

smart

SPRING TERM 2019 ■ ISSUE 13

BRISTNALL HALL ACADEMY MAGAZINE



BROADCAST IT!

BRISTNALL AT THE BBC

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**TOP OF THE POPS
THE BGT FINAL 2018
COACHBRIGHT LAUNCHED**



WELCOME



A Happy New Year to the entire Bristnall Hall family.

The end of 2018 was very eventful for our students and academy. We were proud to be recognised as the highest performing secondary school in Sandwell following the release of national progress scores. Our excellent provision in English and Mathematics was recognised when we were accredited again with the Quality Mark for these areas. At a time when there is so much negative press nationally regarding school funding and teacher recruitment we are very fortunate at Bristnall Hall to be financially sound and fully staffed with an outstanding team of teaching and support staff. We will again expect to be significantly oversubscribed again for our next Year 7 cohort who join us in September 2019. All of these factors support our view that Bristnall Hall Academy is a great place to learn in and work in.

Students have continued to perform amazingly in and out of the classroom and we look forward to enjoying this term's performance and sports fixtures. Our ongoing community work had an exciting development in November when we teamed up with our chosen charity SWBH Your Trust Charity

to record a charity single 'O Holy Night' by 'The Heartbeats Choir'. Thank you to everybody who supported this and downloaded the single. Every penny raised will go to support experiences had by patients in our local area. Our commitment to this amazing local charity will continue through 2019.

Our site improvements continue and our refurbished Sports Hall and Learning Resource and Community Centre will both enhance the experiences had by our young people. The start of 2019 will see improvements continue, including a new reception area and additional parking, which will improve traffic flow and safety around Bristnall Hall Lane.

Can I take this opportunity to wish everyone associated with our academy a happy and healthy 2019.

Vince Green
Principal

Stars in our School!

Special recognition goes out to the stars in our school.

They help keep our school a lovely place for all our students to learn and grow. Thanks to all the staff across the academy for all the hard work they do across the school year.





30 SLOW DOWN

Drivers caught speeding outside Bristnall Hall Academy have been shamed into slowing down – by being hauled in front of a court of our students.

Motorists caught in an operation outside Bristnall Hall Academy were given the option of a fine or to face Year 8 pupils asking difficult questions about why they were breaking the speed limit. Nine motorists were caught speeding near to the school during the operation, on Thursday 8th November – with the highest speed recorded being 38mph in a 30mph zone. It's the first time a Sandwell high school has hosted the Kids Court sessions, which have already been run at several primary schools around the borough. The campaign is run by Sandwell Council Highways in partnership with West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service. The sessions see children educated about the dangers and consequences of speeding. They also designed banners urging drivers to slow down outside their school. One driver caught speeding who ended up being quizzed by the pupils said: "It was very intense and made me feel very vulnerable.

Probably like the people I could have hurt" he added, "I'm embarrassed. I will be more aware in the future of my speed." Sandwell Council's cabinet member for highways and environment Councillor David Hosell said: "These sessions are really valuable – not only for educating the speeding drivers who get stopped, but for the children as well. "Although road safety has improved hugely in Sandwell over the past decade, we can't be complacent. "The impact the Kids Court has on drivers is much greater than a fine. The drivers who end up being spoken to by the children told us that they will never forget the experience and that it made them more aware of speed limits, especially around schools." Pupils said after the session: "I think it definitely will benefit me in the future because I want to change the people who have committed a crime." "I think we made a difference. People will really think about what we did today."

LEGO THERAPY

Bristnall Hall has been using Lego therapy with some Year 7, 8 and 10 students.



Lego therapy is sometimes known as Construction Club. It is a rule-based system designed to encourage communication between students to enable them to solve a problem by building in groups. This usually takes place with three students at any one time. There are three roles, one assigned to each student.

These should be rotated through the session.

The Engineer – has the plan and gives the instructions

The Supplier – has the construction equipment

The Builder – is responsible for building

The adult's role is to set out the rules for the session, encourage interaction and support students in their problem solving. As the students become familiar with the roles, tasks should begin to become harder. The outcome of the sessions is for students to gain valuable communication skills and build self esteem.

Bully Free Zone

In support of anti-bullying week, Miss Brzosko organised a campaign where Year 7 and 8 students planned and prepared anti bullying presentations to raise awareness and offer advice and guidance around this important topic.

Students presented to their forms using a variety of materials, including beautiful posters, songs, poems and raps. Winners were chosen from each form who then went on to present in Year 7 and 8 assemblies. Staff and students found the assemblies poignant and enjoyable.





TOP OF THE POPS



Kind hearted children from Bristnall Hall Academy and the community of Sandwell joined forces with Your Trust Charity to bring joy to the Trust with the release of a charity Christmas single.

The charity single, which was released on 26th November 2018, is a modern spin on the Christmas classic 'O Holy Night', and features staff from across our organisation alongside talented musicians, past and present, of Bristnall Hall Academy.

Amanda Winwood, Fundraising Manager at Your Trust Charity is encouraging all to buy the single and get behind and support Your Trust Charity. She said: "We're absolutely delighted to launch our first charity single 'O Holy Night.' It's a fantastic collaboration between our Trust and the incredibly talented students of Bristnall Hall.

It's a heart-warming song being released at a joyous time for a very worthy cause.

Every penny raised through sales of this single will go straight back in to helping our charity provide the wonderful care our Trust is known for.

I'm asking everybody to support us, you can download a copy from iTunes or buy one of our limited edition CD's."

If you would like more information or would like to fundraise for Your Trust Charity, please contact: amanda.winwood@nhs.net.

Literacy Leaders

Literacy Leaders is an exciting new opportunity for Key Stage 3 students to develop their confidence and skills in English.



Over the course of the year, participants will learn the craft of teaching and what makes an effective teacher. Once they are prepared, they will show off their talents at teaching in their classes, teaching them a skill that they will choose. This opportunity to develop self-esteem, classroom confidence and literacy skills will be helping themselves and their peers to be successful at Bristnall Hall Academy.

Student Voice: Brandon

The reason I became a Literacy leader was because I wanted to do a lot more English and expand on my skills. Also, it was a nice activity to do after school.

Re-start a heart

Re-start a heart day is related to Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

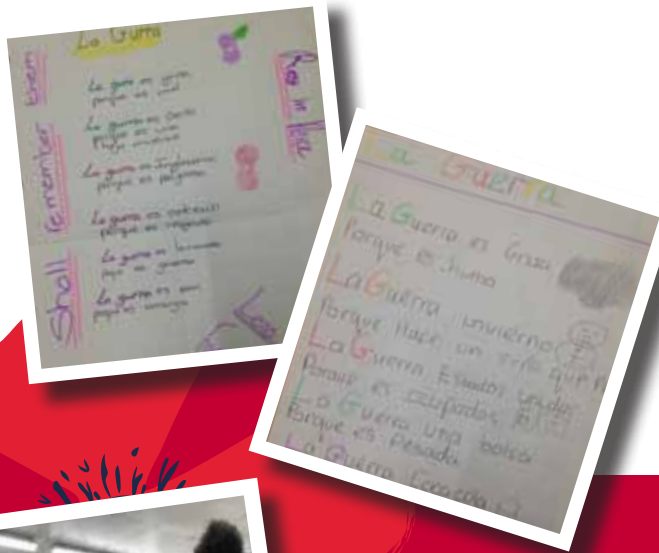
Following a CPR session in the morning our Year 7 Mathematics students took their experience further into the classroom. They brainstormed ideas about 'what are the potential causes of a heart attack and how to prevent it'; followed by 'what constitutes a healthy heart'. They were all fully engaged in how to calculate their own heart rate and their colleagues before and after a little exercise. They used the data from the whole group and applied real life mathematical skills to it. They calculated various averages of the heart and presented this information in graphical form before analysing it. Overall, the students had a great time. They fully engaged and enjoyed the lesson and were able to bring Mathematics into the real world.



LEST WE FORGET

During MFL lessons on the 9th November, Year 7 and 8 students created their own poems in both French and Spanish in order to commemorate the WWI Centenary.

Students watched a short film to help them imagine what it would be like to be in the trenches before using dictionaries to help them create their own poems to describe war. Here are some examples of the fantastic and creative work produced by the following Year 8 students; Chloe, Imogene and Aleena.



Year 8 students also paid tribute to the fallen by creating period biscuits for the troops in the trenches and another group provided wreaths to commemorate the fallen in the great war from Bristnall Hall Academy.

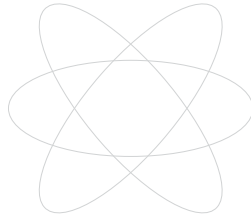


STEM club

Every Wednesday, a group of students in Year 7 and Year 8 attend STEM club after school.

In this club students carry out a range of activities that focus on subjects, such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Some of the activities that the students have done so far are: building a shuttle to protect an egg when landing on Earth; testing the PH of different shampoos; and looking at different soil samples to see if there is life. The practical investigations that we carry out link into the required practicals for GCSEs. For example, testing soil samples help students to practice food tests. Students don't just carry out scientific investigations but also have the chance to build and design structures like packages for aid drops around the world to poor countries. Students have to use skills they have learned from Mathematics, Technology and Science. Students enjoy the different practical activities each week and enjoy creating and solving problems during the tasks and are often very competitive. STEM club allows students to have fun and learn in groups as well as independently.





broadcast it!

The end of September saw a group of Year 10 students visiting the BBC mailbox in Birmingham to gain an understanding of new and exciting technologies being used by the BBC.

The first workshop allowed students to use iPads to record themselves giving an interview on what technologies the students currently used. They were even given the chance to film themselves talking about Doctor Who and the Tardis as this made an appearance on the day with a number of iconic villains' masks. The second workshop centred around fake news and understanding of what fake news is. This workshop also included careers advice which the students found useful as they had to complete a personality survey that pointed them towards a career path for jobs in the BBC and other media sectors. It was stressed to students that STEM subjects were valued at these companies from

make-up artists to gaming. It gave students an insight into the variety of career paths at their fingertips. In the final workshop, students had to work on editing an episode of Amazing Humans. Students again had to practise using the Apple software from the first workshop to experiment with different camera angles. The students that attended the trip thoroughly enjoyed this experience and were fully involved in each task. They particularly enjoyed the tour, seeing the workers in action and walking through the BBC offices. This trip was very valuable to the students as not only did they learn about how to edit short films they also gained an insight into useful career advice.



BOSTIN!

Year 9 students went to the Black Country Living Museum on 16th November with the Humanities Department.

The day started with a motivational talk from representatives of Newman University and AimHigher explaining some of the advantages of attending university, in particular in studying History. Students were then treated to a guided tour of the museum including Emile Doo's Chemist Shop, The Hardware & Ironmongers Shop and the Limekilns. AimHigher said "The pupils from Bristnall Hall were excellent and really showed 100% engagement". Well done to all students and staff involved.



Work Experience is Well Underway... but we still need your help, so what do you say?

Work Experience Week 2019 promises to be as successful as ever.

Every year the academy endeavours to ensure almost 200 students have a placement for work experience as we know what a valuable and insightful experience this can be. If you could offer our students a place for work experience in the future, we would love to hear from you!

Please contact **Miss Samuels** or **Miss Hole**
Tel: **0121 552 54525** ext. 153
Email: ssamuels@bha.attrust.org.uk
Email: bhole@bha.attrust.org.uk



'CoachBright'

Bristnall Hall Academy delivers the 'CoachBright' programme as part of their enrichment offer.

This secondary programme gives selected Year 10 students the opportunity to work with a university undergraduate. Birmingham University students coached individual pupils for one hour a week throughout the Autumn term, helping them become independent and resilient learners. Bristnall Hall has noted a positive impact upon students' confidence and independence. This initiative was launched in the Summer term. Forty Year 10 students were part of the application process, twenty students were selected. This programme means that Year 10 students benefit from one to one focused support in either English, Mathematics or Science.

Students have really appreciated this intense support. We have seen that this programme has also increased parental engagement. Parents and carers were invited to an information evening to meet the CoachBright leaders and find out more about the programme and their child's university mentor. This helped parents and carers to understand the programme whilst giving them a deeper insight into their academic studies. Bristnall Hall Academy is looking forward to seeing the overall impact of CoachBright at the end of this academic year. It has clear it has supported other Aim Higher initiatives taking place.



Duke of Edinburgh!

In October 2018, a group of our Year 10 and 11 students took part in their Bronze assessment overnight stay which included a six hour walk on both days along the River Severn from Bewdley to Hampton Lodge and the campsite.

The experience was extremely successful. All students enjoyed the experience, behaved impeccably and developed leadership skills.

Well done to everyone involved!

BRISTNALL'S GOT T★ALENT

The BGT 2018 final was held in the Autumn term.

The final 13 acts were chosen for the grand final from the 53 acts that initially auditioned. Judging the grand final was Deputy Lieutenant Gurpreet Bhatia, Councillor Carol Goult and Councillor Rajvir Singh. It was one of the closest finals that we have ever had and the decision of third, second and first place was extremely difficult for the judges. The judges decided that there would be a joint third place which was Isabel (Vocalist) and Indecisive (a band consisting of Kenan, Katie, Dylan and Omar). In second place was an acoustic/vocal duet of Terrell and Ellie. In first place, crowned the worthy winner, was Praise who sang a beautiful version of 'When We Were Young' by Adele. Mrs Westwood and Mr Browne are very proud of all of the participants and would like to say well done to all involved.





Year 11
Scarlett



Year 10
Mitchell



Year 9
Harry



Year 8
Sophie



Year 7
Hannah

Students of the Half Term (Autumn 1)

STUDENTS OF THE TERM



Year 11
Jade



Year 10
Molly



Year 9
Keely



Year 8
Antonin



Year 7
Sky

Students of the Half Term (Autumn 2)

HOME OF CHAMPIONS

The PE team and students are thrilled with the newly refurbished sports hall.

After a significant financial investment, the facility now looks amazing and will improve the quality of experience the pupils receive. It will also be a brighter facility for the mock and summer exams for Year 11. The PE team would like to

thank the building estate maintenance team who delivered such a superb finish in only two and a half weeks and with minimal disruption. We are sure the pupils will appreciate the investment by the academy in our sports facilities.



BHA Football

On The Road To Glory

This year Bristnall Hall were drawn against Shirelands, Q3, Holly Lodge and Sandwell Academy in search of cup qualification going into the new year.

Four of the year groups achieved this with some outstanding results along the way, including:

Year 9 Bristnall Hall 8 – 2 Q3 Langley

Year 9 Bristnall Hall 5 – 1 Shireland

Collegiate Academy

In Year 7 there have been some outstanding performances including Tyler between the sticks, whilst a highlight of the campaign was an amazing individual goal by Bailey against Holly Lodge.

BHA Basketball

Slam Dunk

The basketball season is underway and it has been fantastic to see 30 pupils attending training regularly from Years 7 to 10 every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

The first games took place this week and the KS3 team started with a 16-2 win against Perry Fields High School. The 8 man squad selected showed excellent passion and discipline in their performance and they implemented the man to man marking system effectively. Man of the match went to Elijah for his rebounding and turning over of possession during the game.

Well done boys!



LIFE AFTER BRISTNALL

Name: Charlotte Martin

Briefly outline your time at Bristnall Hall.

What do you remember?

When I was at Bristnall Hall I remember how much I always used to moan about going to lessons. If it wasn't for the teachers having the faith in me that they did I never would have left with GCSEs.

Destination after Bristnall and subjects studied:

When I left I went to Halesowen College first and gained AS levels in English Literature and Law. After deciding A Levels was not for me I went on to Sandwell College to study student BTEC Business Studies then went on to study an undergraduate degree in Law graduating in 2017 with a second class Bachelor of Honours degree. After finishing this I decided I wanted to give back to education the hope and encouragement it gave to me. Therefore, I undertook a postgraduate degree in post compulsory education and training. I am currently teaching Business Studies to KS3 to KS5

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

My most memorable achievement since leaving school has been gaining my teaching qualification.

What are you currently doing?

I am currently teaching business KS3 to KS5 as well as taking over as temporary head of department.

Future career path:

Within the next couple of academic years, I will be bringing in Applied Law to the sixth form department at the school in which I teach.

Words of advice for students:

Never give up hope or feel like you have failed. Education is your key and your teachers will always believe in you.

The Highest Performing Secondary School in Sandwell

Progress 8



@bhallacademy

