



BRAMPTON COLLEGE

Newsletter

Summer 2013

Edited by Mike Wheeldon

ISSUE
No. 28

Art at Brampton going from strength to strength

Hannah Hewetson has led Brampton Art to new heights over the last year. A level results are stunning, photography is now a great strength of the department, students go on to the most prestigious Art foundation courses, and the trips to great centres of art around the world provide genuine inspiration.



Brampton's Art Open Evening in June was a great success. One of the most impressive works this year was Fleur Holve's painting of the New York skyline, above, inspired by the Art department's trip to New York during the autumn term. Next October, Brampton art students are off to the Venice Biennale!

Visit our new website at
www.bramptoncollege.com

Tel. 020 8203 5025
email: enqs@bramptoncollege.com



Follow us on Twitter
[@bramptoncoll](https://twitter.com/bramptoncoll)



PAGES 2 & 3 ACADEMIC

PAGE 4 OUT & ABOUT

PAGE 5 AS PROJECTS

PAGE 6 STAFF NEWS

Record success for students joining Brampton for A2 year

Brampton's 2012 A level results once again demonstrated the College's expertise in helping students who come to us for A2 after a disappointing AS year.

Out of 55 A level exam entries in 2012, these students scored 38 A*/ A grades and 14 B grades. What makes the difference in securing the top grades that universities are looking for is Brampton's blend of specialist A level teachers, thorough preparation for exams and regular testing, in a truly supportive atmosphere where there is plenty of individual help on hand. Some of these students had done well at GCSE, but underperformed at AS before coming to the College: for example, Henry Levene, who went

on to gain 2 A* and 2 A grades, and Rebecca Freund, with A*AA grades. Some students feel they need that extra support in the tougher A2 modules. Others come because they feel they have made a mistake about one or two of their AS level choices and need to find a really good one year intensive course. One considerable advantage our students enjoy is detailed help and guidance in the university application process, such a critical feature of a successful A2 year. From 2014, students will no longer be able to take A level exams in January, so the kind of individual care and attention that Brampton provides for A2 students will become all the more important.

Bernard Canetti, Principal

Re-sitting A levels: still the best option to get back on track

Lara Weldon explains the difference a further year of A level study at Brampton made to her. After very disappointing first-time results, she went on to gain A*A*A and to the university course of her choice.



After failing to meet the required grades to study Biology at university, I came to Brampton to retake Maths and Biology A level and complete an A level in Art in one year: at first sight, a daunting task. But the ethos of the College and the teachers gave me a great deal of comfort and a support that no other educational system has provided for me before. It was also reassuring that other students were in similar positions. Classes at Brampton are small, allowing the teacher to attend to the needs of individuals and making for helpful, friendly relations between student and teacher. Teachers are enthusiastic about their subject, displaying a desire to share it with their students. They don't merely transmit information: they combine their subject expertise, pedagogical knowledge and understanding of the students to teach in the clearest and most approachable way. They didn't just teach me the concepts of the discipline but improved my motivation, confidence, self-direction and independence - skills I have taken with me to university level. I am now studying Psychology at Royal Holloway, University of London. I would not be here or have been able to transform my grades of CCC to A*A*A without the aid of the teachers and students at Brampton College. The College has moulded me into the student I am today, for which I will be eternally grateful.

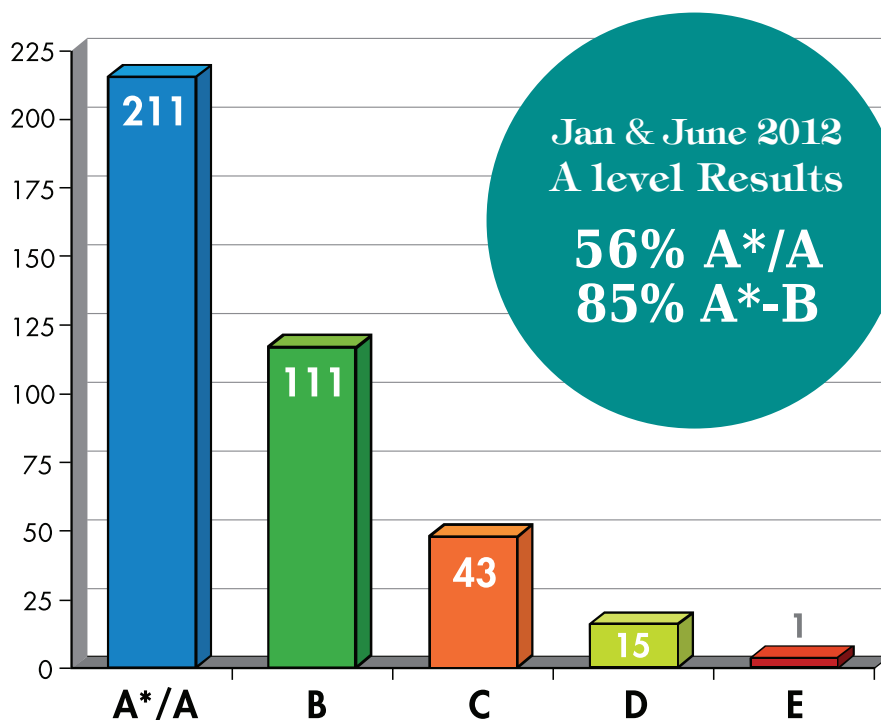
Special Achievements 2012

We are delighted to report that in 2012, 36 students out of a cohort of 132 left Brampton with A level grades of AAA or above, and a further 26 students achieved grades of AAB.

Abigail Pomeranc	A*A*AA
Aliza Askar	AAA
Arjun Shah	AAA
Arvin Khamseh	A*AAB
Benjamin Rosen	A*A*A*A
Colm Bourke	AAA
Conor Kennedy	AAA
Danielle Weiner	AAA
Dominic Ball	AAA
Elena Georgiou	AAA
Elham Kordrostami	AAA(A)
Elliot Kent	A*AA
Genna Kalish	(AA)AB
Hannah Lubner	AAA
Henry Levene	A*A*AA
James Jiang	A*A*A*A*
Joseph Greenwall-Cohen	A*AA
Joshua Murray	A*(A*A)A
Lara Weldon	A*A*A
Melissa Shemie	A*AA
Miles Shin	A*A*A
Nana Kojo Koranteng	AA(A)
Nikita Hirani	AAA
Nishma Ardeshtna	AAA
Patrick Laredo	A*AA
Premal Patel	AAA
Rachel Kahn	A*AA
Raeen Farrokhnik	AAA
Rebecca Freund	A*AA
Rishi Savani	AAA
Rishikesh Karia	AAA
Robert Lewis	AAA
Sophie Canetti	AAA
Sophie Tait	A*AA
Tamim Azim	A*AA
Tara Kumar	AAAA

Results in brackets were obtained at the student's previous school. For example AA (B) indicates AA was achieved at Brampton College and a B at the previous school.

A level Results January and June 2012



Brampton support turns AS disappointment into A2 success

Coming to Brampton after receiving disappointing grades at AS, Hannah emerged after A2 with AAA in Sociology, Psychology and Politics, to realise her dream of studying Psychology at Nottingham University.

When I came to Brampton, my confidence had been knocked from poor AS level results. I felt pretty hopeless and didn't really think I could turn it around in one year. My dream of studying psychology at Nottingham University seemed almost impossible. However, through a lot of hard work on my part, and incredible support and structure from the teachers at Brampton, I managed to exceed my expectations, and came out of my second year with 3 very high A grades. I know this would not have been possible if I had stayed where I was, and although the move to Brampton was a challenge, it was incredibly worthwhile.



Hannah



Fun on the field trips

New labs to consolidate strengths of science at Brampton

The expertise of Brampton's science department is a key reason why so many of our students get into degree programmes like medicine and dentistry. This year students enjoyed a series of fascinating field trips and an eye-opening visit to the National Institute of Medical Research.

"The trip to the National Institute for Medical Research was full of compelling lectures and workshops," report Biology students Josh Olaifa and Akshay Doshi. "The most intriguing to those of us especially interested in human disease was about toxoplasma gondii, a pathogen related to the malaria parasite. In the workshops we also got to see a chick's heartbeat during embryonic development and a neurology workshop's experiment which records mice watching lines on a screen, research that may one day explain how mammals are safely able to navigate around foreign areas by learning where the edges of objects are. It was a really insightful visit and we would recommend it to any A level science student."

In September there will also be new science labs, equipped with up-to-date computer display technology for visual teaching. With a little bit of (genetic) engineering and modification the old Physics lab is being transformed into a biological biome! Students will notice a dramatic change in the bench-space, lighting and arrangement of storage and lab equipment, all designed with our small teaching groups in mind, enabling teachers to work with students more effectively, as well as giving more space for practical investigations. These changes illustrate the College's commitment to providing a vital, stimulating environment for its students.



Anna receiving her award from Principal, Bernard Canetti

A2 Students of the Year

We were delighted to welcome new and prospective students and their parents to our annual Art Open Evening in June.

Amid the surroundings of a stunning display of art and photography the Open Evening was an opportunity to recognise the hard work and contribution to the College of some of our A2 students. This year's A2 Students of the Year Awards went to Anna Cai (Maths, Chemistry, Biology, Physics) Jesal Parekh (History, Chemistry and Economics) and Jasmin Aziz (History, English and Classical

Civilisation). All three students have not only worked with tremendous self-discipline, but have been polite, co-operative, ever ready to help others and unfailingly cheerful, even when the course was at its most challenging. They have given a shining example of the commitment and maturity we try to encourage in our students, and it was a pleasure to recognise their efforts.



The Class of 2013, flanked by their PTs, Susan and Nadia.

Well done to all our GCSE students

The GCSE course at Brampton, unlike that in most schools, is a very intensive one year programme. We are extremely proud of our GCSE students this year, who have all completed the course successfully.

From the collection of callow 15 year-olds nervous about their new environment we saw in September, they have become a confident group of friends who have battled against the challenges of the year, gaining the confidence and skills that will be useful in their future studies. In an award ceremony in June, Susan Tait, Head of GCSE and Mike Wheeldon, Vice Principal handed out certificates and prizes to recognise their hard work and diligence throughout the course. Marks were given for punctuality, completion of work and effort, and a special mention goes to Amir and Kianu for gaining much-coveted Gold Awards.



Taking a bus ride into the past

Head of Economics and Business Studies Ian Parker and his colleagues, Tom Tait and Graham Cook, led a large group of Economics and Business Studies students on a day out to explore both the Transport Museum and The Bank of England. The Transport Museum's magnificent collection of vehicles of all kinds helps bring to life the issues explored in the crucial A2 Economics unit on transport that students will tackle next year. Meanwhile, at 300 years old, the Bank has its own fascinating history and a wealth of intriguing documents and artefacts, from ancient coins to piles of gold bars, which we were allowed to pick up: they are very heavy!

The Bank also takes an imaginative approach to educating visitors about the complex issues of money and the economy, and the current exhibitions are no exception. A simulated hot air balloon, for example, representing inflation, glides serenely on in prosperous times, but is buffeted by the winds of economic turbulence at others: it is controlled by visitors perched in the basket increasing or decreasing the air in the balloon just as the Bank raises or lowers the Bank Rate to keep inflation on target.



A Chinese film poster from 1950

Twisted history

Energetic History students enjoyed two educational trips in a day recently, when they visited the highly acclaimed exhibition of propaganda at the British Library and the magnificent archive of Jewish life during the Nazi era at the Wiener Library.

Students learned about the amazing variety of propaganda, from films (as above) to coinage to contemporary social media and from crude stereotypes to works of art. The study of Germany from 1900-1945 is the most important part of their A2 programme from September, and these visits certainly helped to evoke a vivid flavour of the times as well as conveying lots of information. Most chillingly, perhaps, students were

shown a rare example of a board-game produced in 1936 where players were town councillors charged with ridding their town of Jews. Not many copies of the game were produced because the Nazis suppressed the game: its cartoon depictions of the policemen were insufficiently serious to encourage respect for the authorities.



The Saatchi Gallery

The Saatchi Gallery can be relied upon to spring delights, surprises and shocks to one's artistic nervous system. Our AS students certainly experienced this in their post-exam visit.

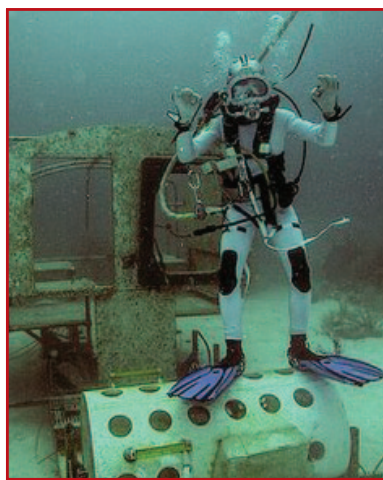
The exhibition "Paper" is crammed with fresh ideas and challenging blends of shape, texture and colour, from the disturbingly amorphous to the delicately beautiful. Hang Feng's Floating City, hundreds of pieces of tracing paper rolled and cut to suggest little buildings and suspended a few inches off the floor, turns the substantiality of real cities into something fleeting, fragile and evanescent. Rachel Adams' sculptures play with the same contrasts, evoking the imposing mass of bronzes while also seeming to shrink back into vulnerability.

AS projects build the skills employers want to see

Investigation and analysis, verbal communication, initiative, time-management, planning and organisation - all these skills regularly appear on lists of what employers need in new young recruits.

Brampton's AS students took on a variety of independent research tasks in the final two weeks of term aimed at developing just this set of vital skills. Working in small groups meant the students had to agree on different roles, hold meetings, set deadlines for themselves, and give and take feedback as well as showing the determination to analyse quantities of data and the imagination to put together an engaging presentation of their results. Students could choose projects in areas across the College curriculum. The winning presentations were made by Helen, Patrick and Sherali, arguing against Richard Dawkins' view of women in Islam, and Gary, Ranil, Shivam, Matt, Nikul and Leon on the theme of animals in space research.

Science teachers offered investigations into space travel, prompted by the achievement of Major Tim Peake, the first British citizen to be chosen as an astronaut by the European Space Agency; the science of cancer research in the light of Angelina Jolie's decision to undergo a double mastectomy. Others were drawn to look at the issue of drugs in sport by the recent race-horse doping scandal, and to the study of the nature of epidemics by the rumbling threat from bird flu.



Major Tim in training.

WOMEN

Like men,
only cheaper.



Many students of arts and humanities investigated issues under the broad theme of gender, which crops up in so many A level subjects.

To kick off proceedings, we were delighted to welcome back gender studies specialist, Dr Laura Harvey of Brunel University and King's College, London, who shared insights about methodology from her research into the media's depiction of young people's aspirations and of the media construction of male and female identity. It was a typically provocative talk, with some terrifying glimpses of popular TV shows and the murky underbelly of social networking. Students then split into groups to explore the role of women in politics in the UK and elsewhere, the depiction of gender in popular song lyrics and music videos, gender roles in different religious traditions and the role of women in the first and second world wars.



Have Roman's billions helped to spoil the beautiful game?

Meanwhile in the Economics Department, teachers devised a battery of questions about current hot issues ranging from whether we should build HS2 through to whether the government should ban Amazon to the perilous finances of Premier League football clubs.

Economics and business courses are very popular destinations for Brampton students, and this year we were treated to a brilliant example of independent student research when A2 student Max Bull produced a very impressive piece of research on the role of complex financial products in the 2008 crash for his Extended Project Qualification. Max presented his findings to staff and students at the end of the spring term, explaining some very tricky ideas in a lucid and perceptive way, while driving his argument to a convincing conclusion.

Staff News

It's a great pleasure to welcome back to the College's chemistry department one of the most popular and successful teachers of the last decade - Mark Butcher. Admired by staff and former students for his depth of knowledge as well as his cheerful and friendly approach to his work, Mark has built up his experience and expertise in other spheres of further education over the last five years, and now returns to lend his great strengths as an A level teacher and personal tutor to an already hugely successful area of the College.



Mark Butcher

We are also delighted to welcome Paul Conyers to Brampton's Physics and Computing departments this year. Paul brings a wealth of experience in industry and an excellent academic background to his teaching. His appointment reflects the increasing interest in A level Physics and Computing among students in the last few years, a heartening development which no doubt has something to do with the public interest in the Higgs-Boson particle, the Hadron Collider and a certain Professor Cox of Manchester University.

Paul replaces Madeleine Abramson in the Physics department, who is retiring this year. A delightful colleague and a committed, expert teacher, Madeleine has been a really positive presence in the College, bringing a sense of calm order to all that she did. Eileen Ryan, passionate and committed teacher of Classical Civilisation here for the last thirteen years, is also leaving this summer. Eileen's enthusiasm for all aspects of the ancient world, which saw her lead many trips to classical plays, exhibitions and lectures over the years, was well known and respected by all her students.

Paul replaces Madeleine Abramson in the Physics department, who is retiring this year. A delightful colleague and a committed, expert teacher, Madeleine has been a really positive

Photography students show maturing artistic vision

Brampton's first year of Photography teaching has been a fascinating journey for our students - and their teacher!

Most of the students started out as complete beginners, and the challenge of the first term was to get to grips with the tricky technical processes, not only with regard to producing and manipulating digital images, but of the more alien chemical mysteries of the dark room. It was great to see the way the students really wanted to learn. Some teachers might have wondered exactly what work those students were doing as they wandered around the high street or the car park trying to gauge the right exposure, making finger-frames and snapping away. By the end of year show, not only the technical expertise but also the artistic insight and maturity they had acquired was apparent for all to see. Paula Gortazar, their teacher, reflects on her delight and interest in her students' progress and on the theory of teaching A level Photography in two fascinating articles on the College's website www.bramptoncollege.com, where you can also see further examples of the students' work.



Portrait by Jessie Weiner



The Duke of Edinburgh Award

From September 2013, Brampton will be offering its students the world-famous Duke of Edinburgh Award, which has helped so many young people develop skills and personal qualities that enable them to go confidently into adult life - perseverance, organisation, learning how to help others, teamwork and leadership.

The Scheme is great fun, offering the chance for adventure, meeting lots of new people, developing your talents and discovering new ones. The Award also looks very good on a student's C.V. Universities and employers like it because it shows energy, self-discipline and commitment. The most well-known feature of the Scheme is the expedition, and at Gold Award level, expeditions can involve life-changing experiences in very challenging conditions.