

BRAMPTON COLLEGE

Spring Newsletter



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2009 A level results put Brampton top in London for 9th year running

The 2009 A level exams saw a fantastic 35% of Brampton students score AAA grades or better, and over half the students in the college gain at least AAB grades. 56% of the college's A level exam entries achieved grade A, over twice the national average. Brampton was the best-performing London sixth form college for the ninth year running. The average UCAS point score for all 410 A level exam entries last year was 107.4, or well above a B grade, results which placed our students on the most sought-after university degree courses in the country. 16 Brampton applicants won places to study Medicine and seven to study Law in 2009, including David Dwyer, whose superb achievement of 5 grade As has taken him on to the London School of Economics.

The results testify to the success of the College's methods of specialised A level teaching, small classes, plenty of individual help and regular exam practice. The highest standards of achievement were also maintained across all areas of the curriculum: in 16 out of the 21 subjects offered at the college, over 50% of entries gained A grades.



Oliver Bloom opening the results that sent him to medical school.

2009 Students, 35% AAA, 51% AAB

Brampton is best in the borough for Added Value

Brampton's A level results are all the more impressive because they are achieved by students with a wide variety of prior academic achievement. In fact, the college has one of the very best "value added" scores in the country. The government's Contextual Value Added score measures a school's enhancement of student performance from GCSE to A Level, taking into consideration various socio-economic factors. A score of 1,000 shows students have done as well as could be expected at a school; a score of 1033 and above puts a school in the top 5% nationally: the students at these schools achieved on average one grade higher at A level than expected. Brampton's score of 1064.3 is well above this mark. In Barnet only three independent schools gained 1033 or above; Brampton came top in the borough, scoring 19.5 marks more than the next best school. It is the combination of exceptional exam results and the value added which reflects the quality of the work Brampton teachers do with their students.

Top of the Table

In 2009 once again Brampton College came top of all Sixth Form Colleges in London - for the ninth year running. Our average point score per entry was 247.9, which is significantly above all other colleges and above a B grade (240 is a B grade).

Name of College	Average point score per examination entry
Brampton College	247.9
Ashbourne	236.4
Fine Arts College	230.8
MPW	228.0
David Game	227.9
Lansdowne	226.8
Duff Miller	224.1
DLD	221.6
Wentworth Tutorial	221.2
Collingham	219.6
Ealing Independent College	214.6
National Average	211.7
Acorn Independent College	192.5
Regent College	188.6

Looking forward to success in Art

Art is an exciting option at Brampton with a history of brilliant results (22 As and 1B awarded since 2007). See how Hannah Hewetson's classes have brought new "life" to the department on page 3.



Charlotte Lauder's cards player is typical of the striking work of this year's Art students.

AS programme more popular than ever

Brampton's two year A level programme is proving more attracting than ever, with over 100 students enrolled in the AS year. And we are very proud of the way they've settled into life at College and responded to the academic challenge of A levels. To celebrate the way our students have negotiated this tricky transition from GCSE to AS level, students came together in the Hall to receive praise for their achievements so far from Principal Bernard Canetti. Individual prizes were given to Essie Buckman, for consistent hard work in Art, with commendations going to Charlotte Lauder and Georgina Oppenheimer; to Amaan Hussein for Chemistry, Vickisha Patel for ICT, Mariko Kino for Sociology, Kavita Chandaria for Geography and Jemma Patel for Psychology.

Personal tutors were pleased to report that their AS tutees took a mature and sensible approach to the day of reflection and planning that took place in late January, when students conducted a detailed analysis of their performance to date and shared their thoughts and feelings

Principal Bernard Canetti and some of the worthy award winners



about their futures with one another. Careers adviser Pam Nathan gave an encouraging and informative talk about university application, which all AS students should now be researching in earnest. Many of the students are going on London University Taster days and to the Top Universities Fair at Earls Court. Medicine and Dentistry applicants attend Joy Mason's regular Medical Forum to develop their healthcare knowledge and speaking skills - and it works! Last year Brampton sent 16 students to study Medicine at university. Students and Parents will get a chance to learn more about what university admissions tutors are looking for in special meetings at the College to be held on the 6th May.

MP's visit sparks heated debate

Hot political debate dominated the agenda on the visit of local MP Andrew Dismore to the College on 19th November. Mr Dismore has been the Labour member for Hendon since 1997; he chairs the Commons Joint Committee on Human Rights and sits on the Standards and Privileges Committee - a very busy man, so we appreciated his spending the time to come and hear students' concerns about the Iraq war, the situation in the Middle East, the economy and the recent scandals over MPs' allowances.



MP Andrew Dismore

In response to some well informed and certainly impassioned student questioning, Mr Dismore defended the government's involvement in the Iraq war, on the grounds that removing dictators and restoring democracy is what Britain stands for. On the even more controversial issue of the situation in the Middle East, Mr Dismore spoke up for the rights of Israel to defend itself against Hamas rockets, a view which students clearly understood while many expressed sympathy for the suffering of the Palestinians in the conflict. Both sides of the question were represented in the hall, and, despite the warmth of feeling, a respectful ear was given to all questioners. Mr Dismore also jostled with Politics teacher Justin Nash, who questioned the government's handling of the economic crisis, with Mr Dismore jocularly accusing him of reading too much Conservative propaganda! At times it was like the cut-and-thrust of the Commons itself. Many thanks go to Mr Dismore for coming in and talking to us.

Imagining the future

Did you know that a rise in temperatures of 2°C could lead to a fall in food production of between 12% and 20% by the end of the century? Or that online grocery shopping increases by 20% every year - which just shows the increasing "disintermediation" of our economy?



This and much more was discussed by Economics and Business Studies students who had the great pleasure of attending a talk by Ian Morley, Chairman of Corazon Capital Limited, an Asset Management Company and Director of Dawney Day Quantum, on December 2nd. Ian's talk was filled with provocative food for thought, hair-raising forecasts for the future, and memorable graphics, which certainly got students thinking out of the box. Ian also addressed the grim question of Britain's recession - were we out of it, and why did France and Germany seem to be getting out of it faster?

It all made our students even keener to find out more about the world we live in. Thanks very much to Ian Morley for his time and we look forward to welcoming him back at Brampton College soon.

Theatre in Education

Brampton students enjoyed an array of theatre visits last term, both for pleasure and to support their learning. The English Department treated students to the celebrated London production of Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Rachel Weisz as Blanche Dubois, and more recently took in the Stratford Circus version of set text *Dr Faustus*, which gave a very clear account of a play which can appear somewhat obscure in the classroom, particularly in its comic scenes. Along with the Art Department, English students also saw a new play, *Red*, about the great abstract expressionist painter, Mark Rothko. Meanwhile, on a more populist note, Elaine Grahame and David Turner snapped up bargain tickets for the Theatre Club outings to *The Lion King* and *Chicago*, both still well worth a visit.



Martyn and students at *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Striking success for overseas students

Our little group of international students have a great record of academic success at Brampton, and it's important for them to be happy here socially too - something that John Barron, the international student coordinator, takes care of. John meets the students every week and organises social and cultural events. The year kicked off with a special international cuisine lunch and a trip to the ten-pin bowling at Hollywood Bowl in Finchley. It was a great night out for all. We divided up into two teams of seven. After the first round Guobin led team 1 with an impressive 115 with his brother Weibin hot on his heels. Kenny was in the lead for team 2 with 106 with Fuming close behind on 104. Refreshments served before the second game fuelled Guobin and Fuming to a further 9 strikes between them, and by the end there were an impressive 27 strikes and 19 spares from all players. Karan was official photographer, and he concentrated more and more on taking photos as his bowling form deteriorated. Chao, Oscar, Deyan and Zhehan, all new to the game, learnt from their mistakes in the first round and all produced vastly improved scores in the second. Well done to everyone who came along and joined in the fun. Congratulations to Guobin on being student Champion and to Fuming for coming a close second. A special thanks to David Turner who came along to lead Team 2 to a gallant defeat!



Royal Academy life drawing class at Brampton

The traditional art of life drawing is now a central feature of Brampton's Art A level course. In March lecturers from the Royal Academy came in to hold a special one day masterclass for all our Art students. Rebecca Liu's lively drawing shows they are making very good progress already.



The Sporting Life

As ever, Monday night football has helped some students to achieve a healthy work-life balance despite the pressure of exams. Enthusiasm and energy weren't quite sufficient to cope with a skilful DLD College XI which made its way north for a friendly in November, but the 5-3 scoreline reflected a spirited performance, particularly by our forwards. This year table tennis has been a new addition to the extracurricular sport on offer. Following a very popular charity tournament organised by Pilar Barron, our Head of Maths and secret devotee of the game, Bagher Sadrieh has this term organised both friendly and competition play for all comers on Tuesday evenings. Nobody yet can touch the College's guru of the paddle game, chemist Bill Price, but some of the youngsters are coming up fast on the rails.

Charity Fundraising

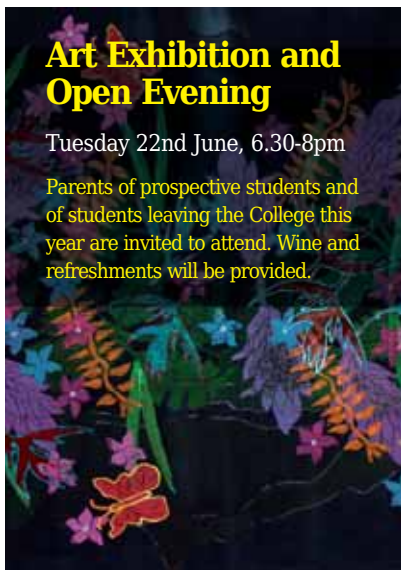
At Brampton we encourage students to raise money for charity. This year, the focus is on helping children and families in the UK and abroad affected by homelessness, domestic violence and disease. The students chosen charities this year are Macmillan's, Make a Wish, Barnardo's and CHIVA.



UCAS Evening
Thursday 6th May

Parents of all AS Students are invited to attend this important evening devoted to explaining the university application process.

From 6.15pm




Art Exhibition and Open Evening

Tuesday 22nd June, 6.30-8pm

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 2010-11.



Please contact Pam Glenville on 0208 203 5025 if you wish to make an enquiry about admission.

Talent show brings curtain down at Christmas

Brampton's young performers raised nearly £400 for the Macmillan cancer research charity on the last day of autumn term, with a delightful display of music, dance and comedy talent. Rising star of Saturday morning television Dan Levine had the audience in stitches with his brilliant take-offs of Rafa Benitez and other sporting personalities, while at the other end of the cultural spectrum, Mariko delighted everyone with a spellbinding piano solo. Ravi and Piri did a fantastic piano and song act, and there was a beguiling dance display from Deenal, Anisha, Ekta and Priya. The money raised will go toward Macmillan's provision of the specialist nurses and other healthcare workers who do such vital jobs in looking after cancer sufferers and their families.



Our brave and talented contestants

Spirit of charity allows children to "make a wish"

Spiders' webs and tiny flitting bats, trailing through our hair as we made our way to class more warily than usual, foreshadowed a Halloween gathering of white witches and gentle ghouls in late October. Teachers and students alike doffed academic formality to connect with their inner pagan and dress up in cowls, masks and theatrical make-up, paying £1 to the charity "Make a Wish" for the privilege (and £2 if they didn't dress up!). On arrival at College, a horrifying 'Scream'-masked figure awaited students to collect their donations in his pumpkin basket, and the devil himself ran around selling treats (for souls). Many thanks go to supportive students and staff. £325 was raised for 'Make a Wish' on the day, and we cannot wait to organise further fundraising events, enabling the granting of more wishes to children with life-threatening conditions.



The Halloween welcoming committee

Giving and receiving

The Krispy Kreme sale is always one of the most reliable ways to part students and teachers from their cash in aid of charity, and this year's sale proved as popular as ever. Setting up eye-catching stall in a thronging reception area and hawking their wares with the buttonholing bravura of barrow-boys, the fundraisers sold over three hundred delicious doughnuts in four days: a great effort, and a further £162 going to Macmillan as a result.



Tucking in