



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Thursday 24th October 2024

Dear BSF Students,

Happy half term! Well done to all year students on a successful first half term, I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break and make the most of your time away to rest, recuperate but also where possible also to get organised, catch up on any work, complete coursework, write personal statements and begin revising for mock exams.

Notices

Enterprise Project

This week on Tuesday I launched the enterprise project with year 12 students which will run during tutor time after half term and lead up to the enterprise fair for year 7 students which will take place on Tuesday 10th December. It was great hearing ideas being discussed already and I cannot wait to see what is on offer this year.

Interview Programme

Year 12 students will also take part in an interview programme on 5th and 6th December. All students will have an interview with an external employer and the full timetable will be sent out after half term.

Open evening

The Sixth Form open evening will take place on Wednesday 6th November from 5.30-7.30pm. We would like as many students as possible to be here for the evening to help out in subject areas as well as general meet and greet. All prefects and subject ambassadors should be available. Please can you confirm with Ms Watson via email or by speaking with her that you are able to attend so we can get name badges sorted for you.

Reports

A report has been sent via email for this half term. For year 12 students this will contain a learning behaviour grade (Outstanding, Engaged, Compliant, Reluctant) for each subject, and for year 13 students it will contain target grades, a current grade, a predicted grade and learning behaviours for each subject. This will feed into the year 13 parents evening which is taking place on **20th November 2024**.

Mock exam dates

Year 13 – Week beginning 9th December

Year 12 – Week beginning 13th January

Trip – UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fair – Friday 15th November.

A letter has been sent home to all students regarding the below trip. If you have not returned a form yet, you can still do so in the first week back.

We have space to take 70 students along to the UK University and Apprenticeship search fair, which will be held at the Chelmsford City racecourse on **Friday 15th November**.

The fair will feature:

- An extremely large range of **exhibitors** including: **Russell Group, red brick, modern institutions and apprenticeship providers.**

- Vital seminars by university and industry experts, including key topics: UCAS Personal Statement, Degree Apprenticeships, Student Finance and Why take an Apprenticeship.

The fair is targeted at students in Year 12 and 13.

Please see full details here:

[See details here.](#)

A coach will leave the Sixth Form at 11.00am and return from the racecourse at 1.15/1.30pm.

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £5 to cover the cost of transport to and from the event. The trip will be taken on a first come serve basis by returning the slip on the letter to Ms Arthur or Ms Watson.

A message from the library staff

"The library staff have decided that when individual students require an extended period of study in the library a small amount of food and drink will be allowed. This should only be cold food such as crisps or a biscuit and this is on the condition that all mess and rubbish will be cleared away by the student.

Please note that this new policy is on a trial basis and is only intended for individual students in the booths, who are hungry/thirsty but wish to continue studying in the library – not for groups of students. Food or drink is still not allowed in the group study area at the far end of the library. If the trial does not work, we will return to a "no food or drink in the library" policy. Thanks."

Acknowledgements

Fantastic efforts were shown by all the Psychology students on Tuesday this week whilst taking part in a mock trial for Milgram's obedience shock experiment. A special mention needs to go to Mrs Dixey for taking on the role of the judge and wearing the outfit for most of the day!

Fundraising

Thank you to the prefects who have helped with the fundraising events this week helping to raise money for Essex Air Ambulance. The staff v students netball match, which me and Mrs Howells both played in was great fun, and did see the staff team coming away victorious! The 'pumpkin' throwing has also been brilliant, and as I write this Michael O in year 13 is in the lead.

Nilakshi – Go fund me page

I spoke to the students in the assembly last week about Nilakshi who is a student that started at the Sixth Form last September alongside our current year 13 students. She is undergoing a battle with cancer. She had 3 chemotherapy sessions to treat her condition and unfortunately needed further medical intervention to stay alive. Nilakshi has started receiving treatment for her condition in Sri Lanka and the family are asking for any support to help fund her treatment for the next 6 weeks before a review. They are hopeful that she will get better and resume school.

Here is the GoFundMe, <https://gofund.me/3596997e>.

Opportunities for you

This section contains opportunities that are sent through from a variety of different organisations. The opportunities will vary in nature and be suitable for different students, some of the opportunities will be free and others may have a cost associated to them.

Braintree Chess Club

An email from Peter Kukiewicz, at Braintree Chess Club - We're doing this open, lighthearted open evening on the 30th, for you to pass on to anyone to whom it might be of interest, if possible.



STEM SMART scheme Cambridge

University of Cambridge - Masterclasses

We are excited to tell you about the Subject Masterclasses which we are running this autumn.

Subject Masterclasses are subject-specific events that offer students in Year 12 (S5 for Scotland, Year 13 for NI, or equivalent) the chance to experience typical undergraduate teaching at the University of Cambridge, and to learn more about a topic of interest.

The events are designed for all students looking to apply in October 2025, including mature students.

[Upcoming Subject Masterclasses](#)

23 October Linguistics

29 October Land Economy

19 November Education

26 November Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion

27 November Sociology

28 November Music

These sessions are all taking place online

[Subject Masterclasses | Undergraduate Study \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

Each Masterclass includes:

- two taster sessions delivered by academic staff from the University
- the opportunity to ask questions
- an introduction to the Cambridge admissions process
- the chance to hear about life as a Cambridge student from current undergraduates

Cost

The cost of our online Subject Masterclasses is **£12.50**

Funded places are available for students who meet any of the following criteria:

- In care, or care-experienced
- Eligible for Free School Meals
- Seeking asylum, or with refugee status
- Household(s) in receipt of Universal Credit
- Financial hardship

To apply for a funded place students should complete a short form and include a supporting statement from their school or college with an authorised stamp or signature.



Please [visit our website](#) for more information and the application form for funded places.

A message from a current year 13 student - I've just seen this, it's a poster advertising the STEM SMART scheme Cambridge run every year, and I thought I'd send it on to advertise it to the Y12s, if any are interested. I can advocate for the course, it really is great, and the students sign up and participate in it themselves.

Here's some more information: [STEM SMART | Undergraduate Study \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

"STEM SMART (Subject Mastery and Attainment Raising Tuition) is a widening participation initiative from the University of Cambridge in association with Isaac Physics, to provide free, complementary teaching and support students who attend a UK maintained school (non-fee paying school) and:

- have either experienced educational disadvantage or belong to a group that is statistically less likely to progress to higher education and
- are considering applying to Engineering, Computer Science, Physical Sciences (eg physics, chemistry, earth sciences, materials science) or Biological Sciences (eg plant sciences, pharmacology, physiology, evolution and behaviour, biochemistry) courses at university and are studying A Levels (or equivalent) in maths and science."

Are you studying **maths with at least one of physics, chemistry, biology, computer science or further maths?**


Considering applying for a **science, computer science or engineering** course at university?

STEM SMART is a **FREE** programme for Y12 students from state schools, beginning in January 2025 and supporting students through to May 2026.

STEM SMART includes weekly online tutorials with Cambridge University subject specialists, access to student mentors and lectures from top scientists.

To find out more, check your eligibility and apply, go to www.cam.ac.uk/stemsmart

Apply by 31st October 2024



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:

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.

Essex University Opportunities

Winter Insight Day

Wednesday 13 November 2024, 9.45am-2.35pm

There is still time to join us at our Colchester campus for our Winter Insight Day, where we will be

running a selection of interactive and engaging taster sessions across all three of our teaching faculties.

Sessions running on the day include:

School of Sport, Rehabilitation and Exercise Sciences - 'An Introduction to Sport and Exercise Science: Exploring the Science of Exercise through Blood Analysis.'

Department of Psychology - 'Where Do We Look? The Science Behind YouTube Viewing.'

Essex Business School - 'Conflict Resolution Masterclass.'

Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies - 'Psychoanalytic Criminology: Murder in A Strange Case of Jekyll and Hyde.'

There will also be sessions from the School of Health and Social Care, Department of Literature, Film and Theatre Studies, Edge Hotel School, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Essex Law School, and the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science. Please check out our [event webpage](#) for more updates.

Students will be able to sample two subject areas, meet our enthusiastic staff members and have their questions answered. There will also be the opportunity to take tours of our beautiful campus and meet our Student Ambassadors, giving students an insight into life at Essex.

To learn more about this exciting event and book your places click [here](#).

Life Sciences Discovery Day

Wednesday 11 December 2024, 9.45am-2.45pm

Our Life Sciences Discovery Day provides the perfect opportunity for Year 12 and Year 13 students, as well as mature students, to spend practical time in a lab and experience Life Sciences at the University of Essex.

Over the course of the day, students can explore Marine and Environmental Sciences and delve into Biomedical Science and Molecular Biology. There will also be an opportunity to speak with current students, to ask any questions about studying a subject such as Life Sciences at University and take a campus tour.

The programme, including details of planned activities and timings for the day can be found on [our webpage](#) and you can book your space [here](#).

Have a good weekend



Ms A Brewis-Shephard
Deputy Head of Sixth Form