



THE LODGE

Issue 41 ... July 2020

Message from
the Head



Manor Hall
Academy Trust

Before I run through the latest updates from the school I think it is important to THANK YOU all for your support and patience as we have navigated (and continue to navigate) the constantly changing landscape caused by the Coronavirus COVID-19 crisis. I have been extremely proud to lead a staff team that have put their anxieties aside and have responded professionally and flexibly so that we have been able to open at levels above those of other Sandwell Special Schools and Mainstream Schools.

At this point in time we are on track to open fully across the two sites in September, although there may be some small temporary adjustments to the timetables to support deep cleaning regimes and school transport arrangements.

School staff will be returning to school on the 1st September so will be available to contact you before the students return on Monday 7th September if there are any changes to our plans as a result of a 'local lockdown' or any other unforeseen event.

On an entirely different note, I am thrilled to confirm that we have at last completed the Academy conversion process. As you are aware this has been referenced in our newsletters on numerous occasions, generally to inform you of delays! However, we are now a part of the Manor Hall Academy Trust and as such have a number of freedoms that were not afforded to us as a Local Authority funded provision.

Already the school has been successful in securing significant funds (that are only available to Academies) to repair large areas of the Shenstone Lodge residential block roof.

For information there have been no changes to the school name and the uniforms will also remain the same.

Take Care and have a great Summer break !

BUSY BUSY BUSY

We've had a great couple of weeks already in Griffin. Ethan, Jayden, TJ and Danny have had lots of physical activity including playing basketball, learning some hockey skills, playing on the trikes and scooters, climbing on the wall, swimming, playing 'floor is lava' in the gym on the climbing equipment, digging in the garden. We also put up a hammock in the woods, made a drum kit and TJ tied up a bucket to act as a different type of drum. On top of that we have made pancakes, pizzas, waffles and more to refuel our bodies. A none stop and very busy end to the year ! Mrs Burbank





TRANSPORT OPTIONS

If your child is currently receiving travel assistance, then the council will reinstate your usual transport arrangements. However, if you would prefer not to use the transport then it may be possible to access a personal

budget which you can use to make your own transport arrangements. Please contact SEN_transportOfficer@sandwell.gov.uk and leave your name and phone number together with the name of the young person being transported, we will contact you to discuss the offer. If you would like to explore this option please contact us as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for the start of the Autumn term.

If your child has no option but to use public transport to get to school then national guidance should be followed which means that they should wear a face covering/mask as they travel. However, if your child has Special Educational Needs, they may be exempt from wearing a face covering on public transport. <https://www.networkwestmidlands.com/plan-your-journey/network-overview/advice-while-travelling-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/face-coverings/>

OUT IN THE GARDEN

Students in Athos class have been taking advantage of the good weather recently to tidy up the Shenstone Lodge allotment. In the absence of regular attention the boys had to repair fences, weed the raised beds and give everything a really good watering. We're all looking forward to the harvest in the Autumn term, when the fruits of their labour will be ready for eating. Mrs Black



During lockdown students have had lots of opportunity to learn

woodland bush skills. Knowing how to safely light 'camp fires', whittle wood, tie knots, build shelters and cook marsh mallows has been a popular activity over the last few months for those with ambitions to follow the footsteps of Bear Grylls!

A message from PC TEDDS to all staff and students !

Good afternoon everyone... Please find a link to a you tube video produced by our partnership team. This video is only a minute or so long and it is hoped you can distribute it to your students, parents, carers and staff.

The video is designed to re assure everyone that the Police are still here and will be continuing to work hard with the schools moving forward into a new normal.

Thank you all. I'll see you all soon ! <https://youtu.be/kAJ1uXPtvZI>



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 !

What do you call a fish without an I? Fsh.

A cowboy asked me if I could help him round up 18 cows.

I said, 'Yes, of course. - That's 20 cows

How does a penguin build its house? Igloos it together.

Why is Henry's wife covered in tooth marks? Because he's Tudor

I've just been on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday. I'll tell you what, never again.

Quiz Corner



1. What is a 'Twitchell' ?
2. Name 3 East Midland cities ?
3. Which football team are known as 'The Tykes' ?
4. Which planet is closest to the sun Jupiter or Saturn ?
5. How many different meanings can you find for the word 'cross' ?
6. How many outfield players in a hockey team ?

The Dragon Bubble



The boys in the Dragon Bubble chose the theme of 'bubbles' for our focus. We have had lots of fun making bubbles of different sizes using imaginative utensils. We painted with soap flakes to make smelly pictures then used the soap flakes in our home made playdough - which was so easy to make!

We played in the bubbly water with some toys, we used a hand whisk to see who could make the largest amount of foam and we created art using bubble wrap.

We talked a lot about our family bubbles and made gratitude bubbles, saying what we are really grateful for. Mrs Sizer



Leading Parent Partnership Award

The final verification day for the award was on the 15.7.20. Having reviewed the submitted documentation and 'interviewed' key staff through conference call technology, the auditor was pleased to announce that the school had successfully achieved the necessary standards to receive the award.

Thank you to all those that have contributed to the award and have supported us collate our evidence.

The frameworks of this programme will allow us to continue to work more closely with parents and carers in the future . D Hart

LPPA

Improving
parental
engagement

*******PLEASE USE THE WEBSITE*******

Please check out our website over the Summer break. Student work has been updated during 'lockdown' and we are providing increasing numbers of website links to support you with well being information, educational feeds, activity videos and information from local groups.



A.O.B.

- We still have one Parent Governor vacancy. This is an exciting time to join the school's strategic leadership group given our recent Academy Conversion. If you would like to express an interest in the position please email headteacher@shenstonelodge.co.uk or call the school.
- Mr Nunney and Mrs Fitzgerald have successfully completed their Newly Qualified Teacher years at the Brades Lodge school. Despite the year being a very 'different' year they both passed with flying colours
- Mrs Reynolds (The Brades Lodge) and Mrs Burbanks (Shenstone Lodge) have both completed teacher training apprenticeship programmes and have been appointed as teachers in the schools from September.
- Alice has joined the residential team at Shenstone. She has been using the last few weeks to get to know the children prior to reopening residence.
- Mrs Yardley has also been busy and has achieved NVQ L3 in Children and Young People. Well Done!

Diary Dates...

Autumn term 2020

Term starts for students : Monday 7th September 2020

Half-term holiday: Monday 26 October 2020 to Friday 30 October 2020

Christmas holiday: Monday 21 December 2020 to Friday 1 January 2021

Spring term 2021

Term starts: Monday 4 January 2021

Half-term holiday: Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021

Easter Holiday: Friday 2 April to Friday 16 April 2021

Summer term 2021

Term starts: Monday 19 April 2021

Half-term holiday: Monday 31 May 2021 to Friday 4 June 2021

Summer holiday starts: Thursday 22 July 2021