

Message From the Head

Where has the school year gone? Although the time seems to have flown by I think it is important to stop and reflect on what we have achieved across the schools. On a strategic level Shenstone Lodge School has increased student numbers by 20% and The Brades Lodge by 25%, attendance is showing strong signs of improvement and exclusions overall have reduced significantly. Students at both sites have worked extremely hard to achieve well in National Tests and accredited courses. The KS2 results are the best ever, and indicate that overall the students have made excellent progress whilst at Shenstone Lodge School with the majority of children reaching expected reading and writing levels for their age.

At Brades Lodge we have had the highest number of students leaving with certificates of accreditation and the majority have secured further education or training.

In addition to the formal curriculum the students have had the opportunity to participate in some fantastic events such as skiing in the French Alps, a residential trip to Plas Gwynant, the Tough Guy Youth event, regular sporting fixtures and we have welcomed a whole host of school visitors who have led a wide range of learning activities.

Have a fantastic Summer break and we look forward to getting started again in September !

Sheep Shearing

Earlier this half term Classes 1 and 2 went to Whites Farm to watch and help some sheep get sheared. This was an interesting end to our 'Field to Fork' topic where we have been finding out all about where our food really comes from, as well as growing some fruit and vegetables of our own. We couldn't believe how much wool came off each sheep. They must have felt so much cooler afterwards. It was also fantastic to see how much bigger the baby lambs were getting.

Last time we saw them in March, they were tiny!

Mrs Wood



Time Capsule



Pupils at Shenstone Lodge celebrated 60 years of education on the site by burying a time capsule. Across the school children collected artefacts, produced stories and drew pictures representing times as they are today.

The 'planting' ceremony was preceded by an assembly drawing together all the fantastic pieces of work that had been gathered for the box.

Lemarr said "I put a 'Rio' football in the capsule to remind people that this was a world cup year. "

A child from each class was then given the opportunity to cover the time capsule with soil as part of the burial process. It was agreed that it should be resurrected 20 years from now. We look forward to the invitations !



FOOTBALL FOCUS

This half term saw the first 'Shenstone Longdon' Challenge Cup game. It was by far the best game of football we've seen by the boys. Both teams were really up for the cup which created a great atmosphere on arrival at Longdon, who had the advantage of home support.

The game itself was brilliant to watch. Both teams really went for it and the football being played was top notch. The game ended 0-0 so it went to penalties. We had all eight boys taking a penalty, with the final score being 3-2 to Shenstone. The star and Man of the Match was Dakarai, who performed well in the game, scored his penalty and if that wasn't enough he saved 4 of the Longdon penalties. Commenting on the game Dakarai said "The best team definitely won!"

Well done to all who took part!



RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

A lovely half term to end this school year and the weather has been, for the most part, very kind to us. The residential children have made good use of the beautiful weather and light, sunny evenings! All of the on site and off site activities have been enjoyed by children and Staff. A "Happy Hello" to the two new children who have come into residence this half term; they are having fun experiencing everything that Shenstone Lodge has on offer, taking part in birthday parties in the swimming pool, Park trips to Sutton and Cannock Chase and Shopping Trips, Sports Clubs and Picnics. The residential children have also been closely following the World Cup and making sure that all of the scores and fixtures have been recorded on our giant football wall chart. To end we are saying a "Sad Goodbye" to three of our residential children who are leaving us to go to their new schools in September, we wish them good luck, happiness and best wishes for their future. Christine Hollis

Well Done...



To Robert and Kamarlee for receiving the most positive report slips at The Brades Lodge this half term

To Joshua and Rio at Shenstone Lodge for achieving the highest number of positive report slips this half term

To all the students who have taken exams over the last few weeks and tried their hardest

Quiz Corner

1. Who won the 1966 Football World Cup ?
2. How fast, in miles per hour, does a race horse travel ?
3. What is the chemical NaCl more commonly known as ?
4. What is the diameter of the London Eye ?
5. Can you name 5 teams in the Aviva Rugby Premiership ?
6. Which English football team attracts the largest weekly crowds ?
7. Which race course hosts the Grand National ?



Diary Dates...

Term Ends **1.30pm** 18.7.14

Pupils Return **3.9.14**

Half Term 27-31.10.14

Staff inset day school closed to pupils **14.11.14**

Term ends **1.30pm** 19.12.14

Transition Week Activities

To support the students due to start school in September, Brades Lodge have hosted an activity packed two week programme which was designed to develop team skills, promote practical learning programmes and to give everybody involved the chance to get to know each other. Students have taken part in vocational taster sessions covering survival skills and basic mechanics. In addition there have been a wide range of off site visits which have challenged the students both physically and mentally. Ciaran said "I've been on more trips in these two weeks than in all of my school life!"

"The week was amazing and the activities were great fun. Although I'm still a bit nervous about starting in September I'm glad I've been able to meet my new class mates and the teachers" said Jordan.

A very excited Brandon commented "I can't wait to come in September!"



Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who returned completed questionnaires. The results are shown below.

Although the overall view of the school is positive it is clear that we need to work harder to keep you informed about how your child is progressing, to deal with all levels of concern more effectively and to support more home learning opportunities. We will prioritise these issues in the new term in order to improve your experience.

Parent Questionnaire Results May 2014	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child feels safe at school	9	5			
My child is making good progress at school	6	5		1	1
The school meets my child's particular needs	7	6			1
The school ensures my child is well looked after	10	3		1	
My child is taught well at school	8	4			1
The school helps my child to behave better	6	4	2		1
The school helps my child to read	6	6			1
The school helps my child to write	6	5			2
The school helps my child to use maths	6	5			2
The school helps my child to use computers	6	5			2
Understand what they need to get a job	4	2		1	5
The schools encourages students to behave well	8	5			
The school deals effectively with any case of bullying	7	3	1	1	2
My child's lessons are not disrupted by bad behaviour	7	3		2	2
The school helps me to support my child's learning	8	2	3	1	
I am able to approach the school with any concerns knowing that it will	9	1	1	1	2
The school keeps me well informed about all matters concerning my	8	3	2	1	

SEN Reforms

The new term will bring with it some of the most radical changes to the way children with high needs are supported with the introduction of Education Health and Care Plans. At this point you will see little difference; however, the Local Authority is beginning to convert all educational statements to the new plans which will involve yourself, your child and a wider range of professionals than ever before. There will also be the opportunity for you to hold the educational funds for your child and to use this to purchase a suitable provision of your choice. Please don't panic though ... you will be given plenty of notice and lots of support to navigate your way through the changes.