



Message from the Head

Yet again we have had an exciting half term full of learning and fun across the two sites.

Students at both schools have really enjoyed the opportunity to be part of the School Councils and are beginning to make some real contributions to the development of the grounds, the curriculum and off-site activities.

The Residential Inspection Report has now been published and I am pleased to say that the school was awarded a *GOOD* rating overall. This is a great achievement as the inspection framework was changed in April 2015 to again raise the grade standards required for residential special schools and other residential provisions. The report covers leadership and management, quality of care, child protection and overall experience and outcomes. Well done to all those involved ... we look forward to achieving an Outstanding in the next inspection!

On a different note, many of you will have been aware that Mrs Deakin has not been at The Brades Lodge since the beginning of October. It was confirmed last week that she will not be returning to the school. We wish her well.

Simon Hobbs is the Acting Head of School and has already begun to implement some exciting new projects to improve student outcomes.

Griffin Trip to Cannock

This half term Griffin class have been studying a topic called Alchemy Island. They have travelled to the island through a portal and completed a journey around the island undertaking a number of tasks. These included looking at reversible and irreversible changes, making electric circuits and testing materials, experimenting with jelly marbles, testing solvents, making plastic from milk and vinegar, 6 figure grid references, compass and map work.

We finished the topic with a trip to Cannock Chase to put our grid reference, compass and map skills to the test on a class walk. The class worked really well on the trip and transferred the things they had learnt at school to a real situation.

Demarni said "I've learnt how to use a compass differently and I enjoyed playing and adventuring."

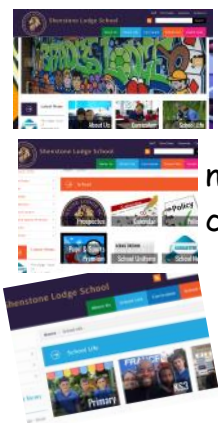


WEBSITE NEWS

If you have tried to log on to our website recently you will have found that nothing happens. Unfortunately the company providing the service for us and many other schools has ceased trading. As a result we will be launching our new website earlier than anticipated to ensure that you continue to have access to curriculum information, policies, relevant documents and events.

A note will be forwarded to you all to confirm when we are online. The new web address will be www.shenstonelodge.co.uk

Comments on the site will be welcomed!





SPORTS NEWS

As part of a Midlands School league fixture The Brades Lodge have travelled to Coventry this half term to play against Oakwood School. The game looked a certain victory on paper but turned out to be a hard fought, 'end to end' game. The final score was 3-3. The opposition PE teacher emailed our school with the following "Just want to say a massive thanks for today, your lads are a credit to you!"

Brades continued their travels taking part in a tournament hosted by local rivals Elmwood in Walsall. After 2 wins and a draw The Brades were crowned tournament winners. Freddie-Lee was given player of the tournament because of his sportsmanship and communication skills. A fantastic result all round!



Quiz Corner

1. In what town was Lionel Messi born ?
2. Which country is well known for cooking paella ?
3. Who starred in the hit musical Summer Holiday ?
4. How many sides does a dodecahedron have ?
5. How long is the Amazon river ?
6. What year did William the Conqueror arrive on British soil ?
7. What colour is a Minion ?



Express and Star Celebrate Students Work

Local Sandwell newspaper the 'Express and Star' printed a half page spread praising the work of Brades Lodge students who produced the anti-knife crime film 'Red Gang'. The film will soon be accessible on the new website through our secure Youtube channel.

If you would like a photocopy of the article please contact Mr Hobbs at the Brades Lodge.

Thomas Walks His Way to France

On Saturday the 13th March a small group of students from The Brades Lodge will be setting off for Le Corbier, a ski resort in France. This is the second trip to these fantastic Alpine slopes and again it promises to be an amazing adventure for the students lucky enough to be taking part.

To support the funding of the trip Thomas decided to raise money by walking family member's dogs. After much trekking and aching feet Thomas has raised a staggering £400! Well Done Thomas you should be really proud of this tremendous achievement!

RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Residential children have been taking part in 'Body Beat' dance and gymnastics lessons on a Monday and Thursday evening. The sessions are delivered by dance specialists who provide a high impact programme which is a fun way to keep fit and learn new body moves. All the students taking part are enjoying the sessions and are working toward a gym/dance fusion performance in the future. Mrs Bow

This term the residents have been working really hard to develop their judo skills and techniques. We have been working towards getting everyone 'licenced' and ready for a grading next term. They will be working towards their first grade and their red belts.

There has been great development in their skills and abilities, plus everyone is having a good time, getting fit. Confidence levels amongst the group have never been so high! GO JUDO! Mr Smith



Bomb Threats

As you are no doubt aware from local and national news bulletins schools have become the target of numerous bomb threats. Shenstone Lodge takes this matter very seriously and the safety of your child is of paramount concern.



In the event of a bomb threat the school affected will be evacuated whilst we consult with the police to determine the credibility of the threat and the likely timescale of any investigation.

It is at this point a decision will be made to either close the school and return the students home or to relocate for a short period of time to one of our nominated safe places.

I trust and anticipate that you will work closely with the school if we are unfortunate enough to be the subject of a threat.

SAFESIDE

Prior to the break a number of key stage 3 students were taken to 'SafeSide' in Birmingham as part of the PSHCE curriculum. SafeSide is an interactive venue run by West Midlands Fire Service that links to the curriculum via the personal safety and travel training modules.

It includes a full sized street scene with a working pedestrian crossing, double decker bus, shop, car, canal, court room, police station, house and much more. Key issues such as road, fire and water safety are covered alongside input on vandalism, drugs and alcohol, what to do in an emergency and other life skills for independent living.

As part of the trip the students also took in the cultural experiences of the German Christmas Market.

All students represented the school well and were a pleasure to take out! They really enjoyed the day! Vicki Lloyd

Forest School At Brades Lodge

A group of students at The Brades Lodge are enjoying the great outdoors as part of a weekly Forest School activity programme at Sandwell Valley. The students are having the opportunity to develop forest craft skills which includes river crossing, using a 'Kelly kettle', shelter building and more. Activity leader Mrs Harman passed on the following in her school report "There was a definite feel of adventure and fun... The boys responded well when the whistle blew, they helped each other over (and through) the stream, as they raced back to camp."

Well Done boys keep up the good work!

Well Done...

To Kacey, Bradley C, Freddie-Lee, Bradley M and Mark for receiving the most positive report slips at The Brades Lodge this half term.

To Robert and Thomas who have 100% attendance this half term at The Brades Lodge.

To Heather, Zeke, Lola, Ethan BD, Jamie, Luke, Demarni and Chanel with the highest class Dojos this half term.

To Jack H and Joshua for receiving the 'most improved' award at Shenstone Lodge.

To Demarni, Heather, Calum, Zeke, Leona, McKenzie, R'Mario and Riley who have 100% attendance at Shenstone Lodge.



Parent Questionnaire Results Dec 2015 (both sites)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	PARENT FEEDBACK Thankyou to all those who managed to complete and return the parent survey. As you can see the overall picture remains extremely positive, however; it is clear that we need to do some additional work keeping you informed about different aspects of the school. In particular we will begin to look at how we report some of our behaviour information and how we promote learning as a route to successful employment.
My child feels safe at school	14	5				
My child is making good progress at school	12	4		1	2	
The school meets my child's particular needs	11	7			1	
The school ensures my child is well looked after	13	5		1		
My child is taught well at school	12	5		1	1	
The school helps my child to behave better	12	3	2		2	
The school helps my child to read	9	6			1	
The school helps my child to write	10	7			2	
The school helps my child to use maths	10	7	1		1	
The school helps my child to use computers	11	5			3	
Understand what they need to get a job	11	2		1	5	
The schools encourages students to behave well	12	6		1		
The school deals effectively with any case of bullying	10	4	1	2	1	
My child's lessons are not disrupted by bad behaviour	10	5		2	2	
The school helps me to support my child's learning	12	4	1	1	1	
I am able to approach the school with any concerns knowing that it will respond appropriately	13	2	1	1	2	
The school keeps me well informed about all matters concerning my child	14	3	2			

A.O.B.

Mr Carter (RCCO) has joined Shenstone Lodge School this half term.

Parent Governor

The school continues to have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you would like to be considered for this position please forward your expression of interest to:

headteacher@shenstonelodge.sandwell.sch.uk with a short resume of how you would like to support the school and how you would be able to contribute. Meetings are now from 4pm and take place every 6 weeks or so. They are held at both sites.

Closing date for applications March 4th 2016. THANK YOU !!!

Diary Dates...

15th-19th Feb Half Term

End of Term Wed 23rd March

1.30pm

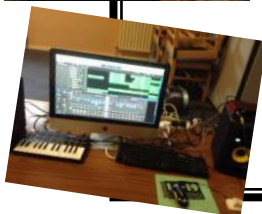
Students return Mon 11th April

Bank Holiday 2nd May

30th May-3rd Jun Half Term

End of Term 22nd July 1.30pm

Summer Break



Students at The Brades Lodge are working hard towards music accreditations using studio facilities at the Sandwell based charity Krunch. The students have the opportunity to focus their interest in either the production or performance side of music. The project is working extremely well for Martin and DJ who hope to have careers in the industry once they leave school.