

smart

AUTUMN TERM 2018 ■ ISSUE 12

BRISTNALL HALL ACADEMY MAGAZINE



ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PRIDE OF BRISTNALL
WELCOME TO YEAR 7
90TH ANNIVERSARY



WELCOME



Welcome to Bristnall Hall Academy's latest edition of Smart. Bristnall Hall have enjoyed another amazing summer with excellent GCSE results yet again.

These results and the strong progress figures that accompany them are no surprise after the hard work put in by our young people supported superbly by staff, parents and carers. I thank the entire Bristnall Hall family for all you have done in supporting our children. It was great to see many students achieving the very highest grade 9 in GCSE English, Mathematics and EBacc qualifications. We were very happy to share our successful results day with BBC television and radio. The Class of 2018 now have the qualifications, employability skills and attributes to set them apart from others as they embark on further study, apprenticeships or enter the world of work. This summer has seen a huge amount of work being done to learning areas, including our Learning Resource and Community Centre, Technology area and Computing suites. We look forward to seeing our young people's education being enhanced by these.

From this term we have recruited even more outstanding teachers who will further strengthen our remarkable team. As Principal, I am very fortunate that our academy attracts high calibre staff due to the happy, warm working environment and the reputation of Bristnall Hall Academy as a great place to learn in and work in. This year we will continue to focus on developing responsible, highly skilled citizens who will have a positive impact on our community now and in future years. The strong links we have already developed with charitable organisations, local employers and higher education establishments will be developed further to ensure that all students can benefit from these partnerships. Bristnall Hall Academy continues to be an inspiring, nurturing and successful school and we look forward to delivering an outstanding provision for our young people.

Vince Green
Principal

The Marvellous Miss Greatrex!



Congratulations to the amazing Miss Greatrex on being awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the Pearson National Teaching Awards.

Miss Greatrex has inspired staff and students alike in the years that she has been teaching Mathematics at Bristnall Hall. We are so pleased that Miss Greatrex's service, commitment and eminence have been nationally recognised. A thoroughly deserved accolade.



A Mark of Excellence

Bristnall Hall Academy is very excited to announce that they have been awarded the Excellence Mark for the training and development of staff and all stakeholders of the academy.

The Excellence Mark award process provides a systematic and robust framework to interrogate the creation, planning, delivery and review of Bristnall Hall Academy's training and development policy and practice. Fundamentally, through the process of gaining the award, it has been recognised that professional development is integral to improving achievement and attainment at the academy.

The academy was assessed against a framework of 48 descriptors; to attain the threshold for the award, schools must achieve a minimum of 43 (90%) of the evidence descriptors. We are delighted to have met every standard. Staff at Bristnall Hall Academy are relentless in their pursuit for excellence in all areas. Derek Coe, who is a Lead Assessor of the Excellence Mark and an educational

consultant who works with a range of public and private organisations in Europe and the Middle East, reported that the academy "has a strong, dedicated and committed Leadership and Governing Body. The Academy is a friendly, welcoming and focused environment in which fellowship and the values of the academy are expressed, not through words but action." Vince Green, Principal at the academy commented "at Bristnall Hall Academy, the outstanding training and development of staff and other stakeholders is resulting in improved provision for our young people and ultimately, those at other schools. This is reflected in the exceptional levels of progress students are making. I am delighted that the hard work of staff has been recognised with this award and it reinforces that our school is a great place to work in and learn in."

Pride of Bristnall

On Tuesday 17th July, we hosted our annual red carpet awards ceremony to recognise and celebrate the achievements of students who were nominated for these prestigious awards.

We were also fortunate to have a celebrity host: Balvinder Sidhu from ITV Central News. The ceremony, organised by Miss Sharratt, proved to be a fantastic evening where students, parents, staff, governors and members of the local community joined together to celebrate the success of our amazing students. The winners of the Most Inspirational Student of the Year, the Governors' Award and the Principal's Award will now have their names engraved on the oak boards in our upper school hall for years to come. We look forward to next year's event!



Six become Seven!

We were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 for their transition days on Wednesday 4th and 5th July.



The students were treated to a professional magician, road safety workshops delivered by DHL TACS as well as the subjects they will have when they start with us, delivered by our amazing specialists. Particular highlights were making marshmallow towers in Mathematics and making jelly babies squeak in Science. Both days were action packed to give students the full Bristnall Hall experience. It was particularly pleasing to hear wonderful feedback from parents and carers at the informative induction evening, following the two days. It is lovely to know that the students cannot wait to start in September. It was lovely to know that students were excited to start with us. It had been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 and we look forward to seeing them develop into outstanding young adults.



Bon Voyage!

We set off from the academy and travelled by coach to Dover and caught a really huge ferry across to Calais. We got back on the coach and then drove to Paris...

When we arrived in Paris we walked to the Eiffel Tower and took lots of enchanting photos. Then we walked past stores selling novelty souvenirs to get to the refreshing boat ride along the Seine. Later we went to one of the tallest towers in the world and I went to the top of it. We went to a restaurant called The Monte Carlo. I had chicken and chips. After, we went to the hotel and desperately waited for the next day. Disneyland Paris was amazing. The rides were magnificent and I went on them all. First we went to Disney Studio and then had lunch. Then we went to the main park and had more fun. The restaurant we went to was so nice, it was called Planet Hollywood. I had a burger. After, we went shopping then watched the fireworks and it was really good. We went to Notre Dame de Paris and it was mind blowing how detailed it is. We all had a fantastic time and we were so pleased that we were given the opportunity to visit Paris.

By Harry Sheppard (Year 9)

A Work of Art

Year 8 students have been working hard in their Art lessons to produce portraits.

They have demonstrated great skill and imagination in order to capture these images. Well done Year 8!



THE RESULTS... ARE IN!

Pupils are celebrating their achievements as GCSE results are revealed with this year's cohort making significant progress in English, Mathematics and across other subject areas.

The results demonstrate success for the fourth consecutive year. Performance in the highest grades was particularly strong with several pupils achieving grade 9 and 8 passes in English, Mathematics and other Ebacc subjects. These amazing results follow Bristnall Hall Academy's accreditation as a 'Leading Edge' school, following a SSAT Educational Outcomes Award. Alongside the introduction of the new, more challenging GCSE examinations in the entire EBacc qualifications, both progress and attainment continue to improve at the academy across the ability range. Amongst many pupils at the academy celebrating their success are Gurpreet Singh, Zain Yousef, Euan James, Parminder Kaur, Holly Marthews, Maryam Umar and Todd Leathem.

These students achieved top 9-7 grades (A*-A equivalent), positioning them amongst the top performing students nationally. Vince Green, Principal at Bristnall Hall Academy commented: "This is another excellent set of results from an outstanding set of young people and sustains the year on year rapid improvement and high performance at our academy. These great outcomes are testimony to the pupils' hard work and that of the brilliant team of teachers, support staff, parents, carers and governors that we have at Bristnall Hall and I thank all of them. I am especially pleased to see how our young people have dealt so successfully with the increased level of challenge in the EBacc examinations. These exceptional results will enable our students to compete with other elite students nationally."



Bristnall at 90

Hundreds of past, present and future students of Bristnall Hall Academy honoured us with their attendance to mark our 90th birthday celebrations. It was a very emotional and remarkable day to hear about the school's rich history over the past nine decades.

The celebrations were kicked off by the Deputy Mayor of Sandwell who is a former student of Bristnall Hall as were her own children and now grandchildren. Our very talented students put on a special concert singing and dancing to mark the occasion providing the light entertainment to our very special guests. Afternoon tea was served in the marquee giving everyone the opportunity to reminisce with old friends. Tours of the academy took place over the

course of the afternoon for the Alumni walking them down memory lane and reliving fond memories of their time at Bristnall Hall. It was a real honour and pleasure to see so many of our former students and staff, and it made it such a special day for all involved. For Bristnall Hall it was fantastic to be able to celebrate all the fantastic things that have taken place at the school over the past nine decades. We now look forward to celebrating our Centenary in 2028.





DIY SOS

Staff spent the first day of their summer holiday volunteering at City Hospital as part of our support for our local charity for 2017-2018, SWBH Your Trust Charity

Whilst there, we transformed the delivery suite, making the environment fresh and relaxing for expectant mothers and their families. Rachel Carter, a midwife who works at City Hospital, commented that the newly renovated delivery suite looked fabulous and it was lovely to see the smiling faces

of the midwifery team. Bristnall Hall Academy, with the support of the local community, have raised over £2600 for the SWBH Charity and the SWBH NHS in just 12 months! We look forward to supporting the charity again this academic year.

Speak N' Listen

As part of our GCSE English Language, we have to undertake a Speaking and Listening Non Examined Assessment. We were required to choose a serious issue that we felt strongly about and explain our perspective and how it might affect the future.



I chose to discuss feminism as personally I do not feel it is deliberated enough. I am also extremely passionate about equal rights for women. Many of my peers spoke about a range of topics including technology, the future of the high street, cosmetic surgery and the impact of social media on young people. We planned our presentation over a series of lessons and used the mark scheme to aim our desired grade. After watching other examples, we felt more comfortable about having to speak in front of an audience. Many of us were nervous, however, we benefitted from the experience of presenting formally to an audience of our peers. Speaking aloud is an important quality to have for the future, it will help us prepare for job interviews and working life in general. Overall, it was a personally challenging experience but also extremely useful.

Ellie-Jay

Science Expo!

Twenty-five Year 10 students visited The Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition in London, which was made up of 22 exhibits, including 'Quantum sensing the brain' and 'Neutrinos: ghosts of the universe'.

The exhibition showcased some of the best research being carried out across the UK. Scientists were available to discuss their discoveries with our students and there were plenty of opportunities for students to experiment with hands-on activities. Afterwards, the students had a stroll in St James' Park, one of the Royal Gardens, finishing with a view of Buckingham Palace. A day to remember!





Flexus

In July 2018, our Key Stage 3 and 4 students had an opportunity to work with Flexus Dance Company.

The two full day workshops were led by the Artistic Director and Choreographer of Flexus Touring Company, Katy Sterran, who was accompanied by her Company dancers. This project was supported with funding from Arts Council England. "Flexus Dance Collective was formed in 2003 by Artistic Director Katy Sterran. Over the 15 years, Sterran has developed an artistic style based around psychological and social issues that focus on physical and emotional challenge, producing theatrical, cross art form works" The workshops included short displays by Flexus Touring Company, followed by dance technique and creative sessions based on the Company's new work 'Adjudication'. This work was "inspired by the commitment and beliefs of a faith system, 'Adjudication' connects with every individual's journey of acceptance, readiness and judgement.

When standing at customs, will we have packed appropriately for our next journey and be prepared to unveil the contents of our luggage?" The students worked extremely hard and were very professional in the workshops, they learnt a lot of new techniques in addition to valuable contemporary dance experience. The Flexus students inspired our students and they worked collaboratively together to put two original performances pieces together. As part of this project our students were invited to perform the two dances at a curtain raiser at the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton and then watch the Flexus performance. The theatre performance was sold out and both groups of students performed brilliantly. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students and they gained both performance skills and a chance to watch the full exciting and energetic performance.



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sandwell
well-being
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mark

A Sense of Well-Being

Bristnall Hall becomes the first secondary school in Sandwell to gain the Well-Being Charter Mark accreditation!

We are pleased to announce that we have recently become the only secondary school in Sandwell to be accredited with the Sandwell well-being charter mark. This recognises the way in which we nurture and care for our young people in their lives both in and out of school. At Bristnall Hall Academy we have a unique welfare system led by a team of highly skilled Achievement Coordinators, each responsible for a year group who are specialists in pastoral care. Priority is focused around support, care and ensuring our young people have a platform to learn and succeed. Students are supported with personal challenges

by the welfare team and professional partners where necessary. Our young people are assured and confident in the knowledge that well managed problems will not stand in the way of their future success and wherever possible learning is never compromised. We are thrilled with the confirmation of what we already knew: that we promote an ethos of kindness and humility where young people are encouraged to support each other and contribute to a safe and happy environment. It is great to see our commitment to the emotional well-being of all being recognised.



Hey Boy, Hey Girl!

We are proud to have been selected as Head Boy and Head Girl of Bristnall Hall Academy for this academic year.

Our academy has a high reputation in the community as a place where everyone is safe and cared for. Our GCSE outcomes are outstanding as students leave the academy with fantastic results. This is primarily due to the support and commitment the academy provides. Students enjoy their learning here at Bristnall Hall and we are given an array of fantastic opportunities, both inside and outside the academy. Teachers are extremely knowledgeable and passionate about the subjects they teach. All staff are caring and are always available to help and support students, whenever necessary. Staff make sure that students excel both academically and also as unique people. Teachers and support staff go out of their way to make sure that we are cared for and that we are supported. The extra-curricular activities also offer students a wide range of experiences. As Head Boy and Head Girl for 2018-2019 we would happily recommend the academy to anyone looking for secondary education for their child. Students are happy at Bristnall Hall and leave every day with a smile. We are looking forward to representing all students to ensure everyone's experience here is the best that it can be!

THE PROM

2018

Our Class of 2018 prom was hosted at the Malmaison in Birmingham.

It was a fantastic evening and it was amazing to see so many of our young people celebrating before embarking on their future paths. We all wish them well for the future, a truly remarkable and inspirational year group and class of 2018.



SPORTS DAY

A fantastic sports day event was held for years 7-10 with various athletics events and a very competitive tug of war.

The pupils competed in their houses and a new house managed to get their hands on the trophy this year.

Well done to all pupils in Darby!

The final results were:

Darby 1st place with 480 points, Brindley 2nd with 451 points and Telford 3rd with 420 points.

Year 7 - Brindley 1st, Darby 2nd, Telford 3rd

Year 8 - Darby 1st, Brindley 2nd, Telford 3rd

Year 9 - Telford 1st, Darby 2nd, Brindley 3rd

Year 10- Darby 1st, Brindley 2nd, Telford 3rd



Year 8 Girls' Rounders Team

Well done to the Year 8 girls' rounders team who, across two tournament events at Sandwell Academy, won five matches and lost three. This meant they finished third overall out of eight teams in the Sandwell South Division.

The team captained by Natalia Borun included Shanayah Jo Simon, Sophie Richardson, Lakiah Francis, Yasmin Giles, Jayleigh Stephenson Bing, Ksenjia Gudena, Shianne Brown, Chante Francis

Year 8 Boys' Cricket

A group of Year 8 boys entered the Under 13 Sandwell Schools Cricket Competition this term and performed extremely well.

The team included; Mason Parkes, Mubashir Rehman, Saifullah Rana, Barandeep Johal, Shaun Pearce, Ammaar Mahmood, Rajan Mattu, George James and Mustafa Maqsood. They managed to reach the semi-finals where they were narrowly beaten by Rockwood Academy, Birmingham. The boys had some impressive results along the way with the stand out performance coming against a strong George Salter team.

Well done boys!



LIFE AFTER BRISTNALL

Name: Sam Fagan

Briefly outline your time at Bristnall. What do you remember about Bristnall?

I enjoyed my time at Bristnall thoroughly and left the school with good memories as well as good results. I particularly enjoyed English and studied *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee for GCSE, which is still one of my favourite novels.

Destination after Bristnall and subjects studied:

I left Bristnall after completing my GCSEs and went to King Edward VI College, Stourbridge, where I studied A-levels in English Language and Literature, Maths and Law.

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

Rather than going to University, I chose to join the Royal Air Force after college and trained to become a Simulator Pilot. I went on to leave the RAF and emigrated to Saudi Arabia to work as a Simulator Pilot for BAe Systems, where I got to experience a whole different culture and way of living, as well as nice weather.

What are you currently doing?

I am now living in Sandwell again and am a convenor for GMB Trade Union in Sandwell, where I have found my calling to help protect workers' rights and to fight for fairness and equality in the workplace and beyond.

Future career path:

I want to spend the rest of my career as part of the trade union movement, as it is something that I believe in and am passionate about, and despite the many challenges it brings, it is often very rewarding as well.

Words of advice for students:

If you find something that you believe in and enjoy doing, pursue it. Work doesn't feel like work when you have a passion for it.



**Bristnall Hall
Academy**

Open Evening

Tuesday 11th September 2018

6pm - 8pm

See Us
Learning

Open Week

Monday 17th - Friday 21st September 2018

Please call 0121 552 5425 to book an appointment



@bhallacademy