

BRAMPTON COLLEGE

Summer Newsletter 2012

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“Excellent” inspection report endorses Brampton’s reputation

Brampton’s outstanding record of educational achievement was recognized once again this year with an exceptionally positive report from the Independent Schools Inspectorate. Visiting the College in early February, a team of four inspectors had high praise for the teaching, pastoral provision, curriculum and management of the college and were very impressed by the students’ academic and other achievements. “Teaching is excellent,” said the report, “The contribution of teaching drives the students’ excellent achievement and exceptional academic progress. Students regard their teachers highly and value their subject expertise and the painstaking way in which they provide support. Teachers have cultivated an exceptionally strong work ethic.” The inspectors admired the College’s academic monitoring system and the impressive way the college fostered students’ individual development, “boosting students’ capacity for vigorous independent academic effort and personal organization. The college’s excellent pastoral care system... requires students to be rigorous in self-evaluation and determined and sharply focused in their efforts.” The report also picked out the academic curriculum as a major strength of the college: “class sizes are very small,



Aliza being presented with a Student of the Year Award by Bernard Canetti.

and there is a flexibility in the range of courses and subjects offered. As a result, a timetable can be tailored to the individual requirements of each student.” It also acknowledged that Brampton was “highly successful in enabling students to make rapid progress and attain their personal goals of admission to places on prestigious university courses.” This latest report builds on the “Outstanding” Ofsted report of 2009 and provides further eloquent testimony to the hard work and dedication of our teachers and the excellent attitude of our students.

Students from top schools choosing Brampton for A level

North London Collegiate, Henrietta Barnett, South Hampstead High and Haberdashers: all are top-performing schools whose students have come to Brampton for success at A level. Indeed, 35 students have come to us from Haberdashers Boys’ and Girls’ alone in the past four years. Students appreciate the more informal, friendly atmosphere of the College while still being able to benefit from the best standards in A level teaching – such as Amy, one of five recent students from North London Collegiate: “Brampton has been a haven of good sense”, commented Amy’s mother, “We are delighted with her outstanding AS and A2 results. Brampton manages to enable and encourage students to attain impressive academic results without losing sight of creativity, humanity and pastoral care.” Charlotte Baker came here from Haberdashers’ and went on to study medicine at Oxford after getting top grades at A level, while Nabil from Haberdashers’ Boys has gained a place for Medicine at Peninsular with A grades in maths and sciences. Brampton’s expertise in teaching, university guidance and individual student care continue to attract the best students seeking a change after GCSE.

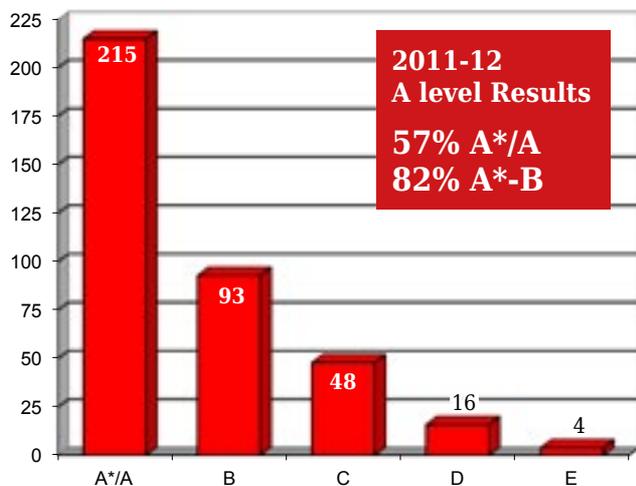
An outstanding student of modern languages, Rachel came to Brampton for A2 this year from South Hampstead School for Girls.



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Exam Results for 2011 & January 2012



Students of the Year 2012

The annual Art Exhibition Evening in June was once again a great success. New students and their parents got a chance to talk to those who have been with us for the last two years and to sample both the fantastic art work on display, and the delicious canapés. The exhibition was a tribute to the hard work of Head of Art, Hannah Hewetson, and her students, many of whom will be going on to study at top art schools next year, such as Chelsea and Central St Martins.

As part of the Evening, the College was also delighted to be able to give Students of the Year Awards to Jack O'Connell (Arts and Humanities), Aliza Askar (Science) and Abigail Pomeranc (for academic excellence and overall contribution to the College). Principal Bernard Canetti praised the example Jack has set in combining cheerfulness and sensitivity to others with academic application. Aliza was nominated by her teachers for her relentless determination to achieve, commitment to study and exemplary positive attitude both inside and outside the classroom, while Abi Pomeranc has combined high achievement, an excellent attitude to study and a consistently energetic contribution to the life of the College. Very well done to all of them!



A section of one of the exceptional art pieces produced by Brampton students this year.

Special Achievements 2011

We are very pleased to report that in 2011, 34 students (out of a cohort of 139) left Brampton with A level grades of AAA or above, and a further 32 students achieved grades of AAB.

Mehdi Goudarzi	A*A*A*A*A*
Haiyang Cheng	A*A*A*A
Diloushka Fernando	A*AAA
Brijmohan Pandya	A*AAA
Mariko Kino	A*AAB
Sara Arian	(A) A*AB
[REDACTED]	A*A*A*
Essie Buckman	A*A*A
Naomi Wijesingha	A*A*A
Natalie Barber	A*A*A
Akaash Shah	A*AA
Haseeb Khan	A*AA
Hetika Patel	A*AA
Karen Barnes	A*AA
Kavina Patel	A*AA
Kavit Chandaria	A*AA
Sonali Chandi	A*AA
Isabel Bloom	A*A(A)
Nadine Bomanji	AA(A)
Adam Cohen	AAA
Aliraza Ali	AAA
Akshar Patel	AAA
Amaan Hussain	AAA
Amir Hussain	AAA
Gabriella Yiu	AAA
Kaushal Sathilingham	AAA
Keval Pabari	AAA
Naomi Dias	AAA
Vanisha Patel	AAA
Viresh Patel	AAA
Vishal Patel	AAA
Layla Pirbhai	AA(A)
Hasini Senasinghe	AA(A)



Jack O'Connell receiving a Student of the Year award

Encouraging independent learning

A vital ingredient in educational success is becoming an independent learner. At Brampton we try to equip our students with the skills to undertake their own research, to work with others and lead a team, and to present clear, cogent reports to a critical audience – qualities that future employers want to see. In June our AS students undertook special projects in science and humanities designed to enhance these skills and to develop their understanding of key themes in their A level work.

The Gender Project

A key theme in most arts and humanities subjects is the relationship between men and women. Exploring issues of gender is a central aspect of English Literature, Sociology, Politics, History, Classical Civilisation, and Psychology at A level, and this summer Brampton students explored a variety of stimulating gender research topics: the representation of gender in popular song lyrics from the 1940s to the present day; the depiction of women in religion; the “normalization” of body images of women and men in the visual media; and an equality comparison between men and women in the UK and the rest of the world.



What would the elegant lady from the 1940s think of Lady Gaga? Magazines such as Vogue have long exerted great influence over the image of women.

The Gender Project got off to a flying start with a thought-provoking presentation of her research by academic Laura Jane Harvey of the Open University. Clips from the popular Jeremy Kyle Show vividly illustrated “approved” and “disapproved” kinds of behaviour for both men and women, while Laura’s findings as to young people’s use of social media shocked us into realising the extent of the pressure on young women to present themselves in sexualized ways to gain approval. The students themselves did a fantastic amount of research into their chosen topics. A group led by David and Rishi produced a very informative talk on different measures of gender inequality and the reasons behind it in the UK and internationally, while Emma and Jess gave an equally well informed presentation on the varieties of attitudes to women in Judaism. Psychology students learned the basics of research methods in some very interesting work on advertising. Remi’s group found a clear tendency to present men as powerful and women as sex objects in perfume advertising and on album covers, concerns also reflected in Max’s group’s work on advertising, while Dhrumi and Aashni found evidence for a trend against traditional behaviour stereotyping in the advertisements they looked at. The best presentation, however, was that of Krishen and Fleur’s group on the imagery of gender in song lyrics - a very professional piece of work. Determined research, organisational ability, impressive IT skills and confident public speaking were all very pleasingly in evidence in the students’ work.

Why study history?

The purpose of our visit to the Imperial War museum was to introduce us to the topics of both the First and the Second World War that feature in our A2 History syllabus next year. The Holocaust exhibition was disturbing, poignant and utterly thought-provoking. Despite having visited many other museum exhibitions about the Holocaust in the past, I nevertheless found the trip very informative and felt it was very moving in its detail of the indignities and atrocities suffered by millions of people.

The Holocaust galleries were especially striking, with a model of Auschwitz all in white that was as breath-taking as the glass case piled with the shoes of the victims; the one cold and clinical - a factory of death, and the other as up close and personal as you can get. The exhibition provided a fascinating insight into the steady build-up of anti-Semitism under the tyranny of Hitler, and was reflected in various pieces of incredibly powerful propaganda that were on display. It was a haunting reminder of the dangers of a totalitarian state. We also visited the WW1 exhibition, which was very interesting as the interactive displays provided a glimpse into the reality of life during a very traumatic period. May we never forget.

Jasmin Aziz, AS History student



An exhibit from the IMW Holocaust collection

Medical Advances

How does the brain deal with emotions? What is bionics? Can your diet improve your eyesight? And (ahem!) how healthy are Brampton College's teeth? These questions are just some of those which formed the basis of research on Medical Advances by our AS science, maths and economics students this summer, building on the success of the Drugs Discovery project last year. These cross-curricular research initiatives bring out skills and talents that we don't necessarily see in the day-to-day classroom experience. Teachers have been impressed by the enthusiasm, organizational skills, leadership potential and team-working talents of many of the students - increasingly in-demand qualities that we will be commenting on in students' university applications in September. "It was great to see the students in a different setting working so well together," commented chemistry teacher and project co-ordinator Kerry Bromley. After an initial session with their mentors, students set to work on a range of investigative experiments - from the measurement of the actual iron content in iron tablets, whose virtues we hear so much about, and of the effectiveness of a variety of disinfectants in eliminating harmful bacteria, to the testing of acid concentrations in various popular fizzy drinks. The project culminated in a presentation morning complete with judging panel and prizes on offer for the best overall project, best oral presentation and best poster presentation. Themes ranged from Cardiology and improvements in the use of x-rays to more political questions such as 'Should smoking be banned entirely?' to the purely scientific 'What is Huntington's Disease?' Individual awards for presentations were made to Dhrumi and Karan, and there was fierce competition between the top three groups for the overall prize. In the end, however, head of the judging panel Joy Mason announced that the project on contraception by Andrew, Jay, Gopi, Max, Urvi and Temisan was the winner. Very well done to all those who took part!



Dhrumi about to go under the knife at the Hunterian Museum



Krishen presenting his data

STUDENT STORY

Katherine's dreams of Medicine come true with move to Brampton

Katherine Bracken came to Brampton for A2 after a difficult AS year elsewhere to try to fulfil her ambition of getting into university for Medicine - and with our help, she succeeded. Here she tells us how...



I came to Brampton after an unsettling AS year, in which I was distracted from academic work by bereavement. I was hugely concerned that this would jeopardise my dream of studying Medicine. But I had heard positive things about Brampton from a friend in a similar situation, so I went to meet the VP, Joy Mason. From the very first meeting, I saw that Brampton was extraordinary. Individual circumstances like mine were very much taken into account: teachers would go out of their way to help a struggling student. At first it was not easy (doing two years' work in one was never going to be a walk in the park!). It took a while for my parents and teachers to rebuild my academic confidence, but with great encouragement from the excellent teachers, I began to see that I could do it. And after ten months of steady work, I did! I am currently studying Medicine at Bristol University and truly having the time of my life.

What is it about Brampton that sets it apart? Weekly tests, for one thing: excellent for ensuring you have actually learned the information. Another key secret lies in the less formal relationship with staff, such as being on first-name terms. Most importantly, they are approachable, friendly and experienced, and always there to answer questions. I am really grateful to Joy and all my teachers and hope they go on helping generations of students to realise their dreams.

University Preparation

Life after Brampton - exploring university options



Bristol University was very impressive.

Thinking about what you are going to do for the rest of your life is a tough business. So it's fortunate for Brampton students that they get expert advice on careers and universities from people who really know. Vice Principal, Joy Mason, and Careers Adviser, Pam Nathan, regularly sit on Medicine degree interview panels at University College London, and Joy runs a regular weekly forum on applying for medical and related degrees. In other areas such as Business Management, Finance, and Engineering, expert visiting speakers come in to talk to our students about their possible futures, from UCL, King's, City and other London universities. It was especially valuable to have Njide Ekijeme,

a process engineer at Tate and Lyle, come in to inspire some of our female students about applying for Engineering. "It was an absolute pleasure to welcome such a friendly, personable, knowledgeable female from the industry to the college. She did a really good job of selling the profession to the students," commented Hannah Oliver from the Chemistry Department. "There is already a lot of talk going on amongst our students about chemical engineering as a degree, which is excellent, as it shows that the horizons of many students have been extended."

This summer the College also ran trips to the university open days at Leeds, Bristol and Birmingham, and it was clear that these were invaluable in helping students make up their minds about the courses they wished to apply for and where. At Birmingham, the lecturers passed on very valuable tips about what they were looking for in an applicant as well as the kinds of insight into grade predictions and offers that you don't see on the UCAS website, while Niall Livingstone of the

Classics Department gave such a brilliant talk about his subject that our teacher wanted to do his degree all over again. The trips allowed comparison between different places' facilities, personnel and atmosphere, and between campus and city-based universities, but most of all a vivid glimpse of a future really worth striving for. In the remarkable discovery that Bristol is to the west, rather than to the north of London, the trips also hugely improved the geographical knowledge of one or two students!



AS students Miki and Richard enjoyed the visit to Bristol

Snap decision pays off for Dentistry hopeful

STUDENT STORY

Gagan Preet Rakhra came to Brampton from a small school in Hayes for a two year A level course in Chemistry, Biology and Maths and an AS in English Literature. After gaining top grades, she fulfilled her ambition to read for Dentistry at the University of Birmingham.

Joining Brampton College was for me a spontaneous decision! I had already started my A-levels at my previous school and two weeks into term I decided to move. I'd spent 10 years at my previous school so moving to a new place was quite daunting. I was, however, pleasantly surprised by the welcoming and friendly environment Brampton's teachers and students presented. It made the whole transition much easier. What I experienced at the college was a sense of strong discipline, but at the same time the relationship between the staff members and students was very informal. One thing I really enjoyed was that the teachers encouraged the students to address them by their first names and there were no uniforms! In this relaxed atmosphere all the teachers were very approachable and we could talk to them easily. One of the main reasons I

chose the college was that it had a good reputation for getting students into their desired universities. Coupled with the fact that Brampton is well equipped in ensuring students get their best possible grades, this made it the ideal choice for me. I had many practice interviews for university and was given very helpful and useful feedback on my personal statement. The college was very much involved with my whole university application, which made me feel well supported along the journey.

I am now studying Dentistry at the University of Birmingham. Two years into university life and I am thoroughly enjoying it, while still not forgetting the great memories I have of college, and the amazing friends I made who I still keep in contact with. Brampton College was a great two years!



Photography appointment: Paula Gortázar

Photography A level is an exciting new addition to the Art Department at Brampton, offering students the chance to master a wide variety of techniques and genres. We are delighted to announce the appointment of Paula Gortázar, a photographic artist whose work has been widely exhibited in the U.K. and Spain and published in different international media. Among several photographic Awards, she has recently been nominated for the Sony World Photography Awards 2012. Since 2008 she has combined her art practice with teaching photography in higher education; first at Universidad de Comillas in Madrid and later in London, where she worked as a visiting lecturer at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. Paula is now working towards a PhD that explores contemporary documentary photography in Eastern Europe during the Post-Communist era. "Photography is a very challenging subject as well as creative and inspiring," says Paula, "Motivation more than technical skill is of paramount importance. As an art discipline, it is a subject that invites students to consider the human condition in all its diversities."



Copyright Paula Gortázar



Sarah Galea

A warm welcome to Sarah Galea (PgDip QCG) from Strode's Sixth Form College into our Careers Department. Before qualifying in careers guidance, Sarah worked within different job sectors including developing her own online employment website, which promoted work-life balance and flexible working options. Sarah has also worked as a journalist for Associated Press, and has lived overseas in Spain and France. She loves Spanish and Latin American culture as well as History of Art. Sarah lives in South London with her husband and 12 year old son.

Sarah replaces our long-serving Careers Advisor, Carol Lipman, who is retiring this year. Carol's expert knowledge of the university system has benefited many students here over the years, and she has been especially brilliant in arguing the merits of deserving overlooked cases

with admissions tutors. Originally a teacher of economics, Carol also worked as careers advisor at City of London Girls' School, building up a distinguished record of helping young people achieve their career aims. She has "made aliyah", to live in Israel, where we wish her a long and happy retirement.



Ruth Harbit

We are extremely pleased that current part-time biology teacher Nadia Ham Pong will be continuing on a full time basis, and will also be helping to cover for Natasha Hagan, our Examinations Officer, who is going on maternity leave (good luck, Natasha!). Ruth Harbit also joins us in the Biology Department. "I grew up in central Scotland" says Ruth, "and have always enjoyed getting out and about in the countryside and travelling. I studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge University, where the courses in human evolution and health were the ones I found most captivating.

After graduating in 2004, I worked as a research assistant at St. Georges Medical School before doing a PGCE. Since then I've taught in London, including time at Henrietta Barnett School and have also taught in New Zealand for a year. I'm looking forward to joining the Biology Department at Brampton College this autumn."

We are also very pleased to welcome John Gillings as teacher of Politics and History. John was brought up in Surrey and deepest Suffolk. He read Politics and History at the University of Kent, and had a brief career in the City of London as a commodity broker before going into teaching. He taught at schools in Stratford-upon-Avon and Blandford Forum, before becoming head of Politics at Oundle School in Northamptonshire. John's interests include travel in obscure places, antique collecting, japanese gardens and wine.



John Gillings