



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 13th October 2023

Dear BSF Students,

One of the best things about doing this job is hearing about the great things you are doing; sometimes this is your willingness to give up your time to help the school at events, but it is just as lovely to hear about the things you are doing on a day-to-day basis around the school site. Last week, Sophie C and Mikaela R were praised for stepping in to help a younger student in distress and this week I was told of the significant impact Annika G and Jake R are having on the students they are helping in a lower school History class. It is people like you who make the sixth form such a nice place to be so thank you for difference you are making.

A further thank you goes to those of you who remembered to wear yellow this week to show your support for World Mental Health Day. There was some irony in the fact that our guest speaker this week was talking about physical health but hopefully these two events have reminded you of the importance of talking openly about health issues as a way to reduce stigma and ensure people get the right treatment for any health issue they are facing. Keith and Max kindly put the Oddballs posters in the toilets for me and I hope these will serve as a reminder to the boys to check regularly as testicular cancer is more common in men aged 15-49.

Linked to this, there is still the chance to train as a mental health ambassador and be able to mentor other students – this would be a particularly worthwhile thing to do if you have ever suffered from a mental health condition yourself or if you are considering a career in healthcare. Jo Morton Brown is running the training session on Wednesday 18th from 2.15 until 4pm. She will meet you by Student Services in the main school. If you are interested, please let me know so that she can book an appropriate sized room.

I hope you would all feel able to access support if something is worrying you from either me, Ms Brewis Shepherd or Ms Watson but, if that is not the case, the NSPCC have emailed this week to remind you that Childline is available to young people, up to the age of 19. Their number is 0800 1111.

As I mentioned in assembly, there is a Young Photographer Challenge currently being run in honour of World Mental Health Day. You can submit a photograph along with a short caption, depicting how you show resilience. The deadline is 17th November. Entry details can be found here: [The Young Photographer Competition – InvestIN Education](#)

Quiz for Teddie

There will be a quiz to raise funds towards Teddie's treatment on Saturday 14th October. The event is at the NGCA Community Centre (CM77 7US) and will start at 7.30. It is open to all members of our community and will cost £5 a head. There will be a raffle so please bring cash with you as well as

your own drinks and snacks. Please email tmfundraising@hotmail.com to reserve a table as the venue has limited capacity. It would be excellent to see lots of you there and to show Teddie that we are all supporting him.

Folder Checks

The period for folder checks is now over. Please ensure that you take your folder check forms back to your tutor to be stored in your blue PDT files. If a teacher fails your folder, your tutors will arrange a time to recheck it so please ensure you make any improvements advised by your teacher. You may think that the state of your folder is your business but please take our word for it that organising your work well early on in the course will save you a lot of stress and time later on.

Parking

This is just a reminder that students are not permitted to park cars on the school site. As I explained in assembly on Tuesday, when the sixth form was opened in 2009, the agreement with the council was that students would not be able to park here and, as such, you will not be insured if you have any sort of accident on site. Given how expensive it is to insure cars at your age, I think this is a warning you should heed.

Mock Interviews

All students in year 13 will be able to have a mock interview next half term with a local employer. This is a really valuable opportunity to practise your interview skills before you are interviewed for courses or jobs that you really care about. You will have been writing covering letters in tutorial time and these will be submitted to the person interviewing you prior to your interview. Next half term, the focus in the Wednesday World of Work sessions is on preparing for interviews.

Opportunities for you

Open Days

Swansea University: 21st October 10.00-16.00. Book here: [Undergraduate Open Days - Swansea University](#)

Newcastle University: 27th October 13.30-18.00. As well as a tour of campus, you'll get the chance to talk to students and choose from a selection of workshops about:

- student finance
- choosing the right course and uni
- Medicine and Dentistry interview prep
- personal statements
- PARTNERS supported entry route

Book here: [Head Start to Uni \(ncl.ac.uk\)](http://ncl.ac.uk)

Opportunities for Year 13s and Parents/Guardians of Year 13

UCL will be running two series of events designed to give information, advice, and guidance to both Year 13s and their parents or guardians. From navigating the admissions process and student finance to course selection and writing a personal statement, these talks and events will cover a range of useful topics for pupils and parents at the start of their higher education journey. Click here for more information on the parent talks: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/widening-participation/online-parents-conferences> and here for the student talks: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/widening-participation/shape-your-success>

Undergraduate Linguistics Information Event (for all prospective students)

Are you passionate about language and communication? Are you considering studying linguistics at university? Go along to UCL's next in-person Information Event about the undergraduate Linguistics degrees taught in the UCL Division of Psychology and Language Sciences - a pioneering department for linguistics. This event will take place on Wednesday 25 October. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Find out more here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/undergraduate-linguistics-information-event-tickets-733767096137?aff=oddtcreator>

Insights into Art History

The Courtauld Institute of Art is offering free workshops to you. Click here to see what they have on offer: <https://courtauld.ac.uk/take-part/schools/sixth-form-and-further-education/workshops/online-workshops/>

CSES Education: STEM Conference for Sixth Form Students

You have the opportunity to attend an educational visit to Chelmsford Cathedral on Wednesday 15th November 2023. The event is organised by Drapers' Academy in collaboration with CSES and Chelmsford Cathedral. You can find out more about CSES and join for FREE here [CSES \(Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society\)](#)

Opportunity for you to hear a talk by former Head of Technology at British Cycling

In advance of his evening talk for members and the public, one of the UK's foremost engineers, Professor Tony Purnell, has agreed to give a special, daytime, presentation for schools and students (and parents). The Team GB track bicycle for the Tokyo 2020 caused a stir on its announcement. Its wide forks and unusual titanium-carbon frame were a radical departure from convention. Tony, former Head of Technology at British Cycling, will talk about how engineering helped Great Britain top the cycling medal table at the Tokyo Olympics. Register your interest here: [Opportunity for students to hear a talk by former Head of Technology at British Cycling - CSES](#)

Have a great weekend.



Ms C Dunton
Head of Sixth Form