



Manor Hall
Academy Trust

Message from the Head

As I write this newsletter, we are ever closer to the build works starting at The Brades Lodge.

It would appear that there is one more piece of paper that needs to be signed by Sandwell MBC and then we are good to go ! The contractors are poised and ready !

Whilst this remains an incredibly important development for the school and the Local Authority the delay to the build is putting immense amounts of pressure on the SEND team in Sandwell as they look to place students with SEMH needs in to our school. What should have been September start dates are now likely to be January 2025 !

In the meantime we have successfully secured £55K from the DfE Connect the Classroom Programme to update and upgrade the broadband and WiFi for each school site. The improvement works will be carried out by Staffs Tech who provide our IT support. It will begin on the 18.3.24 and run through the Easter break.

Unfortunately we have been unable to recover the minibus that was stolen from The Brades, and we have had no news regarding the culprits.

On behalf of all the staff across the two sites we wish you a restful and enjoyable Easter Break.

WORLD BOOK DAY

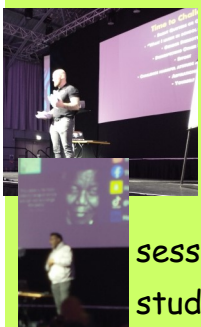
As usual the school's celebrated World Book Day with some fantastic book related activities, including the opportunity to dress up as characters from famous publications.

At Shenstone Lodge the day was used to launch the official opening of the newly painted and refurbished Library. To 'cut the ribbon' the school invited the author Steve Smallman and wall artist Graham Colledge to do the honours with oversight from the Shenstone Lodge Student Council, who prepared a short poem for the visitors, before they spent the rest of the day working with

groups across the school.



SEMH Conference 2024 ... Putting Shenstone on the Map !



Shenstone Lodge has again been the organiser of the successful Midlands SEMH Conference. Over 300 delegates representing schools from all sectors attended the event which was held at the Walsall Arena and Arts Centre. Guest speakers included Cameron Parker, Stuart Lawrence, Steve Bore and Dan Hunnisett who delivered sessions designed to gain greater understanding of motivation, resilience, managing students that have experienced extreme trauma and neuro diversity. All child facing staff from both Shenstone schools were present to enjoy this hugely important professional development opportunity.

SPORTS NEWS



AFC Fradley Shenstone Lodge U12 Falcons played on Sunday 17th March at Burton Albion's Pirelli Stadium, in the first round of the league cup. Despite losing the first game 1-0 to Tamworth they rallied well to defeat Wyrley 2-1, Wolves 5-0 and Burton 3-1. Goals were shared around as N'Karri scored 3, Korey scored 4 and Cillian also scored 3. They played every game with one player less too so full credit to them all! Match hero: Korey. Thanks to Mr Hart and Miss Rock for supporting!



The Brades Lodge Lions basketball team entered their first tournament on Monday 18th March. The boys took on teams from Solihull Academy, John Willmott School, Kings Norton Boys School and local rivals, Lindsworth. This was a real test for the Brades Lions who played back to back against well established sides. The team performed well in all of the games despite losing to the mainstream schools who fielded county level players. Their efforts paid off in the end and an 18-12 win was registered against Solihull Academy who couldn't meet the Lions determination, energy and skill in the late stages of the match. The player of the tournament as voted by the boys attending was Kai. Well done to all taking part!

WORK BASED LEARNING

The Brades Lodge year 9's have been busy completing their Animal Conservation unit by building their selected methods of animal shelters. They have been building either bird boxes, hedgehog houses or bug hotels.

The year 7s have been working towards completing the Introduction to Painting and Decorating unit. They have patched the holes, sanded the filler, cleaned the walls, cut in and applied the first coat of paint. Jack Benson WBL teacher



STEM WEEK



To mark the last week of the Spring Term students at Shenstone Lodge have enjoyed an amazing theme week focusing on Science, Technology, Engineer and Maths (STEM). Students have been wowed by rockets, scavenger hunts, a Virtual Reality road show and much more. Each activity covers at least one of the core themes of the STEM and brings the sometimes complex concepts, such as gravity, in to the 'real world' for the students.

'OWL BABIES' A literacy lesson quite literally came to life for Centaur class as a school visitor brought in two owls for them to learn about and to hold. This led on to the group writing a non-chronological recount about the life of owls. The visitor said "I must say the kids were a credit to the school"



SANDWELL SUPPORT Sandwell MBC has continued to prioritise the provision of school meal vouchers during school holidays to eligible parents whose children receive free school meals.

For the Easter Break they will be able to provide families with one voucher per eligible child to the value of £15.

Alongside the vouchers Sandwell is also offering Holiday Activities and Food during the Easter break. Eligible children can enjoy up to 4 days of fun activities and a meal, free of charge. Families have been contacted directly about this offer and more details are here: <https://holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk/>

For those families who are struggling during the school holidays there is also support available on the Supporting Sandwell web-site at www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell including financial advice.

Quiz Corner

1. Which Premier League teams play in white shirts ?
2. Can you describe 3 meanings for the word 'face' ?
3. Can you think of a 12 letter word that has at least one letter 'F' in it ?
4. What is the full name of the country DRC ?
5. What is a ' Chamois ' ?

Emotion Coaching Opportunity

On Wednesday 26th June at 10am, we would like to invite you to a parent's coffee and cake morning at Shenstone Lodge School. Tim, our Senior Education Psychologist will be delivering an Emotion Coaching session from 10.15am - 11.45am for all parents. This will be followed by coffee and cake, and time for discussion. We will aim to finish for 12.30pm.

We are hoping the session will give you the opportunity to see how we deliver Emotion Coaching at the schools, explain how this supports brain development, and offer alternative ways in which you can support your child when they are dysregulated. It will also support you with being aware of your child's emotions, recognising them and helping your children to learn to label these.

If the session seems of interest to you and to make sure we have enough cake ! Could you please email

samantha.rock@shenstonelodge.co.uk to confirm your attendance by Friday 19th April 2024. Sam Rock (Asst Head)



Exotic Animals Cause a Stir !

As part of their science studies Cyclops and Sirens were given the opportunity to get up close and personal with a number of very interesting creatures ! The students were in awe as the bearded dragon happily sat still as it was gently stroked and the gecko licked its own eyeballs !

It there could be a start of the show then it was definitely the python as it draped happily around the necks of all who were brave enough... An amazing session !



A.O.B.

- Shenstone Lodge School welcomes Lisa Maaskant who has been appointed to the Forest School Lead position and will be supported by Des Ridge.
- Agnes Czekaj and Alisha Abbas will be permanently joining the Shenstone Lodge team as TAs after half term.
- The Brades Lodge have appointed Chipu Mudere (English Teacher)
- As a reminder.. The Brades Lodge Site is closed to students on Monday 8th April for staff INSET. The Shenstone Lodge Site is open for business as usual on this date.

*** INSET DAY CONSULTATION** The Trust wide consultation to increase the number of INSET days from 5 to 6 or 7. Despite a good response from Shenstone parents and staff, the consultation as a whole did not generate sufficient traction across the Trusts group of schools for a meaningful proposal to be taken to the Directors. The principle however has been supported by the CEO and we are now working with him to frame an alternative proposal that would allow individual schools to apply specifically to Trust leaders requesting an additional INSET day. For information Shenstone Lodge will be applying for an additional day next year for staff professional development which will ultimately improve the outcomes for your child.

Diary Dates...

Easter (25.3.24 1pm finish -5.4.24)

Brades Lodge (ONLY) INSET 8.4.24

May Bank Holiday 6.5.24

Half Term 27th-31st May

Summer Holiday 23.7.24-30.8.24

School INSET Days 2/3/4 Sept

School Data Box 2022/23

Whole School Attendance

2023/24 Yr To Date 86.6% PA 34.7% (below 90%)

2022/23 Whole Year : 85% PA 47.7% (below 90%)

Days lost to Suspension

2023/24 Yr To Date : 13.5

2022/23 Whole Year : 65

STAYING SAFE

My Family Coach is a free website produced by experts in child behaviour, parenting, and education. It is provided by 'Team Teach' who provide the accredited positive behaviour management training to the staff in our schools.

The website is full of **free** resources on popular parenting topics, such as screen time, bullying, and mental wellbeing. They have a wide range of blog posts, podcast episodes, and videos available, along with bookable (paid for) 1:1 coaching, courses, and classes.

My Family Coach provides support when you need it most. It's simple to sign up and **completely free to register**. You'll find all the details at [MyFamilyCoach.com](https://www.MyFamilyCoach.com)

