



BRAMPTON COLLEGE

# Newsletter

## Spring 2014

Edited by Mike Wheeldon

ISSUE  
No. 28

### Max's glowing achievement makes parents and teachers proud

"22nd August 2013, Thursday morning, dull and raining. At Brampton College, with Max, who on the outside is more nervous than I have ever seen him. Finally he opens his results; from his facial expressions I can't tell if he is pleased or disappointed. Then that cheeky smile; he's done well. Results in hand, I cannot believe what is in front of my eyes. I could never imagine Max achieving the type of results he has. I'm sure I speak for everyone, we are all incredibly proud of Max's wonderful achievement."

Max's father's words capture the extraordinary nature of Max's performance: A\*A\*A\*A\*A A in Mathematics, Physics, Further Mathematics, Additional Further Mathematics, Psychology and Economics along with an A\* in the Extended Project Qualification, including 600/600 in Maths A level. Most of his teachers had never even heard of Additional Further Mathematics – but Max had, and he was determined to have a go. All this after his previous school would not even allow him to do Maths A level! Max's Extended Project presentation, on the role of "sub-prime" mortgages in the 2008 economic crisis, testifies to his powers of research and the clarity of his presentation skills, all of which will come in useful in his time at the London School of Economics, and no doubt beyond. "I feel privileged to have studied for two years at Brampton College," said Max, "and would highly recommend enrolment to anyone looking for academic success."

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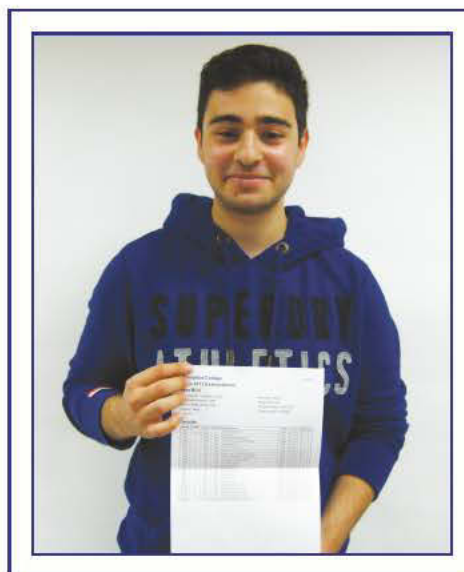
PAGE 3 VENICE BIENNALE

PAGE 4 EXTRA CURRICULAR

## Latest results put Brampton top in London for 13th successive year

Brampton students produced outstanding A level results once again in 2013, to consolidate the College's position as the leading independent sixth form college in London.

The DfE league table of sixth form colleges for London shows that Brampton consistently achieves an average point score in the A/B range, significantly ahead of our rivals. We also came fourth in the national table.



Max on results day

Brampton also had the strongest showing among London colleges in traditional subjects, those identified as 'facilitating subjects' by the Russell Group of universities. 20% of Brampton students achieved AAB grades in

three 'facilitating subjects' subjects, more than double the national average of 9.6%.

There were many outstanding individual performances among the 2013 results, in which 31 students scored at least 3 A grades. Max Bull's astonishing score of A\*A\*A\*A\*A A has taken him to the LSE to read Mathematics and Economics, while Nickeel Patel's top grades took him to read Medicine at St George's, University of London. Fleur Holve's A\*A\*A secured her entry into York to read English Literature, while both Daniela Harounoff and Gina Castelheim scored A\* grades on intensive one-year courses.

Overall, 82% of A level exam entries at Brampton in 2013 achieved A\*-B grades, with 45% at A\* or A grade. 89 out of the 110 students applying for university obtained entry into their first-choice university. The vast majority of these were Russell Group universities, including LSE, UCL, Birmingham, Nottingham and Bristol.

The results are further testament to the hard work and expertise of Brampton's teachers and the College's highly developed system of individual support and expert guidance in university application.

**Bernard Canetti, Principal**





### Student story

## Brampton's support helps Fleur to fulfil her ambitions

*Fleur Holve studied Art, English Literature and Classical Civilisation A levels at Brampton, gaining grades of A\*A\*A. She has gone on to read English Literature at the University of York, in one of the top English departments in the country.*

Joining Brampton gave me the chance to read English at university even after a disappointing first year at A level elsewhere. The consistent testing and homework throughout ensured I knew the grade I was working at and which areas to improve, whilst helping me maintain a high level of organisation. Although it was hard work, the teachers were always there for support and reassurance, and the availability of tutorials meant that I could target any weaknesses quickly in the final weeks leading up to the exams.

When applying to university, the College was extremely helpful and knowledgeable in aiding me through the UCAS application process, and it was particularly useful to be assigned a teacher to guide me through my personal statement. I felt this was a major help in securing my place at the University of York to study English Literature.

Studying at York is challenging but rewarding. I see improvements each time in my essays and in the contributions I make in tutorials. It is inspiring to work in a highly regarded department which pushes me to fulfil my academic potential, as well as being surrounded by likeminded people with similar interests and ambitions. Working consistently throughout A-levels at Brampton was well worth the effort, time and dedication.

Fleur Holve

# 81% of Brampton students get into first choice of university

Getting into your first choice of university is a highly competitive business, as all recent A level students know.

Not only do you have to study hard, you also need the best advice and help with the application process – how to research courses and universities, how to evaluate your findings and how to prepare the all-important application itself. It's a big job, and easy to overlook or put off as you get on with more familiar things such as homework.

At Brampton we have an outstanding record of success in university entrance, including an average of 12 students a year gaining entrance for Medicine since 2000, and 550 students getting into Russell Group universities since 2006.

We ensure that students give this vital process the right emphasis. From mid-January in the AS year, we give detailed guidance and encouragement so we know that each student is informed and has the chance to explore their future plans in detail with one of our expert advisers.

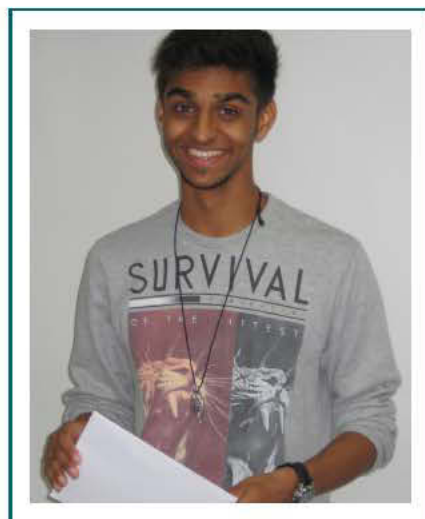
This year was no exception. All AS students spent a day in January evaluating their academic progress so far and looking at where their studies might lead them next year and beyond.

Pam Nathan and Sarah Galea, our two Careers Advisers, taught the students the essentials of researching university courses. Various members of staff and outside

speakers gave lectures on specific career paths. All AS students are now undergoing individual interviews with Pam and Sarah. Many are booked onto university Taster Days, and later in the year, they will all take part in a three-day university application workshop, including a talk by Yvonne Williams from the University of Birmingham. At the end of the summer term the college organises trips to university open days and facilitates work experience for its AS students.



Guest speaker, Yvonne Williams, Head of Student Recruitment at the University of Birmingham.



Nickeel Patel, now studying Medicine at St George's, University of London, gained A\*AA at A level in Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics respectively in 2013 at Brampton.

For those students applying for **Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry and other healthcare degrees** there is a comprehensive package of specialist help, with advice on work and voluntary work experience, intensive workshops on the UKCAT exam, expert advice on personal statements and particular universities' entrance criteria and a weekly Medical Forum run by Vice Principal, Joy Mason. Joy and Pam Nathan are regular lay members of the interview panels for Medicine at University College London Medical School.



# News on the Rialto: the Venice Biennale

During the October half-term students from the Art and Photography Department visited Venice.

When you think of art and Venice you think of the old masters, but every two years Venice is host to the largest contemporary art exhibition in the world, The Venice Biennale. Within the Biennale each country has a pavilion in which to display their artwork. We were given the chance to explore all this and the city's amazing architecture too.

Each of us had our own favourite pavilion for different reasons, but Ireland's really struck me, a multi-media installation titled 'The Enclave' by Richard Mosse. I particularly enjoyed the way he intertwined documentary film with art to create a really powerful piece. It was the first time a film piece has truly gripped me.

But the Biennale was not all we came to Venice for. We also visited the Peggy Guggenheim museum, The Accademia and many famous tourist spots, including St Mark's Square. One of the highlights of the trip was seeing Leonardo Da Vinci's work in real life. The exhibition at the Accademia included drawings that have not been seen in public for over 30 years. I felt that it was such a privilege to be given the opportunity to see some of his most famous, detailed sketches.

The city itself is remarkable, there was never something not to sketch or photograph. Travelling by vaporetto was a unique experience and being surrounded by so much culture (and not to mention great food) made for an absolutely brilliant experience.

Alison Fitzpatrick



Staff and students at the Biennale



Adam & Eve, Piazza San Marco



Canal Scene by Sophie Watson



## Football: the Invincibles

Brampton's two recent friendlies against Chelsea College and DLD College saw emphatic victories for this year's crop of eager and skilful players, in highly enjoyable matches played in a good spirit by all teams.

In Brampton's first fixture at home on the crisp new Whitefield astro pitch, secure holding midfield play allowed Brampton's talented forward line to create a series of opportunities, and before long one of these was efficiently converted by striker Michael Kenley. Abetted by the languid skills of Ahmed Issa, Kenley was too quick and powerful for the Chelsea defence to handle and went on to reap a further three goals in a 5-1 win.

In an unwontedly balmy February, the team then journeyed with some trepidation to west London to play their nemesis side DLD at the splendid Westway Stadium.

The team manager reflected in the light of previous results on how lucky it was that sixth-form teams change every year or so, but after five minutes the old fears looked to be well justified as DLD took a useful lead with two fine goals.

Huge credit, therefore, goes to Hirschowitz in goal and the defence of Israel-Quinn, Vasisht and Mushtaq, marshalled by Greenwall-Cohen, for getting to grips with DLD's "big lad up front", and to Edreyi, Shaffer and Ghaffari, for gradually wresting control of midfield from the skilful DLD trio. And ahead of them another great display of skill, speed and aggression from Kenley saw the team home, as he bagged four goals in a very satisfying 6-3 comeback.





Chloe and Amanda on dressing-up day

## Putting the fun in fundraising

Charity fundraising is always a popular activity for Brampton students, none more so than the first big bake-sale of the year at Halloween.

Students and staff were called upon to produce delicious cupcakes, brownies, cookies and cakes for the big day. Committee members transformed the reception area into a spooky store for the occasion and took turns between lessons to entice passers-by to treat themselves to a sugary confection.

All the cakes were sold and an excellent total of £180 was raised. This money was then added to the £200 the students had already raised individually by tutoring, babysitting and other entrepreneurial activities. All the proceeds went this time to support the Great Ormond Street Hospital. In November, students lightened the winter mood with a dressing-up day (tuxedos, pyjamas or school uniform only), with some intriguing results, as you can see from the splendid efforts of Chloe and Amanda in the picture above.

In the spring term the committee also organised a Valentine's Day event and the annual Brampton Talent Show, a great opportunity for our students to reveal skills and interests normally hidden from view in everyday college life. Read more about this in our summer edition!

## Inspirational speakers at Albertopolis TED Talks

Brampton students were inspired by the determination and skill of Nicholas McCarthy, a world renowned left-hand only pianist, the humour and bravery of Jessica Thom, who has Tourette's Syndrome and is "changing the world one tic at a time" as well as other leaders in their field at a Ted Talks event in The Royal Albert Hall in September. The "Albertopolis" brought together representatives from both Sciences and Arts to show how vital both fields are and that there is no "winner" of some supposed battle between the two.

The final message of the day was from Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer for England. Her speech was about the impact antibiotic resistance could have on the future of medicine and our lives. Given the magnificent venue and the fascinating line-up of topics, the fact that antibiotic resistance was the keynote of Sally's speech should tell us just how important her message is.

Ruth Harbit



Chief Medical Officer, Sally Davies

## Overseas students enjoy London Life

Tim, Nadia and Kerry, Brampton's overseas student team, spent a Saturday in September introducing their tutees to London. 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.

"The Monopoly Run was a really fantastic experience", said students Tony and Alex. "It was a lot of fun and helped us to discover hidden parts of London. In addition, we had to use logic and planning. We were able to get to know the other overseas students and make new friends. We look forward to doing it again!"



The Monopoly Run