



Message from the Head



As the Nation emerges from lockdown and there is increasing optimism that June 21st will bring an end to the 'measures' in place, the schools are beginning to settle back in to their usual routines. As a result, in line with Government advice, we are planning for groups of students to venture off the sites to access specific curriculum objectives and to experience higher levels of social exposure.

Over the next half term, we will be supporting our students in years 6, 7 and 11 (where applicable) to transition to their new schools, colleges, training providers or into employment. Senior teachers have already started to contact parents and carers of students involved, to make the necessary bespoke arrangements.

In addition, we are working closely with our Year 11 students to ensure that they complete any necessary coursework for accredited studies and that we are able to determine appropriate teacher assessed grades for those who would've taken GCSEs.

On another note, the heating, water works and decorating in the Shenstone Lodge residential block should finally be completed over the half term break. The project has taken significantly longer than anticipated so a big thank you goes out to the residential staff and students who have had to accommodate contractors as they have moved around the building.

With regard to the consultation to keep the current school day times at the Shenstone Lodge site, the feedback received has been passed to the Academy Trusts Directors. They will review the information and make a decision accordingly. A personal response will be made to those who shared a view once the process is complete. We will be continuing with our current arrangements till the end of the Summer Term and provide you with as much notice as possible with regard to any changes as necessary.

We hope you have a relaxing half term break and you get the opportunity to explore a bit more of the world as lockdown continues to lift.

HI HO HI HO Its off to work we go !

In 2019 Shenstone Lodge School achieved a Level 4 RHS gardening award. The prize was a selection of Spring plug plants. Due to COVID the delivery was delayed but when they finally arrived Cyclops, Athos, Dragons and Griffin classes headed straight down to the revitalised raised beds for a 'Big Dig' day! There were smiles all round as the students prepared the soil and planted the seeds. "We can't wait to watch our fruit and vegetable plants grow!" said Mia



Good to Know... Working with Families In Sandwell

The **National Autistic Society** has produced a guide that explores safeguarding and child protection with specific reference to autistic young people. It outlines what all professionals should consider when they have concerns about a young person's welfare or safety. The material draws on national statutory guidance.

<https://www.autism.org.uk/shop/products/books-and-resources/safeguarding-young-people>

Citizens Advice have now made it easier to get in touch by offering a local number where customers will be connected to their own debt adviser. By calling you could get "breathing space" (a time to get your debts sorted out); up to 60 days by talking to a debt advisor.

Call a debt adviser on 0121 726 6745 or email debt.advice@citizensadvice-sandwell-walsall.org

Register your interest in becoming a **volunteer at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham**. Applications open in June. <https://www.birmingham2022.com/get-involved/volunteering/>

RESIDENTIAL

It's been great to come back after half term to such lovely weather and we've been making the most of it. We have been very much enjoying using the bikes and trikes, playing football and swimming onsite.

We've also been focusing on getting creative through arts and crafts, the children have really enjoyed getting messy with the clay and making everything sparkle with tons of glitter. I think we've got some artist in the making here in residence.

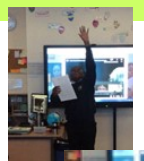
We have also held some bingo nights and the children have really enjoyed these, the excitement of shouting HOUSE and giggling at staff's bingo calling abilities... When was a number 11 so funny !
Dee Hart (Head of Care)



Wherefore art thou Griffin ?

Griffin class have been looking at Shakespeare for their English topic and, in their Drama lessons, they have been using Shakespeare to develop their acting skills. One of their tasks was to use Romeo's monologue and read a section of the moving text each. They did such a wonderful job that it brought class staff to tears!

Every student took part, managing to speak in front of others using the tricky language and really getting into character! Excellent work Griffin! Mr Maull



Healthy Eating Options

Dragons class have looked at what makes a meal healthy and what makes a balanced diet over time. The students were asked to close their eyes and describe the taste, texture and likeability of the chosen foods. This was a huge test of courage for some of our children, who are reluctant to try new foods at the best of times... However, everyone got fully involved and it was a really enjoyable lesson with some surprising results ! Mrs Payne



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 !

- Which country's capital has the fastest-growing population? Ireland. Every day it's Dublin.
- Yesterday, a clown held the door open for me. It was such a nice jester!
- I was going to make myself a belt made out of watches, but then I realised it would be a waist of time.
- Last night, I dreamt I was swimming in an ocean of orange soda. But it was just a Fanta sea.
- Someone stole my toilet ... the police have nothing to go on.



Is There Doctor In the House ?

Both Brades and Shenstone sites had the privilege of supporting one week work placements for third-year medical students from the University of Birmingham. The project was part of a pilot study to support the young doctors get a better understanding of children and some of their specific conditions and needs. Trainee doctor Megan passed on the following "It's been a great experience getting to know the students individually and seeing how they learn in the school. From 70s disco dancing to teaching basic first aid, there has never been a dull moment! The placement has really benefitted my communication skills with children, and I hope that they have enjoyed having the opportunity to hear about what we do and getting all their wild and wonderful health questions answered."

Quiz Corner

1. How many football teams are there in Serie A ?
2. In which county is Leeds Castle ?
3. How many new words can you make using the letters in VARIANT ?
4. Can you name 4 cities in Portugal ?
5. Can you name 4 English cities that are home to more than one premier league football team?
6. What colour is an artic hare ?

Inter School Challenge !

There are many advantages of a school which comprises of two sites, and a healthy competitive spirit is one of them.

To improve fitness and support well being over the years, there have been a number of 7 a side football games that the two staff groups have been involved in. At this point it would be fair to say that the spoils and bragging rights have been pretty much encamped with the Brades team.

Recently, the schools have again competed and despite the blood sweat and tears (largely from Mr Toplass) this has been great fun and we have seen some real talent on show. It is hoped that this will become an increasingly regular affair which will give our legs the opportunity to find a way to cope beyond the first 20 minutes !!



A Potentially Sticky Situation !

This half term Dragons class have said hello to some unusual new additions to the class. With names like Twiggy, Sticky and Leggy you would be right to think that we weren't talking about a new student or staff member ! In fact they are

STICK INSECTS ! Kindly given to the school by Jimmy along with plenty of eggs to keep the population up. The class have shown they can be brave and curious and have really enjoyed welcoming and caring for the Stick Insects Jimmy said " My favourite is Twiggy as he's the biggest !" Mrs Payne



A.O.B.

- Our best wishes go out to Dave Berry, Well Being Support Manager at the Brades Lodge who has been suffering from Long Covid since the Easter break. Unfortunately Dave has been in and out of hospital several times as Doctors try to get the symptoms under control. Get well soon Dave !



The Shenstone Lodge site kitchen has again achieved the highest hygiene rating, after environmental health visitors inspected the kitchen facilities and food preparation areas. Well Done to Amy and Tina !

Diary Dates...

Half Term 31st May-4th June

**Summer Break Wed 21st July
(finish 1pm)**

September INSET 1st 2nd 3rd

**Students in school from 6th
September**

Half Term 25th Oct-29th Oct

School Data Box 2020/21

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

Attendance for 2020/21 year to date **86.8%**

Persistent Absence (2018/19 41%) 2021/22 35.5%

Sessions Lost to exclusion

2019/20 45.5 2020/21 (to date) 62.5

ONLINE SAFETY

Different social media apps and sites have different privacy settings that may allow people you don't know to see your pictures, activity and comments. Often, bigger companies do not tell you that settings have been changed by them (as they want advertisers to find you !). The problem is ... others can also find you !

Here are two really useful links that will help you to protect your privacy whatever the app you use .

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/social-media-guides>

Snapchat has recently introduced some new privacy settings. Find out about the app and all it's features on this Parentzone Guide.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat-everything-you-need-know-about-social-media-platform>

