

Message from the Head

In what has been a short half term it is great to see a continued drive across the schools to offer a wide range of exciting learning opportunities. Students have again had access to a number of off-site sporting activities, social groups, visiting specialists and work placements as appropriate. At The Brades Lodge a new reward system has been introduced which is having a significant impact in motivating and encouraging students to engage further in lessons. The system is designed to support all students to make positive behaviour choices. Those who have performed particularly well this half term will be going to 'Lazer Quest' on 27th March.

Of particular significance this half term, our residential provision has had its annual Social Care Inspection from OFSTED from 3rd-5th March. The school is measured against National Minimum Standards for Residential Special Schools which cover four key areas : child care, leadership and management, safeguarding and outcomes for students. The feedback from our Inspector and his draft report is extremely positive and we will be publishing the final document on the website as soon as it is available. Well done to all involved, and thank you to those Parents and Carers who spoke to the Inspector.

Easter Egg Hunt !

Students at Shenstone Lodge spent an eggciting day out hunting high and low for Easter Eggs at Cannock Chase.

The eggs were hidden deep, deep in the dark Gruffalo woods on Cannock Chase. For some of the children, this was the first ever school trip they had been on.



Whilst there, the children took part in a scavenger hunt where they had to find worms, insects, beetles, feathers and squirrels to name but a few of the items off the list. There was a challenge trail where the pupils had to climb onto a giant metal chair, balance on wooden beams and the hardest challenge of all stay silent for 30 seconds so that they could hear all of the sounds of the forest. The trail ended with everyone gathered by a GIANT wooden training shoe! Lots of fresh air in the lungs, sunshine and hail on our backs and chocolate eggs in our tummies...an eggcellent day was had by all !



TBL Radio

As I write this article the radio equipment at The Brades Lodge is being installed. With any luck they will be broadcasting before the end of term. In the first instance tunes and articles will be heard across communal areas of the school at break time and lunch. As our Broadband is upgraded and the improvements to the website can be engaged you will be able to tune in online and listen to podcasts and other music feeds. The students are really excited about learning how to use the equipment and sharing their favourite tunes with others.

In addition to gaining an understanding of music production the boys will be covering many aspects of the new computing curriculum. Furthermore we continue to have a group of musically minded students who are producing their own material, with support from 'Krunch' DJ Mechak. We look forward to using the radio station to play their sounds.



SPORTS FOCUS

The Brades Lodge continue to challenge Lindsorth School in regular football fixtures. Games



have been tight but we appear to be holding our own against this much larger school. This half term has at last seen the Brades Boxing Club opening for business, with a number of students attending on a Friday afternoon. It will be running until the summer with the coach Steve O'Rourke saying that DJ and Kam are particularly talented.

Students at Shenstone Lodge have been running mad this half term, so much so the school have been able to muster a team to take part in after school races across South Staffordshire. The pupils have performed brilliantly... trying really hard as a team and supporting each other to keep going when the going gets wet, windy and cold. As individuals, the children are improving their finishing positions at each race. Well Done!



RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

As always residence has been packed full of fun, with children having the opportunity to experience new and exciting adventures. We went to Tamworth Snowdome where the boys tested their abilities on the ice, we definitely have some talented ice skaters in the making; can't say the same for the staff as some struggled to stand up! We held an open evening on the 5th March and were pleased to see new children sharing in the 'residential experience' and we are now looking forward to them joining residence after Easter. The boys have been experimenting with their cooking skills with some fine produce being made, mint aero cheesecake and cream egg brownies being a firm favourite. We have also been enjoying the lighter evenings, with fires and marshmallows and playing out in the grounds generally just having good fun.

Denise Hart (Acting Deputy Head of Care)

Jamie Oliver Cooking Competition

On Monday 16th March, a group of Year 9 students took their positions in the Food Technology kitchen and started work on an amazing culinary treat for the rest of the school.

The chosen theme was around an American Diner experience so the team stirred, mixed, cooked and chopped their way through home made ginger beer, fries, salad, burgers and good ol' Mississippi Mud pie! Jordan said "It was great fun .. If you try hard at something its amazing what you can achieve!" Well Done to all those who took part.. We look forward the next dining experience!



Quiz Corner

1. What is the English equivalent of the Welsh word "Popty Ping" ?
2. Where in the human body is the Lunula ?
3. Can you name 10 famous London landmarks ?
4. How tall is the Empire State Building ?
5. How far is a marathon ?
6. Can you name 5 English counties that do not end in 'shire' ?
7. What does a 'cooper' make ?
8. What are the 3 colours on the national flag of Russia ?



Well Done...

To Bradley M, DJ, Freddie-Lee, Jordan P, Brandon S and Connor the highest attenders this half term at The Brades Lodge



To Demarni, Heather, Chanel, Luke M, Cain, Chanel, Calum, Jack, Lemarr, Ethan, Ellie and Doulton who have the highest attendance this half term at Shenstone Lodge School

AOB

Shenstone Lodge school is saying goodbye to Mrs Foster who has been successfully recruited to a promotional post in a mainstream school. Mr Hadley and Mr Jenkins have also left Shenstone Lodge. We thank them all for their hard work and wish them well in the future.

On a positive note we welcome teachers Ms Boldon and Ms Mannion along with classroom support staff Mr Hare and Ms Johnson to Shenstone Lodge. Mr Dudley will be leading English at The Brades Lodge in the new term.

Ms Natalie Hickman has also joined the team as the Safeguarding Manager at Shenstone Lodge. Some of you will be aware that one of our residential care officers Mrs Greenfield was suddenly taken ill whilst in school. I am pleased to say that she is at home and recovering well.

Year 6 students are currently working hard in preparation for the National SATs week commencing on Monday 11th May. If you would like to know how best to support your child with revision please contact Shenstone Lodge and ask to talk to Ms Keating or Mrs Perry. There are many online revision aids if you prefer to use a computer.



As part of our **World Book Day** celebrations 'The West End' theatre group came to Shenstone Lodge to deliver their drama workshop "SPACE JUMP". There was lots of dramatic interaction by the pupils who watched the play unfold. The children were able to join in with the songs that they had been learning in their singing lessons and were able to recognise the books mentioned throughout the play from their literacy lessons.



SAFETY FIRST

Nine students from The Brades Lodge spent the day at the 'Safeside' educational centre in Birmingham. The centre provides innovative, interactive and enjoyable learning environments, inspiring visitors to think and act safely.

The boys had the opportunity to learn more about key issues such as road, fire and water safety, the negative impact of vandalism, drugs and alcohol, financial awareness, what to do in an emergency and other lifeskills for independent living. Tom said " It was a great day out and I learned a lot of things about safety."



Diary Dates...

Spring Term Ends 1.30pm
27.3.15

Students return 13.4.15

May Bank Holiday 4.5.15

Staff INSET day 5.5.15

Half Term 25-29.5.15

Students return 1.6.15

Summer Term Ends 1.30pm
17.7.15

Students return 7.9.15

Half Term 26-30.10.15

Students return 2.11.15

Staff Inset day 20.11.15