



## Message from the Head

As you are aware there has been some significant disruption to our offer this half term. Not only have we had closures due to snow, we have also had disruption due to teacher strike action and a recent surge of Covid cases. As a result I must say a big thank you for your support and patience as we have tried to maintain a school offer for as many of the students as possible. It appears that the English Teaching Unions and the Government are 'back around the table' in an attempt to resolve their dispute and at this point in time there are no further days of action planned.

With regard to Coronavirus infections, can I please remind you that if your child is unwell they should not be in school. We continue to advise that if your child has tested positive for Covid-19 then they should stay at home for 3 days (from the day of testing) if they can, or longer if they are unwell. For information, we continue to advise staff to remain at home for 5 days if they test positive for Covid-19, in line with current guidance.

The school continues to work closely with the Local Authority and the Academy Trust to ensure that phase 2 of the Brades expansion remains on track. The overall footprint of the new building has been agreed and as a result the contractors are in the process of finalising the costs. As an overview we will have 6 new classrooms and some additional space which will be used to provide a range of academic and pastoral interventions. The new rooms will include a purpose built food tech kitchen, an art area, a science laboratory and a work based learning centre. We will also have 2 generic classroom spaces which will be more than double the size of the current Brades Lodge rooms.

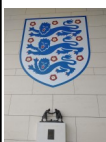
Have an amazing Easter Break and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 17th April.

### This Is Me !

On the 7th March, nine very nervous and excited students from Shenstone Lodge school travelled to the Prince of Wales Centre in Cannock to take part in a dance festival run by 'SSPA' with an audience of over 500 people ! The children had been rehearsing since November 2022 to prepare for the show. The song of choice was 'This is Me' from the musical the Greatest Showman.

The idea was to be able to promote inclusivity and diversity, something that our school is extremely passionate about. The event was a great success and the standing ovation at the end provided a tremendous boost to the confidence and affirmation of our performers. Leighton and CJ shared that the whole day had been amazing and they are looking forward to next year's performance. A massive WELL DONE to all those involved !





## SPORTS NEWS

Shenstone Lodge site hosted their first football match of the season on Monday 13th March. Visitors from Scotch Orchard school in Lichfield arrived to what could be described as a lively atmosphere as the home support was very vocal! As the game got underway it was clear from the outset that Shenstone were up against a team that played regularly and as a result their quality showed with a number of goals being scored in quick succession.



Despite this the Shenstone team battled on and came close to scoring a number of times. The work rate from a number of our team was exceptional and the overall sportsmanship was impressive despite some physical challenges.

The team eventually took a heavy loss, but gained a tremendous amount from the experience and being part of a team. The school is now signed up to a local league and are training hard as they prepare for their next game. Well done all!



The Brades Lodge Lions basketball team were again victorious in their second game of the season against Aspris School from Telford. The boys dribbled and slam dunked their way to a 26-18 score line in what was a tight game. Yet again The Lions conducted themselves well and their superior levels of fitness made the difference by the end of the game. The team are playing with great confidence and are already looking forward to their next outing. Keep it up boys!



**@Shenstonelodge**

Despite the time it has taken, we are at last thrilled to share that we are now sharing school news, updates and images of activities on Twitter. For those of you familiar with this social media plat-

form please follow us on **@shenstonelodge**

Our aim is to provide an additional level of communication for you and other stakeholders about what we are doing on a weekly and daily basis in school. Like all of these things though, it is only as good as what we add and if the numbers of followers make it worthwhile. Please have a look and feel free to send content requests directly to us on twitter **@shenstonelodge**.



**'GIRLS CAN'** Our new 'girls only' activity group has been a great success. The group is specifically targeting the Shenstone Lodge girls to develop their confidence and resilience skills. The activities give a wonderful space for us to talk about personal care, emotional well-being and mental health. Furthermore, the girls have advanced their climbing skills and abseiled out of the activity centre top floor, whilst smiling to themselves and their friends, what a confidence booster! Dee Hart (Mental Health Lead)





## World Book Day

Thursday 2nd March was World Book Day and we celebrated in style at The Brades and Shenstone Lodge.

Lots of our students and staff dressed up as characters from books, TV or film for the occasion and looked fantastic.

We all participated in various World Book Day activities throughout the day, taking part in quizzes, treasure hunts, story times, reading in every lesson and winning lots of prizes!



The Shenstone Lodge site has spent the last week of term thinking about

inclusion and diversity as part of a planned Focus week. The students have had the opportunity to take part in a range of activities and lessons covering themes such as race, physical disability, neurodiversity and sexuality/gender identity. Whilst the week to date has been a great success it is pretty clear that the students have enjoyed having a go at some of the sports that can be accessed by people with different disabilities the best. In particular they were super engaged being blindfolded and listening for a football with a bell in it.



## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS @ THE BRADES LODGE

Most secondary schools have a well established range of after school clubs and activities. Whilst the Brades Lodge and Shenstone Lodge schools have intermittently offered a small range of activities transport issues have generally made it difficult to sustain a club for the long term. Despite the challenges The Brades Lodge is again offering a full week of after school activities and clubs for those students who wish to have extra curricula

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Gym Workout 2-3pm	Football 2-3pm	Boxing* 2-3pm	Basketball 2-3pm
	Yoga 2-3pm	Chess Club 2-2.45pm	

\* none contact

transport arrangements. Please be aware that some activities may have a limited number of spaces available due to resources and staffing levels. In these instances students will be rotated as far as possible.

experiences.

If you think your child would be interested in any of the offered activities, please contact Scott

Worton and we can make any necessary



## Quiz Corner

1. Which football teams have the following nick names .. The Magpies, The Hammers and The Toffies ?
2. Can you name the events that make up a pentathlon?
3. What is the longest word you can think of that has no letter 'T' ?
4. What do the letters in RSPCA stand for ?
5. What is a ' Natterjack' ?



The benefits of spending time with animals are well known for reducing anxiety, and boosting confidence. As part of our Shenstone offer, students have been able to visit the Huggle Pets therapy centre and an Alpaca farm. Students have thoroughly enjoyed the trips and have used the opportunity to develop self regulation strategies. We can't wait to put the wellies back on and return! Dee Hart (Mental Health Lead)

## A.O.B.

- The Brades Lodge welcomes Lewis Miller and Keith Tedds who were recently appointed to Teaching Assistant positions. Lewis is already working in the school, whilst Keith will be starting after Easter.
- Congratulations to Margaret Frances and Chris Albutt who have been offered Home School Link Worker positions in the schools. We look forward to them being a proactive support for our families and students.
- We would like to say a fond farewell to Lewis Lynch. Lewis started his journey in the school as a supply teacher at Shenstone Lodge, he then transferred across to The Brades as a full time staff member teaching Maths. Lewis is relocating to London. We wish him well.
- Supermarket vouchers for those eligible for Free School Meals will again be available for the Easter Break. These will be issued via text/email as usual. If you have not yet registered for Free School Meals and think you may be eligible to do so, please liaise with the Receptionist at either TBL or SLS who can support you in organising this.

### Diary Dates...

**Easter Holidays.. Fri 31st March @**

**1pm return Mon 17th April**

**Bank Holiday 1st May**

**Additional Bank Holiday 8th May**

**Half Term 29th May-2nd Jun**

**Summer Holiday Tues 25th July**

**@1pm**

## School Data Box 2022/23

### Whole School Attendance

**2022/23 Yr To Date 84.3%** (National Av. Attendance to date 83% (fig. prov. by Arbor)

2021 /22 : 82.7%

### Days lost to Suspension

**2022/23 Yr To Date : 38.5**

2021/22 Yr To Date : 57.1

## STAY SAFE ONLINE ....



Childnet works directly with children and young people from the ages of 3-18, as well as parents, carers, teachers and professionals, finding out about their real experiences online and the positive things they are doing. They offer advice covering area as highlighted.

<https://www.childnet.com/>

Teachers & professionals	Parents & carers	4-11 year olds	11-18 year olds
 Reliability online Online Bullying Social media Online grooming Gaming <a href="#">View all</a>	 Social media Parental controls Reliability online Online Bullying Sexting <a href="#">View all</a>	 What should I do if someone online is mean to me? How much time should I spend online? What do I need to know about online gaming? <a href="#">View all</a>	 Digital Wellbeing Gaming Social Media Fake News Video calls <a href="#">View all</a>