohesion, said, "As a learning community, our first responsibility is to share the insights and knowledge achieved by others, often at some considerable personal cost. I am delighted that the college is marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Darwin. By marking

this date, the College is reaffirming not just its commitment to the achievements of science, but also to encouraging all of our students in a deeper appreciation of the beauty of the world”.

Paul Ewans, Chair of the Cambridge Humanist Group, which is actively supporting the College in marking this event, said, "This is an excellent opportunity to promote Darwin's ideas and to show that science, belief and faith need not be in conflict, as long as the substantial achievements of science are properly honored and recognized”.

The College is fully committed to equal opportunities and encourages all students to treat others with respect, regardless of their differences. These latest events form part of a programme of multi-faith and commemorative events that the College has organised, which included Eid, Christmas and Holocaust Memorial Day.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The Darwin Day Celebration started with one event in 1995. Last year there were more than 850 Darwin Day events world-wide. Darwin Day festivities can include debates, lectures, essay contests, film festivals, museum exhibits, art shows and even an "Evolution Banquet" with "Primordial Soup" followed by a "Darwin Fish Fry".

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact Lesley Devaney, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email ldevaney@camre.ac.uk