



## Message from the Head

2015 promises to be a great year for the school and there are plenty of things planned to keep us all busy !

In particular we will be taking part in a wide range of activities through Local and National projects.

In the near future The Brades site plan to launch a radio station, start a robotics club and host a Soapbox Derby competition. At the Shenstone site an off site visit to Cadbury World, a Cross Country running group and a residential 'open evening' are all in the pipeline.

The long term plan to upgrade the IT network and broadband capacity at Shenstone Lodge School is a step closer with the cable channels being positioned last week. As soon we are fully online we will be able to move forward with plans to provide the students with personal IPad minis to support their learning.

As a school we are in the process of developing a new Vision Statement and considering how we promote ourselves in the future. We are keen to hear your views, so please respond to the article later on in our newsletter.

## We Dem Boys !

Students at The Brades Lodge have produced a hard hitting video to raise awareness of gang-related crime. The boys have spent a number of weeks looking at the issues surrounding this challenging topic with a view to helping young people avoid this negative pathway.

With the support of staff the group planned, produced and filmed a short video depicting how quickly a young person can get drawn into a culture of crime and end up in serious trouble with family, friends and the police. It is hoped that the video will be uploaded in the near future to our VIMEO link for all to see.

Jack said "The lessons were really interesting and have helped us all to understand the problems you can have if you join a gang."



### Biffa and his Rescue Dogs.

This half term's learning theme is 'Natural Killers' so Miss Bolden organised for Biffa the 'Search and Rescue Man' to bring his three dogs into school to demonstrate their extraordinary sniffing skills. Biffa showed the staff and children photos of the dogs in action and we were amazed at the way the dogs could sniff out and locate people who were lost in the deep, driven snow and up mountains. Not only did we get to see photographs, Biffa actually gave us a live demonstration with his dogs Foxy and Jethro. Miss Bolden and some children went off to hide around the school grounds and Foxy and Jethro went about their work seeking them out using their strong sense of smell. The dogs worked efficiently and located them easily. Biffa and his dogs gave us an important insight into the valuable work they do, saving lives every day. A super afternoon was had by all. Thanks Biffa !

## FOOTBALL FOCUS



Shenstone Lodge football team have continued to improve their team work, football skills and social skills this half term. They have added further wins to their season beating Longdon Hall 5-0 and Chaseview 7-1.

The football team have shown themselves to be fantastic ambassadors for the school. There are a number of matches scheduled for next half term so watch this space for further updates.

It's been an action packed half term for The Brades Lodge football team. Teams from Key stages 3 and 4 have played Hunters Hill School in Bromsgrove resulting in hard fought wins.

Key Stage 3 have also played Briers school from Dudley. The first game resulted in a huge win with man of the match, Jack scoring 12 goals ! In the away fixture the same team took on the Briers Key Stage 4 students resulting in a closer match which we lost 4-3. This was our first loss for a number of games so it will be interesting to see how we pick up for our upcoming fixtures against local rivals Lindsworth School.

## Quiz Corner



1. What metal is commonly used to make electrical cable?
2. When was the first FA cup final held and where ?
3. Why do birds fly South for Winter ?
4. How heavy is 1 litre of water?
5. Name 14 different animals beginning with C ?
6. What was the 'Flying Scotsman'?
7. What are the main ingredients for a pancake ?



## RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Hello everyone. What an exciting half term in residence it's been. Just before Christmas we enjoyed an evening at the National Forest Adventure Farm, where we tested the thrill seekers with the most daring slides and go-karts. The residential football team have been entered into a competition at West Bromwich Albion where the top two qualifying teams will play at Manchester City FC's ground: All very exciting! We are also now making regular visits to the local library and are really enjoying our reading. Unfortunately Mrs Greenfield became ill during her shift a few weeks ago but is recovering well, and we have made and sent cards and hope she feels better soon.

Denise Hart (Acting Deputy Head of Care)

## Comedy Drama Day



Students at The Brades Lodge had a fun filled day coordinated by the "Sky Blue Theatre Company". The group took part in a theatrical adventure developing their understanding of comedy, script writing, role play and wearing dresses !

The day started with the boys taking small parts in the company's production and ended with a show of their own.

Jaden said "It was a great day and really enjoyable. At the end we had to perform in front of each other which helped to improve my confidence".



# Well Done...

To Bradley M (100%) , Jaden and Thomas (98%) the highest attenders this half term at The Brades Lodge



To Ethan, Demarni, Cain, Rio, Heather, Calum, Luke M, Bradley M, Andrejus, Chanel and Rhys who have 100% attendance this half term at Shenstone Lodge School

## SCHOOL VISION

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter we are in the process of developing a new Vision and Mission Statement which will underpin the ethos and culture across both school sites. Moving forward we are looking to promote as far as possible a 'one school' identity although each site will provide a different learning experience which fits the needs of its learners.

We would welcome your feedback regarding the following statement (both positive and negative) to [headteacher@shenstonelodgeschool.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@shenstonelodgeschool.sandwell.sch.uk)

Shenstone Lodge School will be an outstanding school and the best in the West Midlands, providing a quality education for young people who have Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs.

Our young people will have the opportunity to develop their potential and to experience an exciting, personalised, innovative and relevant curriculum.

The school team will achieve this by

- Enabling the young people to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and employment in a fast changing world
- Enabling our young people to be literate, numerate and to use technology effectively
- Promoting British Values, respect for other people, the school and the wider community
- Motivating our young people to be proud, ambitious and to achieve
- Working effectively with parents, carers and other stakeholders

We are also looking to 'rebrand' the school so that there is a consistency to our image across the sites ... initial thoughts are around a lion logo with a 'tag line' of PROUD or WITH PRIDE again your feedback would be welcomed.



Three musically minded students successfully worked with staff from 'Krunch' to produce their own 'tunes' over the Autumn term as part of a school based music project. Their success was celebrated on January 20th with a live concert at the 'Krunch' rooms in Oldbury. The event was attended by parents, carers, police, local councillor Steve Frear, and representatives from the National Express foundation.

DJ, Rom and Kam all performed live and answered questions on stage regarding their thoughts about school and the area they live in. The boys conducted themselves impeccably and were a credit to us all! "It was a fantastic opportunity" said DJ "I love music and I am really keen to work in the industry now!"



**Diary Dates...**

Half Term 16-20.2.15

Term Ends 1.30pm

27.3.15

Students return 13.4.15

Mayday 4.5.15

Staff INSET day 5.5.15

Half Term 25-29.5.15

**AOB**

Following Ms Keating's promotion to Head of School, Shenstone Lodge site successfully recruited Mrs Tracy Harris to the vacant Assistant Head post. She is due to start 31.5.15



A big THANKYOU to the JAMES LATHAM timber yard for donating wood which our older students will use for construction projects.



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is closed this  
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