



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 8 January 2021

Dear Students

I hope that the week working from home has gone well and that you are settling into the routine of online lessons and independent study. We have been delighted to see such high levels of commitment and attendance in online lessons throughout the week, and a number of finished applications being sent to UCAS as well. It is no doubt a frustrating and anxious time for many students, particularly as we wait for clarification on what the arrangements for assessing Year 13s this year will be. In the weeks ahead, it is important to continue to engage with lessons and learning and to work hard as you would have been in any case. We will keep you updated as and when we know more about plans for Year 13s and anything which may affect Year 12. While we are all looking forward to welcoming you all back in person, we encourage you to make the most of the online learning and to let us know if you encounter any difficulties, whether these are to do with technology, academic work, progression or your wellbeing.

UCAS deadline extended

This is the message from UCAS: Applications for all UCAS Undergraduate courses, except those with a 15 October deadline, should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time) on 29 January 2021. (Following UK COVID-19 restriction announcements the deadline for undergraduate applications has been extended from 15 January.)

This is our 'equal consideration' deadline, which means course providers must consider all applications received by this time equally.

Universities and colleges do not have to consider applications received after the deadline, although they can if they have spaces available once the on-time applications have been considered.

For those students who have not yet applied for a UCAS undergraduate course but intend to do so, please continue to liaise with tutors and Mr Bridgwater so that everything is ready to support your application in good time.

Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Teams – message from Mr Rose

You may have seen posts on various social media sites explaining that you can use an Xbox and PS4 to access Microsoft Teams. Whilst it is true that these devices can be used, the

experience is far from ideal and you will have great difficulty engaging with lessons if you access them from these devices. This is mainly, but not limited to, the lack of keyboard and having to use the games controller to type (which is extremely slow and not particularly appropriate for anything more than a word or two). We suggest that these devices are not appropriate for accessing remote learning.

Careers opportunities

These have been sent in by the organisation Young Professionals:

HSBC Work Experience:

We have some really exciting news to share, HSBC Work Experience is now live!

Opportunities across the whole of the UK, in financial services, investment banking, marketing, digital, compliance and HR.

The Work Experience opportunities will be available through June to August 2021 and will be 1-week long.

Open to all secondary school or college students in Y10 / S3, Y11 / S4, Y12 / S5 Y13 / S6 & Y14, applications close on 21 February.

If you have any questions about applying, please get in contact. Application

Link: <https://bit.ly/3rjRiT2>

Marks & Spencers Webinar:

M&S are recruiting Retail Management and Fashion apprentices across the UK, giving you the ultimate fast track to managing your own department and looking after multi million pound budgets, all while being coached and mentored by their retail management experts.

If you'd like to consider applying for a M&S apprenticeship programme and are interested in Business, Retail, Management or Fashion then you can find your unique sign up application link below to this webinar

Key Details:

- Thursday 28 January, 5pm - 6pm
- Insight to M&S (one of the UK's most iconic brands)
- Open to all Y12 / S5, Y13 / S6 and Y14 students
- Great opportunity for students looking to get into business, management, retail or fashion

Webinar Application Link:

<https://www.research.net/r/Marks-Spencer-Webinar>

Online lectures – academic enrichment

Gresham College's free public lectures (running since 1597) will be continuing online in January 2021 until Easter. Our lectures are delivered by world-class experts in fields ranging across the arts and sciences, and they include lecturers like Professors Chris Whitty who is speaking about [Vaccination](#) on 10 Feb, Edith Hall (Classics), Leslie Thomas QC (Law) and Joanna Bourke (Cultural History).

For students they are a resource for developing subject knowledge and skills, careers advice,

EPQ projects and UCAS statements. We have a searchable back catalogue of 2,500 free digital lectures on our website ordered by school subject at www.gresham.ac.uk/schools. Please see the end of the bulletin for a fuller list – highly recommended.

Resources to support mental health and wellbeing

If you have concerns about your wellbeing, please do make sure you speak to someone, whether this is someone at home, your GP, or a member of the sixth form staff. There is always a member of the safeguarding team on the school site during school hours.

If you feel you need additional help, the following services may be useful:

Shout: 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Our trained volunteers are there for you 24/7 to listen and support you to get to a calmer and safe place. Shout is a free, confidential, anonymous service for anyone in the UK. It won't appear on your phone bill.

To start a conversation, text the word 'SHOUT' to 85258.

If your life is at imminent risk, call the emergency services on 999.

Kooth: aims to improve students' emotional wellbeing and mental health. Join today to access immediate support.

Make sure you have a proper break this weekend, including some time away from screens, and do continue to follow the Government guidance in order to keep everyone in our community safe.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Townsend
Head of Sixth Form
Assistant Headteacher – KS5

Additional information about lectures:

2020-21 LECTURES:

ASTRONOMY

A series called [Cosmic Vision](#) by Astronomy Professor Katherine Blundell, and another by Visiting Professor Roberto Trotta, [The Unexpected Universe](#).

BUSINESS / ECONOMICS

A series on [The Psychology of Finance](#) by Business Professor Alex Edmans; a series on [Intergenerational Justice](#) by Visiting Professor Martin Daunton.

CLASSICS

[Great Thinkers](#) series includes Plato and Aristotle, by Visiting Professor Edith Hall.

ENGLISH

[The Powers of the Novel](#) by Visiting Professor John Mullan, a series on 'classic' film, [Exploding the Film Canon](#) by Visiting Professor Ian Christie.

GEOGRAPHY

Two short series about the environment, [Our Connected World](#), and [How to Build a Just and Prosperous Planet](#) by Professor Jacqueline McGlade.

HISTORY

A fascinating series on [Evil Women](#) in history by Professor Joanna Bourke; a series on [England's Reformations](#) by Professor Alec Ryrie; a [Black History Month](#) series; a series about [Darwin](#) and his impact by Visiting Professor Jim Endersby (may also be useful for Science); a series on [Great Tudor and Stuart Houses](#) by the Provost Simon Thurley (architecture history) and lots of one-off lectures.

IT

[Great Ideas From Computer Science](#) by Professor Richard Harvey, which includes algorithms, data, programs and networks; a lecture on [AI and Humour](#) by Visiting Professor Yorick Wilks.

LAW / POLITICS / CITIZENSHIP

[Death, the State and Human Rights](#) by Professor Leslie Thomas QC will discuss police restraint and inquests into deaths in custody (Black Lives Matter); [The Politics of the Courtroom](#) by Visiting Professor Thomas Grant will weigh the balance between politicians and the courts.

MATHEMATICS

Gresham Professor Sarah Hart will look at [Mathematics in Music and Writing](#), Professor Kevin Buzzard will ask [Will Computers Outsmart Mathematicians](#), Dr Kit Yates discusses [The Maths of Life and Death](#).

MEDICINE

[Major Debates in Public Health](#) by the Chief Medical Officer for England Professor Chris Whitty will include a lecture on [Vaccination](#); and [Performing Medicine](#) by Visiting Professor of Medical Education Roger Kneebone includes a [lecture on knife crime](#).

MUSIC

[Russian Piano Masterpieces](#) by Music Professor Marina Frolova-Walker with pianist Peter Donohoe; [100 years of BBC Radio](#) by Visiting Professor Jeremy Summerly; Dr Xenia Pestova-Bennett will look at [Toy and Cyborg Pianos](#).

ARCHIVE LECTURES

Recent highlights in the archive include a career-relevant series on [Business Skills](#) by Alex Edmans, which includes lectures on your CV, time management etc; and two series by Sir Jonathan Bate on [Classic Shakespeare](#) and [Wordsworth and the Romantics](#); we also have a strong series on the [applications of Mathematics](#) for example, in the film industry, the maths of climate change, etc by Professor Chris Budd.