

# smart

SUMMER TERM 2017 ■ ISSUE 8

## BRISTNALL HALL ACADEMY MAGAZINE

### A DAY IN THE LIFE

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BARKER

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# WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of our new look SMART magazine. Since the last edition when we celebrated our strong Ofsted outcome, the academy and the Bristnall Hall family have continued to flourish.

We have received details of our new Year 7 cohort for 2017 and we are significantly oversubscribed for this year. Congratulations to all of the young people who have been given a place with us. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and working with you at the academy.

I am immensely proud of our young people, and particularly those students in Years 13 and 11 who have been preparing for their A Level and GCSE examinations. The levels of dedication and hard work shown in recent weeks and months have been amazing to witness and I wish them well with their results. They have received fantastic support and guidance from the outstanding team of staff at Bristnall Hall and I thank the entire team for all that they continue to do for our young people.

This term we welcome Mr Thickett, our new Lead Practitioner for Humanities, to the academy and Mr. Hipgrave takes on the role of Lead Practitioner of Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). Miss Codling takes on the role of Assistant Area Leader of MFL.

Our students are very fortunate to be able to be taught by practitioners of this calibre.

Attendance at the academy is the highest it has ever been at Bristnall Hall by some margin and I thank parents and carers for ensuring that students attend every day that they possibly can. Our excellent team of welfare staff will continue to do all they can to look after them whilst they are here.

You will see in this edition of SMART some of the excellent extra-curricular activities that students participate in. Next year we are looking to develop this further and I look forward to sharing our students' experiences with you in future editions.

This summer will be a hive of activity on the academy grounds as we make significant improvements to our facilities and I look forward to sharing details of these with you. If you do not so already, please follow developments at Bristnall Hall Academy on facebook, twitter and now on instagram.

Vince Green  
Principal



# Hairspray

After months of dedicated rehearsals, BHA's production team was ready to perform their lively rendition of Hairspray and give the audience a nostalgic blast to the past.

Originally a 1988 film, the well-known story of Hairspray was later adapted into a Broadway production that made its debut in 2002. Set in 1960s Baltimore, Hairspray tells the tale of teen Tracy Turnblad, who defies all social norms by achieving her dream of landing a spot on the Corny Collins Show.

Faith Sabin in Year 9 shone in her role as Tracy Turnblad, perfectly capturing the character's bubbly personality and feisty spirit.

The show was a massive success, sold out on both nights and performed to a live audience of 350 people at Sandwell College Theatre on Tuesday 28th Feb and Weds 1st March 2017. The cast's admirable acting, singing and dancing abilities were put on display during each musical number, with the audience giving them all a standing ovation in the end.

Year 5 students at Abby Junior School were also treated to a matinee performance of the musical. Mrs. Westwood would like to thank all staff and especially the students for their outstanding effort and dedication with putting this musical together.

We're all looking forward to the next one!



## World Maths' Day

World Maths' Day is an annual event that is celebrated across the world.

It encourages students to use their knowledge and love of Mathematics to take part in competitive games and competitions. At Bristnall Hall this year, students took part in interactive lessons where they looked at applying maths knowledge and equations in everyday life. Students were also engrossed in a whole school quiz where form groups and students were competing against each other to be crowned World Maths' Day Mathematician.

Competition was fierce within year groups and students. The winners with the highest scores are as follows:

- 10TY with a staggering 328 points.
- Shoaib Mohammed in Year 10 who got full marks: 20/20! He won a World Maths' Day trophy, as well as an Amazon tablet.
- Casmir Obi-Osuala in Year 9 who missed out from the top spot and got 19/20. He won a Maths t-shirt.
- Ali Hussain in Year 7 who got 17/20 and won a Maths mug.

Congratulations to the winners and all that participated!



## Across the finish line

BHA staff kicked off their trainers, having taken part in the annual Simplyhealth Great Birmingham 10k run on Sunday April 30th.

With an original target to raise £500 for a sensory room in Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals, we have smashed the total which now stands at an astonishing £1026! Well done to Mr. Green, Mrs. Hardman, Mr. Granger, Miss. Douma, Mr. Browne and Mrs. Kaur who ran 6.2 miles through Birmingham City Centre. Mr. Browne ran the race in an astounding 41 minutes and Mr. Granger in 52 minutes, amazing! We are extremely fortunate to have both staff and students here at the academy who are passionate about making a positive contribution and difference in the community we live and work in.







# WORLD BOOK DAY

Staff and students embraced 'World Book Day' to celebrate their love of reading by dressing up as iconic characters from well-known books and taking part in educational activities.



As part of the national event, our students brought to life characters including the Mad Hatter from Alice in Wonderland, Havisham from Great Expectations, Harry Potter, as well as Katniss Everdeen from The Hunger Games book series. Staff from various departments teamed up to create their representations of characters such as Maleficent from Sleeping Beauty, Mary Poppins, as well as characters like the Tin Man and Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz. We challenged students to be the 'best dressed character', with the winner receiving a Kindle Fire tablet. Year 7 student, Emmi Willetts, who dressed as Alice in Wonderland's Mad Hatter was chosen as the winner by Literacy Co-ordinator Mrs. Billingham and Assistant Principal Mrs. Chivers, for

her creative and imaginative costume. Year 7 students also took part in a Readathon, where they read and shared their favourite books throughout the day. Students also chose to share stories including 'Mrs. Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children' written by Ransom Riggs, as well as non-fiction books such as David Walliam's 'Gangsta Granny'. Through the event and Readathon sponsorship forms, we raised hundreds of pounds, with the amount being divided amongst three charities chosen by Readathon: 'Together For Short Lives', 'CLIC Sargent for Children with Cancer' and 'Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity'. World Book Day occurs annually to celebrate books and a love of reading and 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of World Book Day being celebrated in the UK.

# High Potential Trip!

47 Year 8 students attended the University of Birmingham to learn more about life at university.

It gave students an opportunity to observe what life after school and college would look like and how undergraduate students worked to reach their career path. Our students spoke to lecturers and students at the university and asked

them questions about how learning is different from school, what they were assessed on and how many lessons they had to attend during the week! Later, students were given a tour of the university: the library, lecture theatres and even some of the student accommodation.



They even had the chance to work as a team and were given the task to plan an invention. Students were creative with their ideas. Staff and others in attendance at the event commented on how imaginative Bristnall Hall students were. The winning group designed a 'Work Virtual' a VR programme that allowed students to test out careers before starting them! Overall, it was an eventful day for Year 8, providing them with an insight into life as a university student.

## Fascinating Physics

Year 8 students had the pleasure of a fantastic workshop led by Dave Bickley, the Lead Practitioner for Science, at Academy Transformation Trust.

The workshop, which focussed on the Laws of Sir Isaac Newton, gave students an exciting insight into laws that are fundamental in not just our understanding of physics but our understanding of the universe itself. Students took part in fascinating demonstrations such as igniting tea bag cases, collapsing cans using the pressure of air around us, as well as levitating objects using lift forces.

It was a great opportunity for our students to realise the enjoyment and fascination of Science and we are grateful to Dave Bickley for taking the time to visit us.



# Eco Bus

The Sandwell Eco bus is a refurbished double decker bus. As a centre piece, it provides fun, interactive and informative environmental workshops.



It supports students to learn about their environmental responsibilities including reducing, reusing and recycling waste. The bus enlightened our Year 8 students about the benefits of renewable energy and how it can be used. Students were ecstatic to have their turn on the bikes to power a toy racing track simply by cycling and generating electricity. Students were also given advice on renewable energy and sustainability, linking in with our Geography curriculum.

# JACK THE RIPPER

Students in Year 8 have been learning about the living conditions, crime and punishment in the late 19th century.

This was a time in British History when the living conditions were of a very poor standard, as a result of the Industrial Revolution. Industry boomed and cities like London saw a significant increase in its population. With that said, the British government did not have enough resources to improve the city. However, this was not the biggest problem to face 19th century London. There was a much bigger problem, Jack the Ripper. Students have been exploring the murders of Jack the Ripper and how the living conditions in London helped him get away with his murders.

In this lesson, students travelled back in time and took on the role of the famous H division. They learnt about the importance of law and order and used it to investigate various crime scenes to find clues and answers about the victims and the murderer.



Students used their problem-solving skills to eliminate the suspects down to one and write a police report on their findings. They were eager and extremely inquisitive when discussing the crime scene and used their knowledge from previous lessons when writing their informative report.



# FRANCESCA BARKER

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RHYTHMIC GYMNAST

Any skill, talent or aspiration takes months or even years to acquire. Year 9 student Francesca Barker has experienced this in the world of Rhythmic Gymnastics.

Francesca has shown her skills in both individual and team gymnastics. Some of her many highlights so far include British Espoir Squad member in 2013/14; a current member of the British Junior Squad; 2015 and 2016 British Club Team Champion; 2015 and 2016 British Junior Ball Group Champion, as well as many others as a team. Individually, she was the under 11 rope, hoop, ball and free champion. These show that she has determination and a huge passion for her sport. Francesca trains at the City of Birmingham Gym Club. As well as travelling up and down the UK to compete as an individual and group gymnast, her dedication for the sport has taken her around the world to countries like: Malta; Gibraltar; France; Romania and the Czech Republic. She has just returned from Amsterdam over the May bank holiday to compete in the Amsterdam Masters 2017 for England which is a mind-blowing accomplishment. Francesca started ballet classes at just 18 months of age

and gymnastics at the age of 5, after attending an Easter camp at Oldbury College of Sport. She was spotted by a coach who saw the amazing potential that she had to become a great rhythmic gymnast. Francesca is part of the British Junior Gymnastics Squad, meaning that she trains for four full days at Lillishall National Sports Centre in Telford, six times a year. Rhythmic Gymnastics is a sport in which gymnasts perform in a group of five or more, or individually. They do this by using several apparatuses such as ball; clubs; ribbon; hoop and rope. Alternatively, they could compete in free gymnastics which has no apparatus. A rhythmic gymnast must have a number of attributes such as strength, flexibility and agility as well as hand-eye coordination and many more. These take hours of practice in the gym every day which Francesca is doing. During weekdays, Francesca can start training at 4:00pm and finish at 9:00pm, meaning 5 hours of intense training after school.



As an athlete, Francesca must also consider her diet.  
A typical day for Francesca involves the following:

## FRANCESCA - MY SCHEDULE

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 7:30 - Get up and get ready for school.  | 16:30 - 17:00 - Warm up and Stretch.  |
| 8:00 - BREAKFAST<br>• Cereal with soya milk and some fruit<br>• Cup of tea   | 17:00 - 17:30 - Body elements.  |
| 8:25 - Dropped off at school.  | 17:30 - 18:00 - Apparatus handling, trying out new tricks.  |
| 12:40 - LUNCHTIME<br>• Ham/Chicken salad wrap<br>• Banana<br>• Yogurt<br>• Crisp (100 cals)<br>• Squash                        | 18:00 - 20:00 - Routines - running through all four routines with coaches and applying corrections and changes. |
| 15:30 - End of School.   | 20:00 - 20:50 - Conditioning programme and cool down.   |
| 15:40 - DINNER (usually in the car on the way to gym/dance)<br>• Roast Chicken<br>• Mash and Vegetables<br>• Yogurt<br>• Water | 20:50 - 21:00 - Coaches verdict on the session and any competition info.  |
| 16:15 - Arrive at GMac ready to train.   | 21:30 - Arrive home and have a SNACK<br>• Hummus<br>• Carrot sticks<br>• Pitta                                  |
|  | 22:00 - Shower.   |
|  | 22:30 - Bed.  |



## Big Bang

To celebrate British Science week, not only did students engage in a wide range of activities in lessons, but the Science department took fifty Year 9 students to the Big Bang Fair at the NEC in Birmingham.



The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair is the largest celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) for young people in the UK. It is an award-winning combination of exciting theatre shows, interactive workshops and exhibits and careers information from STEM professionals. The fair shows young people the exciting and rewarding opportunities out there for them with the right experience and qualifications, by bringing classroom learning to life. Staff and students had a fantastic day participating in the activities and visiting the demonstrations. A number of students had to cycle as fast as they could to create enough energy to boil water for a cup of tea! It was a great opportunity for students to immerse themselves in real life application of science they experience in the classroom.

## Mindfulness Me

Year 9 students took part in a Mindful Me programme where they learnt about simple stress reduction and mood lifting techniques.





# MASTERCHIEF MARINE

Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students were treated to a cookery lesson by Marine Commander Mike Beaton, who has served in the Royal Marines for over 30 years.

Mike is a fully qualified field chef from the fighting force who has travelled around the world and is now working to promote healthy eating and promote the Marines in schools.

Students were given a masterclass and advice on the importance and benefits of a balanced diet and how healthy foods were essential in fuelling the body with vital nutrients which will lead to a healthy lifestyle.

They then watched as Mike cooked up a storm, a healthy mouth-watering chicken curry packed with vegetables, before attempting to cook the delicious meal themselves.

This was a great session for our students, providing them with an insight into a career in catering, as well as the significance of healthy cooking and eating.

# Who Killed KD?

Before they began studying their Shakespeare text, students in Year 10 completed a range of interactive lessons to engage with the text.



One class completed a challenging murder mystery, to discover **Who Killed KD?**



'Who Killed KD?' is a complex group challenge that requires pupils to use teamwork and inference skills to understand and explore the evidence they find. The challenge begins with a chalk outline of a murdered victim with the letters 'KD' etched inside. Students must then use evidence, ranging from finger prints to witness testimonies, to produce a presentation whereby they explain who did what to whom and why? Another class participated in a series of drama driven lesson where they explored Shakespeare's use of language and presentation of themes. As the lesson progressed, the class discovered the rich history of Elizabethan/Jacobian society and delved into a time where treason, murder and greed were rampant in British society.

## Junior Chefs' Academy

Our newest BHA Junior Chefs' Academy graduates from University College Birmingham are Year 10 students, Leah Hadley and Peter Gazi.

The programme provides a great start for students interested in a career in food and culinary arts. Both Leah and Peter have been attending every Saturday over a ten-week period to learn new cooking skills with professional chef lecturers. During their final week, Leah and Peter worked as part of a big team to produce a two-course meal of roasted chicken breast with fondant potato and butternut squash puree and a decadent dessert, sticky toffee pudding! This was served up to their family and friends after their graduation ceremony. We are extremely proud of Leah and Peter. They are now in an excellent position for further culinary studies and careers in the hospitality/ food industry. Well done!





# Film exploration

In GCSE Film Studies, students have been exploring the Oscar winning film 'Tsotsi' (2005) as part of their exam on a film outside Hollywood.



They have been looking at character representation in the film and how they have been created through the use of props, costumes, lighting and camera work. In this lesson, the class took part in a market place activity where they looked at a 'Props and costumes department' gallery. When they visited each picture, students had to write down what they associated with that image and what it made them think of. The gallery was then taken down and the pictures distributed amongst each group. They then used the images to collaboratively discuss how these character representations were created through various forms of film language and which character it represented. By the end of the lesson, the class used the ideas collated from the activities to confidently complete an exam question.

## All hail Macbeth!

Year 11 students were treated to a remarkable performance of 'Macbeth' by the 'Box Clever Theatre Company'.

As part of revision for their GCSE Literature exam, students watched the entirety of Shakespeare's famous tragedy be performed by just three actors, on a simple wooden stage. This spine-chilling adaptation of Shakespeare's play used an imaginative and seamless combination of original text and vibrant modern-day speech, together with physical theatre to chart the devastating effect that one act of evil can have on an honourable and loyal man. Throughout the performance, the actors come out of character to engage with students. This interactivity ensured that the students were fully engaged with the production, characters and plot. Year 11 student Emily Smith commented on how "the performance appealed to the teenage audience perfectly and the great use of the text mixed with modern language made it very accessible. It was a fantastic production and excellent adaptation of the play." After the performance, students commented on how it was a great refresher for the exam.





# Every picture tells a story

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words and this really is the case with the master pieces created by Y11 students as part of their GCSE Art coursework.

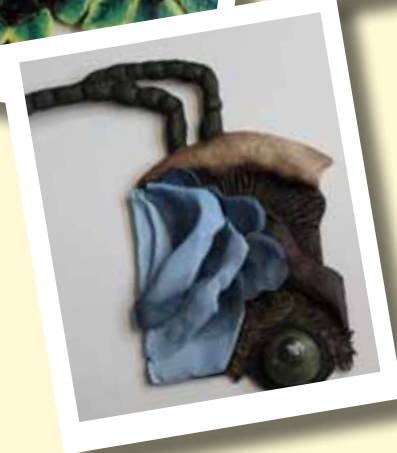
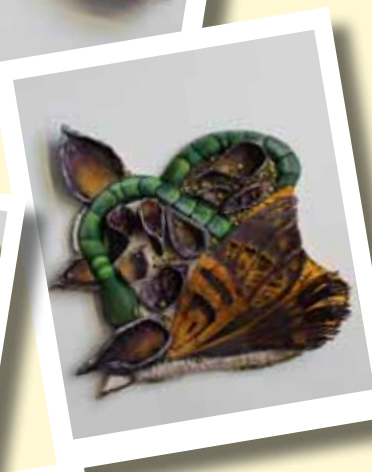
Natural form sculptures.



## Careers' Week

It was a hive of activity during Careers' Week at BHA.

Students spoke to a range of local employers and advisers who provided them with career guidance and support at an important stage in the academic calendar. We had representatives from a wide range of sectors: from the emergency services to business, consulting and management, as well as creative arts and design. Our students went away being more aware of their own employability skills and how these might be needed in the world of work. By using employer engagement to do this, students and teaching staff alike are more aware of the ever-growing number of careers available to them.





# Auschwitz

A-level students Joshua and Melissa in Year 13, were given the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland, where during World War 2, an estimated 1.1 million Jews and people of many other nationalities were imprisoned.

## **Joshua recounts the visit below:**

The experience of visiting the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum was poignant to say the least. For me, walking through the paths where millions of people endured horrific suffering, pain and death, made the visit ever more shocking. Reading about what the camp was like in books and listening to others talk about their experience of visiting the camp is nothing compared to seeing it all for myself. I saw the rail tracks that steamed in the victims from all corners of the country. I saw the buildings and boxed rooms where people suffocated. I saw the personal belongings

and photos of those who lost their lives. They were all individuals with skills: musicians, mathematicians, artists and poets. They all had something to give and instead their lives were taken away. They were real people and became victims of the Holocaust. It's hard to believe that this took place less than 75 years ago and such evil took place in a country not too far from the English Channel. It was an unbelievable experience and I would encourage everyone to take the time to visit Auschwitz and walk through such a significant and emotional place in history.

# Life after Bristnall

Name: Connor Read

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

My time at Bristnall Hall was very enjoyable because staff were very friendly and approachable which made me feel comfortable at school. I joined the football team in Y7 and continued throughout my school years. My favourite lessons were English, Spanish and P.E.

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

I continued my education in 6th form here at Bristnall where I studied Public Services and Sports.

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

A great achievement was passing my entrance exams for the RAF.

**What are you currently doing?**

Currently, I am mid-way through my training in the RAF.

I am training to become a fully qualified Aircraft Mechanical Mechanic, this has allowed me to travel abroad.

**Future career path:**

I will be going back to complete my training in the next 12 months but am hopeful to re-train which will enable me to study the electrical mechanics of aircrafts.

**Words of advice for students:**

Study hard and you can achieve your goals.



## 'Thank you' from Danielle and Jordan

In the last issue of 'SMART' 6th form students Danielle and Jordan told us all about Project Trust and how they had been chosen to volunteer in South Africa, looking after vulnerable young people in care homes and hospitals.

In order to go, they both needed to raise a large sum of money. A lot of fundraising activities have taken place since September, from cake sales to raffles prizes. We are pleased to announce that both students have raised over £12,000 and will be making this life changing journey and experience in the summer. AMAZING! Thank you to all those who donated, your generosity is very much appreciated. And a special thanks to Miss. Taylor, from Danielle and Jordan, who has helped us with various fundraising activities from the start.



## Football Round up

### INVINCIBLE!

Both Year 7 and 9 football teams are still unbeaten this season.

Both year groups have recorded 5 victories and 1 draw in the 6 games they have played in so far. Both years have 1 league game left to play and are still in the cup competitions.

Finally, the Year 11 team lost in the first round of the cup, losing a close game to Ormiston Sandwell (the team was unlucky and should have won the game).

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## Dodgeball

### A CLASS ACT!

Congratulations to our Year 10 team who finished second out of 6 teams.

They are now through to represent Sandwell. Amazing!



### New Kit!

Thank you to Premier League for our new football strip!



## Cricket Round up

### Exceptional Performance!

After 6 weeks of free training from Staffordshire County Cricket, 8 boys from Years 7 -10 competed in the Staffordshire County Indoor Cricket Competition.

Students performed exceptionally and despite our best efforts, BHA finished 5th out of the 6 teams.