
BRAMPTON COLLEGE



Newsletter

Summer 2016



Celebrating 25 years of transforming students' lives

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Principal: Bernard Canetti

“The experience could not have been better”



Iman and Soma celebrating on results day

Grateful parents praised College staff on August results day as their children gained top grades and won places at first-choice universities in another triumphant year for Brampton’s A level students.

“The superb teaching and incredible leadership produces a positive atmosphere and gives the students independence in learning, but support when needed”, said Mrs Katz, mother of Jessica, who gained A*AA and a place at UCL to read Geography. “The experience could not have been better and we highly recommend the College!” Brampton came top of the DfE London league table of sixth form colleges once again for the 15th successive year, with 46% of grades achieved at A*/A and 80% at A*-B grades. These figures compare very favourably with the national average of 26% A*/A grades and 53% A*-B grades. Melissa Khan is another success story. Having come to Brampton College from JFS with Cs at AS level, she’s thrilled with her A level results of ABB. She explains “I would definitely not have achieved these results elsewhere. Brampton College built my confidence after thinking it was all over. They gave me the opportunity to reach my potential.”

Principal Bernard Canetti, says “We’re proud of so many of our students here, who have worked hard to achieve amazing results. It’s so rewarding to see students gain a sense of self-belief and confidence in their abilities. I also believe their results are testament to the College’s remarkable qualities and the dedication of our teaching staff to support and guide each individual.”

No. 1 Sixth Form College in London in the DfE* League Tables for 15 years

Name of College	Average point score per examination entry
Brampton	248.9
Cambridge Tutors	242.8
Ashbourne	240.8
DLD	230.0
Fine Arts	229.8
MPW	228.1
Ealing Independent	223.5
Chelsea Independent	220.0
Duff Miller	219.3
England average	216.1
David Game	208.3
CATS	207.5
Collingham	207.2
Regent	199.4
Wentworth Tutorial	196.6
Lansdowne	194.3
Acorn House	190.4
Bales	167.4
Average	223.7

A = 270, B = 240, C = 210, D = 180

* Department for Education

The parents’ perspective: inspiring change, producing results

My daughter, Georgie, fell short on A level grades in summer 2014. She started her resits at Brampton in September 2014.

The informal interviews that Brampton conduct for each student set the scene - intensive one-to-ones to ensure that the programme of study was appropriate. Indeed what was agreed was quite different to what Georgie had insisted that she was going to study. A really challenging programme was genuinely agreed by all - complete Art, which she had dropped at AS (she had done well at GCSE, predicted ‘D’ by her previous school at AS, but was inspired by Hannah, Brampton’s Head of Art), English Lit (she had obtained a ‘C’, learnt to loathe it, but was won over on the day by Martyn and Mike), and resit History (a subject she enjoyed). She obtained A,A*, and A, respectively, this year (2015).

I remain somewhat mystified how Brampton managed to get it right for Georgie and bring out from this one student, so downbeat in September 2014 given her previous poor performance, such high academic standards in all subjects by August 2015. Georgie frequently commented on the mentoring, one-to-one guidance and personal understanding by teachers throughout the year, together with pastoral support particularly as the deadlines approached. I cannot resist commenting that the derivation of the word ‘education’ is all about drawing out of the person rather than pumping in, which is clearly what happened in Georgie’s case and appears to be the ethos of Brampton College. I suspect these are key ingredients that not only put Brampton ahead of other sixth form colleges in the grades league table year after year, but renders a set of personal skills to their students that will endure well after Brampton is history to them.

Mr Done, Georgie’s father





Promoting mutual understanding

Brampton College is proud of the rich mix of cultures and religions that make up the student body. In fact, it's this diversity which so many of our students enjoy and feel makes the College so unique.

In support of this, we were delighted when Maajid Nawaz, the Founding Chairman of Quilliam (pictured), a globally active counter extremist organisation, came to talk to an audience of students, parents and teachers back in November. Mr Nawaz is an influential spokesman, author of an acclaimed autobiography and a former Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate for Hampstead and Kilburn. He talked openly about extremist ideologies, based on his first-hand experience,

poignantly just a few days after the attacks in Paris.

Principal Bernard Canetti is a keen supporter of Mr. Nawaz's work. "It has been a long-term aim to promote mutual understanding and respect for others' religious beliefs amongst our students. In fact, students often comment about how Brampton has given them the opportunity to make friends for the first time with those from different backgrounds. I was very proud to see how all students engaged so well with the talk. It is a timely opportunity for our students to hear a key thinker of our time, who has a remarkable life-story and presents a voice of sanity and moderation as well as a call to action."

Mr. Nawaz commented, "It was a pleasure to speak to students about the need for a secular democratic movement to challenge extremism."



Staff pre-run run!

Supporting Noah's Ark Children's Hospice

This year students felt strongly that they wanted to benefit the local community, and voted to support Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, a charity based in north London.

Noah's Ark is an expanding children's hospice service, serving life-limited or life-threatened children and young people, and their families, living within the communities of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington.

There has been a series of fundraising activities throughout the year in support of Noah's Ark. Brampton's efforts culminated in seventeen of the College's staff taking part in a superhero themed fun run in London's Regent's Park in

May alongside 3,000 others raising funds for various charities. Whilst the spirit of the event was 'taking part', Tim Mills, Head of Physics at Brampton, flew to the finish line to take first position in the 10km run.

A representative from the charity said, "The level of involvement across the College has been incredible and Brampton College has truly been a dream partner to work with. The £4,400 you have raised will go towards providing practical, emotional and social support to these families so their children can live life as fully as possible and they can treasure the time they have together. So on behalf of our families, I would like to say a complete and heartfelt thank you to all at Brampton College."

STUDENT STORY

A place to study Medicine

Since I was young, I've always known I wanted to be a doctor, but after a disappointing AS year I had my doubts about whether I could achieve my dream to study Medicine. But, my sister came to Brampton the previous year and left with A*A*A, so it seemed like a viable option.



From the first interviews with the teachers, I had the confidence that I could excel here. I took A1 Biology and Chemistry, A2 Economics and AS Mathematics. Despite the struggles, I worked hard and made use of tutorials or help from teachers, who happily obliged. I maintained a balance between work and social life, making new friends and staying in touch with old ones. The culmination of my efforts came on results day.

Now a gap year is my reward for the hectic year gone by! Brampton continued to support me through the application process and I successfully received offers from two universities for Medicine. I chose Barts and the London, Queen Mary University, where I start in September. In my year off, I've been working as a Pharmacy Assistant (recently receiving my qualification as a MCA), tutoring, volunteering at an Infant School as well as making time to travel the world! I can't wait to start uni!

Tasvee Karania achieved AAA in Biology, Chemistry and Economics and a place to study Medicine at Queen Mary, University of London.



Ronald behind the lens in NY

Trip to the Big Apple

New York is an amazing city. However, I feel visiting as an art and photography student, it was a completely different experience. Aside from the obvious tourist attractions, we learnt a lot about the city from gallery visits and exploring the hidden parts.

The trip was exciting as we were always on the go and this ensured that there wasn't a dull moment. We made the most of the time we had by walking to each destination, which let us gauge New York as a resident, as opposed to a tourist. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the well-anticipated galleries such as the MOMA and The Met. The enormity of these galleries was truly overwhelming and it was amazing to see the large spectrum of the different kinds of work on display. My favourite part of the trip was the visit to Chelsea and seeing all of the commercial galleries. It was inspiring to see the work of upcoming artists and this further widened our understanding of organic New York art. Overall, the trip was incredible and I would go back and do everything again, any day!

Shruti Lal, A2 Art Student

An exhibition of our students' artwork, some inspired by the New York trip, was on display at our Open Evening in June and can be viewed on our website bramptoncollege.com.

Biology brought to life

The AS Biology students enjoyed a day trip to London Zoo at the end of June.

They had talks from zoo staff on 'zoos and conservation' plus 'zoo genetics and breeding' before making their way round to visit some of the many animals at the zoo - the Sumatran tigers, seahorses and the meerkats being particularly popular! It was great to see the students asking perceptive questions in the talks and their interest in the wildlife. The visit helped students appreciate some of the topics in the Biodiversity unit of AS and prepare for their A2 studies and coursework.

Caroline Birch, Biology teacher



Ethan and friend

Expert advice leads to Russell Group university offers



King's College From Bench to Bedside Medical workshop

When A2 and A1 students arrived for the Autumn Term 2015, the task of completing UCAS applications commenced, and for some students this may have felt like an uphill struggle.

While some knew exactly which degrees they wanted to apply for, others were less sure. Each student has had access to an unlimited number of one-to-one appointments with our careers advisers, giving them the opportunity to refine their degree options. Our advisers clarify and simplify the application process, making sure the students have visited universities, read course content and are on target to achieve specific entry requirements. Personal Tutors and subject specialists have also played an important part in encouraging students to make decisions that will be right for them.

It is extremely important to make sure that a UCAS application reflects both the interests and the abilities of the student. They need to be inspired by the degrees they apply for, and also make sure they aim for courses with entry requirements that are neither too high nor too low for their abilities.

Time has flown by fast, and the majority of our students received and responded to all their offers by the beginning of May. All of our students have accepted offers from top UK universities, the large majority of which are Russell Group. With the exam period nearly over, we hope all our students secure the university places they have worked so hard for. Brampton College will be open on results day, which is 18th August this year. Our teachers and careers advisers will be in college to help students with any further advice they may need.

Sarah Galea, Higher Education Consultant

Out of the classroom

Study has been well matched this year with a huge number of trips, guest talks and extracurricular activity. Here's a snapshot.

In the Tuesday Debating Club, A2 students Joe Clarke and Sophie Biber chaired a series of vigorous and lively arguments on controversial topics, such as immigration, the deployment of troops in Afghanistan, gender neutral bathrooms, the legalisation of Marijuana, assisted suicide and abolishing single sex schools. Javier's Photography Club members produced some beautiful work (see picture). Monday night football thrived throughout the year, even in the coldest months, not least because we had



Anita Ezeh's photography club work

more than one decent and willing goalkeeper as well as the usual crop of would-be Ronaldos.

The AS Classics students enjoyed an afternoon of Greek drama at The Globe Theatre with a rare chance to see all of Aeschylus's masterpiece, the Oresteia, in one go. In February all of the final year Biology students attended the National Centre for Biotechnology in Education at Reading University. They carried out practicals which are often done at university and beyond, including PCR, Gel electrophoresis and putting plasmids into E.coli, working in the type of lab they would use at university. All of the techniques had been studied in lessons, but this gave students a chance to try them out!



Research proving fun at Reading University



The Oresteia at The Globe Theatre

Talking money with the Bank of England

During November, Deputy Agent for the Bank of England Simon Caunt delivered a presentation to Brampton students about Monetary Policy, the targets the Bank of England sets for the UK economy and how it plans to achieve them.

The target rate for inflation is 2% ($\pm 1\%$), which is measured using CPI. With the inflation rate for November 2015 being -0.1%, the Monetary Policy Committee have to write a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer every month it is not within the target. In the letter, they must explain why they are not within the set guidelines and how they plan to amend it. As you can imagine, the Committee have been writing plenty of letters recently!

Simon Caunt outlined the Bank of England's plans to have a positive output gap in three years. They also forecast for the next three years, as any changes in interest rates or

inflation rates are planned to take effect in the next 18-24 months.

Furthermore, he spoke about the problem of energy costs in the UK and the solution presented for early 2016. British Gas will reduce its prices by 5% so more houses will be able to afford central heating this winter. However, the 5% fall in prices may not be enough for the majority and the problem still remains one that needs to be sorted imminently.

Pranav Sangani, A level Economics student

Space calling

Earlier this year, Brampton GCSE students attended one of the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures, 'How to Survive in Space'.

Messages were sent to the audience from Tim Peake, and students found out about the science and experience of leaving Earth and getting to the International Space Station. The Christmas Lectures were started by Michael Faraday in 1825, and are the UK's flagship science series, available on BBC iPlayer.

STUDENT STORY

It's all in the preparation

Teaching here is the best you could possibly receive. I'm so thankful for the tutorials pre-exams and help with revision. I'm also grateful for the weekly tests, which meant that when it came to the exams, it just felt like any other week.



The small class sizes and this emphasis on tutorials made me feel well looked after and this stands Brampton College apart from any other college or school. No way would I have got these results

elsewhere. I'm feeling so happy right now. I had to work hard for it, but it's also a great surprise!

Henry Lewis has a place at Birmingham to study Political Economics having achieved A*AB in History, Religious Studies and Economics.

Prioritising students' wellbeing

We want students to really enjoy their time here at Brampton, to feel confident and able to achieve their goals.

There is a lot of research that shows that young people who possess confidence, persistence, organisation and the getting along skills are likely to achieve to the best of their ability. Consequently, we work hard to ensure that students' wellbeing is looked after as carefully as possible via a programme of support and activity.



Speaker, Kate Houghton

We were pleased to welcome back Kate Houghton to speak to our new students during the first term. Kate works for a company called Pacesetter and coordinates their Schools Wellbeing Programme. She came back later in the year

to run a wellbeing first aid course for our staff to discuss ways to support students in their care. In the summer term, Viv Osrin, our Educational Psychologist, ran mindfulness workshops to help our students relax and find an inner strength. This complements the care that all our tutors and senior staff provide to students and the work of our college counsellor, Barbara Hynes.

An outstanding contribution

This summer sees the retirement of Vice Principal for Sciences and Mathematics, Joy Mason, one of the most significant figures in the history of the College.

Joy took over from Andy Headford in 2006, bringing to the post years of experience derived from senior positions in outstanding schools, including North London Collegiate School and John Lyon.

She has had a profound influence in so many areas of the College. Joy's stewardship of the university application system at Brampton has ensured that all our students get the best quality help with this crucial process. In an era of increasing concern about the pressure on young people's well-being, Joy also introduced resilience training sessions for students at the College, and developed staff awareness and training in the area of young people's mental health.

She has also been a highly skilled manager of staff, not only fair and efficient but with a profound interest in nurturing teachers' skills and career progression: Joy has encouraged even the most experienced and



successful teachers to look at new methods to improve the learning of their students. In a rapidly changing regulatory environment, moreover, Joy has led the College's response to the increasingly demanding requirements of the DfE, ensuring that Brampton's policies and staff training are up to date. By any standards, Joy has had a hugely beneficial effect on the lives of thousands of Brampton students and made changes to the enduring benefit of all at the College in the future. She leaves with our most heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Bernard Canetti, Principal

A welcome to new staff

We are absolutely delighted to announce the appointment of Sarah Sephton as our new Vice Principal for Science and Mathematics and Sam Adams as Head of English.



Sarah is an outstanding educator with a very strong track record of success in teaching and leadership, especially in the area of university progression. After graduating with a first class degree in Chemistry from Durham, Sarah went on to take a doctorate and publish a string of scholarly articles in

her specialist field, before beginning her teaching career at Uppingham School. After a further period of research, Sarah joined William Morris Sixth Form, and a swift succession of promotions followed from Head of Department to the position of Assistant Principal. Married with three teenage children, Sarah is a keen chess-player and runner in her spare time.



Sam Adams joins us this year to take up the Head of English role, a position he has previously filled at Bedford School. He has a strong working knowledge of A level, IB and IGCSE English and has worked as an assistant examiner for CIE.

Sam worked as a teacher in central Tanzania and the Far East before taking an English Literature degree at Cambridge and obtaining his PGCE from the University of Buckingham. His literary hero is Benjamin Disraeli, but he is also a particular admirer of Ted Hughes and Thomas Hardy. He's travelled widely, most notably bicycling across North America and driving his beloved pick-up truck across Africa.

Brampton scholarships

Please spread the news that Brampton College is offering scholarships created specifically for exceptional students who may not otherwise be able to consider an independent college due to financial circumstance.

The scholarships will cover a substantial part of the fees, taking into consideration joint family income. Applications are invited from students expecting to achieve a minimum of five A*s at GCSE this summer, wishing to study two year A level from this September.

Places are limited, so applications should be made as soon as possible. Full details can be found at bramptoncollege.com/scholarships.

STUDENT STORY

From international shores



I came to Brampton three years ago from China, and it was my first time going overseas alone. Initially, I was not so confident in myself because it was a totally new experience for me. Fortunately, my teachers and friends at Brampton really helped me a lot to adapt to the life and study here.

Brampton offered me a lot of support to fulfil my objectives. Firstly, the teachers here fully trust the potential of every student and keep tracking the progress

of each of them. I still remember how my personal tutor encouraged me when I told him I wanted to get into LSE to do Economics on the first day of College. The weekly tests and reports kept me updated as to whether I was on track to get the grades I needed. Secondly, as an international student, I felt it was so helpful to get support from the College in terms of weekly training sessions where I got to learn a lot of solid skills. Thirdly, I gained a lot of support from the careers centre, my personal tutor, and my referee while I was preparing for my university applications. Their guidance was crucial and it really smoothed the whole process.

With all this help, I am now doing Economics at LSE and I love it. I will always miss my time at Brampton and the people there. I became really good friends with some of the teachers and we still keep in close touch.

Kunjing (Acacia) Zhong, who achieved A*A*AA in Economics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics.