



THE LODGE

Issue

32 ... Dec 2018



Message from the Head



It is hard to believe we are already a third of the way through the new school year as we prepare to move into 2019.

As I reflect back over the past 12 months it is always a pleasure to recall where we have been and what we have achieved.

In the Spring term the residential provision secured an Outstanding inspection result, a true reflection of the team's hard work. In addition, we took the largest group yet of students skiing to the French Alps, an amazing experience. In the Summer term, the school successfully organised and hosted the first National SEMH Schools Sports Festival at The Brades Lodge and the Alexandra Stadium.

Summer also saw students cycle to Snowdon and climb to the summit to support their friend and raise awareness of and money for teenage and testicular cancer groups.

This term, we have sailed on the Solent, camped out in the rain and visited a whole range of learning and activity centres.

Most importantly however; throughout the whole year, the students have continued to improve their core academic skills and build confidence and social resilience.

On behalf of all the team at Shenstone Lodge Schools I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

ANTI KNIFE CRIME FUND RAISING EVENT

On the 6th December The Brades Lodge hosted an amazing fund raising event at the Play Football Arena, Hockley, Birmingham. 14 Key Stage 3 teams descended on the venue for a round robin tournament of league games and then 'knock outs 'til the best team on the day won the coveted title and cup.

Although the football was high energy and thrilling the event was really to raise money for, and awareness of, the Anti Knife Crime Charity ACT.

At the end of the event Sandwell's Mayor, Joy Edis, handed out the trophies and spoke about the dangers of carrying knives.



SEMH SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Shenstone Lodge again organised and hosted the Regional SEMH Schools conference which took place in Walsall on 9.11.18. The event was the biggest ever with 450 delegates from schools and units across the West Midlands. The day was a great opportunity for colleagues to develop their working knowledge by listening to keynote speakers and attending workshops delivered by SEMH practitioners. A delegate from Staffordshire said it was a "Brilliant and worthwhile day!"



SPORTS NEWS



The Brades Lodge KS 3 football team have played a friendly against Northern House School from Solihull. Although the team suffered a heavy defeat, they battled well and kept trying hard. This was eventually rewarded by a moment of brilliance as Dom scored 'on the volley' into the top corner direct from Ethan's corner. This was then followed up by an exquisite free kick from Reh who left the keeper standing.

The Key Stage 4 team had a league fixture against Keyham Lodge from Leicester. The team performed well throughout this closely contested match, which they narrowly lost 7-5. Of note; Rio is now the school's top scorer! This was the first game in the new kit provided by the Education Network. Scott Worton

Enterprise Rewards

As part of our Enterprise Week the children at Shenstone Lodge were given the opportunity to raise as much money as they could by creating and selling a class product. The children worked exceptionally hard and were given the choice about how they would like to spend their money. The children in Unicorn and Dragons class decided to spend the morning at Adventure Land. Ethan said "It was Awesome!" Miss Foulkes and Mrs Sizer



IMPROVING PARENT COMMUNICATIONS



After looking at the way that 'Class Dojo' enables Teachers and other school staff to communicate with Parents at Shenstone Lodge School in a timely manner and to celebrate success, we are rolling this out at The Brades Lodge.

Over the next few weeks we will be requesting an e-mail address from you (if we haven't already got it) with an invitation to join the scheme. When you accept you will be kept informed of trips, excursions and events that impact your child. We can remind you of events that you might like to take part in such as Parental Engagement Days, important assemblies and sporting fixtures you might be able to come and watch.

Should you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact Simon Hobbs at The Brades Lodge 0121 552 3125

RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Friendship has been the focus for this half term, so our activities and visits have all been planned to provide lots of opportunities for the group to mix and play... and boy have the kids been on it! Friendship skills have been developed constantly with varying levels of staff support through offsite swimming sessions, attending the local cub scouting group and visiting the local soft play centre. It has been great to see the children interacting and testing their friendship skills with others who are not part of Shenstone Lodge School, watching the games being played, the laughter and the beaming smiles afterwards! All these experiences help to build confidence, improve creative thinking and problem solving and to develop emotional control and acceptance of others. Happy Christmas!



Dave Hare RCCO

Year 7 Monkey Business

On Monday 26th November, Year 7 students at The Brades Lodge participated in a trip to 'Go Ape' in Cannock. The students had the opportunity to engage in a tree-top adventure which involved high climbs, wire crossings between trees, a tarzan swing and platform jumps. They attempted the adult course which is particularly challenging, and all completed at least part of the course, so we are very proud of their courage and resilience.

This trip was organised by the English department, as Year 7 have been studying non-fiction texts on the subject of extreme sports. They will use their experiences at 'Go Ape' to write a detailed factual report and produce promotional materials for the venue. As an added extra, McKenzie Lu also achieved a lifetime ambition of seeing a wild deer as one ran across the road in front of the minibus on the journey back to school!



Quiz Corner



1. What kind of Christmas is Bing Crosby dreaming of ?
2. What should you do under mistletoe ?
3. How do you say 'Merry Christmas' in Spanish ?
4. Which Christmas movie has been played more than any other ?
5. How many French Hens in the famous carol ?

A.O.B.

Unfortunately we are coming to that time of year when the weather is becoming increasingly cold and unpredictable. As a result, it may be the case that for safety reasons, the school has to make the difficult decision to close. It is our intention to let you know this information as soon as possible. We will post this on the school website first then text the message to all known Parent/Carer numbers. We will then let Sandwell Council know. They will add it to their school closure list and Facebook page.

Parent Governor still required ... If you would like to know more please contact the school on : headteacher@shenstonelodge.co.uk

Well Done...



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

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

To Chris, Daniel M, Caiden, Ethan C and Jake O with the highest class Dojos this half term.

To Chris, Caiden, Lexi, Ethan C, Malachi, Luke, Romero, Celest, Leo B, Xavier, Leona, Jake, Cameron and Ryan who have 100% attendance at Shenstone Lodge this half term.



KEEP SAFE AT CHRISTMAS

With an increase in media coverage of 'County Lines' drug trafficking the school is working closely with West Midlands Police to raise awareness of this particularly nasty crime. As a result we would like to make you aware of what to look out for if you suspect your child may be vulnerable to, or could be involved in this practice ... especially over the up-coming holiday season :

- *Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing*
- *Being found in areas away from home*
- *Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going*
- *Unexplained absences from school, college, training or work*
- *Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewellery*
- *Increasingly disruptive or aggressive behaviour*
- *Coming home with injuries or looking particularly dishevelled*
- *Having hotel cards or keys to unknown places*

Should you suspect anything please do not hesitate to notify the police on 101 and report your suspicions or worries immediately. Don't let your child be a victim !

If you would like further information then please look online or speak to school.

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources>

LOOK OUT COSTA !

As a result of an opportune moment and a conversation with staff at a local Library, The Brades Lodge team have acquired a fantastic resource. In the New Year staff and students will be working to open their very own community enterprise project in the former Bookworm Café which sits within Smethwick Library. Not only will the students be supported to make minor renovations to the area, they will also be involved in turning it into a financially successful business. As part of the school's aim to increase the levels of employability for the students, this enterprise will provide a real world platform for students to achieve food hygiene certificates, financial management skills and marketing accreditations, Barista training and much more. Of course it goes without saying that the students will also need to develop their confidence and provide great levels of customer service. We look forward to inviting you all to the grand opening in the near future !



Learning Comes Alive !

As part of our Talk for Writing topic about George and the Dragon, Unicorn and Dragons classes went on a visit to Dudley Zoo and Castle. We took part in a 'Horrible Histories' workshop where we learnt about the history of Dudley castle, what life would have been like there and we got the opportunity to meet some of the animals who used to live there. Junior said "I loved looking at all the animals especially the Lions and the Bush Dogs." Miss Foulkes and Mrs Sizer



Diversity and Belonging week at The Brades Lodge

WAR
child

In the final week of term, staff and students have planned to visit community groups that reflect and represent people in society that may experience difficulties in the way modern society perceives them, yet, are part of a richly, diverse society and should be supported and valued by the wider community.

Students will be speaking to people who: have a physical disability, are representatives of the LGBT community, find themselves homeless, or are children from areas experiencing conflict and the aftermath of conflict. This is an amazing opportunity for our students to gain a greater understanding of diversity, tolerance and how people experience different ways of life.

We have collected coats and put together 'care' parcels for the homeless. In addition the school held an e-gaming competition to raise money for the War Child charity.

Students will be sharing and presenting about their visits to other members of the school during a special assembly before we break up.



Birmingham LGBT

Diary Dates...

Xmas Break 21st Dec 1.30pm

Students Return Mon 7th Jan

Half Term 18th -22nd Feb

Staff INSET 22nd March

Easter Break 13th Apr 1.30pm

Students Return 29th April

Bank Holiday 6th May

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 Autumn Term :

85% (SLS 93% TBL 77%) up 3% on Aut 2017/18

Sessions lost to Exclusion (1 day = 2 sessions) Autumn Term :

33 (SLS 7 TBL 26) up by 11 on Aut 2017/18



Did you know that Parental controls are offered by most home internet providers ? These will allow you to set up filters on your WiFi to help prevent age inappropriate content being accessed on your devices. The 4 big internet providers in the UK - BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media - provide their customers with free parental controls which can be activated at any time. The following link shows you how to set things up ...

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-your-home-internet-provider>

(IT manager Narinder Singh)

Good To Know
Working with Families News

| Good To Know | Working with Families News |
|--|---|
| News: | For more info: |
| We have updated Sandwell's bespoke Changes parenting programme and want to invite anyone working with families, or staff who have previously used Changes to come along to a training session and learn about the exciting updates we have made to the programme. We currently have training dates in January 2019 for practitioners to access the new A5 parent handbooks, evaluation process, supporting online content and receive their updated trainer's toolkit. | To book a place: https://bookwhen.com/parentsupport |
| The following dates are available for Outcome Star training: 24 th January 2019, 13 th February 2019 and 12 th March 2019, 9.30 – 4.30pm. | For more information and to book a place, email training_SCT@sandwellchildrenstrust.org |
| Sandwell Council and the Sandwell Children's Trust are arranging an informal 'marketplace' event for partners and providers across Sandwell. The event aim is to raise awareness of SEND , provide an opportunity to learn about other services and provision in Sandwell along with an opportunity to network. The event is 26th February 2019, 10.30am and 2.30pm at Oldbury Council House. | Tickets for the event are advertised on Eventbrite. sandwellsend.eventbrite.co.uk |
| The all new Digital Parenting magazine is now available electronically on the parentzone website. This edition includes articles on managing children's sleep, setting digital boundaries and how children can enjoy a safer start on social media. | https://parentzone.org.uk/digitalparenting |
| In the run-up to Christmas, the England Illegal Money Lending Team has launched a social media campaign to give users advice on how to avoid falling victim to loan sharks. It also advises how victims can report illegal money lending taking place in their community. | Videos are being shared on the Stop Loan Sharks Facebook page during the campaign www.facebook.com/stoploansharksproject |
| Brook is engaging youth organisations to deliver a P-Card Scheme working with young people aged 12-25 years old. The P-Card Scheme will provide free period products to vulnerable and disadvantaged young people who menstruate, educate young people about menstruation and their bodies, health, debunk myths around periods and promote period positivity to remove shame and stigma. | If you would like a young person to benefit, please contact the local co-ordinator, Channele Nixon on chanelle.Nixon@brook.org.uk or 07824 16433607824 |
| At the beginning of March 2019 Public Health England will launch a new national campaign to help increase participation in the National Cervical Screening Programme . Cervical screening is estimated to save 5,000 lives a year and yet coverage is at a 20 year low. | To receive updates and pre-order resources: https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/sessions/new |
| Sport England has published findings from a survey of 130,194 pupils aged 5-16 across England examining their attitudes towards sport and physical activity. Children and young people who reported as being active everyday were found to have a more positive sense of mental wellbeing compared with those who reported as less active. | https://www.sportengland.org/media/13698/active-lives-children-survey-academic-year-17-18.pdf |
| NHS Digital has published statistics relating to children's health and health-related behaviours during 2017 . Key findings include the proportion of children aged 8 to 15-years old reporting ever having had an entire alcoholic drink fell from 45 per cent in 2003 to 14 per cent in 2017. The proportion of children aged 8 to 15 who had ever smoked has decreased from 19 per cent in 1997 to 5 per cent in 2017 | https://files.digital.nhs.uk/3E/EC36A2/HSE17-Child-Health-rep.pdf |
| West Midlands Police have announced the return of the Active Citizens Fund and there is still time to apply for bids in 2018/2019. Sandwell Police have a remaining budget of £33,500 for the borough and would love to see the money invested in active citizens and helping those in our communities. | https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/key-issues/active-citizens-fund/sandwell/ |
| Premier Inn are recruiting housekeeping team members and day and night receptionists at their new hotel in West Bromwich, opening February 2019. Posts are available to anyone aged 18 years old and above and willing to work flexible 16-24 hours per week, including weekends. | Anyone interested should send their details to enquiries_recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk for an invitation to an information session. |
| New Year New Start 2019 the biggest Careers Event in the Black Country is almost here! Please mention to any young person aged 14 - 19 years that the date of this is Saturday 19th January 2019 10am - 2pm at West Bromwich Town Hall. |  2019 NYNS Postcard |
| Join the Think Local teams on Facebook and please tell your families about the page too - for information about jobs, apprenticeships, events and much more. | www.facebook.com/SandwellJobs |
| If you would like to promote services or information in this newsletter or share a good news story please contact the team. | Parent Support Team parent_support@sandwell.gov.uk |