



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 17 December 2021

Dear BSF Students,

I'm sure you are all relieved to get to the end of this huge term! For me, this has been the busiest term of my career, but you have made it a really enjoyable one. It has been great working with you, getting to know many of you and even reading your personal statements! I said in our first assembly that my priorities are to have students who are successful and happy – the huge number of Engaged and Outstanding learners seen in the Learning Behaviours that have gone home this week would indicate that there will be plenty of success and I hope the pictures below are an indication that you are happy. If you are not, my door is always (metaphorically) open...



Holidays

I know that Year 13 have an important time coming up with their mocks which can sometimes overshadow the holidays a little (though a little less of an imminent panic now that they have been moved to the 17th January instead). Whilst it is very important to revise and be prepared, it is also important to recharge your batteries after a long term and make some time to relax. Many of you have found this term hugely challenging with increased workload and pressure as well as making important decisions about your futures by going through the UCAS process (and trying to pass driving tests!) so you deserve to take your foot off the pedal a little. Try to achieve a balance so that you feel well rested as well as being ready to face mocks in January.

Year 12, your exams are still many months away so you may not be feeling the same pressure yet, but I know many of you have found the jump from GCSE to A Level a challenging one and will be equally glad to have a well-deserved break! Try to build in some time to make sure you are up to date and ready to face the new term feeling organised and on top of things though, as it will stand you in good stead for the rest of the year.

My advice for balance is to make sure you only ever work school hours in the holidays – finish at 3.15 and make sure you give yourself the evenings off.

Year 12 Unifrog

Year 12 will be using Unifrog to help the process of applying to university, apprenticeships and employment. Students should have received a login email on Wednesday, prompting them to create a password which in turn will allow them to log onto the platform. These emails can get stored in the junk/spam inbox without realising so do check there if you have not received an email. If you do not receive login emails, visit www.unifrog.org/sign-in and click on 'Forgotten your password'. This will get a reset password email sent out and allow you to create a password to get logged in!

GCSE Certificates

Those students from Notley who are currently in year 12, can go to the sixth form reception to collect their GCSE certificates from Wednesday 5 January.

Quiz winners

I hope you enjoyed the quiz on Tuesday – I've been told it was a little hard and in retrospect, maybe I was being a bit optimistic that you would know who won the X Factor the year you were born... Nevertheless, we have a winner and Mr Potter's form are the Quiz Champions this term. Well done, 12-6!

Enterprise

I have not heard back from every tutor about the profits you made at the Enterprise Fair but can report that 12-2 made a total of £18.50; 12-3 made £27.50 and, winning by an absolute landslide, 12-5 made £174.12 between them! This included one group making a huge £75 and another, an also impressive, £41.40! We clearly have some entrepreneurial talent in Mrs Cosway's form group! Congratulations to all those who took part and made any profit at all but especially those who excelled at this!

Opportunities for you

Crime Week

ARU are running a Crime Week from 31 January to 3 February. This popular annual event covers topics to compliment your current learning, open your minds to new areas of study and potential career paths as well as giving you an insight into University-level study.

The range of topics will ask thought-provoking questions: What leads people to commit crime? Is punishment effective? How do we approach new crime using the dark web or cryptocurrency? Sessions include: An Introduction to Forensic Science; Cryptocurrency as a Money Laundering tool;

Demystifying the Dark Web; How can we tell right from wrong, and what happens if we can't agree?
Prison works?

Go to their website to book your place.

Make Happen Events

Make Happen have sent details of the following opportunities:

What help can I get at university if I'm a disabled student?

Going to university is a big decision, and one that comes with lots of considerations. For people with disabilities, one of these can be whether they will be able to cope. In this article, read about all the help that students with disabilities can get throughout their university experience, [including Elise's story about how her university supported her dyslexia.](#)

A-Z university translator

Do you know what "credits", "dissertations" or "sandwich courses" are? As you explore your university options, you'll come across new words – so it helps to know what people are talking about! [Read our A-Z translator for an easy-to-understand guide to all the key words.](#)

Ten digital tips and tricks

Ok, so we all use tech – and while some of us may be experts, there's always more we can learn. As you're writing essays, doing coursework, or simply just browsing online, [these handy hints will help you along the way](#) (and you can impress your friends!)

Term starts again for you on Wednesday 5th January. Please remember that all students are asked to do two negative Lateral Flow tests before returning to school.

I wish you all a really lovely Christmas and a happy new year.



Ms C Dunton

Head of Sixth Form