



Brampton tops league table again as AS results promise continued success

Brampton College's outstanding record of A level results is well-known in the London area. Last year, the College yet again came top of the league table of London independent sixth form colleges for A level results with **46% A grades and 80% AB grades**. Crucial to their success at A2 is the solid foundation students put down at AS level. Last year's strong AS results, where most of the College's first time entries in AS modules gained A or B grades, leaves our students very well placed to achieve top grades at A level and realise their university ambitions. As many parents have seen, moving up from GCSE to sixth form education can still be difficult. Getting the right choice of subjects, thinking about one's future, the greater emphasis on organisation and self-discipline and the need to develop as individuals - all are challenges that young people need help with. At Brampton, we think the happiness and academic success of our students is ample testimony to our experience in helping them to achieve their best in all these areas. Small classes, specialist teachers and the individual tutorial system allow students a great deal of academic support. We make sure that students get plenty of exam practice before their public exams by taking fortnightly tests in each subject. Brampton students also maintain a healthy interest in creative, cultural and sporting pursuits outside the classroom, as we report on page 4.

Brampton student wins London Youth Art award

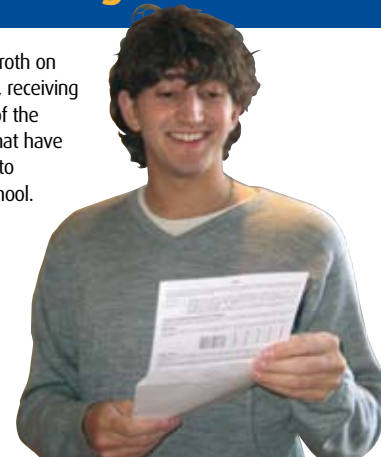


Horses by Diyana Abbasali

Brampton College student, Diyana Abbasali, who left with a top grade in Art in 2006, has won the City Youth Art Exhibition award for 2007. The award is given by the City Youth Project, which promotes cross community youth interaction and equal opportunities for all to succeed in the arts, and was presented to Diyana at a special presentation banquet at the Dorchester Hotel on December 9th. Diyana has now completed her Art Foundation course at Central St Martins and has gone on to do a B.A. in Animation at Bournemouth, the leading university for media and film in the country.

2007 A level results
46% A grades
80% AB grades

Joel Schamroth on results day, receiving the news of the A grades that have taken him to medical school.



Top of the League

Brampton College came top of the London league table of independent sixth form colleges in 2007 for the seventh year running, ranked by average point score per A level examination entry in the DCSF figures, published in January.

(In the table, 270 pts = A, 240 = B, 210 = C, 180 = D)

Name of College	Average point score per exam entry at A level 2007
Brampton College	241.9
Ashbourne	231.8
Lansdowne	228.9
Hampstead College of Fine Arts	225.6
MPW	223.9
DLD	218.2
David Game	215.8
Collingham	214.4
Duff Miller	213.8
Ealing Independent College	213.1
National Average	207.5
Acorn Independent College	205.6
Wentworth Tutorial	193.8
Regent College	190.6
Bales	178.6

AS programme increasingly popular

Brampton's AS programme is attracting increasing numbers of students of a very high calibre. This year there are over 85 new AS faces. Why do students come to Brampton for A levels? Apart from the outstanding results, what really seems to make a difference is the level of individual care. **"It's a well-run college where the teachers show a real understanding of each individual and provide a lot of encouragement,"** says new boy Daniel Levine.

The mixture of an informal atmosphere and keen work ethos has proved very popular with students, as Sean Landes says, **"The staff have been really supportive and always take care to make sure I'm reaching my full potential... I feel more independent and I find it much easier to talk to the teachers."**

During the Spring Term, our AS students will be thinking hard about their futures with the help of their personal tutors. This



Sean Landes

process began on January 17th, when all students had an extended evaluation meeting to discuss their termly exam results, the ways they can improve, and the implications for A2 subject choices and beyond. This will be followed up by sessions on revision technique and study skills.

Meanwhile, the Medical Forum, for students intent on careers in medicine and dentistry, continues to meet to discuss topical issues and hear talks from medical professionals and from former students now studying on medical degrees.

Forthcoming events in spring will feature taster days at university and professional speakers on the university application process as well as on Law, Engineering and Physiotherapy as particular careers.



New girl Olivia Reynolds-Logue says,

"Brampton's relaxed atmosphere really helped me to settle quickly into the college. The small classes have encouraged me to break out of my shell and really given me the incentive to work."



New AS students Blaize Taylor and Aviva Miara enjoying themselves on an Art Department trip to the Design Museum

On the nature trail

Biology students took advantage of the good October weather to spend two very enjoyable days studying ecosystems in Epping Forest as preparation for their A level coursework. On the first day students examined forest ecosystems, learning about sampling techniques for surveying the flora and fauna of woodland areas, and how these systems vary with different tree cover. Their next trip looked at freshwater ecosystems.



Better than the telly. Nathan, Stephen and David, rapt.

"We used these samples to establish positions in the food chain and built up a pyramid of numbers and biomass", explained Felix Posner, Head of the Biology Department and leader of the field trip. Biology is a really popular subject at Brampton, and has always been taught by genuine subject specialists. Under Felix's leadership come highly experienced teachers and examiners including former Brampton Head of Department Tina Short. Results have traditionally been very strong, helping to send many students over the years to university places on the most competitive degree courses, such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary science.

Outstanding Achievement Awards 2007

At the end of September the College held an enjoyable reception evening to welcome new parents to Brampton, during which the Principal, Bernard Canetti, presented four students with awards for special achievement at A level in 2007. Shinal Desai gained a place to study Dentistry at Manchester University after gaining three A grades in Biology, Chemistry and Maths, with an extraordinary 100% score in 5 modules out of 6 in Biology and a Merit in Advanced Extension Award Chemistry. Naomi Shaw also gained three A grades, including 3 full marks modules in Biology and Chemistry. Elizabeth Saul gained A grades in Sociology and English and an A grade in Classical Civilisation in only one year, while James Colom gained high-scoring A grades in Physics, Mathematics and Computing, including 100% in his computing coursework.

"Brampton College has been the best thing that has ever happened to me - not just because of the grades that I have achieved but because of all the lovely and dedicated staff." Elizabeth Saul.



Shinal Desai

Twisted Thread: textiles exhibition inspires Brampton Art students

The magnificent display of textile art at Alexandra Palace's annual Twisted Thread exhibition again provided Brampton students with inspiration for their own work, when they visited it in October.

Students get a great deal from seeing the mixture of art and textile techniques. They come to appreciate that textiles is not about a group of ladies sitting and knitting or doing needlepoint together! As we saw, there exists an infinite array of techniques and materials to express yourself with, whatever the subject that interests you, whether it be life drawing, buildings, still life, graffiti, abstract, text and image etc. We find that the students' work is informed by the event and their work becomes richer and more adventurous.

June Mehra, Head of Art



Georgina Douek's stunning textile design from the 2007 end of year show

Rwandan president lectures at London School of Economics

Senior Teacher in Economics and Business Studies, Tom Tait, led a visit of Brampton College students to the recent lecture given by Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, on the challenges of development and environmental sustainability in Africa. This was a fascinating and authoritative insight into the problems and also, as the students found out, the politics of the continent for our A2 development economists. The visit brought the theories and case studies our students have been reading about very much to life as Mr Kagame faced strong challenges to his views expressed by several members of the audience. Mr Kagame has won the support of various foreign leaders, but it appears he still has considerable opposition within Africa itself.



The famous LSE library

Overseas students visit to Somerset House ice-rink

Sunday 25th November saw John and Pilar Barron take our small group of overseas students to the ice-skating rink at Somerset House on the Strand. "We had an amazing time", said Nisita Raghvani, "many of us had never been ice-skating, and doing it outside at Somerset House was quite an experience. We all had a great time - and anyway, we don't get to see our teachers fall over every day, do we?" (I hope not, Nisita!)



John Barron and some of our overseas students

Brampton has about twenty students from overseas, who usually go on to study at prestigious universities such as the LSE, Imperial, UCL and sometimes, like Daisy Feng and Hikmatali Shariff, Oxford and Cambridge. They meet John every week to discuss how they are getting along socially and academically. John makes sure they are all properly looked after, have suitable accommodation and healthcare arrangements, and keeps in touch with parents through a translator if necessary.



Trojan Women, at the National

Catharsis for Classics students on day of Tragedy

Classical Civilisation students immersed themselves in the world of ancient Greek tragedy on 20th November, when a day of lectures by internationally famous scholars was rounded off with a moving and highly individual production of Euripides' Trojan Women at the National Theatre on the South Bank. The favourite among the lecturers was, as ever, Professor Edith Hall, whose challenging style usually enlivens even the most supine of sixth formers. Brampton students took away some excellent detailed resources for their A level studies, and all commented on the enjoyment they derived from the day.

Extracurricular

Alumni Reunion Evening

Students who left the college in 2004, 2005 and 2006 are cordially invited to meet old friends over a drink and refreshments at the College on Thursday, 10th April 2008, from 6.30pm.

Art Exhibition and Open Evening

Wednesday, 18th June, 6.30-8.30pm

Parents of prospective students and of students leaving the College this year are invited to attend. Wine and refreshments will be provided.

Brampton College is now enrolling students for the academic year 2008-09.

Please contact Pam Glenville on 020 8203 5025 if you wish to make an enquiry about admission.



Brampton College team tops the Proshare League

Every year teams from Brampton College join in the excitement of the Proshare Student Investor Challenge. This online stock market shares competition pits students from up and down the country against each other in a bid to win the fantastic top prize of an all expenses paid trip to New York. Tom Tait, teacher of Economics and Business Studies, says the competition this year has attracted more teams than ever. In December, a Brampton team, SPARS (that is, Joel Markham, Joe Morris, Nick Newman and James Brick) were top of the Proshare League, eventually finishing 19th out of over 6,000 teams and qualifying for the Regional Finals! "The Economics Department at Brampton have provided us with the knowledge to perform well in the tournament," says Joel Markham.

Music and Magic

Brampton staff and students were treated to a superb variety concert performance on 14th December, which brought the Autumn Term to a very enjoyable end. Organised by music teacher, Linda Hannaway, Erica Sugita (piano), and Stephen Moss and David Kelsey (guitars), were joined this year by budding magician Gideon Simberg. Erica played, as beautifully as we have come to expect, some familiar classical pieces such as the Chopin E flat Nocturne and music by Bartok and Brahms, but also introduced many members of the audience to a striking modern composition, "Rosemary" by Frank Bridge. David Kelsey and Stephen Moss are two very accomplished young guitarists who have come to the College this year, who not only dazzled by the virtuosity and harmony of their jazz duets, but again expanded the musical horizons of their audience. Even more surprising and delightful were Gideon's very professional magic tricks and humorous interaction with the young ladies and gentlemen volunteering to assist him from the crowd: clearly a TV star in the making! Congratulations and thanks go to all our performers.

Football Fortunes

Brampton College's football team finds itself in the doldrums in mid-season after a series of reversals against slightly stronger opposition. A narrow opening 4-3 defeat away to King Alfred's was discounted after one of the King Alfred's "goals" was awarded after creeping in through some ragged side-netting, while an early lead against DLD College at the magnificent all-weather Westway venue flattered to deceive as our lads eventually succumbed to soft goals in the second half. The team's best performance came against arch-rivals (and, it has to be said, perennial nemesis) Wentworth, whom they completely outplayed for an hour, without managing actually to insert the ball into the onion-bag. To be fair, (as they say in footballing circles), the Wentworth keeper played a blinder throughout, breaking Brampton hearts by saving two penalties before half time. A tremendous recovery in the second half was, alas, too late to prevent another loss, this time by 7 goals to 6, approximately.



Budding businessmen James Brick and Joel Markham

"We understand that the only realistic way of accumulating profits is to buy and sell very quickly. The tournament is also helping us realise the importance of teamwork and cooperation: we only purchase shares if two or more of us agree with the choice. The availability of computers at Brampton has been a massive bonus for us as we can access our portfolio at any time."



David Kelsey



Sahil Shah looks on from the bench