

Message From the Head

It has been an interesting start to the half term on a variety of levels. As well as increasing our numbers very rapidly, many students, parents and carers have been directly affected by the Local Authority's initiative to reduce school transportation costs. Increased numbers of older students are now being supported with independent travel training, whilst younger pupils are navigating their way with new providers and taxi teams. The school is working closely with the LA to ensure that quality service is maintained. If you have any issues or concerns please contact the passenger transport team on 0121 569 4869.

On a different note, you will be aware that the school uses Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) as its primary behaviour management strategy. From the end of May 2014 school based staff will have completed training on and be using a different, and in many ways more comprehensive behaviour support programme called Team Teach. The programme covers a greater range of de-escalation techniques, escorts and holds to support staff to deliver more effectively a range of graded responses to students experiencing difficulties. For further information please contact me or visit www.team-teach.co.uk

Mardi Gras Celebration

At the beginning of March Key Stage 3 Students at The Brades Lodge took part in a day of Mardi Gras Celebrations. Students learned about carnivals all over the world and had the opportunity to show off their artistic and culinary skills making carnival masks and traditional brazilian truffles. In the afternoon the boys took part in a samba drumming workshop. Kamarlee said " I enjoyed the drumming." Everyone worked really well together and the final piece of music sounded amazing! A huge well done to all the students involved.



Henry VIII Visit

There was great excitement amongst the children and the staff on the morning of Friday 28th February when we had a visit from King Henry VIII!

As part of our Tudor topic we had a Tudor focus morning where a fantastic guest speaker came in role as Henry himself. The children found out about what happened to Henry's six wives (and anyone else who upset him) as well as taking part in jousting activities. They also designed shields and made their own Tudor ruffs.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the visit and 'Henry' was really impressed, saying that "The children gave excellent answers to my questions, showing how much they learnt about the Tudors. Well done !"



FOOTBALL FOCUS

Both schools continue to show that determination and good team work produces results.

Shenstone Lodge had an emphatic 4-1 win against mainstream opponents from Lichfield. The moment of the match was a penalty save from stand in keeper Cain, "I didn't even see it!" he said modestly. His actions however, boosted Shenstone confidence and they went on to score another goal.

Brades Lodge have had 3 recent away games with mixed results. Against Bloomfield and Hunters Hill we suffered narrow defeats of 8-6 and 6-3 respectively. Elmwood proved more positive with the boys achieving a 4-1 win. "We are improving all the time," said Connor "I can't wait for the next match"

Quiz Corner

1. Name 20 breeds of dog ?
2. How fast in miles per hour is the speed of light ?
3. What is the chemical symbol for lead ?
4. Where would you find an ocelot ?
5. Name all 24 teams in the Championship ?
6. Which countries do the Alps cross ?



RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Children from the residential provision enjoyed a great day of football as they represented the school in a local tournament. The competition took place at the WBA indoor practice arena with five other schools.

The team proved hard to beat and by the end of the day had come a very respectable 3rd. "It was great" said Rio "we played really well, and was really tired after!"

As the weather improves, and nights become lighter, the children are getting the benefit of more evening trips off site to local parks and sites.

If you feel that your primary age child may benefit from the residential experience **even as a one or two night** opportunity please contact Mrs Lancaster or Mrs Hollis at Shenstone Lodge School on 01543 480369.

Well Done...

To Marshal, Freddie-Lee, Matt McC and Rom at The Brades who were superb on the skiing trip.



To Rio and Lewis at Shenstone Lodge for achieving the highest number of positive report slips this half term.

To Jaden and Lewis who have 100% attendance from September and Lemarr and Martin who have been 100% attendees since starting this term.

SKI TRIP

Brades Lodge students had a fantastic week away on the ski slopes of Le Corbier in the French Alps. On Saturday 22nd of March at 5.30 a.m. the group set off for Gatwick and beyond. After 13 hours of travel they arrived at the hotel in remarkably high spirits and keen to hit the snow first thing on Sunday morning.

From day one the boys took to skiing like they had been born with planks of wood on their feet! By 8am everyday (English time) they had washed, eaten, booted up and were out sampling the Alpine air and hitting speeds of 40 mph down slopes usually reserved for experienced skiers.

After the morning rush the team had a relaxing lunch before getting out again for another 2 hour lesson. The progress of the group was excellent. Their focus, attitude and courage meant that techniques were quickly learned and practiced.

Ski School finished at 2pm (English time) and the more hardy students stayed on to practice their new skills with Mr Hobbs our resident skispert!

Free time was spent socialising with students from other schools who were also at the hotel. The boys were fantastic ambassadors for the school and we should all be proud of how they conducted themselves and rose to the challenges of early starts, unusual food, bum boarding, teenage girls, blogging and skypeing, travelling long distances and shopping in a foreign country.

Marshal said " It was all brilliant, I'm gonna get my Nan to bring me back. " .

We are in the process of adding the pictures and video clips to the website ... please 'log on' in the next few weeks to see more.

We intend to run the trip every two years.

AOB

The school continues to have a vacancy for a parent governor. If you are interested in supporting the school develop further and can spare a few hours every half term, please call and ask to talk to Gill Heather who will be able to provide more information.

Diary Dates...

Term Ends 1.30pm 11.4.14

Pupils Return 28.4.14

May Bank Holiday 5.5.14

Half Term 26th-30th May

Pupils Return 2.6.14

Term Ends 1.30pm 18.7.14

Pupils Return 3.9.14

School Offer

As part of the Government SEND reforms every school needs to have a document which outlines the nature of its provision and identifies how it supports the learning of those with additional educational needs.

As pupil budgets become accessible to parents and carers, this will be a useful tool for those looking to find a school which may suit their child.

Please see our draft 'offer' on the reverse of this newsletter and feedback, based on your own experiences, if you think we should include more or less information (and what specifically) THANK YOU!

