



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 8th December 2023

Dear BSF Students

The highlight of this week was undoubtedly the Enterprise Fair which was a real success. Well done to all of the Year 12s who set up businesses and contributed to the festive atmosphere. It was great to see you all engaging with the younger students who really seemed to enjoy themselves (this was possibly helped by the amount of sugar and E numbers you were supplying them with!) I must admit to a degree of trepidation at the close proximity of the paddling pool and the darts but fortunately this fear was not realised! Two senior members of staff commented on what a lovely occasion it was and how well you all did. Together you raised a grand total of £604.94 which is pretty impressive! The tutor group with the most profit was 12.3 (Mrs Davies' group) and the group who made the most were Thomas, Lucas, Ben and Charlie from 12.4 who made £75 with their darts game. I will expect to see some of you on The Apprentice in the future!

Most of Year 13 have participated in mock interviews this week. These are really invaluable opportunities to gain some interview experience - even though the prospect may well have filled some of you with dread! Well done to all of you who submitted a letter of application and participated in the interviews. I had the pleasure of being in there and seeing some of you in action and it made me genuinely happy and proud of how well you came across. Hopefully your experience was a good one, but remember that if it did not go well, that is also a useful experience. My first university interviews were a disaster, but they taught me what not to do the next time! A big thank you to Mrs Robb for organising these and the employers for giving up their time to help.

This week, the English Language and Literature students had the opportunity to meet and speak to their set poet, Jacob Sam La Rose. Ms Townsend, who was with both groups, was really impressed with the quality and thoughtfulness of the questions and commented on what a lovely couple of hours it had been. We hope that has given you some great insights into his poetry that you can use in the upcoming exams!

This week has also seen the Year 13 Criminology students spending two days doing their internal assessment. Well done to all of you for keeping calm heads for such long sessions – hopefully two hour A-level exams will feel like a breeze after consecutive days of 4 hour exams!

It was lovely to hear from Mrs Staines on reception that some of you had been willing to help out by decorating the Christmas trees in the theatre and in reception. Well done and thank you to Sophie C, Ollie H, Jelushca and Jasmine N.

Maths video of the week #11

Some of you may already be familiar with the YouTube channel 3Blue1Brown. For those who have not come across it before, it is an excellent channel that explains some complex ideas in mathematics (often degree level and beyond) in a way that is accessible and easy to understand.

This video looks at a scenario called the brachistochrone problem, which poses the question of how to get from one point in space to another in the shortest amount of time. This mathematical question has clear applications in Physics and Engineering.

The brachistochrone problem is one that most mathematics undergraduates first encounter at university, so some of the maths involved in the solution gets a bit heavy towards the end of the video – try not to get bogged down by the details; a general understanding of the solution can be gained without following every step!

The Brachistochrone, with Steven Strogatz - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cld0p3a43fU>

For further reading on this topic, you may find the following links a good place to start:

<https://www.cantorsparadise.com/the-famous-problem-of-the-brachistochrone-8b955d24bdf7>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brachistochrone_curve

Opportunities for you

Thinking of applying to Oxford or Cambridge university next year?

Oxford and Cambridge's webinar series for 2024 is currently open for signups from Y11 and 12 students.

This annual programme is run in collaboration by Hertford College, Oxford and Emmanuel College, Cambridge and aims to give students the tools to make a competitive application to Oxford/Cambridge.

The programme will consist of four online sessions run by Oxford and Cambridge Outreach staff, each with a Q&A with current undergraduate students:

- **Weds 17th January:** Introduction to Oxbridge (Y11 & Y12)
- **Weds 31st January:** Critical Thinking, Study Skills & Super Curriculars (Y11 & Y12)
- **Weds 14th February:** Post-16 & A-Level Choices (Y11 only)
- **Weds 28th February:** Personal Statements & Applying to Oxbridge (Y12 only)
- **Interview Workshop (September 2024)**

All sessions take place online **between 17:00 and 18:30**.

All Y11 & Y12 students from **non-selective state schools** in the local authorities of Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock are eligible to take part.

How to sign up

- The deadline for signing up is **12pm on Friday 15th December**.
- Students can sign-up using this online form: [Next Steps Essex 2024 Application Form](#)

Dear InvestIN: Your Career Questions Answered.

Navigating the career landscape can be daunting, whether you're a student thinking about the world of work, a teacher guiding future leaders, or a parent supporting your child's ambitions. 'Dear InvestIN' is InvestIN's latest resource to demystify this journey, providing answers to the most pressing career questions. View the first episode here: [Dear InvestIN Podcast: Your Career Questions Answered – InvestIN Education](#)

[Residential Insight into University Course](#)

[Applications for this course close on 31st January. This is a fantastic opportunity for students in Year 12 to experience STEM studies at university and the career opportunities that these subjects can lead to. Use this link to find out more: Summer Residential Courses by EDT \(\[etrust.org.uk\]\(http://etrust.org.uk\)\)](#)

Your Route to Chartership

The Engineering and Development Trust are running an extremely Insightful Online Masterclass after school on Tuesday 19th December at 4-5:30pm on 'Your Route to Chartership' which will cover the subject of *why you should be thinking about it now* and how you can become Chartered in your chosen discipline. This is for students in Years 12 & 13. (No link sent so see me if you are interested and I will forward you the email directly)

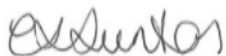
UniTasterDays Resources for Students Considering University:

Tune into The Uni Guide Podcast. The latest two episodes explore free money for university – scholarships and bursaries and university study outside the UK - including America and more. Featuring guest experts and a fabulous student panel! Listen [HERE](#).

Start your event search. Discover exciting events just for students considering university, with more being added daily. Browse open days, residentials, tasters, and more, listed by universities UK-wide. Our featured events this month are the [University of East London Psychology Masterclasses](#) and the [University of East Anglia webinar series](#).

New university blogs. Check out a huge range of university blogs for students thinking about university – over 20 have been added since last month, covering topics including [applying for creative courses](#), [league tables](#) and [more](#).

Have a great weekend.



Ms C Dunton
Head of Sixth Form