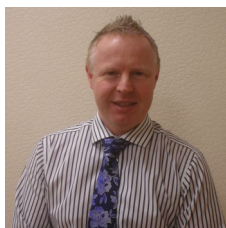




Message from the Head



It is quite timely that I begin to compose this half terms edition of the Lodge exactly 1 year after the Government announced the first lockdown on the 23rd March 2020.

It is incredible to think what the school, the students and our families have been through over these 12 months. I suspect no one could've predicted any of it !

With the onset of the vaccine and the ongoing frequent testing of both staff and students there does at least seem to be a way forward to regain some normality in the near future ... however if there is one thing that the pandemic has taught us ... is that there are no absolute guarantees from one week to the next!

As a school we have been supporting the students across the sites with a 'recovery curriculum' which has been carefully designed to maintain learning momentum in key subjects, whilst providing additional sensitivity to address any potential mental ill health issues as a result of the pandemic or reintegrating back into school.

Overall things are beginning to feel 'more normal' and although we are still limited with regard to any off site activity we are using our grounds to as much as possible to encourage higher levels of activity and play !

Please remember ... If you, or a family member is suffering with any of the following symptoms : a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of taste and smell... PLEASE STAY AT HOME and arrange to have a COVID -19 test.

LOCKDOWN PRAISE

The Brades pupils have coped really well with the changes to their routines over the last year and most have followed the Government guidance to 'stay at home'. Since January the school has offered a wide range of onsite and online timetables, to support as many students as possible to continue with their learning. After some initial teething problems, the lessons went really well and we achieved high levels of engagement.

As the weeks went by, it became apparent that one pupil in particular was doing incredibly well online and showing a real aptitude for remote learning. His consistent attendance, hard work, engagement and effort did not go unnoticed.

As a result, we are pleased to announce that Curtis has been identified as the 'Brades Lodge Student of Lockdown 2021' and has received a well earned Amazon voucher. Well done ! Chris Husband .



Good to Know... Working with Families In Sandwell

Free rapid home tests for households with school age children

are now available. Adults with children are advised to test themselves every three or four days from next week. A box of tests can be picked up from testing sites in Smethwick, Tipton and West Bromwich now - no need to book, just collect them between 1.30pm and 7pm any day.

Details of where to collect the tests:

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/news/arti-cle/5946/free_rapid_tests_now_available_for_more_sandwell_residents

If you need help or support from **Citizens Advice Sandwell and Walsall** there are number of ways to get in touch including Cassie a mobile advice unit. Go to the website for Cassie's timetable and details of the advice line. <https://citizensadvice-sandwell-walsall.org/how-we-can-help/>

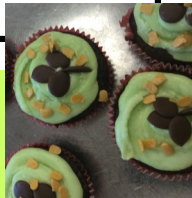
Changes Antenatal is being offered as both a three-week virtual course and as a distant learning programme. If you know anyone who lives in Sandwell and is expecting a baby encourage them to book a place. <https://bookwhen.com/changes>

RESIDENTIAL

It's been great to have everyone back in residence again so we can rebuild our team and our sense of belonging. The kids have been great, working really well together, enjoying a wide range of activities... especially the just dance night! We have also tried some new and exciting messy play using Tie dye techniques and St Patrick's day baking.

On another note...

We are delighted to also inform you that the school has purchased a 12-month package from creative education <https://www.creativeeducation.co.uk>. They offer Advice for Parents and Carers through a range of practical video courses that will provide new insights and perspectives on caring for children to help them grow up healthy and happy. Please contact school if you would like a to know more and get a log in. There are many training /support opportunities for you to review and take part in. Denise Hart (Head of Care)



DID YOU KNOW ?

Over the past week or so the staff and students at Shenstone Lodge have been offered a new and interesting word to consider each day by Mr Albright, to try and capture an enthusiasm for the English language.. The following is classic example !

BUMALO The bumalo is a tropical fish, in this case a southeast Asian lizardfish. When listed on Indian menus, it goes by the slightly more appetizing name of "Bombay duck."



Cheer Us Up Mr D !

Mr Daniel at the Brades Lodge is well known in school for telling the odd joke or two to raise a smile in the staff room before a hard day at the 'chalk face' ... Given the current state of the nation he has kindly offered to share a few witty words to keep us all going.. Thanks sir !

- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down!*
- Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? I heard the food was good, but it had no atmosphere.*
- What was the one thing the cross-eyed teacher couldn't control? His pupils.*
- England doesn't have a kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.*
- How does Moses make coffee? Hebrews it*
- Yesterday I accidentally swallowed some food colouring. The doctor says I'm OK, but I feel like I've dyed a little inside.*

Quiz Corner

1. How many football teams are there in LA LIGA ?
2. In which city is the Brandenburg Gate ?
3. How many new words can you make using the letters in LOCKDOWN ?
4. Name 4 countries the Sahara Desert spans ?
5. If you were born on June 8th what star sign are you ?
6. What colour is a flamingo?

TRUCKING HELL !

For those of you who are fans of the Channel 5 series Trucking Hell you will be in for real a treat when it returns to our screens in the month or so.

As some of you will be aware there have been some significant issues with the state of the school drive at Shenstone Lodge, as taxis and visitors have needed to use the grass verges to park and pass at the beginning and end of the school day.

For some, this has been a minor inconvenience... but for others it has been a different story , as vehicles have been forced to use the grassy side of the drive as turning points. Inevitably we have had a number of delivery trucks sink in the soft ground.

Given the sizes of the vehicles specialist recovery teams have had to be called to get them moving ...one of which arrived with a cameraman and a Trucking Hell badge ! It was great to see the team at work as the 'Rescue Trucker' removed the bonnet of the stranded vehicle to locate a secure tow point. With the flick of a couple of switches the delivery truck was then winched out of the mud and onto the drive within seconds. They made it look easy !

The cameraman passed on that we should be able to tune in and see the rescue in the new series which is due to be aired towards the end of Spring. We look forward to it !



Look at our lovely work in Unicorn Class!

We have completed the topic 'All About Me,' as part of our Recovery Curriculum work.

We learned a lot about each other, our families and our likes and dislikes. We also learned about compliments and people who are special to us.

We used our work to create our display 'This is Me!' Mrs Foulkes



Brades Lodge staff and students took part in 'Wear a Hat Day' on Friday 26th March, raising £39.42 for Brain Tumour Research.



A.O.B.

- After the Easter break we will be welcoming Julie McClean who will be working with our residential team and Bolu Muheeb who will be delivering science at The Brades Lodge alongside Paul France who is set to retire at the end of the school year.
- For information and confirmation, we will be continuing with the school hours as they currently stand at the Shenstone Lodge site. We are currently consulting with you to make these changes permanent. The 'consultation document' was shared the week beginning 8th March and is due to end on 7.6.21. The letter is also on our website and can be found at <https://shenstonelodge.co.uk/parents/newsletters>

Diary Dates...

Easter Break 2nd - 16th April

(1pm finish on 1st)

Bank Holiday 3rd May

Half Term 31st May-4th June

Summer Break Wed 21st July

School Data Box 2020/21

Whole School Attendance for 2019 /20 school year (pre 'lockdown') : **83.7%**

Attendance for 2020/21 year to date **86.7%**

Sessions Lost to exclusion

2019/20 45.5

2020/21 (to date) 54.5

STAY SAFE ONLINE

8 Top tips

The BBC have a brilliant webpage that provides 8 handy tips on how to protect, not only yourself but your family and others around you when browsing the web. It provides explanations of every tip from being respectful and making online friendships with people you know, to maintaining a healthy balance and being aware of your digital footprint.

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/the-basics/8-tips-for-staying-safe-online>

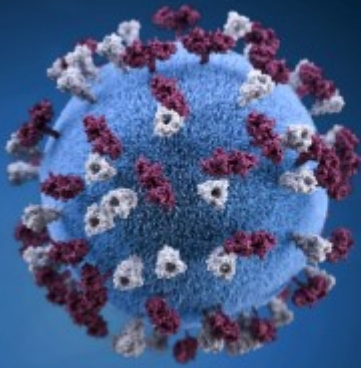


Indicators of online bullying.

Bullying UK has a handy article that contains lots of information regarding online bullying and also more importantly, the typical signs to look out for and what to do to stop it.

<https://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/how-to-stay-safe-online/>

Mat Kinsey (Staffs-Tech)



COVID-19

TRACK & TRACE

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, schools form a significant part of the 'track and trace' process if a COVID-19 case has been identified in a child whilst they are in school. To maximise 'communication routes' during the upcoming break, the DfE are encouraging schools to have a point of contact.

If your child tests positive with a Lateral Flow Home Test or suffers from a persistent new cough, high temperature or loss of taste or smell they must self-isolate and you should immediately book a test.

If the test is returned positive, please let the school know if the symptoms started on or before **Saturday 3rd April**.

The contact number for WhatsApp messages only is 07947468504 which will be checked daily up to and including Monday 5th April. Please include your child's name in the message.

If a positive case is confirmed the school will make the necessary arrangements to alert staff and the families of students (**by text and email**) that have been in close contact with that individual, so that they can self-isolate.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Neil Toplass

Executive Head Teacher