



THE LODGE

Issue 28 ... March 2018

Message from the Head



Although this has been a short half term the schools have managed to pack the weeks full of exciting learning experiences and activities, as you will see from the content of our newsletter.

On Monday 12th March we received a call from the OFSTED Residential Social Care Inspection team who promptly arrived in school 3 hours later to commence their annual review of residence. The team who were 'testing' the school against another new framework were extremely thorough, spending time with students in the evening and morning and senior leaders and staff in the school day. They looked specifically at four key areas :

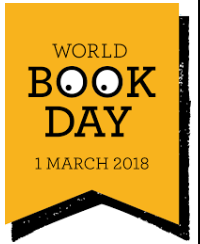
1. The overall experiences and progress of children
2. How well children are helped and protected
3. The effectiveness of leaders and managers
4. That the school meets the National Minimum Standards for Residential Special Schools.

Unfortunately we are unable to publish the outcome of the visit at this point but we can say that we are really pleased with the outcome.

And finally... You will all be receiving your child's End Of Term Report this week which will contain information about progress in academic subjects and behavioural summaries. Have a good Easter !

World Book Day

The students and staff at the Shenstone Lodge and Brades Lodge sites enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book character on World Book Day. The students also took part in a range of activities about books and entered a variety of competitions related to books and literacy activities. The students also received a free book token from The Book Trust.



Green Tree School Award



Children and staff at Shenstone Lodge School are delighted to have achieved the Woodland Trust Green Tree School silver award. The award shows that the children at the school have actively taken part in managing and looking after the existing woodland at the school, as well as planting new hedges, shrubs and trees.

The children will take part in a range of activities in the coming months and weeks including a woodland tea party, tree dressing and an interesting adventure into perspective. We hope to continue driving the school forwards and reach gold, or even platinum status ! (Ross Fellows)



SPORTS NEWS

On Tuesday 20th March, Shenstone Lodge students attended the Lichfield Cathedral School to take part in a cross-country competition. The course was long and muddy but all the students showed great perseverance and resilience to complete the race against some very good competition!

Ethan commented: "I was so happy and proud when I finished the races."

On another outing Shenstone students took part in a School Sports Partnership Indoor Archery tournament.



Despite none of our players having much experience we performed really well, getting better with each round.

(Mr Mitchell)



AUTHENTIC FRENCH FOOD A BIG HIT !

Catering Service SIPs spent a day at The Brades Lodge preparing French food as part of the schools Modern Foreign Language Week. Students and staff were very enthusiastic whilst trying the variety of foods available.

Most surprisingly all the frog legs were eaten and nearly all of the snails too !

Chef Kurtis said "It was a pleasure providing the service today with many students and staff stating that we should do more of these days !"



RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Now the sun is out to play (sort of!), we've been getting Xtreme! Skateboarding and scootering offers an alternative way to explore physical activity, grow socially, challenge personal limits and above all, have proper fun. The pupils have been begging to go back to the skate park after each session and have truly taken to the culture of Xtreme sports, walking away (or rolling?!) from the park buzzin' and full of life.

This excitement hasn't been confined to the ramps, with the dark nights allowing for exploration in the woodland. We have engaged in games that have challenged pupils to navigate in the dark, and experience the woodland area in a completely new way (spotting nocturnal animals, stargazing, exploring by moonlight), bringing a whole new dimension to the Forest Schools area. Other sporting activities such as football training, tennis skills, judo and swimming (with countless belly flops) have kept us active; the donkey sanctuary allowed our affectionate side to flourish; Mother's Day got us all arty and International Women's Day, philosophical.

From all of the Residential Care Team, we wish you a Happy Easter, and look forward to sharing our new experiences in the new term. (Dave Hare RCCO)



Quiz Corner

1. What is the French word for 'hello' ?
2. What is the Spanish word for apple ?
3. How do Eskimos greet each other ?
4. Can you name three languages commonly spoken in Belgium ?
5. Which country predominantly speaks Mandarin ?
6. What is Kabaddi ?
7. What language is spoken in Montreal, Canada ?



Ski Trip 3

At 9:00am on the 17th March 7 students met at The Brades Lodge for the ski trip to Le Corbier in the French Alps. There was a mixture of emotions from anxiousness to elation, and that was just the Parents and Carers. The journey to Manchester was uneventful but once on the plane the inclement weather in England forced us to wait 2 hours by the runway before we could take off. Eventually, at 1:30am on the 18th March we arrived at the hotel.



The following day the students were kitted out with skis, poles and helmets and walked towards the slopes for the first of 12 lessons. By the end of the first session it was clear that we would have to think about differentiation to ensure that all students got the most out of the week. The weather at the resort gradually improved over the week until the last couple of days when we were all basking in mountain sunshine and relishing the clear blue skies.



The skiing conditions were perfect and allowed the students to progress at a fast rate so that on the final day we skied to a completely different resort and back. Those who were not so confident had a different journey to complete and by the end of the day smiles, aching legs and sun-kissed faces were plentiful.

The students were a credit to themselves and great ambassadors for The Brades Lodge with teachers from another school commenting on how helpful they had been. Josh said that it was 'wicked' while Jaden commented that he didn't expect to be so impressed.

A big thank you to everyone involved both in France and those in the West Midlands who have been holding the fort. (Simon Hobbs)

A.O.B.

Newly appointed Site Manager Mr Jon Watson will be joining Shenstone Lodge after the Easter break.

Ms Hollie Keyse will be joining the Shenstone teaching team in September following the resignation of Ms Siobhan Sproule

Well Done...



To Kieran, Andre, Luke, Tyler, Jamie and McKenzie for receiving the most positive report slips at The Brades Lodge this half term.

To Rehquarne, Kyle, Jamie, Andre and Thomas who have 100% attendance this half term at The Brades Lodge.

To Junior, Zeke, Heather, Leona and Jake with the highest class Dojos this half term.

To Caleb, Dwain, Kieron, Luke, Romero, Celest, James, Callum, Xavier, Curtis, Leona, Jake, Chanel, Ethan W, Ethan S, Heather, and Zeke who have 100% attendance at Shenstone Lodge this half term.

Award On Track

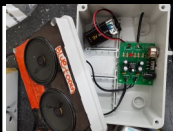


Scott Worton and Katy Foulkes have been supporting the Learning Support Practitioners at The Brades Lodge and Shenstone Lodge to undertake the BPTAA (Best Practice in Teaching Assistant Award). This award recognises the valuable and increasingly complex role of LSP's in pupil achievement.

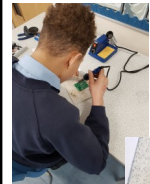
Working towards the award has confirmed the excellent and highly skilled work that the LSP's already do. It also builds on this expertise to further improve LSP practice thereby maximising their classroom impact. We hope to complete this award by the end of the academic year.

(Katy Foulkes)

STEREO PROJECT

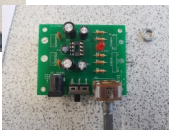


Year 9 students have just finished building portable stereos to play music from their mobile phones.



They have all worked very hard throughout the formative development phase to give themselves the best chance of successfully building their sound machines. Students

have learned about various electronic components, their names, functions and the symbols for each. Following given instructions, they have fabricated the housing for the 'electronics' and used a soldering iron to secure the components in the circuit board. Kieran said "I loved learning to solder and can't wait to do more projects like this" (Jack Benson)



Diary Dates...

Easter Break 29th Mar 1.30pm - 13th Apr.

May Bank Holiday 7th May

Half Term 28th May-1st Jun

Summer Break 20th Jul 1.30pm

Staff Training Days 4th/5th

September

Students Return Wednesday 6th September

School Data Box

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

Attendance Spring 1 2017/18 :

SLS 87.6% down 5.4% on Spr 1 2017

TBL 79.3% up 16.2% on Spr 1 2017

Sessions lost to Exclusion (1 day = 2 sessions) Spr 1 2017/18 :

SLS 7 sessions (down from 21 sessions Spr 1 2017)

TBL 14 sessions (up from 10 sessions Spr 1 2017)

ONLINE ADVICE

Get Safe Online is the UK's leading source of unbiased, factual and easy-to-understand information on online safety, covering all forms of social media and devices.

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

(Narinder Singh)



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