



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 4th October 2024

Dear BSF Students,

It has been a real pleasure over the last week or so to hear how fantastic some of you have been in your role as a teaching assistant. I have had numerous conversations where the teacher has been really impressed with the student(s) that have been working in their lessons. Not only is this a great experience for you, but you will be having a big impact on other students, so thank you for the difference you are making. I hope the students who attended the training in the library on Tuesday found it useful.

Notices

Year 13 – Revision session with Elevate Education

On **Tuesday 22nd October during period 1** all year 13 students will take place in a revision/study skills session by Elevate Education. This will involve smaller group sessions and take place in three classrooms during period 1. This session will provide key tips and strategies prior to the mock exam week which for year 13 students will take place between **9th-13th December**.

Elevate education ran a session for the year 13 students last year prior to their final exams and the feedback received from the students was very positive.

Folder checks

Folder checks to aid with organisation and checking independent study are being completed and should be taking place within subject areas over the next couple of weeks.

Please ensure you are bringing your folder to every lesson and that you are focusing on organising it appropriately for your subjects, however, please do ask for support with this if it is needed.

Stress and Mental Health

Over the last two weeks the focus for year 12 students during personal development time has been around mental health, and in the assembly on Tuesday I spoke about stress, how to recognise it and different coping strategies. If any student is worried or concerned, please do speak with your tutor, me or Ms Watson. There is also a sixth form counsellor available, if you would like to know any more details, please speak to me or Ms Watson.

Attendance

We have also mentioned the importance of attendance, and this is a key area we monitor. We encourage all students to be aware of your own attendance percentage. Research conducted by ALPs has shown that two students with the same average GCSE grades who have a difference between 95% and 85% attendance can equate to a whole grade difference at A-level.

We are aware that there are reasons for absences that do occur, and our first aim is always to support you. If you have questions or concerns around attendance or you are absent for any reason, please contact Ms Watson via email Caroline.Watson@braintreesixthform.com or call the absence line on

Please use the below table as a guideline:

Attendance	BSF Expectation	Impact on completion of course/achievement
100% 0 days off school	This is our expectation for all students	With hard work in lessons and independently, student should be able to get the most out of their studies and may exceed target grades.
95% Equates to 10 days off school each year or half a day off every fortnight	This is the minimum acceptable level of attendance	Missing sessions can impact on the level of your achievement. It could start to impact on potential.
90% Equates to 20 days off school each year or a day off every fortnight	This is below our expectation. Contact will be made, and attendance monitored.	A substantial number of lessons are being missed which may leave gaps in knowledge and needing to find time to catch up. There is a higher chance of falling below target grades.
85% Equates to 30 days off school each year or a day and a half off every fortnight.	This is significantly below our expectation. A meeting will be arranged between students, parents/carers and a member of the Sixth Form team and support plan agreed.	Large amounts of work are being missed and there is a high risk of underachieving with a grade well below potential or failing/not completing a course.
80% or less Equates to 40 days off school each year or 2 days off every fortnight.	This is unacceptable. Support plan will be reviewed a further meeting arranged. Alternative options may need to be considered.	There is a serious risk of failing courses. There is a high possibility of needing to discuss alternative options/programmes.

Football result

Unfortunately a challenging fixture this week with our football team losing 4-0.

Opportunities for you

The complete university guide – league tables 2025

Visit the complete university website to see the league tables for 2025

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>

Career days

There are new dates available for your students to attend career days online taking place online over the next couple of months.

Career Days give students an insight into different careers that might appeal to them, advice on subject choices and how to apply to university, followed by work experience in the afternoon to help them see what the career may be like. Students receive a certificate confirming their work experience.

Students who are aged 13-18 can register to join the online days by visiting www.careerdays.co.uk

The schedule is as follows:

- Medicine Career Day** - Saturday 5th October 2024
- Dentistry Career Day** - Sunday 6th October 2024
- Business Career Day** - Saturday 12th October 2024
- Psychology Career Day** - Saturday 19th October 2024
- Architect Career Day** - Saturday 26th October 2024
- Performing Arts Career Day** - Sunday 27th October 2024
- Law Career Day** - Saturday 2nd November 2024
- Vet Career Day** - Saturday 9th November 2024
- Computer Science Career Day** - Saturday 23rd November 2024
- Engineering & Technology Career Day** - Saturday 30th November 2024

Students can visit www.careerdays.co.uk to join a session that interests them and will receive a certificate at the end of the day confirming their work experience.

Unifrog's UK University fair

There's only three weeks to go until Unifrog's [UK University Fair](#) on Wednesday 16 October at 4–6:30pm. Don't worry if students can't make it for the whole event, they are welcome to drop in and out whenever they can!

Your Y10–13 students are invited to meet 40 universities in two hours - including University of Bristol, University of Warwick, University of Leeds, and Cardiff University. They'll gain practical advice from the experts to help them get a step closer to their dream university.

- For students who are unsure about what or where to study - Live sessions and interactive booths can inspire them to consider a diverse range of universities from all over the UK.
- For students who know where they want to go - This fair is a great opportunity to get tips on choosing the right course and acing their personal statement ahead of the upcoming admissions cycle.
- For students who have questions about student life - Whether this is about scholarships, extracurricular activities, accommodation, or any other factors that influence students' decisions, 40 universities will be there to chat!

[iVent Pro - Venue \(ivent-pro.com\)](http://ivent-pro.com)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DAYS – University of Law

These events will be running free of charge on our campuses the week commencing October 14, but there is also a virtual option in half term if students are unable to attend in person. Our Criminal Investigation Days are for students with an inquisitive mind and are considering a degree in criminology, law, policing or psychology.

The sessions will follow Gypsy Rose Blanchard, looking at her transition from victim to criminal to viral sensation. Through this interactive workshop, we will re-visit key moments from the trial, build a comprehensive timeline of events, and evaluate the verdict.

Students can book individually via the link below.

https://email.schoolcommunications.co.uk/rsp/m/0jCgxc8JCdR3KwA4It7OQ-AxSL979Y3cjif_PxnLMsA style="width:107px;max-width:107px;" arcsize="5%" fillcolor="#004254" strokecolor="#FFFFFF">

Real World Lecture: What Do Hackers Know About You?

VIRTUAL EVENT

Thursday 9th November, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Do your students want to experience a lecture before they go to university, then they can join one of our amazing lectures, as they explore social engineering, a key approach that is increasingly being used to secure private details and has led to some high-profile security incidents. Find out more about hackers, the case study of Kevin Mitnick, and identify techniques to develop good cyber hygiene.

<https://email.schoolcommunications.co.uk/rsp/m/0jCgxc8JCdR3KwA4It7OQ6pzFUIZZg7DUKT3vag8GFY> style="width:94px;max-width:94px;" arcsize="5%" fillcolor="#91278F" stroke="f">

My Cambridge application

There are two sessions your students can join in October.

17 October: My Cambridge Application

30 October: Cambridge College registered assessments

The webinars are a great opportunity for students to receive guidance from University admissions staff.

[Applicant Webinar Series | Undergraduate Study \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

Meet the Russell Group webinars

1 to 3 October

This informative webinar series is for students considering applying for Russell Group universities, including Cambridge.

The webinars will cover topics such as personal statements, researching university options and student life.

[UK University Search Fair Russell Group Webinars | UK University Search](#)

Essex university upcoming events

[Winter Insight Day, 13 November 2024](#): a chance for students to explore studying at higher education level, by joining engaging subject tasters and taking a tour of our campus.

[Social Sciences Conference, 27 March 2025](#): an exciting taster day showcasing departments from our faculty of Social Sciences.

[Essex Business School Taster Day, 27 March 2025](#): Discover our zero-carbon home and learn from current students who have already transformed their lives with us.

[Exploring Economics, Politics, and International Relations, 28 March 2025](#): providing an opportunity for students in years 12 and 13 to explore Economics, Politics, and International Relations at undergraduate level, in addition to providing a unique experience of a day in the life of a university student.

Open days

Colchester Campus

- Saturday 26 October

Southend Campus

- Saturday 12 October

English Tutor Plus

Catherine Foley (Formerly Catherine Dunton)

Experienced English Teacher offering:

Private GCSE and A level tuition

Proofreading services

Personal Statement assistance

Email – catherine@englishtutorplus.co.uk

Website – www.englishtutorplus.co.uk

Have a good weekend



Ms A Brewis-Shephard
Deputy Head of Sixth Form