



Message from the Head



We made it ! Just !

After nearly 15 months with limited impact of the Coronavirus in school it was almost inevitable that in the last couple of weeks of term, as the number of cases Regionally and Nationally start to increase, Shenstone Lodge sites are hit with multiple group and class closures as small numbers of people test positive for the virus.

I would like to thank you all for being so supportive during this difficult time and remaining as flexible as possible when we have needed the children to remain at home, often with very short notice. By September it would appear that self isolation rules will be slightly different, so that any identified cases will cause minimal disruption. We will keep you informed.

This half term has been a breath of fresh air with regard to students getting off site again .. Trips to Harry Potter World and the Challenge Academy in Baggeridge are amongst the most notable. It was particularly good to hear that the students on all trips have behaved impeccably and have represented the school extremely well.

Other news to share, as we begin to wind down for Summer:

The progress made by the Y11 group as a whole (from their starting points) has been exceptional. As a result we have had our best Y11 GCSE outcomes to date. A real testament to all those who have worked with them in both our schools.

As you are aware, the school submitted a bid for money to support the development of The Brades Lodge site. Unfortunately this was unsuccessful. We are in the process of appealing the decision before moving forward with alternative funding routes. Our programme is delayed not halted. Whilst we are on the subject of buildings, the heating, water works and decorating in the Shenstone Lodge residential block seems to never end ! We are still waiting for the paintwork to be completed and the drive damage to be addressed.

We hope you have a well deserved and relaxing Summer with your families.

Virtual Lesson a Hit !

The technology around us changes almost constantly, and that is the same in schools. One minute we're flicking through an encyclopaedia for information about the ancient world, the next, students are donning Virtual Reality headsets, walking with dinosaurs and touring the corridors of Hogwarts ! Phoenix class were amazed as they used the schools new gear for the first time to immerse themselves in history and to support their project about dinosaurs. Jake said 'It was like I was there ! Even though I knew it wasn't real it was still a bit scary!'



Good to Know... Working with Families In Sandwell

More Pop-Up Vaccination clinics in Sandwell are announced, including at The Hawthorns.

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/news/article/6069/more_pop-up_covid-19_vaccine_clinics_in_sandwell_announced_including_the_hawthorns

Don't forget that Sandwell Leisure Trust offers **free swimming** during the school holidays for under-16s who live in the Borough. Click on the link to register.

<https://www.slt-leisure.co.uk/free-swimming-in-sandwell/>

Families, communities and local organisations across Sandwell are working together to provide eligible children and young people between the ages of 5 and 15 years with fun activities as part of the @educationgov **Holiday Activities and Food programme (#HAF2021)**. The booking of events will go live on 12 July 2021.

[To find out if your family is eligible, and to register your interest:](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/home/page/298/holiday_activities_and_food)

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/home/page/298/holiday_activities_and_food

Would you like to become a **Changes Parenting Practitioner** and support families with children aged 0-19? Simply log onto the booking page and sign up for the core and common course and then select either one or more of the specialist age ranges. The training is currently **free**. All resources will be posted beforehand.

<https://bookwhen.com/parentsupport>

There are several **[vacancies in the Voluntary and Community sector](#)** advertised on SCVO's website.

<https://www.scvo.info/category/vacancies/>

RESIDENTIAL

This term the children in residence have continued to immerse themselves in having as much FUN as possible. We have had water fights, that have not just included water guns, but water bombs and the hose pipe on occasions! It has been wonderful to get outside and enjoy the sun and much needed vitamin D.



The creative arts have taken on new levels with vegetable sculptures, it was amazing to see the results. We really do have some incredible artists in the group. They have also been making sculptures out of clay, and these too are truly wonderful.



Our aim has been to have as much fun as possible and I believe we have achieved this, evidence for this was from the children themselves as in the recent questionnaire they were asked what they would say about staying in residence to others, 'I feel safe, I'm listened to, I like being with my friends and we get to do lots of fun stuff.'

I would also like to say a big Thank you to all the parents and carers for their support with any changes that have had to be made to ensure that we could be as safe as possible due to COVID.

Denise Hart (Head of Care)

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 !

What kind of noise does a witch's vehicle make? Brrrrooom, brrrooom.

What did the police officer say to his belly-button? You're under a vest.

What do you call it when a group of apes starts a company? Monkey business.

My wife asked me to stop singing "Wonderwall" to her. I said maybe...

What do you call 26 letters that went for a swim? Alphawetical.

Dogs can't operate MRI machines. But catscan.

Quiz Corner

1. How many football teams are there in the English Championship ?
2. In which county Manchester ?
3. How many new words can you make using the letters in HOLIDAYS ?
4. Can you name 6 cities in France ?
5. Where would you find a kookaburra ?

A Magical Day Out !

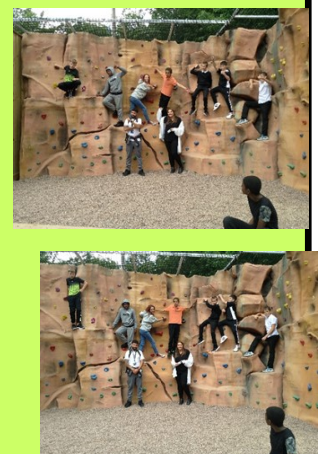
On the 5th of July students in Centaur were up and ready early for a big day out to Harry Potter World . Over the last few terms the students have been studying the dark arts of Herbology, Potions and Spells in order to protect themselves against forces of Evil. To be fair there was a good measure of English and Maths thrown in ! The group even had a class snitch reward and organised class houses, in line with the Harry Potter stories. After a wave of a wand and a few magic words it seems that lockdown lifted and the group were to make the trip to the famous halls. It was a fantastic (but long) day out and all had an amazing time !



High Rope Team Building !

On Tuesday 22nd June, Year 7 and 8 students from both sites came together to have a great time pushing themselves out of their comfort zones. The Challenge Academy in Baggeridge offers a wide range of adventurous and team building activities building activities, such as an obstacle course, high ropes adventure, a parachute drop and even a 70 metre zip line. It was great to see the boys encouraging and motivating each other as they tried new experiences which were on the whole high up and scary !

On arrival back in school the Brades Team said it was a brilliant day out and that they would do it all over again !



Unfortunately some students have had to stay at home as we manage Covid related absence. Fortunately we are able to offer a home learning schedule. Here, Evan is concentrating hard at home whilst his class teacher beams in through the computer to help him to add coins together Well Done Evan !

A.O.B.

- Our best wishes go out to Paul France, Science Teacher at the Brades Lodge who will be retiring at the end of term. Thank you for all of your hard work Paul !
- Bolu Muheeb has been appointed as the new Science Teacher and has been working with the school over the last term to ensure a smooth handover.
- Stuart Hunt and Curtis Foley Bernard have been successful in securing positions in the Well Being Support Teams at the Shenstone Lodge site and The Brades respectively.
- We are also welcoming new Teaching Assistants into the schools. Natasha Chadbone-Pickman at Shenstone and Adeana Wilkins at The Brades.
- Each site has also appointed Teaching Assistant apprentices. Jacob Gill, and Jess Compton at Shenstone and Ebonie Griffiths and Mollie Stackhouse at The Brades.
- The residential team will be welcoming Emma Yardley, Amber Smith and Chanel Gold from September
- We are extremely pleased to be able to congratulate Mrs Burbank and Mrs Reynolds who have successfully completed their Newly Qualified Teacher year, all with flying colours. Well Done !

Diary Dates...

September INSET 1st 2nd 3rd

Students in school from 6th

September

Half Term 25th Oct-29th Oct

School INSET 12th November

Xmas Break 20th Dec-3rd Jan

2022 students return 4.1.22

Please see school website for full year dates

School Data Box 2020/21

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

Attendance for 2020/21 year to date **85.9%**

Persistent Absence (2018/19 41%) **2021/22 43.5%**

Days Lost to exclusion

2019/20 53.5

2020/21 (to date) 112

ONLINE SAFETY

'Phishing' emails are getting harder to spot, and some will still get past even the most observant users. Whatever your business, however big or small it is, you will receive phishing attacks at some point. This link contains some easy steps to help you identify the most common phishing attacks "

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/small-business-guide/avoiding-phishing-attacks>

Net aware has produced a guide to using the Lego-Life App. LEGO Life is a creative app that allows users to share their LEGO builds and join in with build challenges. Users can post pictures of their builds to the app and comment on posts using app specific emojis. You cannot make your profile private, so all users of the app can see your posts.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/lego-life/>



14/07/21

Dear Parents, Carers, Colleagues and Governors,

On behalf of the Directors of the Manor Hall Academy Trust and myself as the Chief Executive Officer, thank you for all of your efforts this year.

I deliberately write this letter to parents, carers, governors and colleagues, as it is the collaborative team effort that has been adopted to provide the best we can for our children.

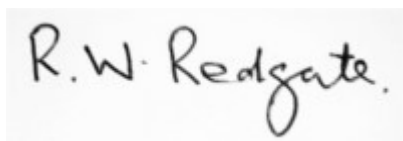
The last year has been the most challenging period for most of us in our lifetimes. We have all had to learn to live differently and maintain vigilance, adapting to the continual changes in advice and guidance.

We all have our own personal and professional stories and experience of COVID times. As we enter into a period of enhanced optimism, we all know that we will have to learn to live with COVID and continue to exercise common sense adaptations and reasonable adjustments to our behaviours and way of life.

Out of adversity often come attributes that we can be proud of. As the executive leader of the Manor Hall Academy Trust I am extremely proud of the way that we have all pulled together to keep as many children in school as safely possible. Excellent communication, mutual respect, commitment and diligence have been the recipe for adaptation to unprecedented circumstances.

I hope you all have a summer which lifts your spirits and enables you to spend some quality time with those who you hold dearly.

Stay safe and well.



R.W. Redgate.

Message from Head of CAMHS Commissioning, NHS Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group

Due to changed ways of working and increasing pressures on A&E departments currently, we are asking schools to avoid sending children and young people to A&E in order to access Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). When there is a need for urgent medical treatment due to overdose or other serious self-harm A&E remains the appropriate choice.

In order to access specialist CAMHS or CAMHS crisis teams schools can call the SPA/duty worker on 0121 612 6620 or email bchft.sandwellspa@nhs.net for advice and consultation, 09:00-17:00 hours or CAMHS crisis team between 17:00-20:00 on 07900226390 or "24/7NUMBER" - 0800 008 6516. Please contact CAMHS directly before signposting a child, young person or family to the A&E department for their mental health needs.

We would also ask that if families are becoming anxious about their child being on a waiting list for mental health support and are wanting to be seen earlier they are asked to phone the 24/7 mental health telephone line in the first instance. This is a free phone number 0800 008 6516.

