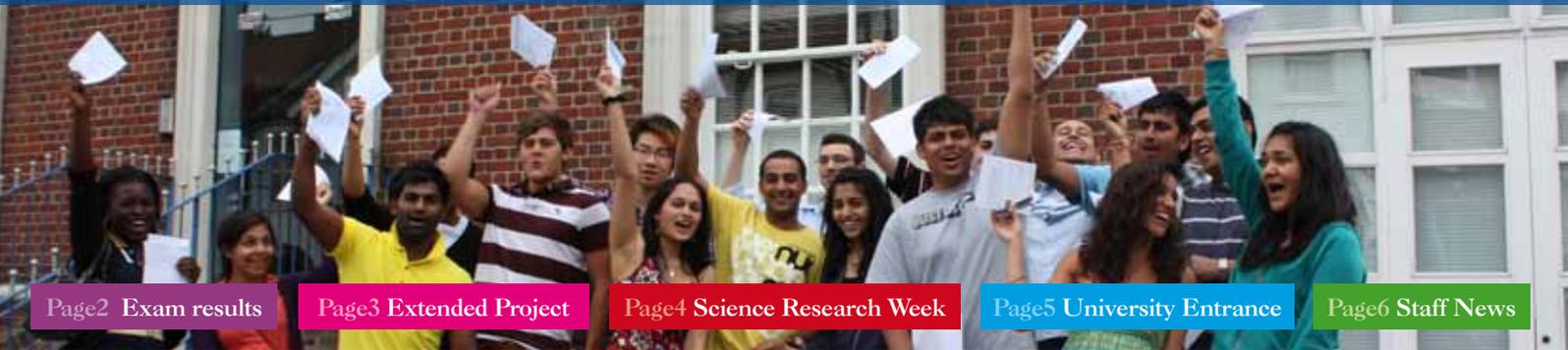


BRAMPTON COLLEGE

Summer Newsletter 2011

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Brampton maintains outstanding record with 2010 results

Brampton's January A level exams yielded once again a bumper crop of top grades, with 96% of entries achieving an A or A* . This comes after a fantastic year for the college in 2010, when 57% of A level entries gained A*/A grades, and 89% A*-B grades. For many, the results made a huge difference to their future prospects. Karen Barnes' A grades in Maths and Biology, for example, saw her dreams of going to medical school come true, while Isabel Roberts's A* in History secured her chosen place for Geography. Sonali Chandni scored a fantastic 100% in three out of four Chemistry A level modules (and got 96% in the fourth!). Even more impressive is the fact that Sonali achieved this remarkable feat while commuting daily from Nottingham!

Brampton's unrivalled team of expert A level teachers, highly qualified and steeped in examining experience, continue to provide the best opportunity in London for students needing to retake A levels in order to gain entrance to the most competitive university degrees.

Bernard Canetti, Principal

Students of the year

We're proud of the achievements of Brampton students this year: there have been some fantastic efforts across a range of subjects and extracurricular activities. To mark some of the most outstanding, awards have been made at A2 level to Mehdi Goudarzi, who has reached British Olympiad standard in both Chemistry and Physics and won a place to read Natural Sciences at Cambridge University, and to Natalie Barber, whose cheerful social skills, as well as her commitment to the study of History, Sociology and R.S., have been an asset to the College over the last two years. At AS level, James Jiang has shown great interest and endeavour in all his subjects as well as real talent in Mathematics, while Liora Richman was also rewarded for her commendable effort and skill in chairing a very successful charity committee. Very well done to them all!

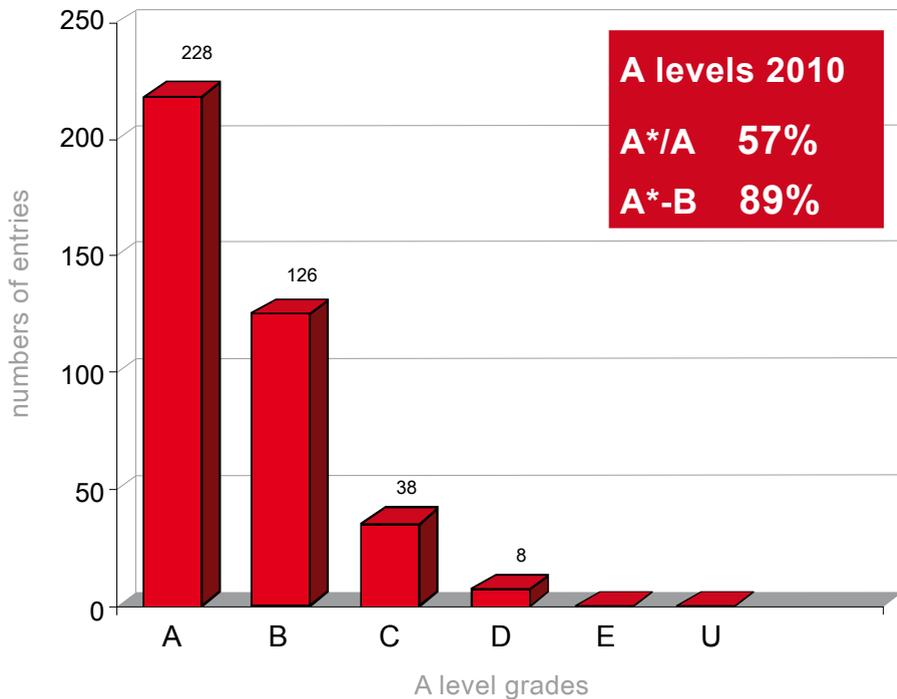


Brampton's Art Department goes from strength to strength under the guidance of Hannah Hewetson, producing stunning quality work, like Meetal Karia's piece above, top grade results and places on first-rate art foundation courses and architecture degrees.



Principal Bernard Canetti and award winner, Natalie Barber.

Exam Results for January & June 2010



Special Achievements 2010

We are very pleased to report that in 2010 out of 130 students, 38 students left Brampton with A level grades of three As or above, and a further 32 students achieved grades of AAB.

Charlotte	Baker	A*A*A*(A)
Mohammad	Nikkerdar	A*A*A*A*A*
Jason	Karp	A*A*A*A
Pedram	Kordrostami	AAA(A)
Bhavin	Borkhatria	A*AA(B)
Raminda	Karalliadde	AAA(A)
Mahdi	Saeidinejad	A*AAB
Rakhee	Patel	AAAA
Amy	Bottrill	A*A*A
Rebecca	Liu	A*A*A
Anusha	Reddy	A*AA
Eve	Alexander	A*AA
Katherine	Bracken	A*AA
Nabil	Yaqoob	A*AA
Priya	Kotecha	A*AA
Shradha	Patel	A*AA
Teresa	Tang	A*AA
Xiaodong	Zhou	A*AA
Amy	Wagner	AAA
Ashni	Adatia	AAA
Bansi-Nikhil	Shah	AAA
Bijal	Patel	AAA
Deenal	Patel	AAA
Deeva	Shah	AAA
Gagan Preet	Rakhra	AAA
Kajal	Patel	AAA
Iqra	Khan	AAA
Juhi	Patel	AAA
Kalpesh	Shamji	AAA
Rahul	Bhundia	AAA
Rajiv	Soneji	AAA
Rushvini	Ambihaipahan	AAA
Taran	Sidhu	AAA
Ayesha	Kotecha	AA(A)
Holly	McEwan	AA(A)
Jing Wei	Luo	AA(A)
Pareena	Patel	AA(A)
Sabree	Thakrar	AA(A)

Student Story Amy Wagner



Amy came to Brampton after a disappointing AS year at a local comprehensive school. She left with three A grades in History, Politics and Psychology and a place to read International Relations at Birmingham University.

I came to Brampton after having not received the grades that I had hoped for

in my AS levels. I had worked hard for my first year of exams but I never really knew how to answer an exam question or how to revise properly for them. It came as a shock to me how much harder AS levels were from the GCSE examinations.

I came to Brampton seeking help and support and they welcomed me with open arms - offering me extra tutorials, exam tips and an unlimited supply of past papers. From my first day in Brampton College, the teachers made an effort to get to know me and to help me change my approach to how I went about revising for my exams. Throughout all my school years, teachers never encouraged me as much as they did at Brampton. The College made me want to achieve my very best. As well as the support from the staff at college, I met students, many of whom are now very good friends. They were in the same position as me, and we all felt supported the whole way through our year at college.

I never thought that with the grades that I had originally received in my previous school, I would ever get a place at the university of my choice and that I would have the opportunity to take a year out but with the help of the college, it was all made possible. I am currently in Israel experiencing a different culture, living,

studying and volunteering. Next year I have a place at the University of Birmingham to study International Relations. Brampton made it possible for me to have a year with no worries and a year which would prepare me for university life.

I want to thank Mike along with all my teachers, Heather, Barbara, Justin and Judi, who encouraged me, supported me and who had faith in me. I couldn't have done it without Brampton College.

The Extended Project

An inquiry into how to clear up space junk; a study of the evolution of women's fashion; an essay on the art of the film poster, with accompanying film; and a thesis on the effect of English on the German language. All are examples of the Extended Project Qualification (or EPQ), an exciting new option available to Brampton students - to complete a piece of original research on any subject of special

interest to them. The EPQ offers an invaluable preparation for university study, and it is worth as many UCAS points as an AS level. Students receive training in research and presentation skills, and some tutorial guidance along the way, but it's essentially their own show. Students have to choose a special area of interest and refine that into a specific, well conceived inquiry. They then conduct extensive research

and analysis before putting together a 5,000 word thesis, the findings of which they present to a non-specialist audience. Alternatively, they can present an artefact or an event, such as a production of a play, along with a shorter critical essay. It's clearly a challenge, but it can also be a fantastic way for students to pursue a favourite interest or nagging question and get credit for it at the same time.



Students can also produce an artefact as part of the Extended Project Qualification, which gives scope for artistic talent like that of Essie Buckman, whose work is shown here.

Antigone

Even more than most Greek tragedies, Sophocles' Antigone has been presented from a vast range of perspectives over the years. Central to it, however, are the conflicts between state and family, and between men and women. Brampton students saw these issues neatly transplanted to a contemporary Middle Eastern setting in the recent Southwark Playhouse production. The brutality and desperation of the power struggle between the characters can seem far-fetched in a north London classroom, but became urgent and engaging set in an Arab Spring familiar from our TV screens. As often in recent productions of tragic drama, beautiful singing in unfamiliar melodies made

a very effective contrast to the rigid certainties of Creon and Antigone. Lisa, one of our Classics AS students, was in no doubt as to its merits: "That was really good!" she said at the end. Is there any more relevant drama on the London stage?



Lisa has been an enthusiastic theatre-goer in Classics and English this year.

Ai Wei Wei

The other-worldly animal heads made by Chinese dissident artist Ai Wei Wei at Somerset House, seen by Brampton students this term, have taken on a depressing political significance after Wei's house arrest in April, their aesthetic freedom weighed down by the thought of the artist's imprisonment. The twelve heads - representing the years of the Chinese zodiac - refer to China's past: the original versions of them were designed by 18th century Jesuits serving the Chinese court, and ransacked by British and French troops in 1860. Wei's version restores the harmony of the zodiacal circle, while the bared teeth of the huge iron heads dispel any sense of cosiness. Like the courage of their artist, they command respect.



The pig, a peace-loving and generous creature in zodiacal lore.

The Wider Curriculum

Dirt, Drugs and Dolly the Sheep

For one week in June, AS students studying Biology, Chemistry and Psychology got together to take their knowledge beyond the syllabus, with a visit to the Wellcome Collection, making aspirin, researching a healthcare-based topic and presenting their findings to a judging panel and a big audience at the end of the week.

Where there's muck...

Our day trip to the Wellcome Collection was fascinating, writes Elliot Kent. The Collection contains visible evidence of how much our knowledge and ideas about drugs and medicine have developed over the centuries. Striking artwork portrayed the way



The Great Dust heap, an everyday sight in 19th century King's Cross

people have felt about particular medical conditions such as obesity and diseases related to malnourishment. The latest discoveries about DNA were on show, and we even saw before our eyes a copy of the whole human genome written out in a combination of the 4 nitrogenous bases of DNA. The print was tiny but still managed to fill dozens of thick books. We also learnt more about cloning and particularly the case of 'Dolly the Sheep', which was great because it furthered our understanding of a topic we learnt about in Biology AS. The museum also houses the famous Dirt exhibition, which features exquisite pen-and-ink drawings of bacteria from early microscope observations, and paintings of blue-lipped cholera victims from 19th century London, as well as shocking photographs of workers in modern-day Kolkata going about their everyday job of removing human excreta from public cesspits.

Sugar all round

Students also really enjoyed doing the research and presentation task - on a drug, a family of drugs or a disease. Nine groups each picked a different topic - Elliot's group did 'The Placebo Effect' and were truly amazed at how so many illnesses could be cured just by consuming sugar! At the end each group presented their findings

to a panel of the finest judges from the Brampton staff, who, along with fellow-students, passed approving judgement on the proceedings. Leader of the winning group, Sabina, said, "I know the effort and time teams spent to present their chosen topics to the best of their ability. My team decided to focus on the very topical E-coli bacteria causing diseases such as HUS, and how the world's most expensive drug Soliris is being researched into curing it. The topic was really interesting and encouraged us to put 110% into providing the panel, teachers, parents and fellow students the most information we could, in a fun but professional way. Overall my team felt this was a great opportunity, which allowed us to develop our team work skills, and as leader I developed skills in delegating roles and using responsibility well."



The judges, Nicky, Joy and Martyn.



Pedram Kordrostami

Student Story Pedram Kordrostami

I came to Brampton College straight after my GCSE's. The choice of college was made swiftly by me and my parents without much research. It turned out to be one of the best decisions made so far in my life.

This may sound completely over dramatic, but moving from a 30 person class room in a run-down east London school into a well taught and organised curriculum was something I longed for while I was doing my GCSE's. I had little support, guidance and motivational drive at my secondary school. This was not the case at Brampton. All students have staff mentors as well as having the chance to see experienced career advisors.

I also made very good friends at Brampton College. One of the best qualities about the institution is the amount of freedom, (within reason), students have. It has eased me comfortably into university life.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Brampton College. I left with 4 A's and I'm currently studying Medicine at Barts & the London School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Detailed preparation behind Brampton's outstanding university entrance record

When there is so much anxiety about securing a place at a good university, it is reassuring that once again almost all Brampton students gained a place at a university of their choice last year. 70% of last year's leavers went to one of the thirty universities rated as best in the country by the authoritative Sutton Trust, or to places in Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry or Pharmacy.

Key to this success is the superb preparation they receive for the university application itself. Intensive workshops in June for all AS students incorporate talks on popular degrees and careers from university admissions tutors, workshops on writing that tricky assignment, the Personal Statement, and individual careers appointments for every student. This is followed by day trips to popular universities such as Nottingham and King's, to show students two contrasting ideas of university life. But the June workshops are only the culmination of a program of interviews, talks and evaluation sessions with Personal Tutors during the year aimed at raising students' awareness about the opportunities available to them after Brampton.

The heart of the city, or rolling green parkland: which is the right place for you?

King's has been the destination of Brampton students for Law, Classics, Maths, Management, Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences in the least two years, so it seemed a good idea to show this year's AS students what their predecessors found so attractive. Over twenty students came to tour the campuses at Guy's near London Bridge and at King's on the Strand after their exams were over.



Abi, Danielle and Lisa on the trip to King's, London

Both sites tastefully combine classical 18th and 19th century architecture (ivy-clad at Guy's) with ultra-modern streamlined steel and glass, which cleverly sequester students from the noisy streets beyond. They feel stylish and serious - the kind of places where people go to become successful professionals, a slightly chastening effect not lost on our visitors as they took it all in.

A sunny riverside stroll from Guy's to the Strand revealed the exciting advantages of King's city location, and by the end, many were ready to pencil King's into their UCAS plans.



Hugh Stewart Halls, Nottingham University

Nottingham's verdant, undulating campus could hardly be more different from King's, yet it too has been a popular destination for our students, in Economics, Classics, Accounting and Finance, Pharmacy, Archaeology, Management, Engineering, American History, Maths, Geography, Neuroscience and many more. In mid-June, we took a party of AS students up to explore at one of the university's big Open Days. And they were impressed: apart from its academic excellence, Nottingham has a very attractive bright, modern campus, where students are made to feel comfortable and can enjoy a wealth of opportunities for social and cultural life and health and fitness. The Lakeside Arts Centre and the Medical School were particularly inspiring. One of the additional attractions these days is chance to study in Malaysia and China, where one of our recent alumni, Elliot Cohen went, when he read Economics and Chinese Studies at Nottingham. There was a special presentation at the Open Day about studying at the University of Nottingham's Far East campuses as well as other really useful talks on Student Life, Money Matters, University Sport, and the Application Process. We expect Nottingham to be the destination for many Brampton students again in 2012.

David Lee takes Singapore Assignment after 11 Years' Service

The College wishes a very fond farewell this year to David Lee, ICT Manager and teacher of ICT and Physics. David and his wife, Isobel, also formerly of this parish, are off to sample life in Singapore, where David will take charge of all things ICT at ACS International School. To describe David as Stakhanovite barely captures the mammoth effort he has put into transforming Brampton's computer resources over the last few years.

Always adventurous, until a few years ago Dave's idea of a luxury summer break was to sleep in a plastic bag on a Scottish mountainside after a thirty-mile hike and a Mars bar. He has wanted to go abroad for some time, but typically would not leave us until our current very high spec system was fully bedded in and teachers, management and parents were really feeling the benefits of it. It was not uncommon

for David to work until the early hours of the morning in College, go home for a couple of hours rest and then be here for a 9 o'clock start. The demands of the Asian tiger economy should hold no fears for him. A very popular teacher and a great colleague, David will be missed by us all. We look forward to his reports of his activities in due course.



The College also bids a fond farewell this year to Peter Allington, well known here for his eloquence and erudition, as well as his mathematical teaching skills, and to Justin Nash, who has given fantastic service to Politics and History teaching in the College in the last two years.

New arrivals add to existing strengths

Oliver Dowling will take over from David Lee as Head of ICT. Oliver will be introducing to the College a Virtual Learning Environment, which will make a wealth of high quality educational resources available to Brampton students at the click of a button. The appointments of Graham Cook in Economics, Hilary Bjorkstrand in Biology, Hannah Oliver in Chemistry, and the return of Margaret Lalor in Maths will consolidate even further the teaching strengths of the College.



Hilary Bjorkstrand

From a childhood spent reading "My family and other animals" by Gerald Durrell, to watching my hero David Attenborough travelling the world observing wildlife, Biology has always been important to me. It is a vast and fascinating subject, covering everything from reactions in tiny cells and how living organisms behave to understanding how

these communities interact on our planet. I completed a 4 year Applied Biology course at Bath University followed by a PGCE at Leicester University. I then taught science at a community school in Peterborough where I was Head of Biology. Following a break to have my 3 children, I returned to teaching on a part-time basis to teach Biology GCSE and A level.

I still love wildlife, and have spent recent holidays on safari in South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania, as well as bird and whale watching in Wales and Scotland.



Graham Cook

Graham graduated from Swansea University with a degree in Economics and started his teaching career in 1990 at Edmonton County. Since 2003, he has taught Economics and Business Studies A level in Essex schools for the last eight years. He is looking forward to moving back to London again and teaching

Economics at Brampton College. For Graham, the highlight of teaching is seeing students achieve at A level and go on to be a success in their lives. Specific highlights include working with a business class to organise a talent show to raise money for Children in Need and the Bank of England competition. Both of these were opportunities for students to excel in activities out of the classroom and to work more independently.



Hannah Oliver

Hannah was educated in Surrey where she studied the three sciences at A level and then spent a year trying not to fall off racehorses before she went on to the University of Birmingham to read Biological Sciences. During this time at University she developed a love for the more intricate, chemical mechanisms that underpin

the living world and the joy of communicating these puzzles. Her doctorate took her to Dundee to measure the sunlight (!) levels and work with patients with unusually light sensitive skins. With three journal publications under her belt she sailed through her viva and onto a teaching course. Hannah has now been teaching Chemistry and riding her horse in West Wales for the past five years and is looking forward to doing the same things in north London.



Oliver Dowling

Oliver says he is very happy to be starting his job as head of ICT and e-learning at Brampton. He comes to us from Dartford Grammar School for Girls, where he was at first Head of Upper School ICT and was then promoted to be Head of ICT for the school. He gained his honours degree

in Computer Science and then a PGCE from the University of Kent at Christchurch. Oliver has already got stuck into his new role, holding meetings with all members of staff focused on the use of ICT resources in the College. He particularly likes to spend his spare time cycling, walking and observing the flora and fauna of the beautiful New Forest area of Hampshire. He's also very fond of cooking, from Indian and Japanese dishes to cookies and whoopee pies.