



Message from the Head



Manor Hall
Academy Trust

The end of a year always provides an opportunity for thought and reflection, and as we 'close down' 2022 and look forward to 2023 the last 12 months have been really positive for the schools despite the turmoil and disruption going on in the world.

Across the year we have been informing you of the progress (or lack of) with regard to the planned expansion of the Brades Lodge. With every term that has passed we have been teased with a start and completion date ! Well ... at last ... the work has started and the ground is being cleared ready for a 2 classroom modular block to be installed in the week beginning 19th Dec ! Let's hope it all happens as it is supposed to from now on and the Year 8 and 7 students that are due to transfer from Shenstone can do so early January.



Despite an Outstanding Residential Inspection outcome in March 2022, we have sadly seen the number of students in residence reduce to zero as the LA consider a 'review' of the provision. We continue to wait and see what this looks like, and what the future may hold for this important part of the school.

In the Summer our schools were again organising and participating in regional, Trust wide and National football tournaments, as well as the now famous 'Soap Box Derby' event. Whilst we were unable to achieve notoriety through winning medals and trophies, we did compete with spirit, hard work and a 'good sport' mantra !

As you know the Autumn term started with pace with a fantastic sailing trip, visits to the theatre, German Markets and many more off and on site curriculum and enrichment activities. We've continued to develop our curriculum across the sites and have been pushing hard to promote reading even further across the schools with the introduction of reading times for every class and age group.

So, on that note, on behalf of all the staff at our schools we wish you a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



ADHD AWARD

In September staff were trained by the ADHD foundation, to support our school in working towards the ADHD-friendly school award. Over the term, we have trialled standing desks, increased our use of sensory resources in classes, and ensured that movement breaks form part of

our timetable. Please visit <https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/> for more information, access to resources and support about ADHD and the award. Dee Hart.

SPORTS NEWS



Students at the Shenstone Lodge school welcomed Judo Olympian, Lucy Renshall to lead a sponsored fitness circuit on the 23.11.22. The aim of the event was to inspire the students to be more physically active, and to encourage them to discover and then pursue their passions in life. All pupils participated and tried really hard, which all staff were super proud of.

The day connected the students to an extraordinary athlete role model, whilst raising money for athletes, para-athletes and to improve physical activity resources for the school.

As part of the day, Lucy led an amazing 'hands on' assembly, demonstrating some Judo moves!



Parent Survey 2022

It's that time again when we seek your views about our schools. We have sent an electronic questionnaire which will take no more than 5 minutes to complete. The feedback will be anonymised unless you specifically mention your name in a written response and wish to be contacted by the school to address any specific concerns you may have. We would appreciate the completion of the form by Wednesday 14th December so that we can put any areas for development in place as soon as possible.



Shenstone School Council have come up with a motivational initiative for 'acts of kindness'. All staff have been given a golden ticket, they only have **one a term** so they really are like gold dust. Staff will give these out to a pupil when they witness something special. The child can then visit 'Willy Wonker' AKA Dee Hart for their celebration moment and reward.



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE !

Shenstone Lodge has again got itself on the map as a centre of excellence as the host of two major SEMH conferences this Term. The first was a two day event in October, organised by Mr Toplass for the Sandwell Head Teachers Partnership. The days were designed to raise the profile and importance of supporting good Mental Health practice in mainstream schools. Shenstone Lodge was further represented by Dee Hart who delivered a workshop to the delegates which focussed on the use of Trauma Informed Practices. On November 11th Shenstone Lodge was again the organising body delivering to SEMH school specialists from across the Midlands. The event was filmed by Channel 5 for an upcoming documentary featuring one of the workshop hosts, who shared her experiences of becoming a teacher whilst managing the symptoms associated with Tourette's syndrome. Both conferences were a great success and provided Shenstone Lodge with a perfect platform to demonstrate its collaborative and outward facing philosophy.



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER SCHOOL

Knowing what to do when you leave school can be a daunting prospect for many of our students. As a result we have focussed hard on making our careers curriculum a strength of the school. This half term, students in KS4 have been asked to complete an application form for a job of their choice, and undergo a mock interview with a school Governor and our LA careers advisor. The feedback from the 'panel' was really encouraging with Jake O as the stand out candidate !



As a follow up the students attended a KS4 transition event at the Hawthorne's, to meet with over 50 representatives of colleges, training providers and employers. On the day they were able to pick up extremely useful information and guidance to help them plan for their next phase of education, employment or training. Scott Worton

Xmas Quiz Corner

1. Which Christmas movie features the character Jack Skellington ?
2. Can you name 5 countries that don't celebrate Christmas ?
3. What is the longest word you find using the letters in Christmas ?
4. Why do people set fire to Christmas puddings ?
5. What is Holy Communion ?

Good to Know... In Sandwell



Visit the **Supporting Sandwell** hub and find out how Sandwell Council are supporting residents with the cost of living. This includes the 'Warm Spaces' initiative being run across the 6 towns. Libraries and other venues will provide a safe, warm and welcoming place for residents to go.

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell>

Are you or someone you know thinking about your future and career options? If so, here's a date for your diary. Meet with training and apprenticeship providers, employers, colleges, universities and Connexions Sandwell advisers to discover your next steps. On Saturday 21 January 2023 from 9.30am till 10am quiet zone for young people with special needs, from 10am onwards is open to all at West Bromwich Albion Football Club, The Hawthorns, Halfords Lane, West Bromwich, B71 4LF.

Suitable for anyone aged 14-19 (up to 25 for SEND) not currently in education, employment or training.

Please book your spot in advance.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/new-year-new-start-2023-tickets-458462221847>

Sandwell have partnered with a number of organisations to be able to offer a wide range of holiday activities for young people. Please login to see what's out there !

<https://holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk/>

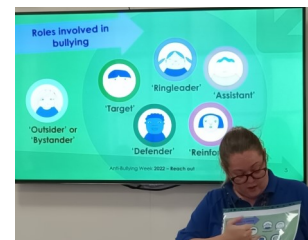


'Taking the Anti-Bullying Message On The Road'



During anti-bullying week (14th-18th Nov). The anti-bullying roadshow delivered by the Sandwell based group SHAPE and PC

Treasure, visited both Shenstone and Brades Lodge. Students from across the schools had the presentation and were involved in conversations about anti-bullying and reflections from their own experiences.



The students were excellent during the sessions, they showed maturity, empathy, and contributed well to the topic discussed. If you would like to know more about what SHAPE do, please visit the 'just youth' website to see what's in your local area and how you can get involved. <https://www.justyouth.org.uk/shape/> Dee Hart

A.O.B.

- Parents and carers of students receiving Free School Meals will be pleased to know that the holiday voucher scheme will be continued over the half term. The usual processes will be followed.

ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY

Did You Know... ?

If Your Child's Attendance During the School Year...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
was 95%	9 Days from School	50 Lessons
was 90%	19 Days from School	100 Lessons
was 85%	29 Days from School	150 Lessons
was 80%	38 Days from School	200 Lessons
was 75%	48 Days from School	250 Lessons

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters

Diary Dates...

Xmas break (1 pm finish) 16th Dec

INSET DAY school closed to students

Jan 3rd 2023

Students return Jan 4th 2023

Half Term Feb 20th-24th 2023

School Data Box 2020/21

Whole School Attendance for 2021 /22 school year : **82.7%**

Attendance for 2022/23 Yr To Date 85.7%

Days lost to Suspension

2021/22 Yr To Date : **41**

2022/23 Yr To Date : **25**



STAY SAFE ONLINE

Devised by Sandwell's Prevent Team, a new guide for parents /carers has been launched to help keep children safe online and to stop them being targeted by extremist material. The guide covers apps and games, social media platforms, message boards, fake news and clickbait.

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/online_safety

