

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2015



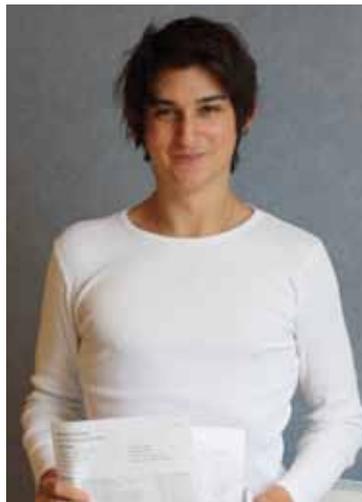
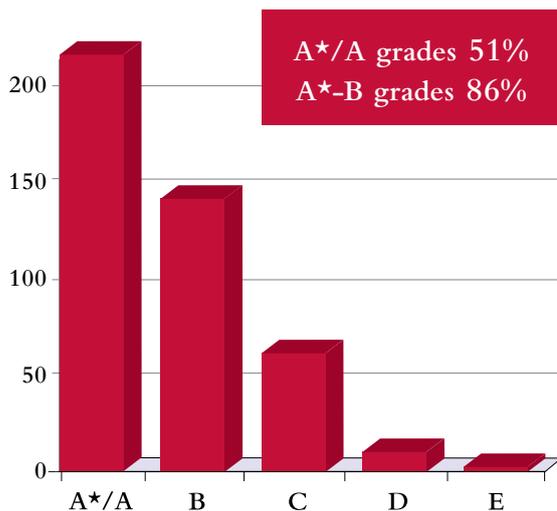
**Brampton tops
London A level
league table again**

OUTSTANDING RESULTS **ART TRIP TO PARIS** **OXFORD, MEDICINE, DENTISTRY SUCCESS**

BRAMPTON COMES 4TH IN THE COUNTRY FOR ADDED VALUE

While Brampton came top of the sixth form college table in London once again in 2014, the College is even prouder of its “value added” score. This is the Department for Education’s annual measure of the improvement that schools make to students’ academic performance between GCSE and A level. In 2014, Brampton came fourth out of all the schools in the country on this measure – a fantastic achievement, which is testimony to the College’s tried and trusted emphasis on small classes, expert tuition, plenty of individual help and regular testing.

Overall, 51% of exam entries in the College were A* or A grades, and 86% achieved at least B grades, allowing the vast majority of our students to go on to their first choice of degree course. This very pleasing set of outcomes included Chaja Meixner and Joel Kosmin, who won places at Oxford University, Chaja to read English Literature at Worcester and Joel to read Biology at Pembroke. David Hirschowitz, Andrew Cunningham and Ehsan Ghaffari obtained places for Medicine, while Zainab Oshodi, Heenal Vekaria, Anushka Patel, Shivani Shingadia and Simran Jand all got in for Dentistry. Melissa Shemie gained a place for Veterinary Science, while Tony Yang, who gained A*A*A*A* grades, went on to read Chemistry at Imperial College.



Leo on A level results day, 2014

TOP OF THE LEAGUE - 14 YEARS ON THE RUN!

Brampton secured first place among London sixth form colleges yet again in 2014. The Department for Education’s figures for the average A level points score show Brampton comfortably ahead of its competitors.

Name of College	Average point score per examination entry
Brampton College	252.0
Ashbourne College	245.9
Fine Arts College	232.3
MPW	229.0
DLD College	223.8
Ealing Independent College	223.5
Duff Miller College	221.2
Collingham	217.2
Lansdowne College	216.7
David Game College	216.2
England average	215.0
Acorn Independent College	213.3
Chelsea Independent College	208.6
CATS College London	202.9
Regent College	200.9
Wentworth Tutorial College	196.1
Bales College	87.8

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

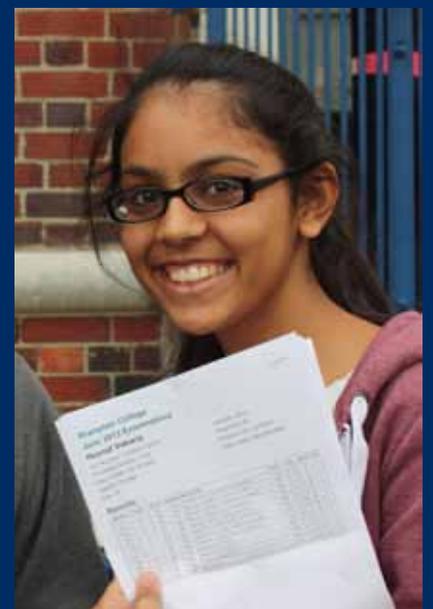
STUDENT STORY

HEENAL VEKARIA

Once I had decided to pursue a career in Dentistry, I knew I would be taking on a very big challenge. Dentistry is one of the most sought-after courses in the country. Yet, with all the help and support from Brampton – the tutorials, the passionate teachers – I achieved top grades and built up an application that eventually saw me gain a place at Newcastle University. I also made some amazing friends at Brampton - it wasn't all just about work!

Although my first application to university was unsuccessful, Brampton encouraged me to take a gap year to build up my experience and try again. So I did. Travel – climbing in the Himalayas and the Andes – helped me see things

from a different perspective, and I believe that is what made me stand out from other candidates for Dentistry. During my gap year, the College helped endlessly with my personal statement, seeking additional work experience, interview techniques and preparation and UKCAT guidance. Without this extra support, I would not have met the standards that the Dental schools were looking for. The College’s help and inspiration was truly priceless in getting me on to my ideal course. Now, just finishing my first year as a Dental student, I can definitely say my two years at Brampton were well spent. I was constantly motivated by the teachers to chase my dream and not give up on it, and for that I am truly grateful.





Mena and friend on the Biology field trip in June

BRAMPTON STUDENTS SEE THE CUTTING EDGE OF BIOLOGY

Brampton's Head of Biology, Ruth Harbit, has been showing her students the fascinating frontiers of the discipline this year. In March she took them to the National Centre for Biotechnology in Education at Reading University, where they carried out PCR, gel electrophoresis and put plasmids into E.coli.

They worked in a real university lab and carried out the kinds of practical that are often done at university and beyond. All the techniques had been studied in lessons, but this gave students a chance to try them out! Then in April they visited the Francis Crick Institute, a medical research centre made up from the six most successful scientific and academic institutions in the UK. Here's what Nimai and Ramiz had to say about it.

"When we arrived at the institute, many of us were amazed at the sheer size of the building and its magnificent façade. We began with a series of short, insightful lectures - a revision of the

immune system, which turned into an analysis of its more detailed components and the various hidden, subtle mechanisms we have in our own bodies. The talk was really well illustrated by analogies to warfare and the army. After the lectures we had a set of intriguing workshops on the PhD students' current research, one of which included looking at a crystal in x-ray crystallography with extremely cool 3D glasses! We felt privileged to have a glimpse into the deep and intricate discoveries these researchers, just a few years older than ourselves, are making. At the end of the day, there was a quiz on the things we had heard about during the day, including a few questions relating to topics on our syllabus, which was all good revision.

On the whole it was a fantastic trip. We were very impressed at the advances the scientific industry is making and look forward to hearing of the weird and wonderful discoveries to be made in the near future."

TONY'S TOP GRADES TAKE HIM TO IMPERIAL

One of the brightest stars of the science department last year was undoubtedly Tony Yang.

Tony has a gift for Mathematics and combines a love of learning and exploration with great determination in his studies of Chemistry and Physics. He is also an exceptionally nice chap with a range of extracurricular interests which he follows with great enthusiasm, particularly cycling and playing the guitar. Not only did Tony gain a distinction in AEA Maths and a Gold Award in the Maths Olympiad, he scored 4 A* grades at A level, and has now gone on to read Chemistry at Imperial College London. Well done, Tony!



Tony receiving an academic achievement award from Bernard Canetti

PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY

Brampton opened the eyes of AS students to their future this year with a programme of talks from professionals, academics and undergraduates on a wide variety of degree and career fields, and our June UCAS workshops showed them even more possibilities. All students had in-depth reviews of their AS year with their Personal Tutor and the implications for A2 and beyond. They then received extensive training on how to write the dreaded UCAS personal statement. Our expert careers advisers, Pam Nathan and Sarah Galea, helped students to clarify their ideas. There was also a wide range of visiting speakers. These included Joe Pearlman, Professor of Economics at City University, and Dr Qiwei Chen, an expert on Accountancy and Finance from Brunel University. Mr Dilip Chauhan gave a fascinating talk on the ethics of Pharmacy, while Dr Richard Cooke, also from City, was back by popular demand to speak on Psychology. Dr Bev Pullen and her colleagues from the University of Surrey spoke on Law, and Amy Donaldson-Davidson of QMUL was very informative about choosing universities and the range of humanities degrees. Our own Paul Conyers, meanwhile, gave an intriguing presentation on careers for science students in the City of London.



Sarah Galea, Careers Adviser, at work

CHEMISTRY OLYMPIANS

Thirteen Brampton students entered the International Chemistry Olympiad this year, with Lucas achieving a silver certificate, and Victoria, Tommy and Ify bronze certificates – very impressive achievements in this extremely challenging competition.

The questions posed in round one always stimulate debate and generate enthusiasm for Chemistry by raising students' awareness of what the subject is all about. Tackling them also provides a good opportunity to develop some of the skills required for study at university and beyond. Well done to all our thirteen entrants!



Lucas with VP Joy Mason



Hannah, Javier and students outside Notre Dame Cathedral

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Hannah Hewetson, Head of Brampton's vibrant Art Department, organised another wonderful trip for students this year after previous visits to New York and Venice.

This time it was Paris, whose galleries rival those of any city in the world. There is brilliant artwork to see almost everywhere – painting, sculpture, photography and architecture. One of the most intriguing experiences of the annual art trips is that after spending a few days immersed in it all, your eyes don't feel quite right unless they are gazing at some lovely line or hue. But as in New York and Venice, we also got to see lots of fascinating contemporary work in little galleries, particularly one exhibiting funny photomontages by a friend of our photography teacher, Javier. We saw astonishing medieval stained glass windows, with such poignant details of 12th century life, as well as the distinctively French humour of the wacky sculptures by the Pompidou Centre. And of course we went up the Eiffel Tower and ate a lot of nice French food – falafels in the Marais were probably the highlight. It was a really good bonding exercise for the new students and one that filled them with ideas for their own work.

OUT AND ABOUT

The month of June saw AS students taking advantage of the capital's opportunities to explore their subjects outside the classroom. English and Psychology students went to see the dramatization of Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, a superbly realised study of social and psychological problems that had our students entranced. AS historians were primed for the study of Germany next year with a visit to the recently re-opened Imperial War Museum, where amid all the new arrangements, the Holocaust exhibition retains its sombre and appalling impact.



Graham Cook and students at the Bank of England

Economics students enjoyed not only Ian Morley's impressive conspectus of the world economic outlook but also a fascinating talk by Simon Caunt, Deputy Agent for the Bank of England, on monetary policy as well as a trip to the Bank itself to see its brilliant exhibition, which animates economic ideas in such witty and memorable fashion.

STUDENT STORY



Chaja Meixner came to Brampton from Immanuel College after her GCSEs. She gained A* grades in English Literature, History, Classical Civilisation and German and has now gone on to read English at Worcester College, Oxford.

Classes at my previous school were not large, but they did not compare with the uniquely small and personal classes at Brampton, which encouraged both a high level of discussion and contribution within the group, but also created essential bonds between students and tutors. My initial motivation behind applying to Brampton was partly the wide range of subjects it has to offer, such as Classics, which I may not necessarily have been able to study elsewhere, as well as the inherent independence of a sixth form college. In the sixth form it is important to use one's non-class time wisely, and I was pleased with the way I met this challenge, as finding the necessary discipline and organisation to do so is both a vital skill in general but also great preparation for university. That being said however, the amount of support, time and dedication that were offered by tutors both within and outside of classes was remarkable.

It is this which I felt made Brampton so special, and which has resonated with me even after leaving: the unique care and attention given to students, alongside the immense wealth of knowledge and passion for their subject that each tutor had to offer, and which made attending classes a thing to look forward to rather than dread. I cannot stress enough the care and effort tutors invest in their students, both in terms of exam preparation but also when it comes to the daunting task of applying to universities and writing personal statements. My Oxford application also involved the dreaded interview, the nature of which seemed impossible to gauge or prepare for. Nonetheless, I was given the opportunity for a mock interview at Brampton, which I felt put me more at ease during the real thing. Tutors were also happy to recommend and lend me books outside of the curriculum, to continue feeding my love for literature and keep me stimulated when certain aspects of the course may not necessarily have done that, which I massively appreciate. I honestly believe that had it not been for the strength and quality of teaching, which did not only help me get the grades I needed but also nourished my passion for what I was studying, I may not have been able to receive the opportunity to study what I love at a place as prestigious and wonderful as Oxford.

THE SENHOA FOUNDATION

BY RUSNA KOHLI

Recently I travelled to Cambodia to do some charity work for an amazing organisation called SENHOA. It is a non-profit organisation which helps children and girls rescued from human trafficking and exploitation.



Children rescued by the SENHOA Foundation
image by Philip Benusa

The situation is very bad in Cambodia for girls, as children as young as 5 are sold into the sex industry due to extreme poverty and corruption. SENHOA help girls rescued from sex trafficking by teaching them skills and giving them opportunities so they can stand on their own feet. They specialise in designing, manufacturing and retailing a jewellery brand. The jewellery is individually handcrafted by the girls themselves. SENHOA partners with Swarovski so the girls can use the crystals to make stunning jewellery that they can be proud of and sell to make an income.

I got an amazing, life changing opportunity, to go out to Cambodia with the SENHOA foundation to teach 33 vulnerable girls in the art of threading and henna. I did not know what to expect at all but the seven days I spent in Cambodia changed me as a person. These girls were so grateful that they were given a chance in life to learn something useful. They have always been told that they are worthless, so they do not even get the chance of an education. Most people think that girls who are trafficked have been abducted, but I was shocked to learn that in most cases their own families sell them for nothing more than 50 dollars, so they can feed themselves and the rest of the family for a few months. It is so important to teach them a skill which will generate income for their personal and financial independence. These girls were so hungry to learn a skill; it usually takes 3 weeks to teach these skills, however these girls learned it in 4 days. Whilst teaching, I felt simply overwhelmed as I watched girls my age and younger who have never been to school learn so quickly. Knowing that I taught them a skill that will improve their quality of life gives me an unbelievable amount of contentment.



Not only do the SENHOA foundation help girls, but they also have a Lotus Kids club. This is a grassroots project dedicated to supporting street working children, their families and the community in which they live through education, basic healthcare and community building initiatives. It is a preschool programme to educate 3 to 5 year olds. In Cambodia, to send your child to school is considered a loss of income; instead they make children as young as 3 collect rubbish on the dangerous streets or sell them. Lotus Kids Club gives the families of the children rice, medicine, bicycles and healthcare as an incentive for them to send their children to school. Whilst on my trip I had the opportunity to visit the Lotus Kids Club twice and interact with the children and their families. A lot of them did not have clothes or shoes; their teeth were rotting. It was extremely hot, but they were still so happy. I also had the chance to visit not only the homes of the children, but also of some of the girls I was helping to train. I'm sitting here trying to put into words the state of what they call home, but words cannot express what I saw. I was struck by the poor quality of the primitive bamboo shacks surrounded by waste and extremely threatening debris. I'm not usually an emotional person, but watching these children and girls in their surroundings made me feel helpless.

I went to Cambodia to teach these girls, but I ended up learning a lot from them. Things that we take for granted like food, education, hygiene, healthcare, safety, opportunities, happiness and a loving family are a dream for them. I was given the chance to make a difference in the lives of 33 girls. This was not just a one off trip for me. I will not stop helping the SENHOA foundation. You can visit the website Senhoa.org and if you think you can help in anyway, please don't hesitate. We are all lucky and blessed where we are in our life, and if we can make a tiny difference in someone else's life, why not?

Rusna Kohli



Learning the art of henna helps the girls to make a living

BAKE SALES RAISE MONEY FOR NEPAL

This year the Charity committee has been busy with bake sales! Funds raised by the committee in May were augmented by the Brampton Charitable Trust to send a total of £2000 to the Nepal Earthquake DEC.



Sara, Anandi and Sarah on the cake stall

STAFF NEWS



The College welcomes two new teachers in September, 2015.

Belle Bandell joins the Chemistry Department while Lara Carter (pictured) joins Hannah Hewetson in Art. Lara is a very experienced Head of Art, who was actually Hannah Hewetson's mentor in her earlier career and is really excited about teaching with her again. A textile artist in her professional life, Lara is devoted to bringing out the best in her students.

Belle graduated from St Andrews University in 2009, and gained her PGCE in 2011. She is joining us from a high-achieving South London sixth form college, where she was made Teacher in Charge of Chemistry at the end of her NQT year. She says she's very much looking forward to the new challenges ahead and to becoming part of the Brampton community.



This year sadly sees the retirement of Pam Nathan, careers adviser and unofficial counsellor to hundreds of our students over the years.

Pam has been with us since 2002, and students have always found in her a reliable guide to the path ahead and a sympathetic ear for their troubles.

She has determinedly championed both those students applying for the most competitive courses and those struggling to muster the grades to get into higher education.

Pam has formed a hugely effective team recently with Sarah Galea, who takes over the main responsibility for careers in the college now. Good luck in your retirement, Pam!

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ!

At Brampton we take seriously the pleasure of reading. Every Wednesday afternoon, Brampton reads – students and teachers put down their work and in a delicious text-and-twitter free silence, escape for a while into a good book.

A2 student Iona Whitehead has really made the most of it. "I really like the reading period because I can get stuck into some very interesting books that I might have missed if I'd just spent the time chatting or looking at my phone. I've read all kinds of things: Owen Jones' *The Establishment* and an extraordinary book about the war called *A Woman in Berlin*.



Now I'm reading a fascinating book I picked up from the college library called *The Book of the City of Ladies* by a medieval woman, Christine de Pizan".

The reading period is part of Brampton's aim to encourage students to get the most out of the world of books. In an age dominated by the micro-texts of Twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook and the rest, leisurely immersion in longer texts – stories, novels, non-fiction of all kinds – is an endangered occupation, especially for teenagers. We've also appointed a new Literacy Co-ordinator- Nicky Carling. As a Biology teacher, Nicky is passionate about improving the ability of her students to provide clear explanations of scientific processes, and she is leading the staff in a drive to improve students' range of expression in all subjects.

NEW A LEVELS, OLD VALUES

Brampton's teachers are raring to go with the new "linear" A levels being introduced in September. The hard work of last year, discussing options, planning schemes of work and finding resources has put them in the best position to help their new charges

But not all subjects are changing yet – about half them are not changing until 2016, and one of the biggest, Maths, is not changing until the year after. So, many students will still take some subjects next year that are examined on a modular basis, taking AS levels in summer 2016 which count towards their final mark at A level the year after – in Geography, Languages, RS and Politics, for example, as well as Maths.

At Brampton we are also offering two subjects, English Literature and Computer Science, on the Cambridge International Examination Board (CIE). Unlike other boards, CIE are retaining a modular structure, enabling students to take AS levels in their first year which will make up 50% of their overall A level; students will also be able to retake these AS exams in the following year if need be.

This flexibility suits Brampton's ethos of tailoring academic programmes as far as possible to the needs of the individual. We are confident that our response to the changes in A level will continue to maintain our outstanding record of results in the years ahead.

BRAMPTON SCHOLARSHIPS

For the first time ever, Brampton College is offering up to six scholarships to enthusiastic and academically gifted students, who may not otherwise consider an independent college due to financial constraints.

The scholarships will cover a substantial part of the fees – up to 60% – taking into consideration family income. They are open to students expecting to achieve a minimum of five A*s in GCSEs taken this summer, and to those wishing to study two year A level courses beginning this September 2015. Full details and an application form can be found at bramptoncollege.com/scholarships. Places are limited, so applications should be made as soon as possible.

