



# THE LODGE

## Issue 21 ... February 2017

### Message from the Head



2017 marks the beginning of my 5th year as the Executive Head Teacher of Shenstone Lodge School. In January 2013 the school had 48 students across the sites; 30 on roll at The Brades and 18 at Shenstone Lodge (with only 8 students accessing the residential provision (all boys)). We are now funded for 73 students across the school of which, 17 boys and girls are enjoying the benefits of boarding, in either full or part-time placements. Over the last 4 years we have had a 50% turnover in staff and we currently employ 10 more people than in January 2013. Most importantly however; I am proud to say that year on year, pupil progress, overall attendance and levels of fixed term exclusion have significantly improved. I look forward to supporting the school teams to do even better in 2017!

With that sentiment in mind, this half term we have already hosted a major cinema event, supported the management and staff of another Sandwell provision, spoken to HMI as part of the Local Authorities' SEND inspection and been the lead organisation bringing together senior leaders from Midlands SEMH schools as part of a peer review exercise.

Another busy year ahead!

### IPAD PROJECT

At long last we are in a position to pilot the much anticipated Ipad project!

As mentioned in previous newsletters it has been our intention for the last two years to provide students with the opportunity to learn at home with school provided iPads. To get to this point we have had to change our internet service provider, completely upgrade the school IT infrastructure (including security and firewall systems), and fund the costly installation of a high speed internet cable from the outskirts of Birmingham to the Shenstone site. We are now in the process of identifying suitable student groups from across the two sites to trial the project. We will be contacting Parents and Carers of the chosen students in the next few weeks.

### YOUNG VOICES



### SCHOOL VOICES NEC

On Tuesday 24th January, our school choir participated in the Young Voices concert at the Genting Arena in Birmingham. This was our first visit and a brilliant time was had by all. For two and a half hours the Arena rang to the sound of a choir composed of 6,668 children's voices, aided and abetted by several other acts and a large number of enthusiastic teachers, support staff and willing volunteer helpers! It's the kind of incredible experience that really needs to be seen and heard to be believed. Our children behaved well and were a credit to our school. Can't wait until next year to do it all again. **Mrs Bailey**





## SPORTS NEWS

The Brades football team have had two fixtures in the Midland League. Although the lads battled well, results did not go our way, losing 3-2 to Conti U Plus and 4- 1 to Lindsworth.

Our basketball team however; pulled off a great and hard earned victory against Sandwell Community School 24 - 20. The game began at a very high tempo with end to end action right through to the very end. As a result of some real grit and determination The Brades Lions eventually got the win. Congratulations to all the players and staff involved. **Mr Worton**

On 27.1.17 our KS2 footballers travelled over to Redhill Primary School in Hednesford for a football fixture. Redhill were very organised and more experienced than our players but this didn't stop us having a great game. On 1.2.17 Shenstone entered their first ever handball tournament. The boys have been practicing hard since Christmas for this tournament where they joined five secondary schools from Walsall to compete.

In their two games the boys lost one and drew one which is a good return for a first foray into the fast, exciting game that is handball.

**Mr Mitchell**



## Quiz Corner

1. Can you name 10 breeds of snake ?
2. Name 6 London Boroughs
3. What is a gramophone ?
4. Name 6 Arsenal players
5. Name 4 car companies owned by VW



## PEER REVIEW

As the school continues to prepare itself for inspection, it is important that we find ways to 'test' ourselves. Last term we successfully hosted senior leaders from the other Sandwell Special Schools to review our provision. This half term we have welcomed Head Teachers from Midlands SEMH schools and an OFSTED Inspector to look at our student outcomes and practices. Again the review was positive and there were many areas of celebration, not least, the politeness and work ethic of the students in the schools. Well Done All!

## RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

As we navigate the cold winter months and the dark nights we've had a real push on indoor activities like cooking, pamper sessions and jewellery making (to name but a few).



Our weekly cooking club, led by the lovely Miss Yardley, has gone down a 'tasty' storm, as we try and unearth Shenstone Lodge's very own Junior Bake-Off Champion. Watch this space !

We also have more children than ever attending our in-house judo sessions. It is brilliant to see them develop their knowledge of such a wonderful and challenging discipline.

And finally... we had the privilege to attend the Young Voices at the NEC Birmingham this term, with a large cohort of the residents making up the Shenstone group. It was a wonderful experience for all involved and no doubt created life long memories. **Ijah Bogle**

## Deputy Mayor of Sandwell Applauds Brades Film

I was privileged to be invited to a showing of The Brades Lodge's latest multi-media education project, at Bentley Bridge Cinema on the Mental Health (MH) needs of young people (YP).

It was a well constructed and powerfully performed full length film involving students and staff in a collaborative project to inform other students and schools about the stigma of Mental Health.

There was an audience of about 150 with dignitaries and members of multi-agency support services who were all moved by the content and the high quality messages that were conveyed.

I commented on its normalising message about the numbers of people who would expect to experience MH difficulties and the three evidence-based strategies that help reduce the frequency and intensity of MH episodes. These were setting up a support network around the YP, helping them to develop personalised 'coping strategies' that benefit them and the beneficial effects of regular exercise to reduce anxiety and depression. All of these were highlighted in the excellent film. I also said I would draw it to your attention as an exemplary project for tackling a very emotive topic in a thoughtful and well researched way. I am sure you may also hear from the Lady Deputy-Mayor who was also impressed and present.

This was a truly radical approach to education on this sensitive theme which was reinforced by some poignant community contributions at the showing.

### Dave Traxson (Chartered Educational and Child Psychologist)

The film will be available on our website once parental permissions have been secured.

Scenes from the film :



## Bright Sparks in KS3 !

As part of a Science and Technology project Thomas, Jaden, and Ciaran made some fantastic desk top lamps. The bases were cast in polyester resin mixed with a range of different materials including copper, slate, mica and ground-down £5 notes. The castings were then hand finished using decreasing grades of sandpaper and wet/dry paper. The students designed them first with thin wire, then aluminium rod, using a simple bending mandrel to make consistent measured angle bends. The LEDs required some extra care to fit, being diodes they will not work if the polarity is wrong.



Well Done...



To Joshua, Bradley M, Jack, Thomas and Kieran for receiving the most positive report slips at The Brades Lodge this half term.

To Thomas, Bradley M, and Robert who have 100% attendance this half term at The Brades Lodge.

To Drew, Andre, Ethan S, Zeke and Rehquarne with the highest class Dojos this half term.

To Rehquarne, Heather, Curtis, Jack H, Drew, Joshua, McKenzie, Andre, Luke, Jake, Chanel, Ethan S, Riley, Ethan W & Dominic who have 100% attendance at Shenstone Lodge this half term.



## JUDO CLUB STILL GOING STRONG

In October 2015 Shenstone Lodge Judo Club was formed. Initially open to just residential children after school on a Tuesday, the club has grown into a significant part of school life. The club runs after school on Tuesday and is open to both residential and non-residential children. There is also a curricular second session on a Friday afternoon which is open to all students.

The residential children often attend a local judo club outside of school which helps them develop valuable social skills as they meet new people and make new friends.

The judo skill levels are improving and we are proud to have graded the children on the British Judo Association syllabus.

Following a successful medal haul last year at a competition in Coventry, the judo team are looking to enter more competitions this year and add even more medals to the pot. **Ross Fellows**



### A.O.B.

The Brades Lodge school is hosting a 'strongest student' competition on Friday 17th February. 'Ripped' students from several nearby schools will be challenging each other to lift and pull a range of objects for the title of the 'Strongest Student West Midlands'.

Thank you to those who have managed to complete the Parent Questionnaire, we will be publishing the outcomes in the next newsletter along with the results of our Pupil Survey

### Diary Dates...

Half Term 20th – 24th Feb

End of Term 7th Apr 1.30pm

Students Return to School

Tues 25th Apr

May Bank Holiday 1st May

Half Term 29th May – 2nd June

End of Term (Summer Holidays)

**TUESDAY 25th JULY 1.30pm**

Students Return Wed 6th Sep

### School Data Box

Below is a short summary of some of the key bits of information that as a school we report on to Governors and the Local Authority.

School Year 2016/17: Attendance SLS 93% TBL 67% School

Year 2016/17: Sessions lost to Exclusion -

(1 day = 2 sessions)

SLS 51 sessions TBL 14 sessions

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February was 'Safer Internet Day 2017'. Both schools introduced the day in assemblies and spoke about how to keep safe using social media and other 'open-access' technologies such as Playstation and Xbox Live consoles.

Throughout the day the students discussed issues around cyber bullying, sexting, safe security settings and looked at who they can go to if they feel unsafe or intimidated by anyone online. If you would like to have any advice as a Parent/Carer please call the school and ask to talk to Mrs Bridgewater (Shenstone) or Mrs Pickering (Brades).

