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CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE HEADS TO THE BALLOT BOX IN DEMOCRACY WEEK

Monday 13th October 2008

Students at Cambridge Regional College (CRC) are taking part in an array of activities to encourage interest and improve understanding of political processes throughout this week.

College students will be participating in a variety of exercises to help them learn about the democratic process. In the classroom, students all over the College will be able to voice their opinions by using special voting slips and a ballot box to select their favourite music genre. Then, the winning choice will be played in the College's Student Lounge throughout one day to illustrate that voting does result in a real outcome.

Also, there will be the opportunity to elect the members of the new Student Union Committee and Student Governor (Yr 1). The candidates will make themselves known around the College, encouraging students to ask them questions on their views and policies so that they can then make the decision about who best represents their views. Aaron Cooke, the current Student Governor (Yr 2) at CRC said, "The members of the Student Union Committee are voted in through College-wide elections and secret ballots. This is an important process as it gives people the opportunity to stand for positions on the Committee and tell students what they can do for them. It then allows students to decide for themselves who is best suited to the roles".

There will also be stands in the Mall of the Science Park campus manned by local representatives of the main political parties who will provide information on their party's views and the democratic process. Sebastian Kindersley, Leader of the Liberal Democrats of South Cambridgeshire said, "We are delighted to have been invited by Cambridge Regional College to participate in this initiative. It is appropriate to have a Democracy week at the start of an academic year as this is a time for most students to start a more independent part of their lives".

Daniel Zeichner, the Propsective Parliamentary Candidate (PPC) for the Cambridge Labour Party said, "I'm backing CRC's democracy week because the students of today are the citizens and voters of tomorrow: you have the power to make the decisions that will make it a good place for you and your family to live. Please use it!"

CRC's Tutorial Team is organising the initiative: Rev Chris Wilson – College Chaplain & Curriculum Leader for Social Cohesion said, "CRC understands that the best way to undermine extreme and divisive ideologies is by celebrating community, diversity and responsible political participation. These events will encourage students to engage constructively with issues that concern all of us."

The College's Multi-faith Chaplaincy provides information and support for students of all faiths, and the College holds events at least once a term, to celebrate different festivals from a wide variety of faith traditions and to affirm Equality and Diversity throughout the College community. The Chaplaincy has recently received excellent feedback to their Beacon Award bid and will receive their results in mid-November.

Democracy week starts on Monday 13th October and runs all week at the Science Park campus.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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