



# THE LODGE

Issue 35 ... May 2019

## Message from the Head



Although we have had a short half term the students across the sites have had the usual fun and learning-packed itinerary. As well as planned educational trips and sports fixtures, exams and tests have been high on the agenda.

Some students in yr 6 have had the opportunity to take part in the SATs, whilst in KS4, yr 11 students have started their GCSEs and / or other accreditations. We look forward to the results and hope that our upward trend for outcomes is maintained.

As a school we have continued to expand our offer of accreditations and courses, to meet the learning and aspirational needs of our students, increasing the number of opportunities available to them when they leave school.

After half term the year 11 timetable will be reducing as students complete their studies. It is however, really important that the students continue to attend as we will be offering focussed projects that are designed to help with employability and / or further studies.

## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Students at The Brades Lodge are for the first time taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's award programme.

Jaden and Ciaran are currently working towards the Bronze level of the programme having completed the 'Volunteering' section of the award. They are now undertaking tasks to meet the objective required to demonstrate competence in the 'Skills and Physical' element. When they eventually complete the 'Expedition' strand they will have gained the complete award which



is a great achievement and will definitely stand out on their CVs.

Simon Hobbs

## BOOKWORM BARISTAS!

As mentioned in newsletter 32, staff and students have been working hard to renovate a small, disused Café situated within Smethwick Library. Having spent some time painting, filling and cleaning the kitchen, serving and seating areas, the team were pleased to get a 'certified pass' from the Sandwell Environmental Health Team. As a result, the Bookworm Café is once again open for business albeit one day a week, every Wednesday from 11-12.30.



It is hoped that the number of days they are open will be increasing over the next few weeks so that it becomes a more established facility and more students will get to develop their confidence, people skills and undertake tasks that will support their understanding and use of 'real world' Maths and English.

If you find yourself passing by, please come along and join us for a coffee and a chat, it will be great to see you there!

## SPORTS NEWS



The Brades Lodge annual 'Strong Student' event returned on

22nd May with over 30 students from around the West Midlands competing for the coveted title ... The Strongest Student!



Participants were pushed to their limits as they lifted, pulled, threw and carried objects ranging from barrels to minibuses, kettle bells to bar bells.

Each of the exercises was carefully designed to measure specific and all round strength and stamina so that the competition winner would be an undisputed champion.



This year's competition saw some remarkable levels of resilience and effort in all events as students tried to beat long standing records.

At the end of the day however, there could only be one winner and the title went to Dom from Loxley Hall.

On talking to one of the participants from a visiting school he said he had a great time and hoped his arms wouldn't ache too much in the morning!

Scott Worton

## 'Blue Sky' Shakespeare Day

The Brades Lodge hosted Shakespeare specialists, The Sky Blue Theatre Company on Monday 20th May. The group delivered a full day's workshop framed around Shakespeare's world famous Twelfth Night and The Tempest. Students at Brades were joined by a small group from the Shenstone site to take part in the event. All were encouraged to get into character and perform key scenes from both plays. Students had the opportunity to dress up and learn script as part of the session. Sarah Yates



## RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Wild Deer at  
Chasewater  
Park

I guess the saying 'time flies when you're having fun' applies to this half term...time has certainly flown by and we've certainly had lots of fun! We've looked to create new experiences by exploring new parks and outdoor spaces... Rosliston Forestry Centre, Chasewater and the Custard Factory being new favourites...be sure to ask all about them! Planning is underway for next term's activities, bringing with it another wave of new adventures.

Dave Hare RCCO

## CAREERS OFFER

The Brades Lodge Year 8 and 9 pupils had the opportunity to visit Wolver-Hampton Race Course for the second annual Careers and Enterprise Company employer interview network conference.



Alongside 280 pupils from 24 different schools and 120 employers from different businesses, the pupils had a 'speed date' of 7 minutes to find out as much as possible about each of the employers' respective sectors. Although it was an intense day out the students were a credit to the school and came away with plenty of new ideas for prospective jobs in the future. S

## Quiz Corner



1. Which football teams played in the first FA cup final?
2. What was the highest number of goals scored in a Champions League final?
3. If it is 4 pm on Monday in the UK, what time and day is it in New Zealand?
4. What colour is a sapphire?
5. What is sodium chloride more commonly known as?

## Colouring Chaos !



The children of Shenstone arrived at school on Tuesday 30th April to

find their 'crayons' protesting at being overused! Red crayon is unhappy because she has to colour in fire engines, Santas and hearts while blue crayon is used so much, he can no longer see out of the crayon box. During an assembly, the children heard from all of the crayons about why they are unhappy and what do they think would cheer them up.

Inspired by the book 'The Day the Crayons Quit' the children took part in this whole school English project, to learn how to write letters and persuade others. The children will be creating a book of letters to persuade the crayons not to quit.

Shenstone Lodge is undertaking the Leading Parent Partnership Award. The initiative, once complete gives schools a coherent framework to improve effective parental engagement. Longer term we should also see a positive impact on pupil progress, punctuality, attendance and student behaviour.

Well Done...



To Andre, Joshua, McKenzie Le, Luke, R'Mario and Doultan for receiving the most positive report slips at The Brades Lodge this half term.

To Jack, Kyle CH, John, Dominic, Andre, Kieran and Thomas who have 100% attendance this half term at The Brades Lodge.

To Malachi, Mia-Louise, Michael, Ethan C and Ibrahim with the highest class Dojos this half term at Shenstone Lodge.

To Caiden, Lucas S, Jayden B, Daniel, Mia-Louise, Matthew, Ethan C, Junior, Lucas G, Ibrahim, Malachi, Caleb, Romero, Celest, Kieron, Leo, Callum B, Michael, Cutis, Leona, Jake O, Cameron, Ryan and Xavier who have 100% attendance at Shenstone Lodge

## Good To Know ...Working with Families News

<p><b>Training dates for the revised Changes programme</b> are now available for booking. The training programme is for practitioners working with families in Sandwell and guides parents through their parenting journey. It is a flexible programme that can be delivered in groups or one-to-one. More details are available on the booking system.</p>	<p>To register: <a href="http://www.bookwhen.com/parentsupport">www.bookwhen.com/parentsupport</a></p>
<p>The summer dates for Sandwell's free <b>Changes Antenatal Programme</b>, have now been published and places are booking up quickly. If you would like a poster to publicize the sessions, then please contact the Parent Support Team on <a href="mailto:parent_support@sandwell.gov.uk">parent_support@sandwell.gov.uk</a>.</p>	<p>To book, go to <a href="http://www.bookwhen.com/changes">www.bookwhen.com/changes</a> or call Healthy Sandwell on 0800 011 4656</p>
<p>The new list of <b>Short Breaks</b> available in Sandwell is now online. Sandwell Short Breaks are for children and young people with a confirmed diagnosis or Education and Health Care Plan, who are aged between 4 and 18 years old.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200218/carers/3198/short_breaks_for_parents_and_carers_of_children_with_disabilities">http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200218/carers/3198/short_breaks_for_parents_and_carers_of_children_with_disabilities</a></p>

### A.O.B.

At the end of Half Term we have a number of staff moving to pastures new or retiring. Mo Cole, Visvaldis 'Ozzy' Ozers, Sarah Dawson and Helen Haycox have served the school for over 80 years between them, supporting students across both sites and in all areas of the school. We wish them well in the future and thank them all for their commitment & hard work over the years.

### Diary Dates...

**Half Term 27th-31st May**

**Summer Holiday 19.7.19 1.30pm**

**INSET 2nd and 3rd September**

**Students Return 4th September**

**Half Term 28th Oct-1st Nov**

**INSET 8th November**

**Xmas Break 23rd Dec-3rd Jan**

### School Data Box 2018/19

Below is a short summary of some of the key bits of information that we report on to Governors and the Local Authority.

Whole School Attendance for Summer 1 2019:

82.6% (SLS 91.8% 73.3% TBL)      82% 2017/18

Whole School Sessions lost to Exclusion (1 day = 2 sessions)

Summer 1 2019: 22 (SLS 6 TBL 16)      2017/18 10

## Helping parents keep their children safe online

"Never before have kids been as exposed to new ideas, new cultures, new music and new art forms as they are today. But the easy accessibility to these new experiences through the Internet, can mean easy accessibility and vulnerable exposure to your child, your computer and your personal information.

Below are six tips from the National Cyber Security Alliance to help you, and your kids, stay safe online."

<https://staysafeonline.org/>

The following website has a wealth of information and questions answered for parents, staff and students on how to be safe online:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

(IT Manager Narinder Singh)