

### Message From the Head

It is my intention that every half term the school produces a newsletter which provides an overview of the many positive and exciting projects that students have covered, whilst keeping you informed and up to date with school developments and dates for your diaries. As we enter the fifth week of the Autumn Term, both schools have already delivered a full and broad range of activities. These include new curriculum programmes for The Brades Lodge students and a residential outdoor education week for those attending Shenstone Lodge.

Changes to the school days across both sites seem to be going well with minor 'tweaks' and discussions with staff, carers and students about the changes have been positive.

We are looking forward to delivering a wider range of learning experiences to the students across the schools in the upcoming year.

### Fan PLAS tic !

Over the week beginning 16th September a group of Yr5 and 6 boys from Shenstone Lodge enjoyed a residential visit to Plas Gwynant Outdoor Centre in Wales. The children were stretched physically, socially and academically over the week as they took part in gorge walking, rock climbing, canoeing, team games, abseiling, night walks, caving and hiking in conditions ranging from hot and sunny to cold and wet ! Many of the group had never been away from home before but coped incredibly well. Daniel said "I would love to go again even though some of the tasks were frightening."

Children who did not go to Wales also had a great time. Formal lessons were 'ditched' in favour of off site activities. Pupils visited Woodlands Park, Sutton Park and Sandwell Valley Outdoor Centre. Over the week they had a go at canoeing, archery, mountain biking, high rope courses and team development activities. Jordan said " I really enjoyed climbing the high ropes "



### Vocational Studies

Students at The Brades Lodge are beginning to benefit from the addition of a more 'work focused' curriculum. KS4 are engaging in a range of off site and on site courses which include motorcycle and car mechanics, WBA sports awards and in the near future catering studies. Across KS3 and KS4 students are accessing horticultural studies. The school has invested in Poly Tunnels for all year round plant work and is rapidly developing the site's facilities to ensure we can offer more than 'digging holes !'. It is anticipated that we can develop the courses further to incorporate a commercial enterprise element to the work. Marshal said "I like working on the bikes and going to learn mechanics at Groundworks. This will help me to get a qualification and a job when I leave school. My Nan and Granddad would be proud and think I'm a boss!"



## Coffee and Cakes !

As part of the National MacMillan Coffee Morning event, staff and students at The Brades Lodge held an open morning for parents, carers and friends of the school to attend.

Students helped to arrange the day to develop their hosting and organisational skills. Freddie-Lee said " It was good to help out and raise money for a good cause"

A big THANK YOU to those who were able to come and support this worthy cause. A staggering £150 was raised !



## Family Fun in the Sun

Parents and carers attended a highly successful fun day on 27th September at Shenstone Lodge. The children had the opportunity to take part in games and activities with carers in and around the school site. The BBQ lunch and crazy golf were firm favourites amongst all who attended.

Children from the school Gardening Club had a very busy stall selling produce which they had grown over the year.... Raising an incredible £18



## FOOTBALL FOCUS

At the end of Summer Term both schools played local teams with varying successes.

As the term progresses we hope to arrange a number of fixtures. As ever, you are welcome to come and support our teams. Dates will be forwarded as they are confirmed.

## RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Shenstone Lodge School provides important residential support for up to 11 primary aged pupils. Over the last few weeks the children have had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of off site visits, school based activities and work towards their care plan targets. On 3.10.13 the group attended the Local Authority Joint Summer Scheme Celebration. Guest Speakers included the Mayor and blind cyclist Dave Healey. The night was a celebration of the Fantastic Summer Schemes that are on offer at Shenstone Lodge and around West Bromwich. The children passed on that Dave Healey was really interesting and made them think about 'trying hard even when things got tough'.

## Well Done...



### 100% ATTENDERS ACROSS BOTH SITES

Marshal, Freddie-Lee, Matthew McC, Fenton, Romario, Dakarai, Rio, Calum Luke, Ethan-Dimitri, Demarni, Heather, Chanel, Thomas, Bradley, Lewis, Jaden, Baileigh, Cain, Joshua E, Jordan W, Shannon

## TOUGHEST KIDS RAISING MONEY

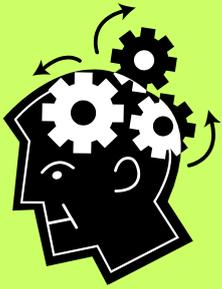


On Sunday November 3rd three pupils from The Brades Lodge school will be taking part in, arguably, the worlds toughest event, but what exactly is it? Tough Guy® is the nightmare of being chased by a herd of stallions; your only escape route is a mighty and revered obstacle course, built from trees, 15 metres high with Tarzan ropes swinging between. No hats and no hook ups, just pure, organic grip strength from your cold and wet hands. Belly flop beneath razor wire, the stallions still snorting at your heels, matching your every step. Look deep into flames before diving through them straight into shoe-sucking mud. This is only the start. I am sure there will be photographs but any sponsorship would be gratefully received. Please contact the school if you would like to support our TOUGHEST KIDS.

### AOB

Parent Questionnaire feedback ... **THANK YOU** to all those who completed the form back in March. Again, those parents and carers who responded indicate that they generally have a positive view of the schools. Our action points from the surveys are to increase the level of survey participation, to promote regular communication with parents and carers and to reduce exclusions.

We will be forwarding the Autumn Questionnaire in the next few weeks ... please fill it in ... It really does make a difference !



### Quiz Corner

1. Can you name 15 premier league football clubs ?
2. How far do you have to run to complete a marathon ?
3. How many planets are in our solar system ?
4. Can you name 12 types of freshwater fish ?
5. Name 3 Counties that don't end with 'shire' ?
6. Where would you go to see the Empire State Building ?

### Diary Dates...

School closed to pupils Friday  
25th October for staff

INSET

Half Term Break will begin  
Thursday 24th October

Pupils return to school

Monday 4th November

Term Ends for Christmas  
1.30pm Friday 20th  
December

Pupils return Monday 6th  
January



Shenstone Lodge pupils had an informative day out at Birmingham Central Mosque on 9.10.13. Visiting places of worship is by far the best way to learn about other cultures and religious beliefs. "The children found the whole experience fascinating"

I.T.



Over the next term we will be looking at improving our school website. If you have any thoughts about the current site and how we can develop it further we would love to hear from you. The website is our 'shop window' and it needs to be up to date, easy to navigate and informative.

Please Email :

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To share your views

Thank you !

