



## Message from the Head

Welcome back to the new term and a number of significant developments across the schools.

There is now a Year 7 group being educated and supported on the Shenstone Lodge site. The school is working hard to make the experience for these students a different one to support the delivery of a KS3 curriculum, but also to offer a greater level of independence in line with their age.

In addition there has been an increase in the number of students accessing the residential provision. This has been achieved by improving the range of placement types such as 2 night stays and also increasing the beds available by 4.

The school is in the process of converting its assessment systems so that we are able to demonstrate progress more effectively and make the reports easier for you to understand if your child is learning well or not.

In the next half term the schools will be going through a 're-branding' process which aims to increase the number of common features across the sites. A new logo will be introduced on signage, documentation and uniforms. Please do not worry about replacing sweatshirts and other clothing with old school badges as we intend to offer free replacements as part of the transition process.

Newly formed Student Councils are working well across the schools and are meeting regularly to influence practice and school development.



## Market Trading

As a school we are always trying to encourage an entrepreneurial spirit amongst the students, and to help them understand that learning to read, write and use numbers will ultimately improve their chances of getting a good job in the future. To this end the children at Shenstone raised nearly £35 selling garden produce from their school allotment stall which was open to staff and visitors last week. The Brades Lodge have moved this on a stage and Dillan is now spending his Wednesday mornings from 7.30 am (come rain or shine) selling a range of fruit and veg at The Brades Lodge market stall in Great Bridge. Dillan sourced his own produce and bagged it up for sale to the public. After a quiet start, he grew in confidence and was soon engaging passers by for sales. Mr Worton said "Dillan was an absolute credit to himself and the school, I couldn't be more proud of him!"



## HMP Hull



The first days of term are usually busy times but at The Brades Lodge this was tested to the limit as staff took a group of 7 students on a trip to Hull as part of a prison experience programme. The scheme is designed to help young people to make good choices in sometimes difficult circumstances and to avoid becoming part of the criminal justice system. As well as meeting some of the inmates and listening to their stories and advice the students also experienced what it might be like to stay in a cell.

"This was a hard hitting visit, but well worth it ." said Mr Cato who coordinated the trip.



## TUDORS BY ZEKE

This term we went to Warwick Castle and we met Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I. We also got to act and I got to be the executioner and it was very fun. I enjoyed making a beheading sword which Anne Boleyn got beheaded by. I also know the rhyme of what happened to Henry VIII's wives (divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived). The way the Tudor period started was that Henry VII defeated Richard III in the battle of Bosworth in 1485 and ended in 1603. We also went on another trip to Lichfield town to learn about Tudor houses which were made from wood, sand, wattle, daub, straw and horse poop (YUK!) I thought it was EPIC!



## Quiz Corner

1. What do you call a baby Otter ?
2. Which teams played England in the 2015 Rugby World Cup ?
3. Which country won the most Gold medals in the 2012 Olympics ?
4. What is H<sub>2</sub>O more commonly known as ?
5. Name 10 types of Ford car ?
6. How many players are in a Rugby League team ?
7. Which country is the home of the Cossack ?
8. Which is the highest mountain in France ?



## WW1 Visit

On 14th September Johnathan and Jaden from The Brades Lodge set off for Northern France as part of the Government backed WW1 Battlefields visit scheme. Over three days the boys visited battle sites in France and Belgium and looked at the graves of soldiers from all sides of the conflict.

Jaden said "It was really interesting looking at the German soldier's graves as they were lying flat on the grass."

In addition the boys had chance to make a pottery figure which will be used as part of a 2018 commemorative exhibit of 600 000 pieces to be located in Ypres, Belgium, similar to that of the Poppies at The Tower of London in 2014.



## RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

This term we have had the opportunity to welcome many new children into residence with a variety of placements. They have all settled in well and are enjoying the benefits of varied activities and social play. In addition we have made several trips to Shenstone village library to encourage the children to read more in the evenings.

Swimming in the school pool has been a very popular activity this term, allowing children to relax with a splash most evenings.

Halloween is coming up soon, so we are making spooky pictures and plan to have a Halloween party packed full of tricks and treats!!

D Hart (Head of Care)



## DEMOCRACY... a Fundamental British Value

This is the first term of the student council which sees members of the student body from a variety of year groups across the schools, help make decisions that will develop their experience of school and improve our offer. The groups gather every two weeks at their respective school during the school day and have minuted meetings which will be posted on the school website.



So far the students have written the school council aims and made decisions on school uniform, the school logo, after school clubs and decided that they should have longer meetings with biscuits! Jaden says that "It is important to the school as it gives the opportunity for the students to have their say!"



## Mentor Programme

Across the sites the older students are beginning to support some of the younger groups and individuals. The support ranges from supervising reading activities through to encouraging positive behaviour through structured play.

This is proving a popular opportunity for all students who need to build their self esteem, or need to know that others have been able to achieve well in school.

Lemarr has taken his role so seriously he dresses more formally when 'working' alongside his designated pupil.

## SATs Results

Yet again those students taking part in the National Y6 Tests have not let us down in achieving well. The Y6 children at Shenstone Lodge have made the following progress from their starting points whilst at the school. Well Done to all !!!!

### 2014/15 Summary

Above expected progress in Reading 50% Writing 57% Maths 43%

Expected progress in Reading 29% Writing 29% Maths 36%

Below expected progress Reading 21% Writing 14% Maths 21%



## Well Done...



To Bradley C, Kacey, Joshua, Freddie-Lee, Mark and Kamarlee for receiving the most positive report slips at The Brades Lodge this half term

To Lola, Chanel and Heather with the highest class Dojos this half term

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

To Curtis, Chanel, Ethan, Demarni, Zeke, Dakarai, Luke, Baileigh, Cain, Calum, Lemarr who have 100% attendance at Shenstone Lodge

## Gingerbread Houses take the Biscuit !

As the Brades Lodge works toward achieving the school Arts Mark Award they set aside a half day for students across the groups to make and decorate gingerbread houses. There were some fantastic contributions from across the classes and all enjoyed taking part. It was particularly good to see the students cooperating and supporting each other in developing their designs.

The completed houses have been entered into a school competition and the students with the most imaginative and creative design will win a prize.



## A.O.B.

We have been reliably informed that Staffordshire County Council have given permission for BT to access the necessary highways to install High Speed Fibre Optic Broadband to Shenstone Lodge school between 16th and 21st November. Assuming all goes well (and given the fact that we are 18 months on from our initial commissioning of this project!) we will be able to re establish the Ipad programme for students home learning. It will also support the launch of our new website (which is currently being populated) so that we are able to host video and audio feeds.

Following her illness Mrs Greenfield successfully returned to work at the end of the Summer term. She has since decided to relocate to Devon to fulfil a personal dream. We wish her well.

Mrs Patel at the Brades Lodge is now on maternity leave after giving birth to a baby girl a couple of weeks ago.

Mrs Mannion (Class Teacher), Mr Mondesir (Behaviour Support Officer), Mr Smith (RCCO) and Mr McCoy (IT apprentice) have joined Shenstone Lodge school this half term.

Both schools have refreshed their reward systems this half term following student feedback. As a result students have an increased opportunity to go off site and engage in a wide range of activities if they sustain positive behaviour choices. In addition the day to day points/ tokens systems have been/ are being revamped to raise the engagement and motivation of the students.

## Diary Dates...

26th-30th Oct Half Term

Fri 20th Nov Staff training  
day PUPILS OFF SCHOOL

End of Term 1.30pm Fri  
18th Dec

Students return Mon 4th  
Jan 2016

15th-19th Feb Half Term

## Parent Governor

The school continues to have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you would like to be considered for this position please forward your expression of interest to:

[headteacher@shenstonelodge.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@shenstonelodge.sandwell.sch.uk)

with a short resume of how you would like to support the school and how you would be able to contribute.

Closing date for applications 6.11.15

THANK YOU !!!