

Message From the Head

As you are no doubt aware OFSTED visited the schools on the week beginning 4.11.13. The inspection covered the residential provision, the primary and secondary schools.

Overall this was a very positive experience and the staff and pupils worked extremely hard to achieve a great outcome. The full report will be available online at www.ofsted.gov.uk within the next week or so (go to find a report and type Shenstone Lodge). As with all inspections there will be a number of development points which we are keen to address as part of our journey to become an outstanding school.

Please find attached to the newsletter a parent/ carer questionnaire. I am keen to review the current feelings of all our stakeholders and to have this as a comparison to the last questionnaire. Please complete the form, the more information we have the better we can respond!

Easy Riders Hit The MUGA

As Year 10 and 11 students from The Brades Lodge complete their motorcycle mechanic modules they are given the opportunity to ride the bikes, developing skill competencies that support the Compulsory Bike Training (CBT).

So far students have completed tyre inspections and have worked on braking systems.

Once on the bikes the boys learn clutch and throttle control and then negotiate a series of obstacles which get progressively more challenging. "Riding and working on the bikes is great..." said Kieron "It will help me to get about and to have a qualification"

It is fantastic to see how focussed and attentive the students are during these sessions. The aim is to achieve a qualification that will support an apprenticeship in a garage or engineering environment.



Arts Mark

On September 25th Shenstone Lodge School achieved the Arts Award quality mark for demonstrating a strong commitment to developing artistic skills amongst its pupils. It was identified that music was a strength of the school with all children having the opportunity to take part in lively and engaging music sessions. In particular it was noted that some children learn instruments such as guitar and drumming.

It was also recognised that the school has a developing use of art as part of pupil outdoor and residential activity.

The auditor was extremely complimentary about the look of the school and the art work produced by pupils in classrooms and corridors. Drama was also a positive aspect. "I love being creative!" said Thomas "Painting, using clay and acting lets me really use my imagination."



Gardening Award !

Well done to class 1 at Shenstone Lodge who received RHS Waitrose gardening award. The children have really enjoyed growing, cooking with and selling their produce.



FOOTBALL FOCUS

This term Shenstone Lodge have secured their first ever victory over local rivals

Longdon Hall 2-0. They have also drawn 1-1 against mainstream opposition St Chads. The Brades Lodge team played away against Walsall's Elmwood School beating them convincingly 6-1. The Brades Lodge have a fixture on Friday 29th against Jane Lane school Walsall. Kick Off will be about 1pm and we would welcome your support !



PORTWAY JUDO

PE has never been so much fun or so painful ! A group of Yr11 students have taken part in Judo lessons at Sandwell's fantastic Portway Centre. The group are learning how to fall safely and how to grapple using specified techniques. The lessons are set to continue over the next few weeks and will help to develop student confidence, team work and discipline. "Judo is sick !" said Connor He assured me that this was a good thing !

RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS



We've been busily preparing for Christmas by making all sorts of decorations in our craft sessions on a Thursday evening; fluffy, glittery snowmen, advent calendars, baubles and all sorts of decorations for our carefully crafted tree. It all looks brilliant and we're looking forward to a really happy, snowy, lovely, fun-tastic Christmas.



On Wednesdays we've been having either AJ or Paul coming over from the Albion Football Foundation. They have led football coaching sessions, which has really helped those of us in the school team to perform better in matches.

Well Done...

TO OUR FOOTBALL TEAMS

Lynden, Kamarlee, Romario W, Marshal, Callum M, Josh B, Tom and Kel for The Brades Lodge. Dante, Calum G, Baileigh (man of the match), Dakari, Daniel L, Bradley M, Jaden, Joshua E and Rio for Shenstone Lodge School.



TO OUR 100% ATTENDERS

Matthew Mc, Ethan-Dimitri, Demarni, Dakari, Jaden, Thomas, Luke, Lewis, Chanel and Jordan



Would You Be Tough Enough ?

On Saturday November 2nd the Mud Battles Tough Guy event took place. Three brave students from Brades Lodge entered the competition with high hopes of completing the course in good time. The first kilometre was relatively straight forward with hurdles and nets to cross or go under. The aptly named 'killing fields' saw the real test begin, challenging the team both physically and mentally. 15 metre high climbing frames were negotiated followed by more hurdles. The group were then 'forced' to crawl under barbed wire and negotiate hot coals. After, there were more high, windy climbing frames followed by a cooling dip in a swamp. The final obstacle involved a run and jump from a jetty and a short swim to a greasy bank before sliding down and clambering up to the finish line. Assistant Headteacher Simon Hobbs said that "The students were a joy to be with and did the school proud." Marshall commented "It's the best thing I have done on a Saturday for a long time," whilst Matt said " I really enjoyed it, but, never again !" Nathan exclaimed "I can't wait for the next one !"



Well done to all the students and a big THANKYOU to Simon and Karen who gave up their Saturday to support this challenging and very cold event.

AOB

Parent Questionnaire ... Please complete and return to school by Friday 6th Dec.
Christmas Fayre and Car Boot Sale at Brades Lodge School Saturday 7th Dec. 10am-1pm
Shenstone Lodge School Christmas Concert Friday 13th Dec. 11am-12pm
Donations to support the Tough Guy event are still gratefully received. Money raised will support the Brades Lodge ski trip planned for March 2014

Quiz Corner



1. Can you name 4 European premier football leagues ?
2. Which country has the largest population ?
3. How big is a googol ?
4. Which country is home to the most poisonous snakes ?
5. Can you name 20 breeds of dog ?
6. How fast is the speed of light ?

Diary Dates...

Term Ends 1.30pm 20.12.13
 Pupils Return 6.1.14
Half Term 14.2.14
 Pupils Return 24.2.14
Term Ends 1.30pm 11.4.14
 Pupils Return 28.4.14
Half Term 23.5.14
Term Ends 1.30pm 18.7.14

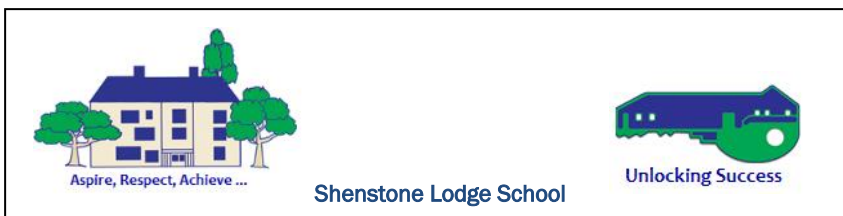


The staff across the schools would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



SNOWLINE

As poor weather becomes more likely it is important that the school is able to inform you as quickly as possible of a decision to close the school. Please ensure we have your current mobile phone number and that you check our website for updates. Other snowlines are generally slow to pick up our closures.



Parent/ Carer Questionnaire Nov 2013 Please Return by Fri 6th Dec

For each of the statements below, please tick the box which best reflects your views:

1 = strongly agree 2= agree 3= disagree 4 = strongly disagree

5 = don't know

Student Yr Gp.

	1	2	3	4	5
My child feels safe at school					
My child is making good progress at school					
The school meets my child's particular needs					
The school ensures my child is well looked after					
My child is taught well at school					
The school helps my child to :					
Behave better					
Read					
Write					
Use maths					
Use computers					
Understand what they need to get a job					
The school encourages students to behave well					
The school deals effectively with any case of bullying					
My child's lessons are not disrupted by bad behaviour					
The school help me to support my child's learning					
I am able to approach the school with any concerns knowing that it will respond appropriately					
The school keeps me well informed about all matters concerning my child					

If you want to explain any of your answers, or if there is anything else you want to tell us, please write on the reverse: