

Put a date in the diary!

# OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 15th September 2015  
From 6pm-8pm

# OPEN WEEK

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Mon 21st Sept to Thurs 24th Sept 2015

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# smart

Bristnall Hall Academy Magazine Issue 2 | July 2015



Summer's coming...

Also inside this issue...EAL Homework club - Blog it - Work Experience!

# Welcome back!

It has been an amazing year at Bristnall Hall so far and it has been an absolute pleasure to see our superb students make progress in and out of the classroom. What has been particularly pleasing has been the dedication shown by students and staff involved with examination groups.



The work ethic our young people are developing will ensure that they are well prepared for the next steps in their education and working lives. The results we achieve in the summer will be a springboard to achieving our goal of being an outstanding academy with the support of our sponsor, the Academy Transformation Trust.

Outside of lessons, we continue to be a hive of activity with students getting involved in Sports, Dance, Music, Film and other activities. These are areas we will be developing further next year and our new academy day and week structure will allow us to do that as well as give students sufficient time for lessons in key subjects.

Our young people have also had opportunities to visit some fantastic places through subject and extra-curricular trips with more overseas opportunities than ever before. The feedback I get from places visited is overwhelmingly positive about how polite and well behaved our students are. Bristnall Hall continues to make links with local and national employers and higher education establishments and this will continue into the next year as we prepare our students fully for their future lives.

Looking forward to next year I am delighted to inform you that we have continued to appoint outstanding teachers for our young people from September 2015, which will add to an already excellent team. Year 7 is oversubscribed meaning that we are an academy of choice for local families. We continue to make improvements to our facilities and learning resources and if you would like to visit, do contact us to make an appointment to witness our community at work.

Have a superb summer and thank you for your support.

**Vince Green**  
Principal

## Air Mail

The Wilson class had been demonstrating their letter writing skills in lesson last term, they thought it would be interesting to tie their letters to balloons and release them into the local community.

To our surprise, one balloon was found by a family who were looking for their lost cat. The kind owner responded to our letter informing us that it travelled all the way to Northamptonshire. She was kind enough to send a letter back accompanied by a sweet treat for the writers.



# EAL Homework Club

EAL Homework club is held every Wednesday after school for one hour and aims to support students who have recently moved to the UK and have English as an additional language.



Staff and students work together in a relaxed environment, sharing knowledge and skills to ensure homework tasks are understood and completed. When all homework is complete, students enjoy playing games that encourage social skills and many new friendships are made.

• Navpreet Kaur, Year 8 who has moved to the UK from Italy says "We have extra help in homework club. We have also enjoyed making new friends. Homework club helps me to understand the subjects and we have fun while we are learning."

• Eva Awuyah, Year 7 who has also recently moved to the UK from Italy says "Homework club is fun because you can meet your friends and have a lot of fun while doing your work."



**We have extra help in homework club.  
We have also enjoyed making new friends.**

Navpreet Kaur



# The Woman in Black

Peer teaching on the context of The Woman in Black.

Peer teaching is a strategy whereby students interact and work with other students in the classroom to help each other learn.

In order for Year 11 to understand the themes within the novel, they were all put into groups and given specific information packs about the context in which The Woman in Black was set in, from the role of women in 19th century Britain, to the belief in the supernatural.

Once the groups had thoroughly studied their information, they then turned what they had learned into a visual display. This display was then used by a group member to peer teach other members of the class about the specific contextual area they were given.

The remaining students visited other learning stations and 'teachers' ran by other groups, and learned about the other key contextual areas.

With everyone in each group now an expert in a particular area, students then relayed the information they learned about the contextual area they visited, back to their groups.

This peer teaching, carousel lesson was an extremely effective learning tool for students as it gave them ownership of their learning, allowed them to consider different points of view and interpretations in an interactive manner, as well as being solely student led.



# Crime Scene...

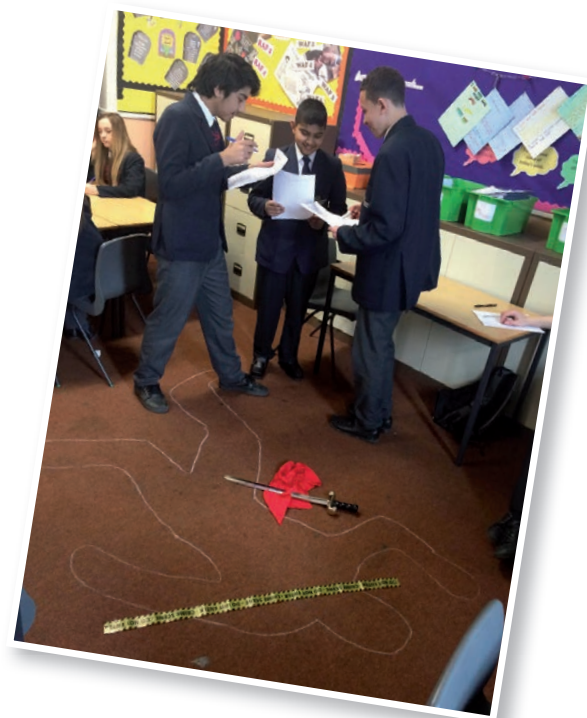
Students entered a crime scene and became analysts in order to solve a murder.

In the middle of the room was the outline of the victim surrounded by bloody swords and the victim's clothing was also lying on the floor. Parts of the script were also analysed in order to find out the perpetrator's motives. Students used the clues provided and were able to interpret the information in order to solve the crime of how Julius Caesar died.



Today's lesson was really enjoyable. We were able to solve a crime from the past so it was fun and educational.

Rhianna Deeming



# Blog it!

Media student, Aaron Garcia's London trip experience.



## Day 1 - BBC/ Planet Hollywood

Our journey to Euston Station was an interesting experience and was certainly an eye opener. Once off the train, we had what was, for most of us, our first experience on the London Underground. It was way less crowded than all of us expected but sometimes we had some people sitting on each other's laps. We soon arrived at the Premier Inn and some of us were already locked out of our rooms...a great start to the trip(!). The next outing was the highlight of the day - a tour of the BBC. As we're taking Film Studies, it was especially interesting seeing the behind the scenes aspects of the TV we love to watch every day. Also, it was somewhat more interactive than most tours as some of us got to read the news and perform a radio drama. Miss Simms and Ms Begum met Trevor Nelson but, sadly, the meeting of celebrities ended there. Content with our experience, we headed to the well renowned restaurant, Planet Hollywood, which was rife with famous film memorabilia and even had the handprints of many familiar faces including George Clooney and Jackie Chan.

## Day 2 - Bond in Motion/Pizza Hut

We left for the film museum which focused on James Bond. All of the famous Aston Martin cars used in the films were exceedingly interesting and drew us all in quickly. It was enthralling to see how significant storyboarding was in films. We saw all of the sights like the typical tourists we so obviously were. Buckingham Palace was royally regal and gold galore. It was fit for a Queen! Big Ben was huge in person but the best view was the London skyline we see in films: it really was incredible in the flesh. We passed 10 Downing Street but sadly, David Cameron did not show. Soldiers with serious faces looked permanently judgemental and didn't laugh at anything although I'm sure they were dying to burst. By the end of the day we all became experts on The Tube and could have happily lived a Londoner's lifestyle.

## Day 3 - BBFC/ Forbidden Planet (finally)/ Home

Sadly, it was time to pack up and leave The City of Film that is London. We had to wait some time before we were allowed access to the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification). When we got there, we attended a seminar held by Heidi Rendon, a film examiner. The seminar was helpful and enjoyable and all of us learned at least one fact. For example, The BBFC classifies 955 films a year yet only 10 people work there. After that, we travelled to a long awaited destination: Forbidden Planet. This time we actually arrived and I must say it was rather fascinating. It had everything a film fan could ever dream of, including a wide array of comics, actions figures painted with incredible detail and much more. After leaving Fan Heaven, we headed for the Tube to embark on our last tube journey which was quite emotional as we were just getting used to the bumpy ride. We are now finishing this on the train and we can say this was a truly exhilarating educational trip and we would love to come again next year (hint hint).



# Commemorative Centenary

The 4th of August 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the day Britain entered one of the costliest conflicts in history - the First World War - with fighting continuing until the 11th of November 1918, Armistice Day.

During the Christmas period pupils of the Academy paid their respects to those who have fought and died in wars, past and present. Within lessons pupils participated in a game of football to commemorate the unofficial ceasefire in No Man's Land on Christmas Day, 1914, where German and Allied soldiers shared greetings, treats and a game of football. Pupils sported stickers on their bibs replicating the badges worn on the uniforms by British and German soldiers, whilst they also marked the start of the game by singing our National Anthem. Many of the games inevitably ended with penalties, but on some occasions, surprisingly, the team wearing the colours of the British were able to overcome the old enemy.



# Little Dragons

On Tuesday 3rd February 2015, Bristnall Hall students were visited by Little Dragons for a taster afternoon of Mandarin. Forty Year 7 students were selected to take part in the enrichment activity.

Students were introduced to the phonetic sounds of Mandarin, had a go at speaking to each other with basic greetings and even learned to count to 100. The students had a hands-on demonstration of writing Mandarin characters, and got a little messy with making up their own ink in order to create a door plaque for the Chinese New Year. These all looked very effective and the students clearly enjoyed making their own ink and writing Chinese characters with authentic Chinese calligraphy brushes. After an afternoon full of activities, each student enjoyed a refreshing cup of jasmine tea, a Chinese speciality and were able to reflect on what they had learned. The students clearly enjoyed this activity and are still speaking Mandarin now!



# Choctastic!

On Thursday 18th December Year 9 Geographers visited Cadbury World, Bournville to investigate Cadbury as a global business.

We attended an excellent educational talk from a member of the Cadbury World team who shared with us the different business links Cadbury has. We also found out that cocoa is becoming a rare commodity and the price of chocolate is likely to rise dramatically!

It was then time to taste the chocolate; as we wondered around the exhibition, we learnt about the history of Cadbury and about the different products they produce. We also had sample bars to eat and got to invent our own chocolate. Finally, we visited the new 4D cinema experience and were left with our hearts pumping as we were taken on a rollercoaster ride around a chocolate wonderland.

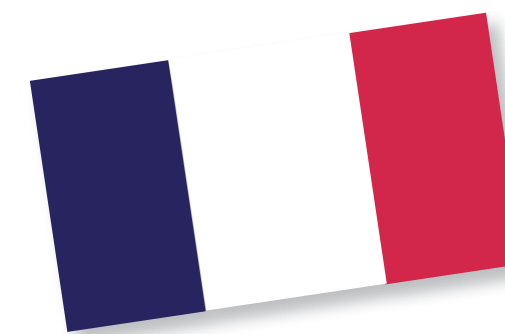
A great time was had by all students and staff.



# MFL Games

In January, as part of the Primary Liaison Programme, Bristnall Hall's Modern Foreign Languages department visited Bleakhouse Primary to deliver some French sessions to two Year 5 classes.

During the sessions, students took part in exciting and challenging activities, including card games, a board game and even a very energetic game of 'Jacques a dit...', the French version of 'Simon Says...'. The sessions were both interactive and engaging and the students not only developed their language skills, but also had a taste of how fun learning a new language actually is! Jo Cutler, one of the Year 5 teachers said, "The children thoroughly enjoyed the session and they were engaged throughout. They commented that it was fun playing games to help them learn and want to do more language learning in this practical way. As teachers we are inspired to adapt the way we teach French!" We were really impressed with the attitude and effort of all of the Year 5 students and the MFL department look forward to welcoming as many of these budding linguists as possible at Bristnall Hall Academy in the future! Well done everyone!





# SPoCC

A former student of Bristnall Hall Academy, Adam Hancox, 25, was tragically killed in a car accident on the 23rd November 2014. Before his death, Adam was raising money for the charity 'SPoCC', which offers support to children treated at Birmingham Children's Hospital suffering with cancer and their families.

As part of fundraising he climbed Ben Nevis with his best friend, Jack Hughes, another former student of Bristnall Hall, as part of the 'Three Peaks Challenge', just one month before his death. Jack said that Adam had urged him to finish the Ben Nevis challenge when he felt as if he could not go on. Although Adam went on to complete the 'Three Peaks Challenge', Jack floundered and only accomplished two of the peaks. However, after Adam's death, Jack vowed to complete the final mountain, Snowdon, as an emotional tribute to his best friend.

Therefore, on 5th April 2015, a group of Adam's family and friends, including employees of Bristnall Hall, completed the challenge by climbing Snowdon in memory of Adam. Bristnall Hall Academy's staff and students have helped with fundraising towards SPoCC and are well on their way to reaching £1,000. Once the fundraising is complete all money will be given to SPoCC. Adam's original target was to raise £500 but now the figure currently stands at a staggering £6,280, with Bristnall Hall Academy's donation. If you would like to donate to this worthy charity, please visit: [www.justgiving.com/Adam-Hancox](http://www.justgiving.com/Adam-Hancox)



## Year 10 Catering

Year 10 Catering students have been given the opportunity to do an online Food Hygiene course as part of their Catering coursework.

Three of our students have already passed this and will be getting a certificate that will be valid for three years within the next few weeks:

- Sophie Smith** 10BX
- Amandeep Manku** UGT
- Vijay Lagaha** 10TX



## Year 11 Catering

During January and February the Year 11 Catering students carried out their practical assessment.

This involves planning, preparing, cooking and serving a two-course meal for two covers based on an "International Cuisine" theme. All students completed this assessment with special efforts being made by Kayleigh Bagley, Naqib Ahmed and Denilson Gray-Robinson. Denilson is hoping to move on to attend UCB to pursue a career in Catering following in the footsteps of many of our previous students.

Below are photographs of some earlier examples of dishes produced for the Catering exam.



## House Charity Cake Sale Fundraiser!

The Heads of Brindley, Darby and Telford organised a staff cake sale to raise money for their individual charities.

Some staff went the extra mile to bake beautiful cakes and were generous when contributing to the charity funds. We want to thank everyone for their generosity and we will be holding future cake sales in the future.



# What a... BHAmazing Idea!

Launched during Global Entrepreneurship Week UK - 17th November, the BHA Enterprise Weeks Programme is designed to embed work related learning and employability skills into the curriculum to support the BHA Outstanding Skills and Attributes.

During those two weeks there was a focus on skills such as Team-work, Communication, Problem-solving, Leadership and Time-management to highlight the skills that employers are telling us that young people lack in the workplace. There was also a student competition called "Got a BHAmazing idea?" inviting students to tell us what they think would make BHA an even more amazing academy, with great prizes such as an iPad and Street Style Headphones as prizes for the winning entries. Parents and staff were also invited to enter the competition (minus the prizes though!) giving everyone the opportunity to have their say. The finalists pitched their ideas to a panel of (almost) celebrity judges that included school governors and the Principal himself. The standard of presentations was excellent, but the judges eventually decided that the winning entry was from Lucy Hunt, Year 8 - with the idea of having an 'International Day' within school to raise awareness of different cultures and nationalities, which will be implemented during Enrichment Week. Well Done to Lucy and to all of the other finalists who put in so much hard work. EES would like to thank Chapmans Electrical Ltd of Cradley Heath for kindly donating the headphones.



## Peer Mentor Programme

I joined the Peer Mentor Programme at the beginning of term along with eight other students from Year 9 because I wanted to help the new Year 7's settle into academy life, I remember how hard it could be at times.

As Peer Mentors we are here to listen to their problems and help sort them out from the tiniest to the more serious. Our first half term was taken up with training and guidance from the senior Year 11 mentors and helping put together our new 'Peer Mentor Topic Ten' a programme of 10 minute talks that we will give on topics such as bullying, detentions, behaviour and uniform. If you are in Year 7 look out for us in the playground and around the academy, you can tell us by our Peer Mentor 'star' badges.

Meghan James 9DX



# LionHeart Challenge

The LionHeart Challenge is a Nationwide Enterprise Programme, acclaimed by Sir Howard Davies MBE (former Director of The London School of Economics & Political Science) and was chosen as a National Flagship by the National Learning & Skills Council for Enterprise.

During the last few years the programme has been delivered to over 250,000 pupils up and down the 9 regions of the country. This year, the challenge has been sponsored by West Midlands Police and ninety Year 9 students from Bristnall Hall Academy were given the chance to participate on Thursday 12th February.

The whole LionHeart Team of business-people who came into Bristnall Hall to work with our students said what a delight and privilege they found it. The input of the students to the challenge was truly outstanding and in addition to our own team, all of the Judges, including Inspector Rebecca Barnsley from West Midlands Police and our business-people from CIMA and CIM (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and Chartered Institute of Marketing), were really impressed with the students' enthusiasm and quality of input, throughout the whole day of taking part in the challenge.

Congratulations to the winning team who devised community monitoring flowerpots 'Snitch pot?' and will now represent BHA at the regional final.

## Premier League Challenge

A respectable second place!

The Premier League Enterprise Challenge is an annual event where Premier League and Football League Club Community Organisations delivering Premier League Enterprise initiatives, schools, community groups and young people take part in an exciting national competition. Now in its sixth year, the Premier League Enterprise Challenge is supported by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills and has become an important milestone in the Premier League Communities events calendar. Over 8,000 young people have taken part in the challenge to date. The competition is aimed at providing pupils aged 14-19 years old with the opportunity to learn basic principles of business and self-employment through interactive learning opportunities. The Barclays Premier League Chief Executive, Richard Scudamore, set this year's

challenge, which was for the teams to imagine that they worked in a club's Sales and Marketing Department and had to increase the number of families attending home matches. Albion's Sales and Marketing Director, Adrian Wright, kicked off the proceedings with a rousing speech designed to motivate the groups, before they were asked to deliver presentations to a panel of five judges from Midlands Heart, The Albion Foundation and Ice Blue Design & Marketing. The judges initially struggled to pick a winner taking over 30 minutes to reach a decision. Our team of amazing Year 12 students took a very respectable second place. Speaking after the event, James Long, The Albion Foundation's Enterprise Co-ordinator said: "The challenge was a great success, with over 500 participants taking part. The standard of the presentations were incredible and all of the schools and colleges taking part should be very proud."



# The Experience of Success!

Bristnall Hall students completed work experience in February with 96% of Year 10 students securing a placement.

Work experience is crucial for young people and those who have experienced the workplace and work related activities are 5 times less likely to be not in education, training or employment post 16. Learning in the workplace allows young people to develop skills and it can motivate and inspire them. It has been a big step for some of our students but they have really risen to the challenge. From a residential week with the army to experiences of large employers such as Metsec, Geopost, Asda, Sandwell Council and Costa Coffee and to small, local businesses such as RePC, Solair Ltd and Ace Embroidery, our students have enjoyed a varied week of work experience. Some students even completed two weeks of work experience!

We have received some amazing feedback about our students: "I would advise if he chose the Armed forces for a career to look at taking the Officer route" Sgt McCosh reporting about Yohan Lutchmeenaraidoo. Govind Dewitt spent his week at Sandwell Council and they were so impressed with him that they asked the Mayor of Sandwell to present him with his work experience certificate!



## Work Experience Hall of Fame

Fantastic feedback has been received about the following students:

- Aimee Asquith** - The Botanical Gardens
- Emma Bassi** - The Orchard School
- Amy Chetwynd** - Uplands Manor Primary School
- Govind Dewitt** - Sandwell Council House
- Arron Finnegan** - Uplands Manor Primary School
- Aaron Garcia** - The Botanical Gardens
- Alcina Henry** - Costa Coffee
- Shrishti Kamboj** - Asda
- Hong Yit Kok** - Metsec
- Bethany Leek** - Uplands Manor Primary School
- Yohan Lutchmeenaraidoo** - Army
- Amandeep Manku** - Uplands Manor Primary School
- Mason Marshall** - Arnold Clarke
- Karl McDonald** - RePc
- Ryan Price** - The Botanical Gardens
- Aldair Sanchez** - Cabrera - Asda
- Aisha-Kelsey Sheikh** - Prison Link
- Gurvinder Takhar** - Toby Carvery
- Annie Turley** - The Botanical Gardens
- Storm Walker** - Manor Vets
- Morgan Weston** - Sandon Dental Care

# Happy 100th Birthday Beatie!

Two Year 11 students, who are studying Health & Social Care in the Academy's Learning Support Unit, visited Beatie for her Hundredth Birthday to gather information for their coursework..

Francesca Spratt and Molly Ramsbottom visited Beatie at her home in Sutton Coldfield where Beatie was keen to show the students, the items that she used to help her manage her visual impediment, for example daily newspapers which are delivered on audio tape.

Beatie welcomed Francesca and Molly and openly discussed her involvement in the Second World War and her family life as she grew up in and around the Midlands. Beatie showed them a birthday card from the Queen, pictures of her family and a recent photograph taken of herself with Prince Andrew. Francesca and Molly were impressed at how independent and alert Beatie was and is...travelling around on buses visiting friends and family and getting her own shopping!

To celebrate this memorable occasion Molly and Francesca made Beatie a 2 metre long banner in Art Deco style to hang up for her BIG birthday celebration. Beatie said she really enjoyed the girls' company, reminiscing her past and chatting about her forthcoming birthday party.



# Gifted & Talented

## Historical Ghost Hunt Trip to Tutbury Castle, Burton-On-Trent

As part of our continuing programme of support and enrichment for our Gifted and Talented students we organised a Christmas Trip to Tutbury Castle. A History Ghost Hunt was an ideal opportunity to learn beyond the classroom and to form home-academy partnerships. Tutbury Castle offers a range of public speakers and we experienced two speakers portraying two luminous characters from history; The Torturer's presentation was set in the Torture Room and was supported by an array of torture items and period accurate equipment. It was here that some of our students experienced an unexplained push in the back! A public speaker dressed as Charles I was the second speaker. At the end of his presentation we were taken into The King's Bedroom where Mrs Barrie, Mrs Harris, Miss Walker and some former students experienced some strange happenings in December 2010! This year it was Mr Green's turn!

The visit created enthusiasm in History. Students were keen to do further research on crime, punishment and Charles I.

## What did students and parents think about the Year 11 Celebration Evening for the 'Forward Thinking Programme' at Birmingham University?

Some of our Gifted and Talented students have been part of this programme since Year 8 and now see University as a real option.

**Student:** "The programme gave me the motivation to concentrate on my studies further and push myself in them to achieve what other students are achieving."

**Parent:** "The event has enabled my daughter to pursue high levels of work in both her academic and art subjects. Pride is now continuously taken in her work in order for her to achieve a path to a good university, which she has expanded her learning on at this event... I liked the welcoming atmosphere that came with the event. I found the motivational speaker very inspiring and I thought overall, he made the event extremely enjoyable and uplifting. The support of the staff towards their students was highly recognisable, the interaction between teachers and students gave a positive vibe to the event."

# 'Life after Bristnall'

**Name:** Joseph Sturman

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

**(Favourite subject/teachers/memories)**

- Good friends: it's been great to keep in touch with loads of people from Bristnall over the past 5 years.
- Good teachers: Mrs Churm/Harris, Miss Greatrex, Mr Liddle and Mrs Marston are the most committed teachers I have had throughout my education right through to the present day. I wouldn't be where I am today without them.

- Funny Memories! Pigeons flying into music classes; fish and chips on a Thursday evening with Nitin and Mr Wattley while finishing our GCSE woodwork projects; Words and Music evenings.

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

Went to University of Birmingham to study Medicine and completed an intercalated degree in Medical Science.

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

Obtaining a 1st Class Intercalated Degree in Medical Science from the University of Birmingham Working in a medical clinic through a Christian organisation in Bolivia giving me an opportunity to keep up my Spanish and learn how to use medicine to care for people in a resource-poor setting.



**What are you currently doing?:**

Continuing to study medicine at the University of Birmingham (due to graduate in 2017 if I pass!) Future career path: I hope to finish my degree and begin work as a junior doctor in the NHS in Birmingham

**Words of advice for students:**

Being kind is actually more important than being cool or a know-it-all. Be kind to everyone around you and you won't get much trouble from others. You will succeed more if you're kind because you learn more by helping each other and learning together than trying to be cool or act like you know it all. Keep your head down and work hard while you have the opportunity, I definitely don't regret it!

## Year 11 Maths Intervention

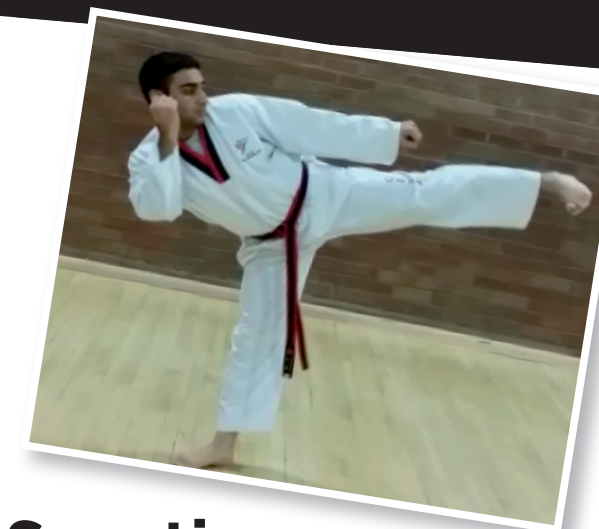
A fantastic response by students and parents to the introduction of 'Period 6 Wednesdays' offering an extra Maths lesson to all Year 11 students. Period 6 extended the day to 4.10pm and allowed students access to high quality, well-structured Maths lessons delivered by Maths professionals. Year 11 students embraced this opportunity which further developed their Maths skills and ensured they entered their GCSE exams with confidence.



## Girls' Rugby Festival

15 girls from Key Stage 3 were invited to attend the West Midlands Girls' Rugby Festival held at nearby Warley Rugby Club.

The girls were given expert coaching on key rugby skills and then had plenty of opportunities to put them into match situations. They were joined by 8 other schools which created an excellent atmosphere and enjoyment of the game. Warley rugby club offer sessions for girls every Wednesday Evening from 6.30pm at the club on Tat Bank Road. If your daughter would like more details, they can either turn up at the sessions or speak to Miss Taylor for more information.



## Sporting Statement

Hi my name is Ramandeep Mann. I have been doing Taekwondo for 10 years starting at the age of 7.

I am currently a red belt black tag which is the belt just before black. I started Taekwondo because my mum wanted me to learn self-defence and I really enjoyed the sport which has not only taught me self-defence but I have accomplished many achievements within the sport. I won my first competition at the age of 8 coming first in the North England 2007 Championships in sparring. I have won various levels of competition from local regional up to the British championships in sparring.

## Key Stage 4 Basketball Team Outshine Sandwell Academy!

The key stage 4 Basketball team have had a productive and successful season after finishing 4th in the league out of 12 schools which is an improvement on last year's final standings.

The team, consisting of both Year 10 and 11 students, has shown determination, ability and a good team spirit when playing against some very good basketball teams. The highlight of their season was beating Sandwell Academy in a thrilling encounter. The boys deserve recognition and praise for their success and I thank them for giving up their time to represent the Academy!

