



Weekly Student Bulletin for Braintree Sixth Form Students Friday 3 December 2021

Dear BSF Students

If, like me, you had begun to feel as if it was the Christmas holidays over this long weekend, you may have greeted Wednesday morning with some reluctance! Hopefully this evaporated once you were back here, and you are ready to face the last two weeks of term with the same energy and enthusiasm with which you have faced the last twelve weeks! (I'll leave it up to you to work out whether that exclamation mark was ironic or not...) It has felt like something of a backward step to return to mask wearing and virtual assemblies but hopefully by adopting these painless measures, we can all ensure that Christmas is a far happier one than last year. Please do continue to wear your masks in communal areas; use plenty of hand sanitiser and test twice weekly. There have been very few masks in evidence this week; I hope to see that improve next week.

Christmas Jumper Day (and Christmas Masks!)

It's Christmas Jumper Day on December 10th. Please support Save the Children by wearing your best/worst Christmas jumper and donating £1.

In addition, I will give a prize to the best Christmas mask on the last day of term. This cannot be a shop bought Christmas mask but has to be evidently decorated or customised by you. The tackier the better!

Mock Interviews

Thank you to all of you who attended the mock interviews arranged by Mrs Robb this week. Interviews are rarely something we approach with enthusiasm but the more practice we get of them, the less daunting they become. I was once asked at interview what type of sandwich I would be – a question I had not anticipated – so being prepared to expect the unexpected is very helpful!

Year 13 mocks

The Year 13 mock exams will be held in the week beginning January 10th so hopefully your revision is well underway. Please don't fall into the trap of thinking mocks don't count or maybe, as I have heard people say in the past, that you'll see how you get on with minimal revision so that you know how much (or little) you can get away with in the real thing. The last time I heard someone approach their mocks this way was two years ago and we all know how that ended... At present, the plan is that exams will go ahead as planned in the summer but again, we need to prepare for the unexpected so please approach these as if they are the final exams. It's certainly true that the more revision you put in now, the more knowledge will remain in your memory for the final exams.

Year 12, your exams are in June so you have a bit more time to get ready for yours.

Enterprise Fair

Hopefully Year 12 are ready for the Enterprise Fair on Tuesday 7th December. Year 7 have been invited and asked to bring some money to spend. Please make sure you arrive early to set up your

stall (thinking about access to power points if you need them); that you make it look appealing; and that you bring a float and something to collect money in. Remember that all electrical appliances that you intend to use (including extension cables) must be given to Mr Bridgwater on Monday to test for safety purposes. Good luck to all of the groups who have formed companies - make sure you enjoy the event too!

Leavers' Event

We have received 50 payments for this event which is enough for it to go ahead! However, it will be a better event if everyone is there. The deposit is only £15.50 so please pay this as soon as possible.

Essex Changemakers

Ava Moylan is part of the Changemakers group and is organising a collection of items for homeless people in time for Christmas. The items needed are wipes, socks, period products, dry shampoo, hair bands, toothbrushes, toothpaste, gum, mints, torches, tinned foods, blankets, dried fruit, handwritten notes/cards, disposable masks, gloves, hats, fluffy socks and scarves.

Ava will be collecting this on Friday 10th December so please try to donate to this important cause before then.

Open day

Backstage Academy is a small and specialist institution offering undergraduate and postgraduate degrees for the live events and creative industries based on Production Park in Wakefield, West Yorkshire. They have an Open Day on Saturday 4th December. Book your place at <https://backstage-academy.co.uk/about/School-College-Liaison>

University of Essex Outreach

[Understanding University, the Ultimate Uni Podcast](#)

The University of Essex have created a fantastic series of podcast episodes to help students in school, college or sixth form, teachers, parents, carers and guardians with all the ins and outs of higher education. Hear from students and staff at Essex about a range of topics, including how to choose a course, perfect your personal statement, how to choose your accommodation, make the most of an open day and more. Whether you're out and about, or have 30 minutes to relax with a hot drink, tune in to [Spotify](#) and discover the answers to all your questions about university. Transcripts for all of our episodes can be found [here](#).

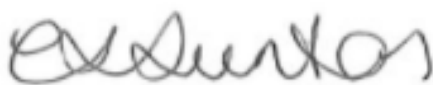
Over the winter break students in Years 12-13 or undertaking a Level 3 qualification in UK Schools and Colleges can take part in the Online Study Skills Winter Prize Draw. All you need to do is complete the University Preparation Programme between Monday 15 November 2021 and Monday 28 February 2022 to be in with a chance of winning an iPad, AirPods, Netflix vouchers and more! Use this link to find out more: [Online study skills prize draw | University of Essex](#)

Summer Placements

Investin are offering summer work placements in a range of careers. Use this link to see what is on offer:

<https://investin.org/pages/choose-your-career>

Have a great weekend



Ms C Dunton

Head of Sixth Form