



THE LODGE

Issue 42 ... October 2020



Message from the Head



At last... we have made it through the first half term, relatively unscathed and largely in tact. Best of all... the students have managed to learn a few things on the way!

As you may be aware, the Shenstone Lodge site is in the process of having the roof replaced on the 'residential building'. This has little impact on the students day to day education, but has meant that taxi arrangements have been a bit of a challenge.

Unfortunately, those of you who drop off and pick up your children will need to endure the congestion for another half term, as the school will have more contractors on site. This new team will be replacing the heating in all of the older classrooms.

On a more positive note, all works are scheduled for completion by the end of Autumn term so we will have a lovely, warm and dry school, with plenty of parking space to return to after Christmas.

At The Brades Lodge we continue to look at ways in which we can fund the growth of the site. This would include increasing the size of the current classrooms and having additional rooms to increase the numbers of students we can support. As an Academy we have access to new funding streams, so watch this space!

And finally... as we continue to boldly tread into the unknown, we should be extremely proud of ourselves for coming together and supporting each other (often at short notice) through the ongoing ups and downs of the pandemic. THANKYOU!

Halloween Day at Shenstone Lodge School

The Halloween Event will be on Friday 23rd October.

Staff and students are able to wear fancy dress or non-school uniform. There are loads of fun activities planned like 'bobbing' for apples and 'trick or treat' games. Mia said "We are looking forward to everything!"

OUTSIDE PROJECT

Dragons and Unicorns have embarked on a new project!

The area outside our classrooms has not really been used for anything and is a wasted space.



Not anymore!!

We have decided to turn it into a fantastic area that we can access for outside learning and playing.

The children have come up with some great ideas that have helped create a plan of how the area will look:

Jason and Billy definitely wanted some seating areas and Jimmy thought we could make some wind chimes out of conkers...

Reineyo and the class had to ask Mr Hobbs for some money to help us buy some new plants and other equipment...



Luckily he said yes!!!!



Change-Makers News

This has been an exciting term for our new group of Change-Makers (the name for the Shenstone Lodge site School Council).

After receiving training on 'How to Interview a potential Head of School' candidate, a small team of panellists were given the job of interviewing 2 applicants to this very important post. Pupils did a fantastic job, asking some extremely difficult questions like 'should we be allowed mobile phones in school?'.

The team then provided extremely valuable feedback to Mr Toplass about what they thought of each person.



Even though the position was not filled, the children had a great time learning new skills and building their confidence. When asked what the experience meant to them, Mia said "it was interesting and it showed what Change-Makers is about", and Jimmy said "It's where we get to help our school."

In addition, our Change-Makers are helping to organise a school Halloween Event. Our 'Communication Team' have written their first entries for this newsletter, to tell you all about it. We wish those who celebrate it, a Happy Halloween! Mrs Yardley

RESIDENTIAL .. But not as we know it !

Although we haven't been open for overnight stays this half term we have been able to offer a wide range of after school activities to nearly every student in school! We have been really lucky to have had fantastic weather over the last few weeks which has meant that we have been able to enjoy refreshing dips in our lovely pool, having bike races around the grounds, playing golf and hide and seeking in the woods. As the children play together they develop a better understanding of friendship and tolerance of others. Our after schools' clubs have been a great hit and we look forward to continuing with this offer as we begin have residential students in overnight. Mark Smith

KINGS OF THE HILL

In Unicorn class we have been learning about Kings, Queens and Castles.

We learnt all about Queen Elizabeth II and created 'A Royal Family Tree.' We built castles, designed a royal crown, created a Knight's shield with a personal 'Coat

of Arms' and baked food for our own royal banquet.

Its been a brilliant few weeks! Mrs Foulkes



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 !

"My Mother is really mad at the fact that I have no sense of direction. So I packed up my stuff and right!"

Why did the old man fall in the well? Because he couldn't see that well !

What's the difference between COVID-19 and Romeo and Juliet? One's the coronavirus and the other is a Verona crisis.

I ran out of toilet paper and had to start using old newspapers. Times are rough.

I keep posting on INSTA' about the coronavirus. That's right, I consider myself a social media influenza.'

Quiz Corner



1. What is a 'crows foot' wrench used for ?

2. Name 5 countries that have a flag which is at least 30% red ?

3. How many new words can you make using the letters in Sandwell ?

4. What is the chemical symbol for Gold ?

5. How many different meanings can you find for the word 'back' ?

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

From the 1st to the 31st of October Black History month has provided a platform for the schools to celebrate our diverse community and to recognise the many significant contributions of Black people in the UK. Classes across the schools have had the opportunity to discuss the highs and lows of our Black history and to understand the value of acceptance and tolerance .



The highlight of the month was Brades Lodge student, Andre, who compiled and led a webinar assembly for the whole school around Black History and Racism. He spoke honestly and with great passion about his life and his own experiences in response to questions from students and staff. This was a moving presentation which made us proud to have Andre at our school ! He was an absolute credit to us all ...thank you and well done !



SHOW TIME ! Shenstone Lodge School welcomed M and M Productions into school to perform Cinematic Theatre In Education, an exciting and innovative new way for the children to continue enjoying the magic of theatre, while maintaining social distancing. The children enjoyed watching the Wizard Of Oz come to life in the gym.



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

In the event of a premature school closure, or your child is 'well' but unable to attend school please refer to our school website as work for the students is being updated continually 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. You can also contact us through the homelearning@shenstonelodge.co.uk email address. This can also be used to share pictures of your child completing work or requesting more work from a specific teacher if necessary. If you do not have internet access then please let our team know and we will send you all the relevant work and documents through the post.

CORE PE
KS3 AND KS4
HOME TASKS

One the following a try to keep yourselves healthy and active during this time in lockdown. Good luck!



A.O.B.

- We are pleased to welcome Garry Cox to the Maths teaching team on the Brades Lodge site. Leary Johnson, Dominique Tuitt and Stephane Fletcher have joined Shenstone Lodge as LSPs. They have already made a great impact and we look forward to them all being long term members of our team
- At last we are able to say that we have a full Governing Body! Since our last newsletter Bev Walters and Tom Ashley have joined us and are looking forward to strategically supporting the school and helping us to continue to develop further.
- As you are aware the school day for those students attending the Shenstone Lodge site was adjusted to try and accommodate some of the challenges that the ongoing pandemic has delivered. For information and confirmation, we will be continuing with the school hours as they currently stand. We will review the times again next half term and let you know as soon as we can if there will be any changes.



At the beginning of the term students at The Brades had a talk from PC Tedds regarding social media, the negative effects it can have if it is misused and the importance of staying safe on line. PC Tedds regularly visits the school to deliver safety awareness workshops which have a wide reaching and positive effect.

Diary Dates...

Half Term 26th - 30th Oct

**Xmas Break 1pm finish on the
18th Dec and return 4th Jan**

Half Term 15th - 19th Feb

Easter Break 2nd - 16th April

School Data Box 2020/21

Whole School Attendance for 2019 /20 school year
(pre 'lockdown') : **83.7%**

Attendance for 2020/21 Aut 1 **84.7%**

Whole School Sessions lost to Exclusion (pre lockdown)
(1 day = 2 sessions)

2019/20 Aut 1 : **14**

2020/21 Aut1 : **15.5**