



## Message from the Head



**Issue 50**

It seems incredible that we have reached a land mark 50th edition of the newsletter. The first edition was published in October 2013 and set the scene for a school update and information exchange with parents, carers, Governors and other stakeholders every half term for the last 8 years.

If you want to look at some of the old newsletters and look at the amazing things we have done as a school over time, then please go to the website. The earliest versions of the Newsletter can be found here <https://www.shenstonelodge.co.uk/news/index/page:8>

There has been a lot happening since the start of the year as the schools begin to reorganise to support a growth in student numbers.

At The Brades Lodge we have commissioned a project management team to oversee the planned reconfiguration of the current building and we are looking at the timing of this to minimise the school disruption. On completion, the space will provide classrooms that are a size significantly more suitable for the students than those currently occupied. In addition, we are liaising with the Local Authority and the Trust regarding a possible scope change to the second phase of our expansion plan which will increase the number of classrooms further than our first drafts. We will keep you informed.

At Shenstone we reconsidered our original plans to address some of the issues with the driveway and are now commissioning a total redesign, which will include designated drop off points and two lanes to allow traffic to pass at the gates. Unfortunately, with the likely planning requirements and the access to the school being compromised during implementation, the time-scales for completion will potentially take this in to next year !

Have a great half term !

### **A Dirty Job, But Someone's Got To Do It !**

Over the last few weeks, groups of students from Shenstone Lodge have had the opportunity to visit a local farm which has alpacas, donkeys and pigs. Not only have the students been able to walk the alpacas they have learned how to care for each type of animal which has included feeding and grooming.

It's been an amazing experience and despite the mud the children have overcome some of their reservations to embrace the chance to get up close and personal to the animals. Mia said " I loved walking the alpacas but I wouldn't have one as a pet !"



## Good to Know... Working with Families In Sandwell

<p><b>Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery</b> are holding craft sessions and discos for children with SEND during the half term. To see the full range of activities, follow them on social media.</p>	<p>To book tickets go to:  <a href="https://rb.gy/vrxnwt">https://rb.gy/vrxnwt</a></p> <p>For info:  <a href="https://m.facebook.com/sandwellmuseums">https://m.facebook.com/sandwellmuseums</a></p>
<p>Vodafone has launched <b>Charities Connected</b>, an initiative giving any charity in the UK the opportunity to apply for free connectivity to help the individuals and families it supports get online and improve its own digital capability.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/everyone-connected/charities-connected">www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/everyone-connected/charities-connected</a></p>
<p>We are also pleased to be offering a range of <b>FREE activities for families living in Sandwell with an under 1 year old</b>. Activities include Sensory Play, Tots Talking, Babbling Babies, Coffee, Craft and Chat and Tree Babies. Activities are being added all the time to the website, so keep checking back.</p>	<p><a href="https://bookwhen.com/book4changes">https://bookwhen.com/book4changes</a></p>
<p><b>Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children</b> are promoting their half term activities. The booking email is now <a href="mailto:spdcbooking@sp-dc.org">spdcbooking@sp-dc.org</a></p>	<p><a href="mailto:spdcbooking@sp-dc.org">spdcbooking@sp-dc.org</a></p>

### RESIDENTIAL ..

It's been a fun filled half term in residence, celebrating and taking part in Chinese New Year, Burns Night, Children's Mental Health Week, The Big Schools Bird Watch, LGBT+ Awareness Week and Veganuary. The children have particularly enjoyed trying lots of new and exciting foods (not so much the Haggis !). In addition we have made some amazing bird feeders.

We have had great fun going off site to take part in activities, especially bowling. We can't wait to go back and try again for a strike !

Mark Smith (Deputy Head of Care)



Brades Lodge students have been working with

'Huggle Pets ' who deliver 'Animal Assisted Interventions', by trained Therapists/Counsellors. Sessions are primarily targeted to support students to recognise and process emotions so they develop strategies for self care/relaxation , self empowerment and improved resilience. The animals are used to break down barriers, and to open communication channels between those taking part. The work has been so successful that Shenstone School students will also have the opportunity to take part in the near future.



## PARENT SURVEY OUTCOMES (3yr cycle)

Questions	Dec 2019 positivity	Dec 2020 positivity	Dec 2021 positivity
My child enjoys school	89%	88%	88%
The school keeps my child safe	91%	92%	96%
The school informs me about my child's progress	89%	96%	92%
My child is making enough progress at this school	86%	92%	84%
The teaching is good at this school	89%	84%	92%
Staff help my child improve their reading	89%	92%	92%
Staff help my child improve their writing	86%	92%	92%
Staff help my child improve their maths	89%	92%	96%
Staff help my child improve their computer skills	89%	96%	84%
The school helps me to support my child's learning	91%	84%	84%
The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	91%	88%	88%
The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future	91%	88%	92%
The school meets my child's particular needs	86%	92%	88%
The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	97%	88%	84%
The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	89%	84%	84%
The school is led and managed effectively	97%	92%	92%
Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school	91%	92%	92%
<b>Average positive responses</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>89%</b>

COVID SPECIFIC QUESTIONS		Dec-20	Dec-21	
communication during partial school closure was regular, clear and effective		84%	84%	
my child's teacher or the school were able to address any concerns I had during Covid		84%	92%	
I felt as though my child's well being was supported during the partial school closure		76%	76%	

Despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic and the continued disruption to students attendance, education and mental health stability, scores have remained positive.

Lower scores are overwhelmingly attributed to parents and carers posting a 'not knowing' response.

**ACTIONS** : Upgrade the communications tool which will improve information sharing .

Continue to offer a range of communication platforms for end of term reports and other meetings to improve attendance, engagement, responses to concerns and parent/ carer involvement.

A big **THANKYOU** to all of you who were able to complete the survey !



Summer is coming , which means the end of the school journey for many of our senior students. This year The Brades Lodge have entered the Y9s, Y10s and Y11s into 21 different qualifications, from English, Maths and Applied Science to Art and Design. Some students are preparing for end of year exams in the summer, whilst others will be focussed on completing course work, or both ! This is a fantastic achievement, following the recent COVID disruption.

Government rules mean that we can only enter students for qualifications if we are confident they are up to it, so this range of entries is great testament to the hard work, flexibility and determination of both students and staff.

Good luck ! Bon Chance ! がんばって ! Viel Glück ! (Ms Amber Patterson)



## 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 !

I once had a conversation with a dolphin. We just clicked.

Which bear is the most condescending? A pan-duh !

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

I don't know what you call a small spillage from a pen but I have an inkling.

Where do wasps like to get lunch ? A bee-stro.

The Roman Emperor's wife hates playing hide and seek because wherever she goes Julius Caesar.

## Quiz Corner

1. How many outfield players are there in a rugby league team ?
2. What sport would you expect to see in a Velodrome ?
3. What is the longest word you can think of that has no letter 'e' ?
4. Where are the current winter Olympics being held ?
5. Where is the world's tallest building ?

## What a difference 8 years makes !

Former student Dante, visited the Shenstone Lodge site to catch up with the staff and students. Dante attended Shenstone from 2010 to 2014, returning to mainstream at the end of Y6. Since then he has grown considerably and is an 18 year old with an amazing future ahead of him. In 2017 Dante moved to London with his family and he started to play American Football. At first, he played to 'keep him off the streets', but it became clear that he had a real talent for the game. With some additional training and support Dante has achieved a standard that means he has been able to secure an American Football Scholarship and will be travelling to the US this year to attend University and play College Football, which is the route to the major league.

Whilst in school he towered over staff that had worked with him from the outset in 2010 and shared few stories of his antics !

He then went into some of the classes to talk to the students about his 'journey.' Dante was able to talk extensively about his time in school and the difference that Shenstone Lodge and its staff had made to the way he thought about himself, his attitude to school work and having high aspirations. He shared how the school had given him the confidence to follow his dreams and to keep trying even though things had been tough. Terry Junior said "He was really cool, and made me think about what I want to do when I leave school".

We look forward to one day seeing Dante play at the Super Bowl.



**Green Fingered Gurus !** Students at Shenstone Lodge have finished the half term on a high with their annual Horticulture Week. The children have been out and about planting seeds, potting up cuttings and preparing the grounds for a magnificent Summer bloom. They have also visited a local garden centre to learn about plant management and see how they are produced in large numbers ready for sale. They also chose a range of seeds to attract insects and birds.



## A.O.B.

- We are pleased to welcome Rob Lewis and Danielle Beddow, who will be joining us at the Shenstone Lodge site after half term as class teacher and teaching assistant respectively. In the long term Mr Lewis will be leading a new, 9th class on the Shenstone site. When he arrives in March he will be covering Centaur as Ms Keyes undertakes an interim Asst. Head position.
- At The Brades Lodge we have appointed Ebonie Griffiths, Maia Gayle and Adam Griffiths to teaching assistant posts. Although they have been with the school for a number of months on various short term contracts they have impressed us to the point where they now have full time positions.
- Well done to Jess Crompton who has had her apprenticeship position extended at Shenstone .

## Diary Dates...

**Half Term 21st - 25th Feb**

**Easter Break 11th- 22nd April**

**(1pm finish on Fri 8th April)**

**Return To School 25th April**

**Bank Holiday 2nd May**

**Half Term 30th May -3rd June**

## School Data Box 2020/21

Whole School Attendance for 2020 /21 school year : **85.7%**

Attendance for 2021/22 Yr To Date **84.5%**

Days lost to Exclusion

2020/21 Yr To Date : **53.5**      2021/22 Yr To Date : **45**

**STAY SAFE ONLINE**



Parentzone are offering **Online Safety Lessons for 7-11 year olds**. The updated 'Be Internet Legends' curriculum includes 173 pages of lesson plans and worksheets - exploring the 5 Legends pillars: Sharp, Alert, Secure, Kind and Brave.

**Minecraft** remains one of the world's most popular games, with over 140 million monthly users in 2021. Parentzone has produced a guide for parents on how Minecraft works, and how safe is it for children. <https://parentzone.org.uk/>

