

# smart

SPRING TERM 2018 ■ ISSUE 10

## BRISTNALL HALL ACADEMY MAGAZINE

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WELCOME

Welcome to Bristnall Hall Academy's latest edition of Smart, our termly magazine. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the great experiences and opportunities our young people have recently had.

We hope that you have had a brilliant start to 2018. Following on from the great news regarding progress made by students in 2016 - 2017, current students at Bristnall Hall Academy continue to perform superbly in and out of lessons. Our attendance last year was the highest ever, and this year it is significantly higher again and significantly above the national average. It is great to see that students want to come to our school and enjoy their time here working with the strongest team of staff I have ever had the privilege to work with. Education is so much more than core subjects at Bristnall Hall Academy and it is great to see how the Arts and Sport thrive here. This year our academy is working towards developing a growth mindset and this will help our young people and staff to achieve more and be happier and more resilient in later life.

As a school, we are doing increasingly more for our fantastic local community and extending this is a key area of focus for 2018. We want every young person leaving our school to be well educated but also be a truly good citizen.

2018 will also see our school celebrate its 90th year and we look forward to celebrating this in July. Saturday 14th July 2018 will see us welcome our community, governors, former and current students and staff to the academy. We are very proud of our history at Bristnall Hall and it will be great to share stories from the past and present, as well as sharing our amazing plans for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone associated with Bristnall Hall Academy for your continued efforts and support.

Vince Green  
Principal

## Our Shining Stars

We have always known that we have the best staff working at Bristnall Hall Academy.

Therefore, we were delighted when Unison, a union for support staff, recognised this by awarding four of our support staff with prestigious national awards. The worthy winners were Ms White, EAL co-ordinator, Ms Cook, Mrs Evans, the team leader for literacy and Mrs Kaur, the LRCC manager.



**Congratulations to all involved. We are all extremely proud of you.**

# Award winners



Bristnall Hall Academy is proud to announce that it has been accredited with the '360 Degree Safe Award.'

In September 2017, we became one of only a few Sandwell schools to be presented with this prestigious award. Mrs Susan Courtney Donovan, the 360 Degree Safe Award assessor, stated "The communication across the academy is very strong, all understand what the aims for online safety are and work together within their positive, nurturing ethos." Mrs Courtney Donovan also reported that "There is a strong, positive working relationship across the team that lead on Online Safety, visible through mutual respect of individual skills and experience." Mrs Courtney Donovan also commented that students have found recent online safety sessions delivered at the academy to be "inspirational and motivational". The fact that students feel safe whilst inside and outside of the academy, due to the academy's online safeguarding procedures emerged as a real strength.

Bristnall Hall Academy has strived to embed important aspects of online safety across the curriculum. From the very beginning of the accreditation process, all stakeholders recognised the need to ensure that online safety is a priority within the academy. As a result, steps have been taken to ensure that students are always safe and that they know, should they have an online safeguarding issue, they can find staff who are available to listen and provide support and advice.

Principal Vince Green added, "Bristnall Hall Academy and its staff will continue to develop further ways to strengthen online safety in the digital world in which we live. We will continue to involve and support parents and carers to ensure that online safety remains a focus. We are proud of the outstanding and sustainable programme for online safety that is already in place. The impact this has on the well-being and overall safety of the students is clear."

# New facilities

We are continuing to transform facilities for our students to make their experience at Bristnall even better.

New toilets and washroom facilities were ready for students to use when they returned in the autumn. Mr Green also kept his promise to one of our student's grandparents, who commented that the student changing rooms were the same as when she attended the school as a young girl! All changing rooms and shower facilities were completely refurbished to ensure that Bristnall Hall's students were given state of the art facilities. Science laboratories have also been transformed to further enhance students' learning experience. Next on the list is the academy's LRCC and Technology rooms.



# PUPIL ENRICHMENT

The Autumn term saw the launch of our whole school enrichment programme, providing extra-curricular activities for all students.

Activities include Level 1 First Aid training, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the Arts Award, Eco Club, specific Technology Clubs plus many more. We have also been fortunate enough to secure free golf lessons, delivered by a professional from Warley Golf Club, every Friday lunch time for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. We are also looking to introduce the Cadet programme in the near future. If your son or daughter would like to be involved in an enrichment activity, not currently offered, please contact Mrs Harris at: [pharris@bha.attrust.org.uk](mailto:pharris@bha.attrust.org.uk) and we will do our best to offer the activity in the future.



## CLUBBATHON

We were more than happy to support a 'Clubbathon' event, following a request from one of our families in the community by providing the use of our hall free of charge.

The goal is to raise £2000 towards a much needed electric wheelchair for a young lady who has Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia, a progressive condition affecting her mobility. The wheelchair will help her to keep her independence and will improve the quality of her life. Members of the community and staff were invited to take part in a two hour 'Clubbathon' session. Tickets were sold on the day and there were raffle prizes, a tombola and a cake sale to raise further funds.



## Gardening Club



Our Year 7 students have been volunteering at the 'Barlow Homes' in Pound Road.

They have been forming intergenerational links with the over 60's residents as part of their new gardening club to spruce up the land surrounding the bungalows. Our young people, alongside the local community, Sandwell Councillors and local police have launched the club, which runs every Wednesday morning, bringing the younger and older generations together.

## Girton College visit BHA

This half term, Girton College (Cambridge) visited BHA and met with the whole of Year 7.

They were encouraging them to aim higher, look to the future and imagine where they would like to be in a few years' time! All the students had a great day and had some fantastic ideas for their possible careers. The career choices mentioned included everything from being a footballer, a geologist and being the first person to play the violin on the moon! It was a fantastic day and some really thought-provoking discussions took place.



# BEHIND THE SCENES

This year's academy musical was Matilda, based on the world famous book and film by Roald Dahl.

The cast were made up from years 7 to 10 and there were two evening performances and matinee performances to local primary schools on 2 days. The unsung creatives behind the scenes were from Year 8, who undertook a series of prop building classes, to furnish and enhance what was already an amazing spectacle of song and dance!

Well done all! #TeamBHA





## CHINESE VISIT

In October, we were fortunate to have Chinese students and staff visit us.

They enjoyed their visit to Bristnall Hall and commented on the active learning taking place and the calm, welcoming atmosphere. Highlights included the Chinese students playing music with Bristnall Hall students, proving that the language barrier was not enough to stop our love of learning! The Chinese students particularly enjoyed playing table tennis with our students and beating our PE teachers!

## Aiming Higher

Lots of Year 9 students were recently selected to attend the Aim Higher day on Raising Aspirations.

They were shown several career choices, and were able to compete against other schools in a task of guessing the careers of some local people. The jobs were highly unusual, but our students showed their knowledge in identifying lots of them correctly. By the end of the day they were all talking about ways they could overcome their barriers to learning, and how they would move towards their chosen career in the future.

## Forward thinking

Students recently visited Birmingham University for their second visit as part of the Forward Thinking Programme.

They were treated to several classes, similar to those you could do at university, and they included: Japanese, Chinese, Astrophysics and Chemical Engineering. Students had an enjoyable day, experiencing all the things university could offer. They are all eagerly awaiting their next visit!

## 20 Day Challenge

Emily Gowing, a Year 9 student, is the fortunate student to be chosen out of a random draw to win an iPad!

All students in the academy with 100% attendance over the '20 day challenge' in December were entered into the draw but Emily was the lucky winner! Well done! That is definitely worth getting out of bed for on those cold, dark mornings.





# INNER-CITY LIFE!

City Year UK is a social action charity that places young people aged 18-25 to work in inner-city schools for an academic year serving as near-peer mentors. The team are eager to gain experience whilst supporting students and giving back to their communities.



# Meet the team...



## **Mr Jabbar**

Mr Jabbar recently graduated from Coventry University with a BSc in Psychology.

### **Q. What do you want to achieve this year?**

'I want to make a difference to the students I work with and in the process grow, gain new skills and develop myself.'



## **Miss Godzi**

Miss Godzi is originally from Zimbabwe and is currently completing City Year UK before starting university to study psychology. She has hopes of becoming a counsellor.

### **Q. What's the best thing about working in Yr7?**

'It's all about the transition; seeing the students come from primary school. I am looking forward to seeing them mature over the course of the year, this has already started to happen!'



## **Miss Kalirai**

Miss Kalirai is doing City Year UK as a placement year whilst studying English and TEFL at Coventry University.

### **Q. What were your first impressions of BHA?**

'Really positive! The staff are really friendly and welcoming and the students were responsive. The students have a really positive vibe when we walk into classrooms and just generally around school.'



## **Miss Mitchell**

Miss Mitchell is passionate about theatre and drama and hopes to teach Performing Arts to secondary school children.

### **Q. What motivated you to join City Year UK?**

'I want to be a teacher and so this year is the perfect opportunity to gain experience working in a secondary school to hopefully get a sense if this is the right career path for me. So far so good!'



## **Mr Fahim**

Mr Fahim recently graduated from BPP University studying Law. He was the first member of his family to gain GCSE's, A Levels and attend university; a proud achievement. Through City Year UK he believes he can support and inspire students like himself to aim high, aspire for more and make positive decisions for their future.

### **Q. What's your favourite thing about working with year 11?**

'I can have an impact as I am able to relate to the students, being close in age I act as a near-peer mentor. I have been through the same experience as them not so long ago'



## **Miss Chaudhry**

Miss Chaudhry has past experience of working with primary school aged children and feels excited about working with an older cohort of students this year at Bristnall Hall Academy. She would like to become an Educational Psychologist.

### **Q. What is the most significant thing you have learnt so far?**

'I have already become more self-aware and resilient. I have learnt the need to be patient and to persevere when working with students in the busy school environment'



## **Miss O'Shea**

Miss O'Shea grew up in the Middle East and is currently studying Sports Management at Loughborough University. She is very passionate about sport and its ability to enhance well-being and quality of life.

### **Q. What's been your highlight of Term 1?**

'I think it is developing positive relationships with the students I work with in year 10 and having them feel comfortable to come to me for support. They have been really responsive to my efforts to work with them'

## DIY SOS

Bristnall Hall Academy's students and staff wanted to offer their support and assistance to a deserving family from West Bromwich featured in the BBC One series 'DIY SOS, The Big Build'.

The whole academy community prides itself on championing local causes, especially having this amazing opportunity to support a local family in our community to rebuild their home and their lives. Students, staff and our families were extremely generous and forthcoming in volunteering their time and services. Unfortunately, due to strict health and safety regulations, anyone under the age of 18 was not allowed onsite.



Our young people were still adamant they wanted to be involved so a couple of students put their thinking caps on and suggested that we bake cakes and biscuits for the army of volunteers that staff could then deliver! Our Year 10 hospitality and catering students, with the support of our highly skilled staff, spent the morning baking and creating an array of mouth-watering delights, lemon drizzle cake and a variety of cupcakes ready to be delivered to the site by our Principal, Mr Green.



EGX is the biggest gaming consumer in the UK. Over 80,000 people attended the four-day conference. Whilst there, Brandon Hill and Shaun Brown were treated as VIPs and were given exclusive access to areas. Whilst there, Brandon taught his grandad about the gaming industry and had the chance to teach him how to play games.

## VIP TREATMENT



Bristnall Hall were given the fantastic opportunity to send two Year 10 students, Brandon Hill and Shaun Brown with family members of their choice, to the EGX conference in Birmingham.

Brandon's grandad is now a keen gamer and has been able to combine his new found hobby with his interest in war by buying 'Call of Duty WWII' and 'Battlefield I'. Brandon commented that "It is amazing that my grandad now comes round to mine to play computer games with me." Everyone involved had a fantastic time and our students were commended on their IT knowledge and skills. We even appeared on Central ITV news!

# Musician of the year

Terrell has the ability to perform, write and compose music. Terrell has made a remarkable impact on BHA music and always strives to achieve the very best. He has a natural aptitude and is able to play a wide range of instruments including Saxophone, Violin, Piano, Bass and Keyboard. He is currently having music lessons on the Saxophone, which he has been playing for two years and the violin which he has been learning for several years. He has the gift to pick up any instrument and learn how to play it by ear. Terrell takes part in all BHA shows and has made a great impact on the wider community, performing for the 'Topping Out Ceremony' and for the Mayor of Sandwell. He also attends 'Rock School' on a Tuesday evening, composing and creating music as part of a band as well as playing for his Church. He is making outstanding progress in RSL Music and thoroughly deserves this award.



# Parliament Week



We were honoured to welcome our member of parliament John Spellar, MP, to the academy as part of UK Parliament Week.

He spent time with a group of students discussing current political issues, including Brexit. Bristnall Hall students had the opportunity to ask Mr Spellar questions around politics and life as a member of parliament.

**Thank you for your time Mr Spellar.**

# ACHIEVEMENT EVENING

In September we invited all Year 11 parents and carers to a Year 11 Achievement Evening where they received guidance and information on how best to support their child during Year 11 for their GCSEs.



During the evening every child in Year 11 received a bespoke tailor made revision pack to support their learning and revision and help prepare them for their exams. At Bristnall Hall Academy we strive to ensure all our Year 11 have the best opportunities available to them so that they can achieve the best possible outcomes during their time with us at the academy.

**Congratulations and well done Year 11!**





# OUT OF AFRICA



Jordan and Danielle continue their volunteer work in South Africa.

Both former students are enjoying their life changing experience volunteering with Project Trust in South Africa. They are spending their time volunteering and supporting vulnerable families to improve their lives.

Once again, thank you to the Bristnall community for supporting all fundraising activities so that these young people were able to make a difference.

**Keep up the great work Jordan and Danielle!**

# Play it Safe!

Internet Safety Foundation comes to BHA.

On Tuesday 27th March 2018, the Breck Foundation will be visiting us to speak to students, staff, governors and parents/carers. The Breck Foundation is a self-funding charity, raising awareness of playing safe whilst using the internet, using their motto of 'Play Virtual, Live Real'. This will prove to be very powerful and emotional so we urge all parents and carers to respond to the letter which will be out shortly. Also, keep an eye out for updates on our social media sites.

For further information about the Breck Foundation, please visit <http://www.breckfoundation.org/>



# Life after Bristnall



Name: Chloe Hudson

## Briefly outline your time at Bristnall.

### What do you remember about Bristnall?

- In Year 10, I did my work experience with the languages department at Bristnall. I found Spanish very enjoyable so it was great to help students in lower years and I loved the staff, especially Mr Hipgrave and Miss Marston, so it was nice to spend time with them outside of the usual lessons.
- My favourite subject was Science, particularly Biology and my teachers Mr Liddle and Dr Juarez will always be two of my favourites.
- Winning the Pride of Bristnall award for Spanish is one of my fondest memories from school.

### Destination after Bristnall (college/university) and subjects studied (A-level/Degree/apprenticeship):

After my GCSEs at Bristnall, I stayed on at the Sixth Form for three years where I studied A-levels in Chemistry, Human Biology, Psychology and Spanish, with an AS in English Lit. I then continued to the University of Birmingham to study Biochemistry, and will hopefully graduate with a master's degree.

### Give a memorable achievement or experience since leaving school (academic or personal):

Everything I have done since getting into uni! Moving out of home and becoming independent, getting accustomed to the work and teaching style. I finished my first year with a first-class mark, which was a great and surprising achievement! I also work as a student ambassador for the university which is huge for me as I deal with prospective students and parents, answer their questions, lead campus tours and, with previously low confidence, to be confident was quite a challenge to overcome.

### What are you currently doing?

I am now in my second year of Biochemistry, planning on either spending my third year doing a professional placement or continuing to do a postgraduate master's after three years. I also do ninjutsu as a sport at uni which is a very fun martial art.

### Future career path:

Currently undecided but potentially teaching in the sciences, most likely Biology and/or Chemistry, and maybe Spanish in the future. I am also considering more lab based work in a hospital or in forensics.

### Words of advice for students:

Do what you enjoy, try hard and it can lead you to things you don't expect. Make the most out of school and take advantage of the support and opportunities while you can.

## Football Festival



On Wednesday 15th November 2017, seven KS3 students entered the 'West Bromwich Albion Foundation Football Festival'.

The day consisted of teams from various schools from Sandwell taking part in 5-a-side games. The teams were put into competitive leagues and were given the opportunity to play on pitches named after famous football stadiums from around the world.

BHA did extremely well, showing a fantastic level of skill and great sportsmanship. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day, finishing second in their league. One of our amazing Year 7 students, Rufus Langston, was awarded 'Goal of the Tournament' for a cracking shot which led BHA to win the game!

## Performing Arts

### Arts Award

Year 10 students have started the Silver Arts Award as part of the Bristnall Hall Enrichment Programme. The students are working towards this Level Two Qualification on a Wednesday evening. The students have to complete a variety of tasks from: watching live performances, being in academy performances, reviewing performance work and leading performance projects. The students have made a fabulous start and will all be performing in the next show.

### Dance Showcase

On Tuesday 5 December 2017, over 90 students from the academy danced in a showcase performance. They performed a matinee to over 130 students from a local primary school and an evening performance to friends and family. The show included the students' BTEC coursework, work from the academy dance clubs and also the many extra-curricular clubs. The dance styles varied from: Musical theatre, Contemporary, Jazz, Street, Commercial and a short finale dance involving the whole cast.

### Dance Extravaganza

As always we will be keeping up the tradition of a Dance Extravaganza, an opportunity for lots of our students to perform to an audience. It will include a vast amount of work and a variety of dances will be shown from: course work, Extra-Curricular Clubs and auditioned pieces choreographed by the students. This fantastic fantastic dance showcase is coming up on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th April 2018.

### Grand Theatre

Students from Bristnall Hall have had an exciting time this year with our partnership with the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton. So far the students have been to see the National Youth Ballet and The Addams Family Musical. Still to come are performances of Mamma Mia and Hairspray. The students on the Arts award and the Matilda cast have also been given the opportunity of a backstage tour.



# WE ARE A TOP PERFORMING SCHOOL NATIONALLY, PROGRESS 8, 2017

**“EVERY INDIVIDUAL IS VALUED IN THIS SCHOOL”**

OFSTED, 2016/17



## WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR 90TH YEAR!

This year we have reached the magnificent 90th year celebration of Bristnall Hall. Saturday 14th July 2018 will see us welcome our community, governors along with former and current students and staff to the academy.

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!**