

BRAMPTON COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2014

A photograph of two students in a science laboratory. A male student with glasses and a light blue t-shirt is leaning over a table. A female student with long blonde hair, wearing a black and white striped shirt, is standing next to him, holding a large sheet of paper with a photograph of a green structure. The background is filled with shelves of various chemical bottles and lab equipment.

**Brampton tops
London A level league
table again in 2013**

SCIENCE OLYMPIADS ART EVENING COMPUTING UNIVERSITY PREPARATIONS

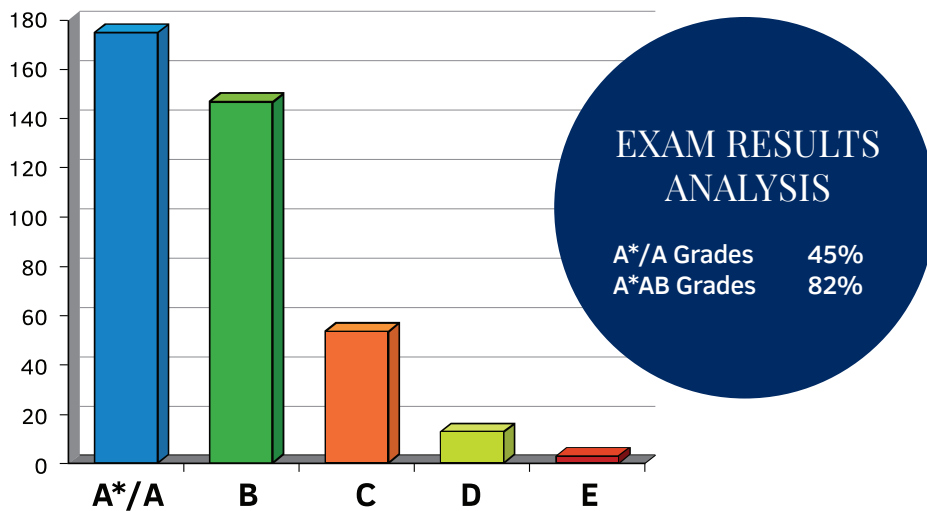
See our website on your mobile: www.bramptoncollege.com
Email: enqs@bramptoncollege.com
Principal: Bernard Canetti

 Follow us on twitter@bramptoncoll
Telephone: 020 8203 5025

2013 RESULTS MAINTAIN BRAMPTON'S OUTSTANDING RECORD AT A LEVEL

With over 80% of A level entries in the College achieving grades of A* to B last year, Brampton underlined again its reputation as the leading sixth form college in London.

The Department for Education's tables for 2013 put our students ahead of their London rivals, with an average point score per A level of 248.4 – between an A and a B grade. It is the 13th year running that the College has come top of the London table. This proud achievement, a product of consistently excellent results across the curriculum, meant that 81% of Brampton students last year got into their first choice of university, the vast majority of them from the Russell Group, and including courses ranging from Medicine and Dentistry, to Economics, Law, English, History, Architecture and Engineering.



2013 DfE TABLE OF LONDON COLLEGES: A LEVEL

Name of College	Average point score per examination entry in 2013
Brampton College	248.4
Ashbourne Independent	242.3
David Game College	241.8
Chelsea Independent College	238.8
Duff Miller College	235.2
Fine Arts College	231.3
Collingham	228.2
MPW (London)	224.1
DLD College	223.6
Ealing Independent College	219.2
Lansdowne College	218.5
Acorn Independent College	216.7
England Average	215.6
Regent College	204.3
Wentworth Tutorial College	197.0
Bales College	173.8
Average	228.9

240 = grade B, 210 = grade C, 180 = grade D

WHAT BRAMPTON MEANS TO ME

Anna Cai gained top grades in Science and Maths A levels at Brampton in 2013, winning a place to read Psychology at the University of Glasgow.

So what does Brampton mean to me? I came to Brampton in September 2011, and left two years later with A grades in Biology and Physics, in addition to an A* in Mathematics and an A in Chemistry (oh, and I won a bronze medal for the British Biology Olympiad too!). Of course these are not the most striking scores students graduating from Brampton have ever achieved – in fact, there have been lots of people leaving Brampton with multiple A*s and some of them winning gold medals for various competitions – but for me, at least, I couldn't imagine being able to achieve the grades I did without coming

to Brampton. Hence, I would say Brampton represents possibility, the missing bridge between who I was and who I wanted to be.

It is hard NOT to try your best here, especially when you find out your teachers often work harder than you, and with the expectations from weekly or fortnightly tests and reports. At Brampton, effort and dedication to study will be recognized and rewarded. What is more, here you meet not only teachers who really know their subjects and enjoying teaching (and are fun to talk to!), but talented students who will inspire you with their intelligence and commitment. In short, Brampton seems to me an indisputably invaluable investment for a young person's future. If you have a dream, people at Brampton will do their best to help you achieve it; if you don't have one yet, then you may find it here. Good luck, guys!

STUDENT STORY



OLYMPIAN ACHIEVEMENTS BY BRAMPTON SCIENTISTS



Biologists at the National Institute for Medical Research

More Brampton students than ever before have taken part this year in the annual science Olympiads, and their success in these very challenging events shows that the College's science students can compete with the best in the country.

Out of eleven biologists, nine won awards: five gained certificates of commendation, two were highly commended, while Jamie Hackam won a silver medal and Hiren Parmar a bronze, both very impressive achievements. Meanwhile, Tony Yang achieved a Silver Award in the Physics Olympiad, which put him in the top 300 out of 1900 entrants. Tony also won a silver in the Chemistry Olympiad, while Abi de Souza won a bronze. The successful biologists were rewarded with a special day out at Portcullis House, Westminster with David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science, Andrew Miller, chairman of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, and world-class scientists from the National Oceanographic Institutes in Plymouth and Newcastle. "It was

a great opportunity that we all thoroughly enjoyed", said Zainab. "We were given a taste of what Marine Biology had to offer as a university course and were able to apply our knowledge from A level Biology to the topics that were discussed. We listened to talks on maintaining biodiversity in the ocean and the effects of high carbon dioxide levels and of increasing acidity on the oceans. It really brought home the importance of maintaining high aquatic biodiversity to ensure future food supplies for the world's growing population".



Jamie receives his certificate of achievement from VP Joy Mason

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

The College is delighted to have introduced the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme to our students. Many students have been inspired to sign up to start their Gold Award.

Sajnee Karania and Jake Videlefsky were recognised for gaining their Gold Award, which had been presented to them by the Earl of Essex at St James's Palace beforehand. Semia Mitra was also awarded her Bronze Certificate. Joy Mason commented 'We are delighted that our first year of offering the DoFE Award has been so successful. So many of our students have done so much to make us proud of them!'



Semia Mitra with Laura Starling from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS 2013

Max Bull	A*A*A*A*AA
Fleur Holve	A*A*A
Harry Wilkins	A*A*A
Anna Cai	A*AAA
Diloushka Fernando	A*AAAA
Hari Patel	A*AAA
Danielle Harounoff	A*AAB
Michael Leigh	A*AA
Zahra Nasir	A*AA
Pooja Pabari	A*AA
Nickeel Patel	A*AA
Mariam Yu	AAAA
Vivek Patel	AAAA
Stephania Laurence	AAA
Samin Abbas	AAA
Nishma Ardeschna	AAA
Jasmin Aziz	AAA
Katie Koschland	AAA
Edwin Kropman	AAA
Daniel O'Donnell	AAA
Trushna Patel	AAA
Heenal Vekaria	AAA

ART EVENING

Brampton parents enjoyed a delightful evening in June looking at the vivid and fantastical productions of Brampton's Art and Photography Department.

Head of Department Hannah Hewetson and Photography teacher Javier Thomas, both distinguished practitioners themselves, really brought the best out of the students this year. Both Phoebe Weinstein and Talia Collis, for instance, won places to read Photography at the highly prestigious Parson's New School of Design in New York. Alison Fitzpatrick is holding a place for a six-month intensive Art Foundation at Oxford Brookes, followed by six months at Metafora in Barcelona.



Hannah Hewetson with Art and Photography students, Phoebe Weinstein and Jessie Weiner.



Alison Fitzpatrick's art project brilliantly reflected the pain and suffering of the Syrian crisis

BRAMPTON'S GOT TALENT

The annual Talent show revealed once again the hidden depths and unsuspected abilities of our students.

Some explosive drumming, the impressively precise co-ordination of an Indian dance troupe, solo guitarists and pianists and two impressive rap acts stood in contrast to a magnificent rendition of a Puccini aria from Neha Khanderia, accompanied on the piano by Michael Sewell. As ever, expert and completely impartial judgement was passed by Joy and her fellow members of the bench.

The show was one of several charity fundraising activities this year. During 2013, the College's Charity Committee raised a massive £1505 for our chosen charities, Children of the Andes, Cancer Research and Kisharon. This total was split between the three charities, with £1800 added from the Brampton Charitable Trust. Thank you to everyone for contributing to the £1100 that we have sent to each of the charities.



Sebastian Fernandes at the Talent Show

PEERING INTO POSSIBLE FUTURES...



Julie Gilson of Birmingham University explains the new Liberal Arts degree

Brampton's AS year students emerged from the rigours of their summer exams only to be met with another challenge - the slightly more congenial one of exploring degree and career options for the future.

They spent three days listening to talks from a wide range of university and career professionals and receiving intensive advice from their personal tutors about the best way to complete a UCAS application.

Pam Nathan and Sarah Galea, Brampton's own specialist careers advisers, started the day by looking at all the possible pathways into a career today – not just via a degree. Subsequently, there were talks on Getting into Law, from barrister Monica Whyte, Scientists in the City by Paul Conyers, who had a city career before coming to Brampton to teach Physics and Computing. Paul's talk, of great interest to Maths and Science students, was complemented by that of Dr Russell Gerrard of Cass Business School, a specialist in the use of maths and statistics in business. From Queen Mary, University of London, Corinne Hanlon explored Alternatives to Medicine and Dr Clive Gabay explained the fascinating field of International Relations. Dr Geoff Wells of UCL's School of Pharmacy, a regular visitor to Brampton, spoke to our science students again about his subject, and this year former Brampton student Jayni Patel gave her insight into Pharmacy from the undergraduate perspective. At the end of the week Dr Julie Gilson of the University of Birmingham enlightened students about a degree that's quite new to UK universities, but very common in the US, Liberal Arts.

UNIVERSITY VISITS

Ice creams in the sun, lolling around on the grass and taking in the odd lecture from clever, witty folk who made the business of studying sound really rather pleasant: this was what university was meant to be like...

And if only university was all like the lovely open day we enjoyed at Bristol in late June, well, all students would work jolly hard to get in, wouldn't they? Actually, to get into Bristol, that's precisely what you have to do, with required grades for many popular courses, such as Economics and Law, at AAA or A*AA. Nonetheless, the AS students who took the trip were undaunted; a steely glint of determination could even be detected in their eyes as they absorbed the seductive idea of spending three years in such an attractive place. Kiran and

Freddie had clearly been made to think more seriously about their futures in science and economics respectively. "It was brilliant", said Shyam, of the Dentistry lecture he attended, a verdict many of the students shared about the university as a whole. But not all: Pini, who wants to study architecture, preferred the spectacular sight of Bath in its evening beauty as we passed it on the train home. Either way, an inspiring day out.



Pini, Rusna and Rhianna at the Bristol open day.

BUSINESS, BRITAIN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Business and finance guru Ian Morley's talk this year looked at issues facing the UK national economy, by Lee Stern, A2 Student.

Will we or won't we leave the EU, and what happens if we do? Can we just renegotiate our terms of membership with Angela Merkel? Will the proposed Conservative referendum materialise after the next election in 2015? Ian drew attention to the business world's general consensus on staying in to benefit from free trade with fellow member-states, and from the influx of migrants, who mitigate the effects of the UK's ageing population, which is reducing our productivity and piling pressure on the welfare budget. While over 70% of the population may oppose immigration, it's actually helped to make the UK economy the fastest growing in the EU. But is the EU hindering business through over-regulation – in labour markets, financial markets and many other areas? Ian echoed UKIP's point that the economic decisions made in Brussels are increasingly sidelining the UK parliament.

Ian also saw the crisis in the Ukraine as a possible catalyst to drive the UK towards a more sustainable energy source than the finite resource that is oil. Or it might just make the UK take advantage of its vast untapped gas supplies through the fiercely debated method of fracking. He also asked for our views on Scottish independence. One student declared that purely from an economic perspective, since the Scottish receive more from the government than they generate in tax, it would be beneficial to England. Others opined that the unity that makes us "British" is really the English desire for a claim to Andy Murray and Sir Chris Hoy. The lecture was a great way to show us that what we learned in the classroom could be applied to the stuff of the real world and gave us a chance to explore what we thought about such critical issues.



Nigel Farage, enemy of the EU

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO CONSOLIDATE COLLEGE'S ABILITY TO DELIVER

The college is delighted to add to its strengths in sciences, maths and humanities this September, in the appointment of Caroline Birch in Biology, Ruben Torres Guardia in Economics and Business Studies and Jonathan Rubeck in Maths.

At the same time we are very sad to see the retirement of Tom Tait, who has been such a wonderful Economics teacher, personal tutor and stalwart colleague here for over a decade. We will miss him dearly. Dr Julia Scott is also moving on this year after 7 years of extremely distinguished service to the department and the college, and Margaret Sidrak, much-loved teacher of Maths and again a role model of calm and sense for our young people, is also retiring this year. Good luck and our heartfelt thanks to them all!

CAROLINE BIRCH

Caroline has always been fascinated by Biology, and studied aspects of the subject as diverse as parasitology, palaeontology and population ecology during her degree studies at the University of Cambridge. After graduating in 2008, she spent a year working at an educational publishers before embarking on her PGCE (M) at the University of East Anglia. She comes to us



from Bishop's Stortford, where she has worked for three years at a secondary school and sixth form. She is delighted to be joining the Biology Department at Brampton College for the start of the new academic year.

RUBEN TORRES GUARDIA

I graduated from Warwick University in 2007 and have been teaching Economics since then. I am currently an examiner for AQA, OCR and a team leader for Edexcel. I am very interested in finding new ways of introducing e-learning when teaching Economics. The best day of the year for me is results day; it is extremely rewarding to see my students achieve their full potential during their examinations. Outside of work I enjoy football (Chelsea supporter), jogging and hiking. I have also helped to run the Duke of Edinburgh's award. When I have time I also enjoy building/upgrading computers and playing the occasional video game.



Congratulations to newly-weds, Kerry Pearson, teacher of Chemistry at Brampton, and her husband, Andy, who were married in June this year.

JONATHAN RUBECK

After gaining my Maths Degree from Manchester University I spent almost six years in Israel, including studying Maths and Computer Science at Haifa University. I returned to London and received a PGCE from Middlesex University and I have taught in several Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Colleges in London, most recently BSix and Candi. I look forward to joining the Brampton community and contributing to its success.



BRAMPTON WELCOMES NEW COMPUTING A LEVEL

Pressure from employers and universities leads to creation of exciting and relevant new syllabus

In the current A level, Information and Communication Technology, the emphasis is on 'Digital Literacy'. It tends to equip students to be effective consumers of technology rather than creators; servants rather than masters. The new A level, currently called Computing (but soon to be rebranded Computer Science to reflect its far more rigorous nature and University links) allows teachers to introduce students to the excitement of creating their own solutions using the inexpensive and powerful hardware and software that is now so widely available.

Here at Brampton College we welcome the new syllabus. It allows students to understand

this world changing technology and to begin to develop their own software. They begin to understand how this curious mix of logic, mathematics and electronics has changed the way we communicate, process data and control physical systems. The emphasis on coding and computation allows us to introduce students to the idea of Computing as an engineering discipline; the process of making things that work; that can be applied to address issue in many aspects of life.

The course will suit not only students who wish to take degrees in Computer Science, whose graduates have highly marketable skills in the rapidly developing digital economy, but also those going on to study Maths or Science where expertise in computing is required.

This new syllabus, despite some shortcomings,

does allow students to begin to understand how computers and the internet work, to experience the joy of creating a working solution using a combination of software and hardware, and to appreciate some of the ways computers are changing not just the way we communicate and share information, but perhaps even the way we think and reason.

Paul Conyers, Teacher of Computing & Physics



Alan Turing, pioneer of computing