



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 6th October 2023

Dear BSF Students,

I had the pleasure of watching a fantastic Criminology lesson this week where Year 13 were making crime scenes in shoe boxes. There were some very inventive ways being used to represent blood splatter and fingerprints as you can see in some of these pictures. I'm not sure whether I should be worried by how many people still had easy access to Barbies and Lego!



Early Entry UCAS deadline

If you are applying for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry, you need to get your UCAS application sent off by October 16th – this date is looming quickly! Please ensure your tutors have approved your personal statements before sending them to me and tell your tutors you are ready so that they complete their references. You will get a chance to see the references before we send off the applications.

NCS

This week, we had a representative from NCS talking to Year 12 about the opportunities available this half term to get involved with them. The cost of the 5-day residential is just £95 and some of you may qualify to do this for free. In the past, this has been something many of our students have participated in and it has helped them gain experiences and skills which look great on personal statements and applications. If you are free in half term, this is an opportunity I would highly recommend. This QR code will take you to the sign-up page:



Wear Yellow for Young Minds

Tuesday 10th October is World Mental Health Day. Please show your support for all those living with a mental health condition by wearing something yellow on Tuesday.

Oddball Assembly – Tuesday 10th October

On Tuesday, our assembly will be led by the Oddballs Foundation whose aim is to increase awareness of testicular cancer, a common cancer in young men. This is an assembly for everyone but if you have a particular reason why this subject might be upsetting, please come and tell me.

Mental Health Ambassadors

We would love to recruit more students to our mental health support team. Last year, we were able to offer a drop-in room in the sixth form and in the main school and lots of students benefitted from accessing peer support. This would be a particularly great thing to be involved in if you are considering careers in healthcare and social sciences. Jo Morton Brown, our lovely school counsellor, can offer you a proper training session which you can reference in your personal statements and applications. This was postponed this week and will now run on Wednesday 18th October from 2.15-4pm.

Maths video of the week #3

The theory of surfaces (sometimes called two-dimensional manifolds) is part of an area of mathematics called topology. Students generally first encounter topology at university as part of a mathematics degree.

In this week's video, Matt Parker explores the question of how many 'holes' a surface can have, mathematically speaking. The answer may not be as simple as you first think!

For further reading, the mathematical term for the number of holes in a surface is called its "genus". It can also be described by a number known as the Euler characteristic. More information here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genus_\(mathematics\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genus_(mathematics))

If you like Matt Parker's style of communicating high level maths in an accessible way, he has written a number of books including "Things to Make and Do in the Fourth Dimension"

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/things-to-make-and-do-in-the-fourth-dimension/matt-parker/9780141975863>

Why does this balloon have -1 holes? - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymF1bp-qrjU>

Opportunities for you

Queen Mary University of London

Access to Queen Mary is an 18-month programme of activities aiming to help students become more prepared for and successful in, higher education. Students who successfully complete the programme will not only have benefited from tailored academic and pastoral support but will benefit from consideration for a contextual offer to Queen Mary.

The benefits are:

- Students will receive advice and guidance on how to prepare a UCAS application and personal statement.
- Students will benefit from additional support to prepare them for the different teaching styles at university.
- Students will receive tailored academic support in a key subject of their choice, relating to their Level 3 study.
- Students who successfully complete the programme and enroll on a Queen Mary undergraduate degree within two years will be offered supported entry onto our Student Ambassador scheme
- Students who successfully complete the programme and enroll on a Queen Mary undergraduate degree within two years will be receipt of a £500 bursary in return for 20 volunteer hours
- Students who successfully complete the programme will be eligible for a contextual offer of up to two A-Level grades below the standard entry offer.

To find out more and apply, click here: [Access to Queen Mary - Queen Mary University of London \(qmul.ac.uk\)](https://www.qmul.ac.uk)

University of Essex events

Colchester Open Day: 28 October

Southend Open Day: 14 October

Life Sciences Discovery day: 13 November

Newcastle University 'Head Start to Uni'

Free event on Friday 27 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

Available to book by students before the deadline to register is Sunday 15 October (18.00).

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

Online Enrichment Activity: UK TEFL Course

Looking for an exciting enrichment activity to complete? This 120 Hour Interactive Online TEFL Course could be the perfect opportunity for you to get TEFL Certified before heading off to university or thinking about a gap year. Suitable for students aged 16+, this self-study course can be completed at your own pace and in your own time. There is a cost for this (£90 per student) as it's offered by an outside provider but I can arrange it if anyone is interested.

Investin Weekend Programmes

There are 15 different career masterclasses run by industry leading professionals available. Registration will close on 9th October. Register here: [Our Programmes – InvestIN Education](#)

Russell Group University Open Days

Scan the QR code to see the programme:



Career and Work Experience Sessions

The days are designed to give you an insight into possible future careers with advice on how to apply to university followed by an afternoon session of work experience. You will receive a certificate confirming your work experience. These are the sessions available:

Medicine Career Day - Saturday 7th October 2023

Midwifery Career Day - Saturday 21st October 2023

Dentistry Career Day - Saturday 28th October 2023

Business Career Day - Sunday 5th November 2023

Psychology Career Day - Saturday 11th November 2023

Architect Career Day - Saturday 18th November 2023

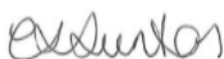
Vet Career Day - Saturday 25th November 2023

Law Career Day - Saturday 2nd December 2023

Computer Science Career Day - Saturday 9th December 2023

For more information, click here: [CareerDays.co.uk](https://www.careerdays.co.uk)

Have a great weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Dunton'.

Ms C Dunton
Head of Sixth Form