

# smart

SUMMERTERM 2019 ■ ISSUE 14

## BRISTNALL HALL ACADEMY MAGAZINE



# AIM HIGHER

BHA RECEIVES MORE AWARDS

### ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ARMED FORCES PLEDGE  
YEAR 9 AIM HIGHER  
YEAR 10 UNIVERSITY VISITS





**WELCOME**

It is always a proud moment when I get to write the introductory piece for each edition of SMART, and as our publication closes in on its fifth anniversary, it has been pleasing to look back on so much great work by our young people, staff and community over the last half a decade.

A huge welcome to those fortunate, young people and their families who are joining us for transition events in July 2019. We are really looking forward to working with you when your child starts Year 7 in September 2019 at our lovely academy. They are joining an institution which is in an incredibly strong position; amazing teaching and learning, exceptional pastoral care and huge ambition is evident throughout Bristnall Hall Academy.

At a time when much is spoken about in the national press of a financial crisis in schools and huge teacher shortages, these are not issues that affect progress at Bristnall Hall. We are a financially healthy academy which does not have any issues attracting and appointing outstanding practitioners due to our reputation as a great place to learn and work. The team here work exceptionally hard to ensure that this remains the case.

What is most pleasing, at this time, are the strong, professional relationships our young people share with our team of staff. This has been especially evident during the recent examination season where students were supported and encouraged in

equal measure by members of staff, and their peers. To see how so many from our community came together during evening, weekend and holiday sessions, demonstrates the great family ethos we share at Bristnall Hall.

As part of our wider offer, this culture of encouragement and support has been evident in performance, sporting and extra-curricular activities. Our young people have had some amazing opportunities in terms of visits and experiences with employers and higher education establishments. Much of this is reported in this edition of SMART and supplemented with information you can regularly read about on our social media feeds (@bhallacademy).

I wish all of the Bristnall Hall Academy family a safe and happy summer and look forward to continuing our work together in September.

Vince Green  
Principal

## Stars in our School!

Special recognition goes out to the stars in our school.

Congratulations to our '25 Day Attendance Challenge' iPad winner, Harry and to our first cohort of Class Charts Bronze Award winners.



## OUR ARMED FORCES NEED YOU!

Bristnall Hall Academy hosted an official signing of the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC) to pledge our commitment to the Armed Forces community with a number of pledges.

We, as an academy, alongside Pool Hayes Academy, are committed to supporting those that have served directly or indirectly within the Armed Forces to ensure they are treated fairly.

It was a humbling experience to welcome a number of decorated officers and to welcome the Deputy Lieutenant Gurpreet Bhatia of West Midlands, to witness the co-signing of the AFC document for Bristnall Hall Academy and Pool Hayes Academy.



## WALLS OF WOW!

Two beautiful murals were painted, over the Easter Break in the MFL corridors at Bristnall Hall Academy.



An artist was commissioned to create and paint the stunning scenes of Paris and Barcelona, bringing the beauty of these cities right to the children of BHA. The new additions to the learning environment will be used in lessons and linked to the GCSE Specification - they truly are walls that WOW!





# SSAT Award Winners

## SSAT Accredits Bristnall Hall Academy under the 'Framework for Exceptional Education'

Bristnall Hall Academy's application to SSAT for accreditation of transforming practice in Climate for Learning and Variety of Teaching Approaches has been successful. This means that Bristnall Hall Academy met the highest standards of the Framework for Exceptional Education and that their work in this area is amongst the most effective practice nationally! The Framework for Exceptional Education is a self-review and planning tool incorporating SSAT's 30 years of experience in school improvement. Co-developed with a group of high-performing schools and reviewed by leading academies, the framework supports schools in quality-assuring their work and sharing effective practice.

To achieve accreditation in practice, Bristnall Hall Academy was reviewed by another high-performing academy and an independent moderator from SSAT. SSAT's Chief Executive, Sue Williamson comments "for a school to be accredited as transforming practice is a real credit to their team and the quality of work that they are doing."

Daniel Belcher, SSAT Senior Education Lead, had this to say about the Academy's climate for learning: "There is

a transformational and inspiring climate for learning at Bristnall Hall Academy. The warmth of professional relationships is tangible, students and staff are committed to each other and the school. High levels of trust and care provide a supportive environment for building the confidence and self-esteem of students. This is having a direct impact on student learning and outcomes. Staff have high expectations of students and in turn students believe they can achieve. Relationships between teaching and non-teaching staff are excellent. The classroom environment and displays are being used creatively to support learning. There is a culture of reflective practice and continuous improvement."

Daniel Belcher also described the variety of teaching and learning at the academy: "Teaching is engaging, challenging and inclusive. There is a shared language and vision for teaching and learning across all staff. This is underpinned by creative and inspiring CPD which promotes teachers' sharing practice and being innovative in their approaches. Learners understand what they need to do to be successful and are motivated to learn. Excellent working relationships exist between students and staff. The school is increasingly playing a role as a centre of excellence."

Bristnall Hall Academy is proud to announce that it has been accredited by SSAT as a Lead Practitioner Learning Centre for aspirant Lead Practitioners.

Selected schools who have developed highly impactful SSAT Lead Practitioners are invited to become Lead Practitioner Learning Centres (LPLC). The LPLC therefore, becomes a hub of excellence for aspirant SSAT Lead Practitioners who will make significant contributions to the education profession.

We are delighted to be accredited and we are very excited to be able to lead the Lead Practitioner Accreditation course.

**Andy Williams SSAT Senior Education Lead, who heads up the LP programme commented;**

“Bristnall Hall Academy are a superb example of an SSAT Lead Practitioner Learning Centre. Bristnall Hall LPLC has displayed a high level of organisation in establishing their support sessions for aspirant LPs, but more than this, what has become very clear is their total commitment to education and in particular, in providing the very best experience for

the children and young people in Sandwell. Through their efforts and the action research of their LPs, they have provided tangible insights into ‘what works’ in their context, producing learning portfolios that will inform and educate others. A superb example of true collaboration with a focus on improving the learner experience.”

**Sue Williamson, SSAT’s Chief Executive, added;**

“I would like to congratulate Bristnall Hall Academy in becoming an SSAT Lead Practitioner Learning Centre. We know that teachers make lives and that as the world gets more complex, that vital role becomes ever more demanding. Through SSAT’s Lead Practitioner programme, Bristnall Hall Academy have helped teachers perform their role even better, more confidently and more professionally than ever before.”



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British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - featuring fascinating, entertaining and engaging events and activities across the UK for people of all ages.

British Science Week provides a platform to stimulate and support students to produce and participate in STEM events and activities. Our fantastic Year 7 students were fortunate enough to have Dave Bickley, ATT Regional Science Lead Practitioner, visit them to display some exciting demonstrations on Newton's Laws.

The students participated in numerous awe-inspiring demonstrations which really brought Newton's Laws to life and made them relevant to their day to day experiences. We had floating footballs, the table cloth challenge and the pressure of a plunger to name but a few. Nearly 100 Year 7 students took part and we are looking forward to Dave visiting us again later in the year, to inspire the second half of our Year 7 cohort!



## Money Matters

West Bromwich Building Society delivered some very informative Financial Awareness and Capability sessions to some of our Year 7 students. These sessions will eventually be delivered to all Year 7 students.

At Bristnall Hall Academy we are acutely aware that students need to be fully equipped with important life skills which go hand in hand with their education - ready for life post BHA!

We are extremely grateful to West Bromwich Building Society staff for delivering 'Money Matters' sessions free of charge to our young people.

# LOOK & READ

Bristnall Hall Academy celebrated World Book Day's 100th anniversary by providing free books to all Year 7 students.

We also hosted The Big Breakfast, providing a free, healthy breakfast and a free book for any early risers. The celebrations continued during the day with a Year 7 and Year 8 Readathon which enabled us to have continuous reading throughout the day. The day closed with The Big Book Day Quiz on legendary books and characters we all know and love.



## Role Model

Huge congratulations to Deepak Singh, who was this term's proud winner of the Flash Academy Student Success Awards for excellence in English attainment.

Deepak is a member of BHA's EAL Form group which is a mixed year group of students who have newly arrived to the UK. They use the Flash Academy Language Programme to help improve their English Language development. He has not only

excelled using the programme but is also a fantastic role model for other students within the group, offering support and generally being a friendly face to students who may have similar challenges and barriers to overcome.

If you would like any further information regarding Flash Academy, please contact Miss White, EAL Co-ordinator at the academy.

# Pi Day

Pi Day is celebrated on the 14th March around the world. Pi (Greek letter “ $\pi$ ”) is the symbol used in Mathematics to represent a constant: the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter is approximately 3.14159.

Every year Pi day is celebrated across the academy. This year, each department was given a Pi-related subject-specific activity to complete during their lesson. The activities ranged from tasks such as measuring the bendiness of a river in Geography; writing a poem in English; studying the History of Pi in History; writing a song about Pi in Music to baking cakes and piping them with the digits of Pi.

Here is William's (Year 8) poem about Pi:

Add and subtraction  
 Are my favourite things  
 And signs in Maths make me sing  
 Working out equations  
 Doing my sums  
 When I get a tick  
 It's a job well done



## Classics Day Out

On Tuesday 12th March 2019, 30 high potential students from Years 7 and 8 attended a Classics-inspired day at Keble College, Oxford.

Students were given lots of information on university courses, potential careers and how to apply to Oxford. They also attended a lecture from a PhD student studying Latin and Ancient Literature. Lots of the students had previously studied some Latin as part of their enrichment activities. As such, they were amazing at de-coding ancient scripts and letters! The lecturer was amazed at their overall language skills and how they embraced the challenge of understanding the writing and language itself! It was a hugely aspirational experience and a fantastic day was had by all students and staff alike.







# Speakers for schools

In March we had the pleasure of hosting a Speakers for Schools talk from Dr Jonathan Leach, Joint Honorary Secretary, Royal College of General Practitioners and his daughter Dr Helen Leach.

Our Year 9 students were fascinated by the presentation, in particular all the different careers available within the NHS and the paths they can take. Students were intrigued to learn that Dr Leach had started his career with the army; hearing about the various posts abroad before transferring his skills once having left the army.

Speakers For Schools is a charitable organisation set up by Robert Peston; it helps state schools to access amazing opportunities for their young people through inspiring talks. They have an array of today's most influential figures from across business, arts, politics and much more who donate their time to raise the aspirations of young people in state schools including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.



## Aim Higher

As part of the Aim Higher programme, forty-nine Year 9 students spent an aspirational day at Aston University engaging in a careers workshop.

Students explored different career pathways and participated in a session on 'what makes the model student.' A really informative experience was had by all the students.

**#aimhigher**

# Harper Adams

On Friday 29th March 2019, 12 Year 10 students (plus Mr Patel and Miss Hole) ventured into the wilds of the Shropshire countryside to visit Harper Adams University.

This university specialises in agricultural courses, including land-based, animal-based and engineering and this visit was to find out more about their Veterinary Nursing and Veterinary Physiotherapy degree courses plus their new Veterinary Science course. This is only the 9th Veterinary Science course in the country and the only one in the West Midlands. The students experienced mini-lectures and practical activities including making the foreleg of a dog and modelling the ruminant digestive system. The students also had a tour of the university buildings and accommodation. It was a great opportunity for the students to experience a different type of university, speak to current students and discover what to expect from this type of course. They couldn't believe the university students when they said you get used to the smell!!!



## CSI Day

A group of 19 Year 10 students got a chance to train to become forensic investigators for a day.

They were shown different skills that actual forensic students would learn at university. They made shoe impressions, fingerprint keyrings and looked at their own hair samples under mini microscopes. At the end of the day, students then had to put their forensic skills to the test and find out who the killer was in a mock crime scene. Students had a fun day out as the activities were interactive and engaging, thanks to Aim Higher who organised the day. A lot of students found it informative and are now interested in looking into forensics as a possible career path.



# WORDS & NUMBERS

A group of Year 10 students visited Birmingham University to participate in a day of English and Mathematics sessions.

In the English session, students worked with poet Matt Windle, who was the Birmingham Poet Laureate (2016/18), and produced their own poems based on their aspirations. Students worked in teams to discuss their aspirations and what they needed to do to achieve them. Matt's session focused on understanding the rhythm and rhyming patterns in words and he was even able to rhyme hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia (ironically, it is the fear of long words!). The session resulted in students creating their own poems about aspirations and performing them in front of others.

The Mathematics session included various hands-on activities for the pupils to complete. The activities were scaffolded for all abilities to use their problem-solving techniques to complete the challenge and then move on to the next task. They involved tangrams, jigsaws and tubes construction. Fishing for animals was the most enjoyable, since it included a blindfold, required teamwork, and a high level of instruction to pick up the animals at the correct angles. The session developed a multitude of skills and demonstrated how classroom skills where classroom skills have been transferred into problem solving methods for any situation.

# Parlez-vous Français?

The Modern Foreign Languages department at Bristnall Hall have been running a very successful revision weekend at Edgmond Hall in Newport Shropshire for the past 11 years.

This year has been no exception. The weekend of the 5th – 7th April, a full capacity crowd was once again enjoying the peace of the countryside, the sunshine – and of course, lots of revision activities for their GCSE French examinations, due to take place towards the end of May. 54 students from Year 11 dedicated their weekend to perfecting their language skills including listening, reading and writing in the target language.

As well as lots of pair-work, group-work and the obligatory visit to the local store for food supplies, students were engaged in a treasure hunt and orienteering, where they had to complete different GCSE-style tasks, including understanding longer texts in French. The students were a credit to the academy and really enjoyed the weekend. They all worked extremely hard and gained in confidence with the requirements of their examinations.

**Bonne Chance Year 11!**



## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Yet again, this year, our young people put on another great production of Beauty and the Beast, over two evenings.

This included two matinee performances to Year 5 students from local primary schools who thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. The hard work, dedication and commitment by students and staff alike was evident in the quality of the show. It was quite a magical and enthralling evening with such talented young people.





**Year 11**  
Dylan



**Year 10**  
Maria



**Year 9**  
Allannah



**Year 8**  
Ela



**Year 7**  
Kim

**Students of the Half Term (Spring 1)**

# STUDENTS OF THE TERM



**Year 10**  
Bhavana



**Year 9**  
Chante



**Year 8**  
Erin



**Year 7**  
Kairo

**Students of the Half Term (Spring 2)**

# Dance Workshops

Twenty-five talented Year 10 students of Bristnall Hall Academy were given the opportunity to work on their professional repertoire over the Easter holidays.

One workshop focused on the Contemporary Dance work of Christopher Bruce and the students refined a piece of work from "Rooster", which interprets the music of the Rolling Stones. The second workshop focused on the work from Flash Dance. The students were incredibly dedicated and disciplined throughout, taking on these new pieces of work with enthusiasm and were excellent ambassadors for our academy.

These students will be given a further opportunity to dance with Flexus Dance Company for two days in June, followed by an exciting opportunity to dance as a curtain raiser at the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton!

In addition, some Key Stage 3 students have had the opportunity to work alongside a dance coach on a dance from the Greatest Showman, again showing excellent performance skills and dedication.

We hope the experience sparked A Million Dreams!



## ***RUN BHA RUN!***

Team BHA have definitely got the running bug!

Once again, this year, Mr Browne, Mr Grainger, Mrs Hamilton and Ms Noaks signed up to run the Simply Health Great Birmingham 10k to raise funds for the Neonatal Unit at Sandwell and City Hospital.

**Amazing effort by the staff  
and all 10k finishers!**

**great birmingham**  
**10k**



## BHA Dodgeball South Sandwell Winners

Well done to all who participated and represented Bristnall Hall at the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 boys' and girls' dodgeball tournaments.

A special mention goes to the Key Stage 3 boys who were the South Sandwell winners coming first out of 7 other schools. The team were superbly led with the player of the tournament being Jason Muca (Year 8). The Key Stage 4 boys also did fantastically and finished runners up narrowly losing to Ormiston Forge in the final.

## BHA Football Season review

The football season has now finished and the PE Dept would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all boys that have represented their year group this season.

The Year 7 and Year 8 teams have had tough seasons and will no doubt be stronger for the experience! The Year 9's have gone unbeaten in their league and were unfortunate to be knocked out of the cup in a thrilling 5-3 game with Oldbury Academy. Arguably the Year 10 team have had the most successful season with four wins and only one loss in the league and a successful cup run all the way to the semi-finals. The Year 11 team are our last surviving team in the cup having successfully made it to the final and await either Wood Green or Q3 Great Barr. The semi-final was a close affair with Bristnall ending normal time 1-1 with Perryfields. The match went to extra time, where a thunderous strike from Sakariye and a back post finish by Kyle secured the 3-1 win. Good luck in the final, Year 11!



## LIFE AFTER BRISTNALL

Name: Candra George

### **Briefly outline your time at Bristnall Hall. What do you remember?**

The most memorable and defining influence from my time at Bristnall were the amazing members of staff who went above and beyond to provide excellent teaching and pastoral support. One of my proudest moments was proposing the concept of SMART magazine to Principal Green - it's amazing to see it come to life! I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Bristnall Hall and I left with amazing results and friends for life.

### **Destination after Bristnall and subjects studied:**

After secondary school I went to King Edwards VI College in Stourbridge where I studied A-level English Literature and Language, Spanish and Geography.

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

A great achievement has been securing a paid internship working in the Houses of Parliament for summer 2019.

### **What are you currently doing?**

I am currently in my second year studying English Literature at the University of Bristol. I also work with the University's career service, called Bristol Futures, as an Ambassador, advising students about their future careers and academic work. I am also a tutor at Explore Learning, where I have worked, for over three years.

### **Future career path:**

When looking towards the future, I want to pursue a career within Parliament as a Civil Servant, working to improve welfare, education and to aid developing countries. I also want to travel more and maybe take a gap year after university!

### **Words of advice for students:**

Enjoy your time at Bristnall, these will be some of your best years. Seize every and all opportunities and remember there are no mistakes, only lessons, so keep learning from your decisions!

# OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 10th September 2019, 6pm - 8pm

# OPEN FORTNIGHT

Monday 16th - Friday 27th September 2019

Please call 0121 552 5425 to book an appointment.



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