



Message from the Head

Welcome back to what promises to be a busy and productive academic year !

As ever, we have started the Autumn Term with a significant number of new students (and their families) across the schools. I would like to think that the transitional processes have been seamless across the board, however, I am aware that some people may have experienced challenges with transport and other arrangements. As a reminder, please call the school if you have any issues or concerns and we will do our best to resolve matters with you wherever possible.

As a school we continue to develop our student offer and to help us to do this the staff need regular and up to date training. As a Special School we are at a disadvantage with the default allocation of 5 training (inset) days which is the same as Mainstream provisions. As a result we are leading a consultation process across the Academy Trust which consists of 13 Special Schools for an additional 1 to 2 days INSET. This will allow us to devote more time to develop our curriculum and pastoral offer which in turn will improve the quality of your children's offer. The consultation document has been shared through email and is also attached at the end of this newsletter for your consideration and response. I would urge you to respond if you have a view, the more opinions received the better informed the final decision will be.

COFFEE MORNING

As you are aware The Brades Lodge has hosted a number of well attended and informative **Coffee Mornings** for parents and carers of students from both schools. The next event is due to take place on **Friday 10th November from 10am - 12pm** in the Brades Lodge Pavillion. The format will be similar to previous gatherings



with tea, coffee and cakes available to those who attend. Not only will you get the opportunity to meet other parents and carers, you will also hear from some local organisations that are keen to raise their profiles and share with you how they may be able to support or answer questions about specific challenges, interests you may be facing. So far we have arranged for the **SANDWELL EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE**, **the YOUNG CARERS GROUP**, **KOOTH (for online well being support)** to deliver short talks. In addition, staff from the school will be sharing some ideas to support the de-escalation of situations that might occur at home. If you would like more information or to let us know you will be attending (to make sure we have enough cake !) then please contact the school reception on 0121 552 3125 or email

allison.morling@shenstonelodge.co.uk

SPORTS NEWS



The Brades Lodge boys had their first league game of the season against KS4 PRU, 'Kickstart' on Friday 20th October. We took a mixed age side to the game consisting of

Yr 8s, 9s, 10s and 11s which is always a challenge. Furthermore it was the first game for the school's new captain Josh (yr 10). To his credit he rose to the occasion and showed great leadership throughout the game. The match started with Jordan making some strong saves in goal, before Callum gave us the lead and then promptly scored a second to extend the lead. Following continued pressure, Bailey took a free kick which deflected off Sajjad and into the goal. The second half continued with Brades dominating possession of the ball, which eventually led to Rio scoring his first goal for the school. A fantastic performance all round, with Man of the match being awarded by the players to Callum. A Nunney (PE Lead)



COVID UPDATES : As you are no doubt aware, the Covid infection rates are again increasing locally and Nationally. Whilst there is no legal framework that requires individuals to remain at home if they have tested positive for Covid, our school risk assessment still requests that children stay off school (if they can) for a minimum of 3 days from the positive test and only return when they feel well enough.



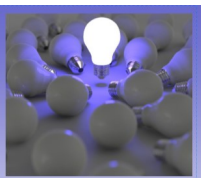
The school was thrilled to receive the 'Bronze Level Anti-Bullying Award' after submitting a large portfolio of evidence, in the Summer Term. Across the year the school arranged staff training, raised the profile of the anti-bullying message in assemblies and on noticeboards as well as tracked student views through regular surveys. This was a hugely valuable piece of work. Well done to all those involved and we look forward to undertaking the Silver Award this year !

Where For Art Our Year 11s ?

On Thursday 19th October, some Year 11 pupils from The Brades Lodge had their first experience of live ballet. They enjoyed a performance of 'Romeo & Juliet' at The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton. The performance was a great way to support their revision of the play, which is a set text on the upcoming GCSE English Literature examination.



STEM Friday Students at Shenstone Lodge have had a cracking time designing and testing 'egg carriers' as part of the newly introduced STEM Fridays. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Given that each subject relies on the other, it is a fantastic way to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills in a real world context. Sirens class carefully wrapped their eggs using considered designs and tested them to breaking point ! A great session that left the students very eggcited ! And that's no eggsaggeration !



Shenstone Lodge School prides itself as being at the heart of Sandwell and the Sandwell Community of schools. On the 12th and 13th of October our school was again the lead coordinator for the Sandwell Headteacher Conference held in Telford. Executive Headteacher Neil Toplass hosted the two days after putting together a wide range of exceptional keynote speakers and workshop hosts targeted at developing the knowledge and skill sets of a 120 primary and secondary Headteachers from within the Borough. Not only was this a fantastic CPD session for the delegates who would ultimately take back some great ideas to their own schools, it was another high profile event promoting our great school !

Quiz Corner

1. Which American Football teams have the following nick names... Dolphins, Steelers and Patriots ?
2. Can you describe 3 meanings for the word 'lead' ?
3. Can you think of a 12 letter word that has at least one letter 'M' in it ?
4. What do the letters in NSPCC stand for ?
5. What is a 'pipistrelle' ?



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Amazing Artsmark Award

Pupils and staff at Shenstone Lodge are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Artsmark Award in a momentous year for the programme as it celebrates 20 years of arts, culture and creativity in schools.

The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It supports schools to develop and celebrate arts and cultural education, putting creativity and wellbeing at the heart of the curriculum. Artsmark ensures every young person can be creative and access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.

In order to achieve the Artsmark Award, the school has had to develop our arts and culture provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the school.



FOOD HYGIENE AWARD

Shenstone Lodge is again the proud recipient of the highest food hygiene rating for it's kitchen and food provision. The two person team have been part of the

school for a number of years despite being directly employed by the catering company Aspens. Amy and Tina, our capable kitchen duo, were thrilled with the outcome as they felt that the level of scrutiny had shifted up a gear since the last inspection. Well Done both !



A.O.B.

- Shenstone Lodge School welcomes Harriet Beeston who has been appointed as the new School Business Manager from 6th November.
- Supermarket vouchers for those eligible for Free School Meals will again be available for the Half Term 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 school office at either TBL or SLS who can support you in organising this.

School Lunch Success

The provision of school lunches at The Brades Lodge has always been a challenge as a result of the growing number of students and the limited capacity of the facilities on the site. Having worked closely with catering providers Aspens over the Summer Term the school is now offering a selection of hot school dinners which are going down a storm with both students and staff. Mealtimes are significantly more purposeful and provide a daily opportunity for the students to develop a wide range of 'soft skills', not least the art of conversation!

Diary Dates...

Half Term 30th Oct-3rd Nov 2023

Last Day of Term 22nd Dec (School closes at 1pm)

Students return 8th Jan

STAFF INSET DAY Fri 9th FEB

Half Term 12th -16th Feb

School Data Box 2022/23

Whole School Attendance

2023/24 Yr To Date 86.8% PA 35% (below 90%)

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

Days lost to Suspension

2023/24 Yr To Date : 0

2022/23 Whole Year : 65

STAY SAFE ONLINE ...



Shout 85258

Shout is the UK's first and only free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope.

Shout launched publicly in May 2019 and have had more than 1.7 million conversations with people who are anxious, stressed, depressed, suicidal or overwhelmed and who need in-the-moment support.

As a digital service, Shout has become increasingly critical since Covid-19, being one of the few mental health support services able to operate as normal at this time.

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Shenstone Lodge School

Executive Head Teacher: Neil Toplass



Manor Hall
Academy Trust

Manor Hall Academy Trust

Special Schools Consultation Proposal

Increasing the Number of School INSET Days from 5 to 6

Introduction: Academies have the autonomy to establish their own term dates, and as part of The Manor Hall Academy Trust, we are considering a proposal to increase the number of School In-Service Training (INSET) days from 5 to 6 for our Special Schools within the Trust and in exceptional circumstances, where a school might need intensive interventions, an additional day for developments which require supplementary training; specifically applied for to the Local Advisory Board and Directors.

Rationale: Special Schools have an annual responsibility to provide statutory training and refresher courses to all staff groups, which differ from those typically applicable in mainstream education. Examples of such training include positive handling frameworks like Team Teach, Price, or PROACT SCIPr - UK. Additionally, staff are required to stay current with medical practices and guidelines for medical conditions, such as Buccal administration, Anaphylactic training, Peg training, and Manual handling. These essential training sessions often consume two of the currently allocated 5 INSET days. Furthermore, the timing of the refresher cycle, usually at the start of an academic year, aligns optimally with launching new educational initiatives.

Benefits: Adding an extra INSET day would enable school leaders to provide more effective support to our dedicated staff. This additional time would allow for deeper knowledge acquisition and the development of staff skill sets tailored to our unique school settings. Moreover, an increase in INSET days presents an excellent opportunity for Trust-wide events where schools can collaborate, share best practices, and collectively strive to enhance teaching standards, well-being, and the quality of education for our children.

Challenges: It's important to acknowledge that an additional INSET day would result in an extra day of school closure for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Your Input Matters: We value your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts on this proposed change to the number of school INSET days. If you have any questions or queries, please contact us at headteacher@shenstonelodge.co.uk with the subject title 'INSET Day Consultation' before 12 pm on 22nd December 2023. If we do not receive any feedback, we will assume you are in favour of the proposal.

Next Steps: The Manor Hall Academy Trust Directors will collect and review feedback from the consultation process before January 31st, 2024. A decision to approve or reject the proposal will be made at the next appropriate committee meeting. We will inform all stakeholders of this decision by March 2024. If approved, the changes will take effect on the 4th of September 2024.

Thank You: We appreciate your consideration of this proposal and look forward to receiving your feedback. Thank you for your ongoing support in our mission to provide the best education for our children.

Summary of Consultation Timeline:

- Share proposal with staff and school stakeholders during the week beginning 16th October; feedback gathered - consultation period closes 22.12.23.
- Share consultation with parents/carers during the week beginning 16th October; feedback gathered - consultation period closes 22.12.23.
- Feedback compiled and shared with LAB by 31.1.24 with recommendations to Directors.

Decision made by Directors by 22.3.24 and shared with schools and stakeholders

Yours Sincerely



(Executive Head Teacher)

Email: headteacher@shenstonelodge.co.uk

Website: www.shenstonelodge.co.uk



Brades Lodge Christmas Festival

Festive treats

Gift stall

Tombola

Crafts

Raffle

Friday 15 December 2023

10am-12 noon

See you there!

