

BRAMPTON COLLEGE

Spring Newsletter 2012

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5A*s take Mehdi to Cambridge as Brampton students excel again

Brampton students showed again in 2011 why the College remains the number one choice for independent sixth form education in London. Leading the way was Mehdi Goudarzi, whose 5 A* grades in maths and sciences won him a coveted place on the Chemical Engineering degree course at Cambridge University. Mehdi was one of over 35 students to gain at least 3 As at A level last year, with many outstanding performances across the curriculum. 55% of all A level entries gained A* or A grades, while 69 students achieved at least 340 UCAS points from their three A levels (AAB or equivalent). Among many other impressive individual performances, [REDACTED] went on to read Law at Warwick University after gaining three A*s in English, History and Religious Studies, while Natalie Barber and Essie Buckman each gained 2 A*s and an A in arts and humanities subjects. Fantastic results in the maths and sciences included individuals like Diloushka Fernando, who has gone on to read Medicine at Queen Mary, London after gaining grades of A*AAA.

Brampton is now ranked as the 66th best independent school in the whole country in The Times A level league table of independent schools, (and is the only London sixth form college in the top 100 schools).

Bernard Canetti, Principal



Georgina celebrates the top A level grades that took her to a place for Architecture at Manchester University

2011 A level Results

55% A*/A
81% A*-B

London League table 2011

Brampton College has yet again come top of the London A level league table of independent sixth form colleges. In 2011 Brampton's average point score per A level entry was 247.9, comfortably above a B grade and well ahead of scores achieved by our competitors.

Name of College	Average point score per A level entry
Brampton College	247.9
Fine Arts College	234.6
Abbey College	234.0
David Game	233.6
MPW	228.3
Duff Miller	223.7
Lansdowne	220.9
DLD	220.2
Acorn Independent	219.5
Collingham	218.7
Ashbourne	217.8
National Average	216.2
Ealing Independent	214.8
Wentworth Tutorial	203.0
Regent College	199.5
Bales	152.7
Average	225.3

New subject: Photography A level

From September 2012, Brampton's extremely successful Art Department will be offering Photography for the first time. Students will be able to take Photography A level on its own or as an option alongside Fine Art, Textiles and others within Art A level. Photography offers the chance for students to learn how to express ideas and experiences to a very high technical level, to learn how to work independently on challenging projects and to feel a real sense of achievement by producing images that others can admire and be inspired by. It also equips students with highly marketable skills for our media-saturated world.

"Like other Art A level options, photography demands a lot of research, planning and reflection, specialised technical knowledge and skill, and a great deal of practice", says Mike Wheeldon, VP for Arts and Humanities, "but the rewards are huge, not just in terms of a top grade at the end of the course, but for life: self-confidence, technical and

creative ability, attention to detail, perhaps most of all the lesson of working hard to achieve something really worthwhile - you can get all this from Photography at A level". Students will explore both film-based photography, learning about film types and speeds, dark-room techniques and image manipulation, and the use of hardware and software in digital photography. There is even a chance to work with the moving image in the Photography A level to produce one's own film narrative or animation. Students can combine Photography with any other set of A levels, including Art itself, or may wish to experiment with it as an AS level before deciding on their A2 choices.



Beijing, by Zoe Weinstein. Zoe has offers from several prestigious American photography schools for September.



Warm-ups in the workshop

Working with the Donmar: Inadmissible Evidence

Drama from the post-1945 period can be confusing for audiences used only to the conventions of Shakespeare, Ibsen and the "well-made play". Characterisation, plot, use of language and the stage: all can be challenging. From the mid-1950's on, John Osborne brought to British drama the kind of excoriating examination of a society's values that Arthur Miller and

Tennessee Williams had to American theatre in the late 1940s, where an audience's comfortable assumptions about a pleasant night out were convulsed by what they saw. Brampton students were doubly fortunate in November this year both to see Douglas Hodge's amazing animation of Osborne's character, middle aged solicitor Bill Maitland in *Inadmissible Evidence*, and to work with the Donmar Warehouse outreach team on the creation of such a figure on stage.

Sam Maynard, Education Officer at the Donmar Theatre, came to lead a practical drama workshop for all AS English Literature students. After a discussion about contemporary theatre and the Donmar Theatre space in particular, Sam introduced *Inadmissible Evidence* to the students in preparation for their visit to see it a few days later. After warm up exercises to relax everybody and get them used to practical work, students worked on creating a space within which to deliver speeches from the play, which blurs reality and dream in the life of Bill Maitland. Students explored how to evoke different levels of tension in physical performance and the ways in which sub-text can be conveyed during a speech.

As well as being fun and a change to the usual diet of textual study, the workshop

Old Comedy shocks audience of teachers and pensioners

Ancient Greek comedy seldom fails to surprise a modern audience. Filth, farce and absurdity vie with mordant satire and sophistication, street-talk jostles with soaring lyric song in a cocktail that has no equivalent in our own theatre. Aristophanes's *Lysistrata* is one of its best examples: produced in 411BC when Athens was facing its gravest crisis yet in its long war against the Spartans, the play's heroine, *Lysistrata*, persuades the women of the two cities to unite in a sex-strike to persuade their menfolk to end the ruinous conflict. As well as the riotously funny scenes of frustration that ensue, the playwright has plenty to say too about the failings of the politicians and the sexual politics of the city. The Actors of Dionysus production at Kingston's Rose Theatre in November proved an excellent introduction to the genre for our students, where an expertly directed small cast showed a range of theatrical skills in bringing out Aristophanes' wit and ingenuity as well as his unblinking ribaldry - just on the right side of the line for an audience of OAP's, sixth-formers and their nervous teachers.



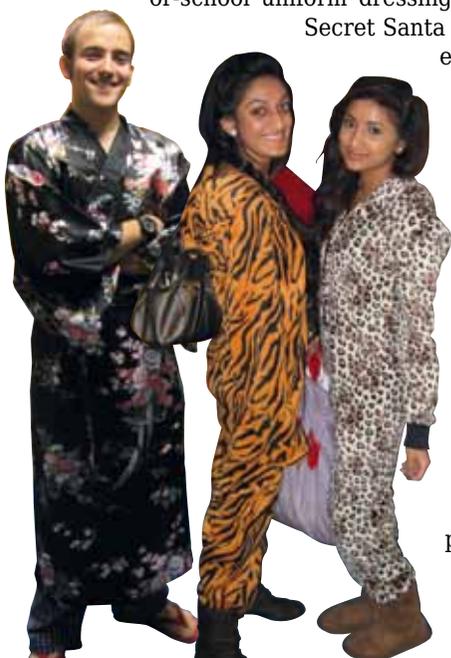
Lysistrata chorus pray to the gods

encouraged students to think about the specific play and its themes as well as the wider issues of theatrical/dramatic literature in preparation for the drama text they will be studying from January (Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*).

Douglas Hodge's performance in the role was a mesmerizing display of self-laceration. Like Marlon Brando's Stanley in *Streetcar*, you can't take your eyes off him. We're very grateful to the Donmar team for showing us how such theatre is achieved.

Students' fundraising enjoys big success

Brampton students were as enthusiastic as ever about raising money for charity last term. Focusing on particular causes of their own choice - this year, Barnardo's and Youth Cancer Trust - students put on a mouth-watering cake sale, a pyjamas-or-school uniform dressing up day (pictured), a Talent Show and a Secret Santa service, raising over £1700 in total. More events are planned for this term.



"We've chosen to raise money for Barnardos, as we feel it is important to help children who are less fortunate than us, particularly those who have suffered from domestic violence or poverty" explained Vinunti, head of the charity committee. "In supporting Barnardo's charity, we hope to help improve the lives of children and young people across the UK. We're also supporting the Youth Cancer Trust, which provides free, fun, activity-based holidays for young people suffering with cancer or any malignant disease, from anywhere in the UK and the Irish Republic, or who are patients of any UK hospital." They're both really worthwhile causes and students have responded warmly to the charity fundraising efforts.

New start at Brampton leads to top grade success

Gabriella Yiu explains how a switch to taking A levels at Brampton helped her gain the university place she wanted. Gabriella gained AAA grades in English Literature, History and Psychology.



Gabriella Yiu

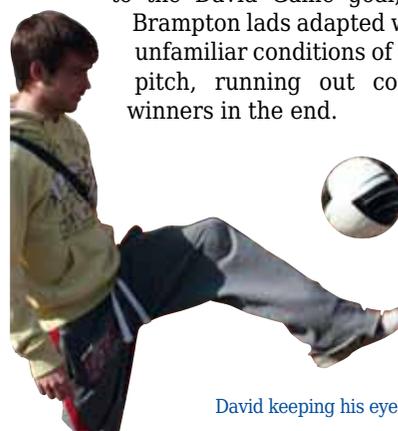
I came to Brampton hoping to achieve better grades after receiving disappointing AS results. My experience at the college was definitely an enjoyable and fulfilling two years. Being in a smaller environment than I was used to enabled me to get to know the teachers better and also helped build up my confidence. They were understanding and approachable which made me feel more comfortable in seeking their help and they were always happy and ready to help. They constantly encouraged me which made me want to achieve my best and I felt supported throughout my time there. The extra tutorials and weekly tests, though a lot of hard work, were extremely beneficial to my studies as I was able to pinpoint and focus on areas I was weakest in. I

found it easy to fit in as fellow students were extremely friendly and many were in the same situation as me. I made some great friends during my time there, many of whom I still keep in touch with. I was delighted with my A-level results and for this I owe a huge thank you to Brampton College and all my teachers who helped me on the way. Since leaving I am currently studying Psychology at the University of Birmingham and thoroughly enjoying my first year here.

Football Focus

Brampton 8, David Game 3

A great team effort characterised Brampton's performance in this tricky away fixture against a skilful David Game College side on an unseasonably balmy late February afternoon in west London. The first phase of the match saw Brampton battle for midfield supremacy, with Syahmi, Colm and Mustafa putting in some sterling resistance against more technically accomplished opponents, and eventually allowing David and Ade the space to show their own dazzling footwork. Or's powerful left peg was always a threat to the David Game goal, and the Brampton lads adapted well to the unfamiliar conditions of a tight 3G pitch, running out comfortable winners in the end.



David keeping his eyes on the ball

Gifted and Talented

A delightful and surprising end to the term came with the annual Talent Show, which once again gave students the chance to reveal skills and aptitudes in areas their teachers had never imagined. Tara had the daunting task of going first. Adele, David and Shaya (with Michael accompanying) stunned the whole hall with their moving lyrics. There was a terrific display of Dhol playing from Nandish and of dance from Bhavini, Nikita, Vinunti, Ozzie and Priyesh (pictured), and Kojo's comic pianist act was a hoot. But the surprise winner was Benji's hilarious air-drumming act, which had the audience falling about. Well done to Sid and Karan for hosting too - a really enjoyable event.



My week in Segovia



If I could choose how to spend my February half-term, working in a Spanish gift shop would not rank too highly on my list; but that is exactly what I did this year. As soon as my Spanish teacher mentioned the idea of work experience, my parents were obsessed. I spoke to friends who did the same trip last year, and they told me that it was a lot of fun. Although I knew how good it would look on my CV and personal statement, I was still reluctant. But, I had very little say in the matter and before I could say "I'm not really sure," my parents had paid the deposit. I sent off my application form and before I knew it, I was at the airport waiting for the flight to Madrid. As I didn't know anyone else in the group and especially as I wasn't very confident with my Spanish, it was a pretty daunting task.

February is not exactly "high time" in the tourist industry, which meant that most of the time I was speaking in Spanish to my colleagues. This was a great way for me to practise, and they were very tolerant of my mistakes. My employer was kind enough to say that I understand and speak Spanish very well. The Halsbury Work Experience scheme is a great programme to experience life and culture in a foreign country. It was a good way for me to make new friends and practise my language skills which is invaluable especially as I am considering taking Spanish beyond A-levels. I would recommend it to anyone studying languages because whilst

my Spanish may not have improved in terms of vocabulary, I feel a lot more confident now than I did before and I'm very pleased that I took this opportunity.

James Graham: James is in his first year at Brampton, studying Spanish, English, Politics and History.



Segovia: Main Square and interior of Cathedral



Getting to know the way around

Overseas co-ordinator Tim Mills and his team of personal tutors provided a great intro to London for his charges in September with a Monopoly run around the sights in town. They based the day on the game of Monopoly and the students visited as many sites as possible in one day! Points were awarded for the most places visited and the students were required to take a photo with their mascot as evidence. The winning team received a tourist guide to London and some chocolates. "A great day was had by all who attended last Sunday on the Monopoly Run", said Anna Cai. "The aim was actually to show us all the important places in London and how to get there, but it was also an interesting game. We were tired but really enjoyed it. We got lost at the end but we got to know London better than we had before and we took a lot of photos with the symbol of our team."

To cut or not to cut

Economics and Finance guru Ian Morley's annual talk to Brampton students was as topical and interesting as ever. As an adviser to the OECD and government he is always worth listening to, reports Krishen Vaya, AS Economics student.

This year he elucidated the UK's current account deficit and the debt situation in Italy and Greece, with a grave assessment of Greece's €340 billion debt and a devaluing currency, which he attributed to overspending and failures of economic management across the board.

Ian also put the present problems into historical context. Previous trends showed that recessions do happen on average every 10 years (the 1990's dot-com crash, the housing market crash, 1980's increase in taxes and cuts in government spending). Asked why the UK wasn't similarly under the spotlight, Ian replied that our time will come! He warned that the UK government's policy of swift, deep cuts, especially of the NHS, could backfire. We need a healthy working population to maintain the country's output: a fall in output could cost the government even more money in the long-run than is saved by cuts now. Ian argued that a supply-side increase will have a greater impact on the economy and the population as a whole: more people would have the required skills and unemployment would be reduced, resulting in an increase in output and a stabler inflation rate. Ian's talk helped Brampton's students understand why such events happen and his take on them proved stimulating to teachers and students alike. We look forward to seeing him again at Brampton next year.

