

# Braintree Sixth Form

## Prospectus 2017/18



*"Working Together, Achieving Together"*

# Braintree Sixth Form



**“WE AIM** THROUGH OUR  
**CURRICULUM** TO PRODUCE  
**CONFIDENT, INDEPENDENT,**  
**INTERNATIONALLY MINDED**  
**AND SOCIALLY ENGAGED**  
**YOUNG PEOPLE** WHO  
WILL BE ABLE TO  
**FLOURISH** AT UNIVERSITY, IN  
**EMPLOYMENT** AND THROUGHOUT **THEIR LIVES”**



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# HIGH QUALITY TEACHING & EXCELLENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

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# Welcome to BSF

## Welcome to Braintree Sixth Form's Prospectus.

Braintree Sixth Form continues to pursue its original aim when established of providing a traditional, academic curriculum to all of the young people of Braintree and the surrounding area, at post-16.

Our ambition is for our students to 'be the best they can' and, where students want to, that they progress to University to maximise their employment and career prospects. We continue

to work hard in partnership with universities to realise this ambition and to ensure that, as well as excellent teaching, our students receive the correct guidance and support needed to make successful applications to Higher Education, as well as to Foundation Courses, Apprenticeships or employment.

Sixth Form is not solely about the study of the academic subjects. We have also built in a range of enrichment opportunities, social facilities and privileges so that our students can enjoy life as a Sixth Form student both inside and outside of the classroom and that they can play a leading role in helping to develop the institution. By providing these opportunities alongside a strong curriculum, we believe that Braintree Sixth Form is an environment where people work together and achieve together and can make the most of their talents and potential.

We hope that this prospectus helps provide you with the information that you require to decide whether Braintree Sixth Form is the place where you wish to spend two years studying your chosen subjects at A level, and we would be delighted to discuss this further with you should you require any further details about studying here.



**David Conway**  
Headteacher  
Notley High School &  
Braintree Sixth Form



**Holly Sutton**  
Assistant Headteacher,  
Head of Sixth Form

## Aspirational and professional environment

Our purpose built Sixth Form centre includes a café, common room, ICT suites, library and specialist teaching facilities, creating a professional academic setting.

## High quality teaching and excellent academic achievement

Since our opening in 2009, we have established ourselves as one of the leading Post-16 providers of academic courses in the district. In 2015 we had 100% pass rates on all our A level courses.

## In 2015 99% of our Higher education applicants secured university places, 80% secured their first choice

The majority of our students progress to Higher and Further education courses, both locally and further afield. Each year, students secure places on selective Russell Group university courses, including Oxford and Cambridge. Numbers

of students also secure highly competitive apprenticeship and internship opportunities.

## 97% course completion rate

Of the students enrolling with us for the 2015/16 academic year 97% were retained to complete their courses.

## Friendly and supportive staff

In choosing Braintree Sixth Form, you will be joining a supportive academic community. Our excellent pastoral support begins immediately, as you are offered individual guidance through the application process and advice on your selection of courses.

## Our motto

Our motto is 'working together, achieving together'. We believe that by working together we can produce confident, independent and internationally minded young adults who will be able to flourish at university, in employment and in their future lives.

# A Levels

## Who are A Levels for?

You might choose to study A Levels because you:

- want to study only 3 or 4 subjects
- want to specialise in a particular subject area such as Science or Humanities
- Like the fact that you will be encouraged to become an independent learner, carrying out your own research and reading around your subjects

## Changes to A Levels

The specifications for all A Level courses have been undergoing a process of review by the government to ensure that they prepare students effectively for University and employment.

Eventually all A Level courses will be linear courses, examined at the end of the two year course and with no more than 20% coursework component. The AS exam will still be available as a standalone qualification but the marks from this will not contribute to the overall A Level qualification.

Changes have been phased in over several years and all A Levels on our curriculum will have been revised to a two year linear specification for the 2017/18 academic year to which you are applying.

We will no longer offer AS exams at the end of Year 12. The performance of students in internally assessed end of year exams will be used to determine whether or not students continue with the second year of their courses. Students who are able to progress to Year 13 will continue with some, or all, of their Year 12 subjects, completing the full A Level by the end of their second year

of Sixth Form studies. If a student decides to discontinue a subject at the end of Year 12 they will be offered the opportunity to take an AS exam in that subject alongside their full A Levels at the end of Year 13.

For admission to a typical programme of three or four courses, students should have 5 A\*-C grades (or the new grade 4) at GCSE, including English and Mathematics. Each subject also comes with its own entry criteria which should be met. Where a student does not achieve at least a grade C (or the new grade 4) at GCSE in English and Mathematics they must agree to continue following a timetabled course to allow them to resit the qualification until a minimum of a C grade is achieved.

A level courses are mostly assessed through written examinations. Students who have studied a programme at school which is mostly made up of vocational qualifications, assessed through coursework, are generally recommended to continue with a vocational pathway at Post 16. To progress from a vocational course to an A Level subject (e.g, Business Studies, DT, Art) we would normally expect a pass at Distinction in the vocational subject.

## Extended Project Qualification

All students studying A Levels will additionally have the opportunity to undertake the AQA Extended Project Qualification, beginning in the summer term of Year 12. The Extended Project is a 5000 word (or equivalent) extended study which involves pupils in independent research on

a topic of their choice. Their study can be based around the production of an essay, artefact or performance. This is a level 3 qualification which appears on the UCAS tariff table. Undertaking the Extended Project enables students to develop independent learning, initiative and study skills. It is considered to be an excellent preparation for study at university level (see later item).

## Enrichment

In addition to their A Level studies all students will follow a programme of enrichment activities on one afternoon a week, which is explained further in the 'Other Qualifications and Study Programmes' section of the prospectus.

## Our A level Courses with entry qualifications:

A Level Subject	Entry Qualifications
Art (Art, Craft and Design)	A grade B in GCSE Art/Textiles or Graphics is normally required. If a relevant GCSE has not been taken, students may be admitted via a portfolio of work that demonstrates an appropriate level of skill and commitment.
Biology	GCSE grade BB in core and additional science or grade BBC if the Triple Science route was followed at GCSE. Students applying for this course must also have a grade 6 in Mathematics.
Business Studies	A grade C in GCSE Business Studies, if previously taken, and a good level of achievement in a range of other GCSE courses including English, Maths and Humanities subjects.
Chemistry	GCSE grades BB in Core and Additional Science or BBC in Triple Science with a B grade in the chosen Science subject and a 6 in GCSE Mathematics is required
Computer Science	Students will require a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics. Grade B or higher in GCSE Computing, or its equivalent, is also desirable
Drama and Theatre Studies	A grade B in GCSE Drama is normally required yet consideration will be made for other students on discussion with the course tutors.
Design Technology: Product Design (3D Design)	Students wishing to take this course should have completed a GCSE, or equivalent course, in a Design Technology subject achieving at least B grade or equivalent.
Economics	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics. They should have a good level of achievement in a range of other GCSE courses including English, Mathematics and Humanities subjects.
English Language and Literature	GCSE grade 5 in English or English Literature is required
English Literature	GCSE grade 6 in English or English Literature is required
Geography	GCSE grade C in Geography or a similar subject e.g. History or Leisure and Tourism is required
Geology	GCSE grades BC in Core and Additional Science or BCC in Triple Science and a 5 in GCSE Mathematics. A grade C in Geography would be advantageous
History	Students should have a GCSE C grade, or higher, in History or a similar subject e.g. Geography or English.
Law	No prior experience of Law is required, however a GCSE grade 6 in English or a Humanities subject e.g. History, Geography or Religious Studies is required
Mathematics	GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics is required for A Level Mathematics.
Further Mathematics	GCSE grade 8 is required for Further Mathematics. Note that students opting to take Further Mathematics must also take A Level Mathematics as a separate option.
Media Studies	GCSE grade 5 in English is required. GCSE Media Studies is desirable but not essential
Modern Foreign Languages – offered in French and Spanish	GCSE grade B in the relevant language is required. However, students will also be considered if they already have some expertise in the language as a result of home circumstances.
Music	GCSE grade B in Music is normally required. It is expected that students will have instrumental or vocal achievement at grade 5 or higher.
Physical Education	A grade B or above in GCSE PE is normally required. If a GCSE in this subject was not taken, then a grade B or above in a Science subject is necessary.
Physics	GCSE grades BB in Core and Additional Science or BBC in Triple Science with a B grade in the chosen Science subject and a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics; it is strongly recommended that students who study A Level Physics also study A level Mathematics
Psychology	Students would be expected to have a good level of achievement in a range of GCSE courses including English, Science, Mathematics and Humanities
Religious Studies	Students would be expected to have a good level of achievement in a range of GCSE courses including English and Humanities subjects
Sociology	Students would be expected to have a good level of achievement in a range of GCSE courses including English and Humanities subjects

# A Level Course Outlines

Note that course outlines for subjects undergoing revision for 2017 are based on the draft specifications at time of printing and may be subject to change following final approval. Please consult our website for more detailed course outlines and updates. [www.braintreesixthform.com](http://www.braintreesixthform.com)

## A LEVEL ART (Art, Craft and Design)

Students following this course will be encouraged and supported in developing their practical art skills which allow them to creatively explore and respond to their personal experience through their artwork. They will be guided in producing practical and critical/contextual work in areas including drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, printmaking and digital media. There will be an integrated approach to practical work and critical investigation with students required to independently research, develop ideas and link their work in a meaningful way to the artists and styles of art that they study. The art department provides many of the basic materials for the course; students are required to purchase sketchbooks, pencils, paints and brushes and other additional materials (canvas, wire) as appropriate. Visits will be organised to museums, galleries and exhibitions. Independent practical work is required and art students have access to the art studio at any time during Sixth Form opening hours.

### Entry qualifications

A grade B in GCSE Art/Textiles or Graphics is normally required. If a relevant GCSE has not been taken, students may be admitted via a portfolio of work that demonstrates an appropriate level of skill and commitment.

## A LEVEL BIOLOGY

Biology at A Level builds on the knowledge that students will have already gained at GCSE. Students will gain an awareness of the technological, ethical and economic aspects of biology. It is a subject that can provide great enjoyment and respect for all things living. There will be a structured and progressive approach to the essential principles, in contexts that are interesting and stimulating. There will be number of practical activities which will help develop practical skills alongside the understanding of concepts and principles. To reinforce what is learnt in class it is expected that students would put in a considerable amount of independent study time to develop their appreciation and enjoyment of this subject and regular assignments will be set. A course textbook will be provided along with the opportunities to practise past papers in tutorial sessions.

### Entry qualifications

GCSE grade BB in Core and Additional Science or grade BBC if the Triple Science route was followed at GCSE. Students applying for this course must also have a grade 6 in Mathematics.

## A LEVEL BUSINESS STUDIES

Students following this subject will develop a critical knowledge and understanding of business organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants. They will investigate the nature of business and how businesses operate within dynamic and changing markets. In addition to traditional content such as how businesses are classified, the objectives they set and try to achieve, and external influences including competition, the new specification has a greater focus on innovation, e-commerce and globalisation. Students will acquire a range of relevant business skills, including decision making, problem solving, challenging assumptions and quantifying and managing information.

### Entry qualifications

A grade C in GCSE Business Studies, if previously taken, and a good level of achievement in a range of other GCSE courses including English, Mathematics and Humanities subjects.



## A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

The A Level Chemistry courses have been designed to be a practical experience, with students undertaking both practical and theory work. The practical activities included will help the students to consolidate their understanding of the main aspects of Chemistry and equip them with the skills required to study this subject at higher levels. The course is designed to prepare students for progression either into higher education or employment and to develop their interest and enthusiasm in Chemistry. Students will study, amongst many topics, aspects of Chemistry that are often seen in the media or that affect their lives; including green chemistry, pharmaceuticals and climate change. It also aims to help the students to appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how science contributes to the success of the economy and society, developing a deeper understanding of 'How Science Works' and how areas of the subject relate to each of us and to the world around us.

### Entry qualifications

GCSE grades BB in Core and Additional Science or BBC in Triple Science with a B grade in the chosen science subject and a 6 in GCSE Mathematics is required.



# A Level Courses

## A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE

Advances in computing are transforming the way we work and this Computer Science qualification from the AQA exam board offers an up-to-date syllabus that focuses on the knowledge, understanding and skills students need to progress to higher education or to thrive in the workplace. This linear course replaced older qualifications such as AS/A2 Computing in 2015. In addition to programming (using Python, or one of the other approved languages) and learning the fundamentals of computers systems and architecture, students are taught a systematic approach to problem solving. The course involves a strong mathematical element including the use of Boolean algebra.

### Entry qualifications

Students will require a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics. Grade B or higher in GCSE Computing, or its equivalent, is also desirable.

## A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

This course will enable students who are passionate and excited about theatre to develop their own experiences of the art form. The students will be led and encouraged to explore and develop their own abilities as performers as well as developing a critical appreciation of the subject. Teacher led workshops, script and collaborative work and research tasks will develop their knowledge and understanding of the main influences in theatre, integrate theory and practice and develop their drama skills creatively and imaginatively. The students will have access to the highest standard of resources, being taught in the Braintree Arts Theatre. Trips to see live theatre will be organised which will aim to expose them to a wide variety of theatre genres and serve to inspire creativity and broaden their horizons. Although the nature of work in theatre is collaborative the students will also be required to cultivate an independent study style. It is essential that students grasp that the step from GCSE to A Level in this subject is significant yet surmountable.

### Entry qualifications

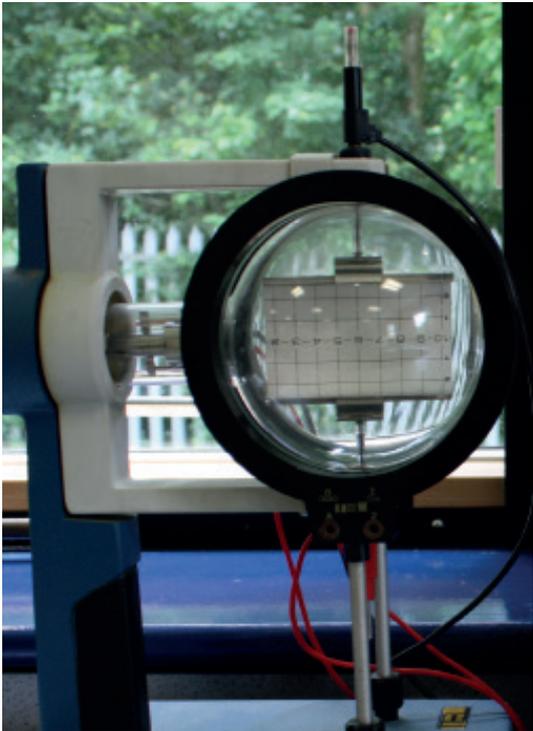
A grade B in GCSE Drama is normally required yet consideration will be made for other students on discussion with the course tutors.

## A LEVEL DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN

This course is designed to encourage students to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop their capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, manufacture and marketing. Through study and first-hand experience in practical work, students gain an understanding of the physical and mechanical properties of a broad range of materials and components. Coursework projects provide the opportunity for students to learn about the use of computer aided design (CAD) and computer aided manufacture (CAM). Through the study and detailed analysis of a wide range of products, students begin to develop an understanding of broader issues for the designer such as environmental sustainability, ergonomics and consumer safety.

### Entry qualifications

Students wishing to take this course should have completed a GCSE, or equivalent course, in a Design Technology subject achieving at least B grade or equivalent.



# A Level Courses

## A LEVEL ECONOMICS

This thought-provoking course offers the opportunity to learn about the latest economic theory and practices in the context of different economic issues both nationally and internationally. Few decisions are taken that are not influenced to some degree by economics. The course explores the role of government, producers and consumers and explains many of the issues and debates that feature in today's economic news and society in general. Students will study topics such as the national and global management of the economy, competitive markets and economic efficiency as well as gaining an understanding of financial markets and the global economic crisis of 2008.

### Entry qualifications

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics. They should have a good level of achievement in a range of other GCSE courses including English, Mathematics and Humanities subjects.

## A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Students will develop their linguistic and literary knowledge through study of a broad range of texts, from different times, including non-fiction spoken and written texts, novels, drama and poetry. They will acquire and develop the analytical tools needed to explore language choices in detail and to become confident and insightful readers. They will go on to explore how linguistic and literary approaches can relate to each other as disciplines and enable increasingly sophisticated interpretations of texts. Students will also have opportunities to develop skills as producers of language and have opportunities for original writing. The study of A Level Language and Literature will enable learners to become responsible for their own learning, develop confidence in discussing ideas and become more deeply engaged in how language is used by writers and speakers.

### Entry qualifications

GCSE grade 5 in English or English Literature is required.

## A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Students will develop their knowledge and enjoyment of Literature through study of a substantial body of texts representing a range of literary eras and genres. They will be encouraged to read widely and independently, both set texts and others they have chosen themselves, and to explore the contents of texts critically, using the interpretations of others to inform their own personal responses. In this way, students will acquire the judgement to enable effective comparative evaluation of texts. They will also develop the analytical tools of sustained research and learn how to debate their interpretation through discursive written responses. Students may also have the opportunity to develop their writing skills through production of a re-creative piece with commentary. The study of A Level Literature will enable learners to show knowledge and understanding of the ways in which writers shape meanings in texts and cultivate their own critical responses, informed by cultural and contextual influences, literary traditions and movements over time.

### Entry qualifications

GCSE grade 6 in English or English Literature is required.

## A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Students following this subject will be introduced to the main geographical issues and concepts that are relevant to the contemporary world, enabling them to make better informed decisions and be sensitive to a wide range of viewpoints and challenges. The course examines physical and human geography and how they interconnect. It explores the concepts and processes that help explain geographical phenomena and the diversity of landscapes. Environmental issues and sustainability is a central theme. Students will be given the opportunity to further develop fieldwork skills and study geographical issues and impacts on a variety of scales from the local to the global.

### Entry qualifications

GCSE grade C in Geography or a similar subject e.g. History or Leisure and Tourism is required.



# A Level Courses

## A LEVEL GEOLOGY

This subject will offer students the opportunity to study geological processes that operate at and below the Earth's surface, the evidence of past life and the uses made of geological materials. Through this specification students will also cover the processes and products that form our planet and its rocks. Geology applies physical, chemical and biological principles to the investigation of the Earth. The course stresses the importance and relevance of geology to everyday life, technological applications and social, economic and environmental issues. As part of a broad A Level programme, the course compliments science courses or provides a contrasting course within humanities.

A Level Geology will be based on the new liner specification which, at the time of print, has not been published. There will be the opportunity to study optional modules in year 2 and there is likely to be a field trip abroad at the end of year 1 for which there will be a cost.

### Entry qualifications

GCSE grades BC in Core and Additional Science or BCC in Triple Science and a 5 in GCSE Mathematics. A grade C in Geography would be advantageous.

## A LEVEL HISTORY

The course involves studying elements of world and British history as well as topics which, when combined, cover a period of over 200 years. Students gain an understanding of change over time and develop historical perspective and the ability to identify the key features of a period, its particular characteristics and the forces of change, conservatism and consolidation. The course develops students' awareness of cause and consequence, and of continuity, within a broad historical context. In Year 12 students will study world history including USA in the twentieth century and its involvement in international conflict (c.1917–96) and South Africa, (1948–94), an in depth study of South Africa during its transition from white minority rule to the free elections of 1994. In Year 13 students study British History (1790–1918), and the experience of war in four major overseas conflicts: the French Wars, The Crimean War, The second Boer War and World War One. In addition they will write coursework based on a controversy linked to an aspect of their Year 12 studies.

### Entry qualifications

Students should have a GCSE C grade, or higher, in History or a similar subject e.g. Geography or English.

## A LEVEL LAW

Through this exciting and topical course students will gain an understanding of the English Legal system, incorporating an overview of the law making process, legal institutions, civil and criminal law. Studying Law develops students' problem solving skills through the application of legal rules, together with an understanding of legal method and reasoning. In addition students will become practised at presenting logically constructed and detailed written work. These skills complement other essay based subjects and provide excellent preparation for those students who wish to progress to degree level study or pursue a wide range of careers.

### Entry qualifications

No prior experience of Law is required, however a GCSE grade 6 in English or a Humanities subject e.g. History, Geography or Religious Studies is required.



# A Level Courses

## A LEVEL MATHEMATICS

The linear A Level courses from Edexcel effectively repackage their old modular courses into a number of terminal exams. Each course covers pure and applied mathematics in the ratio 2:1.

Mathematics students will cover pure maths topics such as: algebra; geometry and calculus. Applied topics include compulsory statistics and mechanics. Further mathematicians, as well as learning additional compulsory topics in pure maths such as complex analysis and linear algebra get a choice of studying further statistics, mechanics or decision maths. Many topics will require students to apply their knowledge to solving real world problems such as the minimum amount of material needed to create the largest volume container or the most effective route for a postman to deliver mail.

### Entry qualifications

GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics is required for A Level Mathematics.

## A LEVEL FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Further Mathematics can be taken as a second A Level choice by students already choosing Mathematics A Level. This is advisable for any student who might wish to study for a maths-based degree at university. Students wishing to gain the Further Maths qualification must sit additional examinations covering topics such as complex numbers, matrices and more detailed proofs.

### Entry qualifications

GCSE grade 8 is required for Further Mathematics. Note that students opting to take Further Mathematics must also take A Level Mathematics as a separate option.

## A LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES

The course aims to give students an understanding of specific media texts, how they are produced, the institutions that produce them and the audiences who interpret them. Students explore ways in which messages and meanings are constructed in the media and use analytical and critical frameworks as a means of understanding them. Research is undertaken and pupils develop skills in the production and evaluation of a variety of media texts. Students plan and construct media products using appropriate technical and creative skills in 2D media such as video, print, audio and website.

### Entry qualifications

GCSE grade 5 in English is required. GCSE Media Studies is desirable but not essential.

## A LEVEL MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Offered in French and Spanish

The aim of this course is to develop the student's ability to communicate effectively; read, understand and translate texts; write extended essays in the foreign language and develop listening comprehension. In addition, students will be learning through film and literary texts. In the first year students cover current trends and issues and artistic culture and in the second year topics such as multiculturalism and political life, literature and the arts are explored. Assessment is based on both spoken expression and response and on understanding and written response. Students will explore the culture and traditions of some of the different countries and communities where the language is spoken through the topics studied.

### Entry qualifications

GCSE grade B in the relevant language is required. However, students will also be considered if they already have some expertise in the language as a result of home circumstances.



# A Level Courses

## A LEVEL MUSIC

This course extends students' GCSE skills of Performing, Composing and Listening. Students are encouraged to study a wide range of music from folk, jazz, popular and classical traditions of Western and non-Western origin and learn how to analyse and discuss its composition and structure. Students continue to develop their own skills as performers and to develop new skills in using relevant music technology. There will be opportunities to attend concerts and workshops throughout the course in order to give further insight, depth of understanding and appreciation of the music studied.

### Entry qualifications

GCSE grade B in Music is normally required. It is expected that students will have instrumental or vocal achievement at grade 5 or higher.

## A LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course builds on the student's experience from Key Stage 4 and GCSE Physical Education to enhance their knowledge and increase their understanding of factors that affect performance and participation in physical activities. The course is largely theory-based with the aim of building an understanding of the physiological and psychological effects of sport and physical activity. Students will also be offered the opportunity to experience a variety of roles in sport such as performer and coach. The content of the course also addresses current contemporary topics in sport such as the impact of the use of specialised training, sports technology and increasing commercialisation of sport.

### Entry qualifications

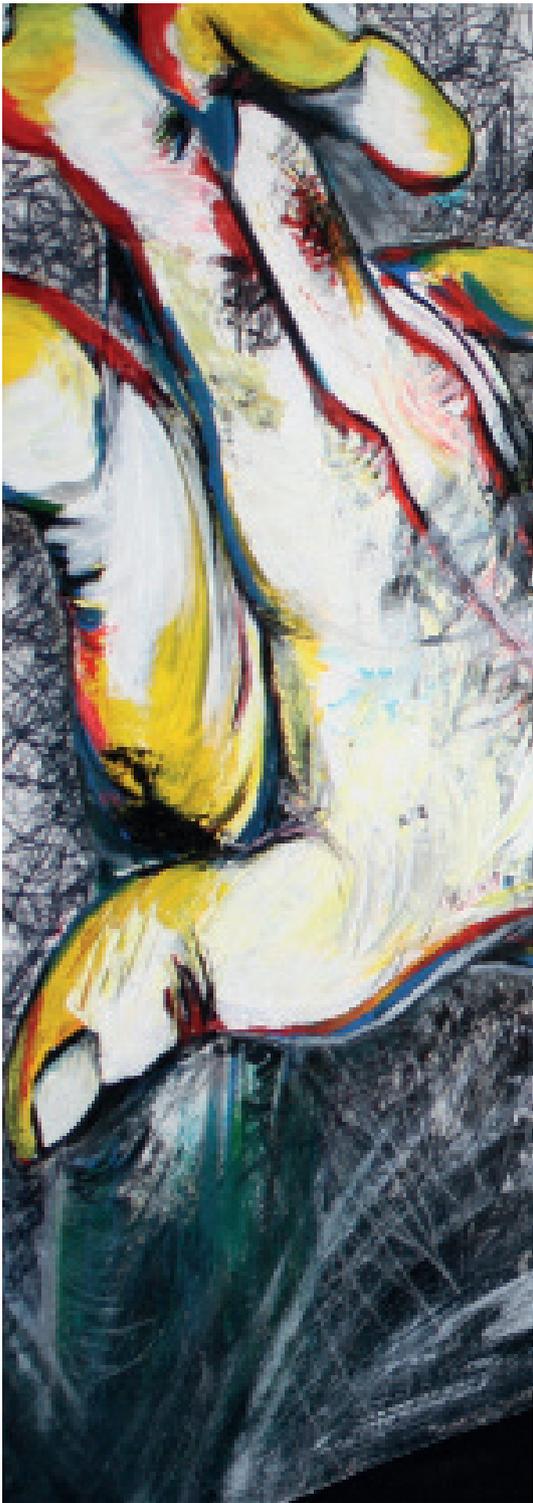
A grade B or above in GCSE Physical Education is normally required. If a GCSE in this subject was not taken, then a grade B or above in a Science subject is necessary.

## A LEVEL PHYSICS

The A Level OCR physics 'A' specification courses offered provide a very good basis for students to progress into further education to study physics or engineering, or to enter employment where a knowledge of Physics would be useful. The course includes the study of electricity, magnetism, forces, fields, motion and the frontiers of physics and other topics. Students are given the opportunity to develop their interest and enthusiasm as they progress through the course, where the emphasis is on understanding the concepts taught. Lesson time is divided between practical and theory work. To reinforce what is learnt in class it is expected that students will spend a considerable amount of time in independent study and regular assignments will be set.

### Entry qualifications

GCSE grades BB in Core and Additional Science or BBC in Triple Science with a B grade in the chosen science subject and a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics; students who study A Level Physics should also study A Level Mathematics.



# A Level Courses

## A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

If you have an enquiring mind, a good sense of humour and enjoy reading and debating then this is the subject for you. The study of Psychology will enable you to gain fascinating insights into human and animal behaviour. Students will study behaviour from a variety of different theoretical perspectives. Psychologists use scientific methods, but their main subject matter is human beings, so Psychology is a subject that links the Humanities and Sciences. Students will design, conduct and report on their own experimental research investigations. A wide range of teaching and learning activities are utilised to study interesting topics such as attraction, eating disorders, child development, aggression and the media.

### Entry qualifications

Students would be expected to have a good level of achievement in a range of GCSE courses including English, Science, Mathematics and Humanities.

## A LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The overall aims of this course are to provide an understanding of some key issues in the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics and thereby develop students' capacity for creating coherent and carefully balanced argument. Students will have the chance to develop transferable skills that will be invaluable, whatever university course or career they may choose in the future. They will be able to think more clearly and logically, spot flaws in arguments and express themselves fairly but firmly in group discussions. They will find themselves having impassioned discussions inside and outside the classroom as they follow in the footsteps of some of the great thinkers.

### Entry qualifications

Students would be expected to have a good level of achievement in a range of GCSE courses including English and Humanities subjects.

## A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is the study of society and individuals. It is suitable for students who have an open, enquiring mind and enjoy debating contemporary issues. A number of theoretical and political perspectives are applied to the study of topics such as education, families and households, mass media and crime and deviance. A wider knowledge and understanding of the society in which we live is essential and students must be keen on keeping up to date with the news and current affairs. As members of society all students should come to the course equipped with some knowledge of the social world, but through the study of Sociology they will develop a deeper understanding and examine issues that directly affect life in Britain and other areas of the World. Students learn how to conduct experimental and non-experimental research, and carry out and report on their own sociological investigations.

### Entry qualifications

Students would be expected to have a good level of achievement in a range of GCSE courses including English and Humanities subjects.

# A Level Extended Project Qualification

UCAS tariff equivalent to half an A Level qualification

All students studying A levels will additionally have the opportunity to undertake the AQA Extended Project Qualification, beginning in June of Year 12. The area of study for the project is chosen by the individual student, based on their own interests and it takes the form of independent research leading to a 5,000 word essay. Their study can be based around the production of an essay, artefact or performance.

This is a Level 3 qualification which appears on the UCAS tariff table and can be awarded at up to A\* grade. The project provides students with the opportunity to develop the kind of independent research skills and organisational abilities required for successful university study and as such it is highly regarded by admissions officers. Students are supported by a project supervisor and additional timetabled sessions are provided. Organisational skills, motivation and commitment are essential as students are responsible for meeting all deadlines and managing the reading, write up and final presentation of their findings.

**HUMANITY**  
– THE FALLEN RACE?  
**NATURE**  
VERSUS NURTURE  
IS CANNIBALISM  
EVER ACCEPTABLE?

## EPQ examples:



1. To what extent is endurance running predisposed?

Chloe Beckett was awarded an A\* for this project which also formed subject for discussion during her successful interview for a place to read History at Homerton College, Cambridge.



2. What features are there to be found in St Matthew's Passion to demonstrate Bach's influence on the developing genre of opera?

This was the EPQ subject chosen by Ellie Hicks, who left Braintree Sixth Form to read Music at Oxford.

3. To what extent does the common metal aluminium as a contributory factor induce the onset of Dementia of the Alzheimer's type?

"Researching for my Extended Project helped develop critical reading and was excellent preparation for Higher Education. I found the evidence regarding the influence of aluminium on the onset of Alzheimer's layered and complex. There were many factors to take into account and reaching a conclusion demanded rigorous evaluation. I enjoyed the freedom to work independently and to liaise with my supervisor on an adult basis and would recommend the EPQ to any students with the capacity to take on more."

Harry Williams

For additional information follow the link to the AQA website:  
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/projects/aqa-certificate/EPQ-9990>



# Enrichment

"It gives you the opportunity to meet people you wouldn't get to know in your classes"

All students take part in a structured programme of activities on Wednesday afternoons, providing an excellent opportunity to develop leadership, organisational and interpersonal skills, pursue an existing interest or simply try something new.

Enrichment provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate the creativity, organisational skills, professionalism and initiative that admissions officers and employers are looking for.

A wide range of activities are offered including languages, music, sports and voluntary work.

These activities bring Year 12 and Year 13 students together to improve their personal and academic skills. Other activities on offer include the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, photography workshops, GCSE Film course, production of the Sixth Form newsletter and skills based activities such as courses in cookery,

ceramics and touch typing. Some students also choose to return to their own secondary school, or support local primary schools by working as teaching assistants.

A full list of the opportunities on offer is provided prior to the start of each term. It is expected that students will take part in a number of different activities or projects during their time in the Sixth Form.

## Sports

Braintree Sixth Form offers a range of sports through the Enrichment programme. There is the opportunity to compete as part of the football or netball team in a league against other Sixth Forms in the area. More informal tournaments

also operate within the Sixth Form, with 5-a-side football proving to be very popular. Other sports on offer include table tennis, basketball, badminton, volleyball, trampolining, fitness and in the summer we offer cricket, rounders, tennis and softball. There are a number of sporting events throughout the year that Sixth Form students can get involved with, either as a competitor or organiser. These include cross country and athletics competitions. The local secondary schools are always grateful for assistance from the Sixth Form at their numerous sporting events throughout the year. Students also organise or assist with extra-curricular sports clubs for younger students, or work as a teaching assistants within PE lessons.

"Enrichment has given everyone an opportunity to write something positive on a CV or a personal Statement"

"Photography is brilliant!!"

WHAT  
WILL YOU  
CHOOSE?

**Ceramics**  
**Mandarin** **Film** **GCSE**  
**Shorthand** **Football** **DofE**  
**Charity Fundraising**  
**Personal Fitness** **Teaching Assistant**  
**Self defence**  
**Robotics**



# The Sixth Form Facilities

## Outstanding Learning Environment

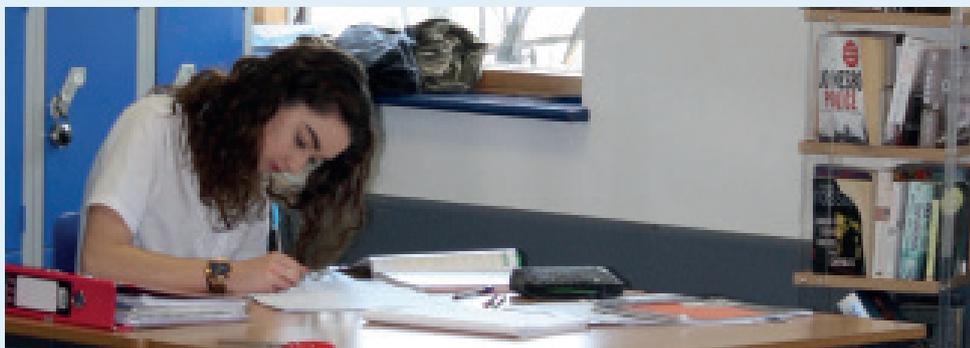
Housed in a self-contained centre, purpose built for Sixth Form use, Braintree Sixth Form provides students with the opportunity to study in an outstanding learning environment. Designed to provide the best possible support for academic success, the building has WiFi throughout allowing Internet access for both staff and students. Teaching rooms are well equipped and specialist teaching facilities include two large computer suites, a Music room and three Science labs.

## Media and ICT

To facilitate collaborative working Office 365 accounts are created for all Braintree Sixth Form students. As well as access to cloud storage and the facility for sharing documents, students also have free access to a range of software including Office 2013, which includes Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Publisher and Access. There is site wide access to the full Adobe CC suite. Free photocopying and printing is provided to support students in presenting their work and accessing materials and resources.

## Library

The spacious Sixth Form library offers students a professional working environment where a wide range of resources are available to support their learning. Students have access to paper based materials, online materials and e-resources, periodicals, journals, DVD and audio materials. The careers section provides information



on Further and Higher Education (including international opportunities), employment, occupations, gap year and voluntary work.

The library has networked computers which students are able to use for research, essay writing, project work and access to the library catalogue. The computerised catalogue system holds records of all the resources available in the Sixth Form library and also in the Notley High School library. The catalogue can be accessed from any networked computer in the Sixth Form and also remotely from home. Staff in the Library are available to help and guide students in their studies. Library skills sessions, including information on research techniques and referencing are also provided.

## Café

The Sixth Form students have their own vibrant café which opens on to a pleasant patio area in warmer weather. Open for

breakfast from 8am, the cafe offers a wide range of food options such as paninis and sandwiches, jacket potatoes, pizza and a salad bar. There is a regularly changing lunchtime menu of hot meals and also a range of takeaway items. Coffee, snacks and homemade cakes are available throughout the day.

## Student Common Room

The Common Room has been designed to create a comfortable and informal social space. Student lockers are available in the Common Room and in the upper corridor. Secure lockers are also provided for charging laptops and electronic devices..

## Sports Facilities

The campus has extensive playing fields, three sports halls, badminton courts, tennis courts and a dance studio.

Braintree  
Arts Theatre

24

Next of Kin

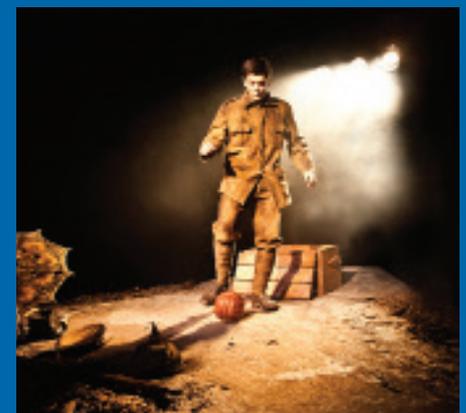


Braintree Arts Theatre is a busy and upcoming community theatre and lies within the heart of the Sixth Form building. As a fully functioning and professional theatre, students have a unique opportunity to work and perform in an active arts environment.

Functioning as an educational space by day as a public performing arts venue by night, students are able to experience both worlds. In addition to Braintree Arts Theatre's extensive performance opportunities, students are also able to gain experience within a backstage, front of house or technical environment.

Braintree Arts Theatre offers a diverse and exciting programme, with professional touring companies performing regularly, giving the students an exciting opportunity not only to take advantage of heavily discounted student rate tickets, but also learn from professionals through workshops organised by the Sixth Form teachers and Theatre Manager.

Students and audiences can enjoy a variety of performances throughout the year, including drama, comedy, live music, cabaret, talks and lectures and musical theatre. Students also have the opportunity to organise and manage their own events, concerts and functions at the Theatre at heavily subsidised rates not available to the public.





Developing life skills  
and competencies  
for the  
21st century



# An Internationally Minded and Aspirational Community

## Competencies

The tutorial programme features activities which aim to support students in developing “competencies”, in communication, organisation, team working and study skills. These are the skills that will enable students not only to succeed in their Sixth Form studies but to be successful as they progress on to employment or Higher Education. Staff comment on students’ progress in each of these areas in each report and competencies are discussed during individual tutorials.

## Leadership Opportunities

Sixth Form students develop their leadership skills through a variety of initiatives:

### Working with Subject Teams

We regularly ask students to contribute to the programme of Sixth Form faculty reviews and focus groups. This involves students giving feedback on classroom resources, practices and plans, helping staff to ensure that they are meeting student interests and needs.

### Student Ambassadors

Students have the opportunity to be employed as Student Ambassadors undertaking a range of responsibilities such as helping at Sixth Form community and promotional events and

## Professionalism

## Communication

supporting with the provision of advice and guidance to prospective students. This gives an opportunity for students to develop their interpersonal and leadership skills.

### Student Council

Students can choose to be a member of the Student Council, representing the views of fellow students and organising social activities within the Sixth Form. The Council provides a platform for student views, involving them in the Sixth Form decision making process. The Council has responsibility for liaising with the Sixth Form management team and representing students’ views with regard to teaching and learning. Members of this council oversee the regular student evaluations of subject provision and meet with members of the Leadership Team. The students on the Council also take a lead in organising social events such as the Sixth Form Ball in Year 13 and charity days.

## Organisation

## Teamwork

### Student Governors

Elected by their fellow students, these governors represent the students at meetings of the Sixth Form Governing body and have a particular responsibility for supporting the quality improvement of teaching and learning.



## Educational Visits

There are opportunities for students to take part in a range of day, part day and residential visits where their classroom activities can be extended and enriched. Departments will include trips where appropriate as an integral part of their programmes of study. There are also more general opportunities for students to take part in theatre, music and sports trips.

Visits do involve students making a financial contribution, but we will always endeavour to keep the costs to a minimum.



# Beyond Braintree Sixth Form

## Excellent progression

Braintree Sixth Form has an excellent progression record, with the vast majority of students progressing on to Higher or Further Education. Each year, a number of students secure places on the most selective courses at Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Other progression routes have included apprenticeships in areas such as accounting, business and media, army and navy placements, art foundation courses and study overseas.

## UCAS (Universities Central Admissions Service)

The Sixth Form runs an extensive University applications support programme. This begins with an information evening for parents and a UCAS launch day for students, involving workshops delivered by Braintree Sixth Form staff and representatives from local universities. Further support is provided through the tutorial programme, with students benefitting from both group and individual sessions with their personal tutor.

The Sixth Form enjoys excellent links with local universities, with staff from University of Essex, Anglia Ruskin University and University of Suffolk contributing to the university application support programme. Many of our students do choose to continue their studies close to home. Regular

In 2015 **99%**  
of our  
higher education  
applicants secured  
university  
places  
**80%** secured their  
first choice

trips to universities take place throughout the year, including a visit to the University of Essex for EPQ students. All students attend the annual UCAS Higher Education Convention.

Students interested in applying to International Universities should seek advice at the time of application as some universities have very specific subject requirements and others require admissions tests.

Students are encouraged to undertake work experience placements, giving them an insight

into possible career choices. Additional insight into matters of finance, relationships and the skills required for Post-16 studies is provided as part of the tutorial programme, and through a number of impact days throughout the year.

Sixth Form students have access to independent and impartial progression advice from a qualified careers advisor who visits the Sixth Form to see students by appointment once per week.



## Student Life

Student life in the Sixth Form is different from being at school. In the Sixth Form students take much more responsibility for themselves and their learning. The Sixth Form centre is open before and after the teaching day so that students can arrive early or stay late. As well as timetabled lessons and tutorial sessions students also have study periods. They decide for themselves how to divide their time between working in the library, socialising with friends in the common room or getting refreshments in the Sixth Form cafe.

### Student Text Books

Students are not required to purchase any text books for their studies at Braintree Sixth Form. A refundable deposit of £25.00 for use of the Library is requested on enrolment and once this is paid all text books are loaned through the Library, free of charge. Students are issued with new books for new modules, or new courses, upon the return of the books already issued in an appropriate condition.

### ICT & Laptops

The Sixth Form strongly encourages the use of ICT and electronic communications. All students are encouraged to use laptops or tablets and lockers for charging devices are available in the Sixth Form building. If students prefer not to use a digital media they will not be at a disadvantage, although they may miss the opportunity to develop their

# Preparing students for active participation in a rapidly changing world

practical experience of how ICT is best used, and not used, in real life day-to-day contexts. Subject information and lesson resources are available during each course on the intranet, so that students can log on from home and manage their own workload.

### Dress Code

Sixth Form students are expected to dress in business dress appropriate to a traditional office environment. This includes a shirt with a collar and tie for male students and appropriate equivalent professional dress for female students. Illustrations in this prospectus exemplify the code.

### Part Time Jobs

Many Sixth Form students have part time jobs. In moderation this can be a valuable experience for students, providing the opportunity to develop communication, leadership and organisational skills and introducing them to the expectations of the work place. Sixth Form students will be expected to plan their part time work so that it does not affect their attendance at lessons, participation in extra curricular activities and

their completion of independent work. As a guideline we would suggest that students do not undertake paid work for more than 12 hours per week.

### Directions Careers Service

A careers advisor from the "Directions" advisory service attends the Sixth Form on a weekly basis throughout the year to provide additional progression information and support for individual students.

### Work Experience

Work Experience can be very valuable for students but time is so tight on A Level courses that students are requested to arrange work experience, wherever possible, in school holidays. Some future career plans and university courses particularly benefit from work experience placements (e.g. medicine) so it is important for students to discuss career plans with their tutor and, as appropriate, agree work experience placements that could be particularly useful to their career plans.

# Student Support

Of the students enrolling with us for the 2015/16 academic year, 97% were retained to complete their courses.

## Pastoral support

The Sixth Form aims to provide each individual student with appropriate support and guidance so that they get the most from their time in the Sixth Form and progress successfully on to fulfilling careers or further study. Personal Tutors are kept informed about the performance of their tutees across their subjects, as well as being aware of their achievements outside the classroom. Systems of assessment and tracking are used to ensure that students receive regular feedback on their progress in each subject and targets for development. Regular individual tutorial meetings and group tutorials ensure that every student is in regular contact with their Personal Tutor with whom progress will be discussed and to whom the tutee can readily turn for help or advice. In addition to the Tutor Team, the Sixth Form Year Leader and Student Support Officer provide additional advice and support on both academic and pastoral issues. Where students are experiencing particular difficulties, the Sixth Form can arrange for mentoring or, if appropriate, counselling with our on-site Counsellor.

## SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

The Sixth Form has a SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) and a full range of SEND support is available. The Sixth Form is strongly committed to both inclusion and equal opportunities and will always look at what reasonable adjustments can be made in order to facilitate access for students with special needs. It is recommended that applicants discuss any potential SEND needs with the SENCO at an early stage, so that there is time to plan appropriate strategies and make any necessary arrangements before students start courses. Special examination arrangements can be put in place as necessary.

**97% Year 12 completion rate**  
**Excellent Pastoral and Academic Support**  
**Successful progression**



# Additional Information

## Employment

There are some opportunities for paid part time employment in the Sixth Form, The Braintree Arts Theatre and partnership schools. Opportunities will be publicised as they arise.

## Post 16 Transport

For information about Post 16 transport see:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Travel-School/Pages/Post-16-Transport.aspx>

## Applying to the Sixth Form

The Sixth Form welcomes applications from students studying in any secondary school in the UK or European Union. Applications can be made from 9 November, 2016 via the on line application form on the Sixth Form website [www.braintreesixthform.com](http://www.braintreesixthform.com) All offers are conditional and based on the predicted GCSE or equivalent grades which are supplied by the student and confirmed by their school. All applicants will be invited to attend a counselling meeting to discuss their proposed courses.

## Key Dates

9 November  
BSF Open Evening 6-8pm

9 November  
Online application opens

16 December  
First round of applications close

3 July  
Induction for all students holding offers

24 August  
GCSE results and enrolment

## Application process

9 November  
Open Evening

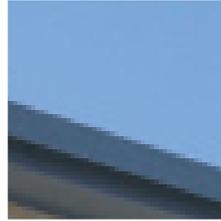
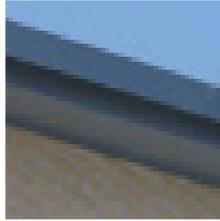
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16 December  
First round of applications close

January - February  
Counselling meetings with all applicants

3 July  
Induction for all students holding offers

24 August  
GCSE results and enrolment



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