



Bristnall Sport

Sports Day

This year's 'Sports Day' was based at the academy and proved to be a great success.

The final result was:

Brindley	598
Darby	578
Telford	507



Rounders

The BHA girls' rounders teams have had a successful season in the Sandwell Schools' league.

Competing against schools including St Michaels, Oldbury Academy, Perryfields and Ormiston Forge, the girls have developed their skills and understanding of the game along with gaining vital match play experience. Well done girls!



Table Tennis Hub

We have recently joined a partnership with Wood Green High School to deliver high quality table tennis to our students.

The club runs once a week straight after school at a cost of £1.00 a session, where pupils receive coaching from a specialised coach who is currently ranked within the top 50 players in the country! The club has already proven a big hit and is something we hope to continue to build on in the future.

smart

Bristnall Hall Academy Magazine Issue 3 | September 2015

Most improved school in Sandwell

**A brighter future...
The results issue!**

Also inside this issue...The Pride of Bristnall Awards Ceremony!



The Future's Bright... The Future's Bristnall!

Welcome to our latest edition of Smart. We hope that you had a superb summer break. Our summer was an amazing one. Bristnall Hall students achieved the strongest set of GCSE and A Level results ever.

Our GCSE results are the most improved in Sandwell in terms of progress and attainment. These qualifications have given our young people great opportunities as they embark on further study, apprenticeships or enter the world of work. Excellent qualifications coupled with the BHA skills and attributes our students develop will set them apart from others in a competitive job market.

The academy achieved an amazing 100% pass rate at A Level and almost half of these passes were A*-B grades. These high grades have resulted in the majority of students achieving university places. Results across the academy indicate that we are well on course to become an outstanding academy in the near future.

We have continued to update our learning facilities and resources to support the high quality teaching and learning that takes place here. We will strive to continually improve the environment around the academy in the same way that we will tirelessly strive to improve other aspects of the academy.

I have been delighted to welcome our new Year 7 and Year 12 students and our outstanding new teachers to the academy.

We are very proud of being an academy of choice for great students and great teachers. We continue to make links with higher education establishments and employers to support our students, charitable events and academy initiatives.

Free breakfasts are available to all students this year, supported by the generosity of Warburtons' bakery. Thank you to them and all of our partners.

The academy community raised significant funds for good causes last year and this will continue throughout the coming months as we look to do all we can to improve the lives of others. I am looking forward to seeing our young people get involved in this work alongside our extensive extra-curricular programme.

Bristnall Hall Academy is a happy, warm, purposeful school. If you would like to visit, do contact us to make an appointment to witness our community at work.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Vince Green
Principal



What a result!

Students and staff at Bristnall Hall Academy are celebrating after a strong set of GCSE results and a positive set of A-Level results.



GCSE Results

The results demonstrate a great improvement in every indicator, with significant increases in students' attainment and progress in English and Mathematics. Two thirds of students in English and in Mathematics achieved A*-C grades. Many students can now look forward to starting their A Level studies at Bristnall Hall Sixth Form. There were several high performing students who achieved outstanding portfolios of qualifications of consistent A* and A grades. Candra George and Victoria Bruce (pictured) are celebrating 10 A*/A grades EACH.

Principal, Vince Green, said:

"Our Year 11 students have performed superbly this year and these results reflect the hard work of the young people and the excellent Bristnall Hall staff. This cohort have set an amazing example of what can be achieved through a strong work ethic and a positive attitude. These qualifications will give our students massive opportunities now and in the future."

Ian Cleland, Chief Executive Officer of Academy Transformation Trust, said:

"I am delighted with the 10 per cent improvement in students achieving 5 A*-C including English and Maths at Bristnall Hall and I am particularly impressed with the progress made by all students including those from disadvantaged backgrounds."

"Students have far exceeded expectations in the progress they have made since entering the academy which is much better than national expectation. We wish students all the best for their future education."

A-Level Results

The results demonstrate an improvement in every indicator with significant increases in A*- B grades. These results have secured students' chosen next steps, with the majority of students securing a place at their first choice of university.

Principal, Vince Green, said

"Our sixth formers have performed superbly this year and it is especially pleasing to see more achieve top A-level grades than ever before. The guidance from our excellent Bristnall Hall Staff and small group sizes have been key to these significant improvements."

Ian Cleland, Chief Executive Officer of Academy Transformation Trust, said:

"We are delighted with the excellent results at Bristnall Hall Academy in both A-level and vocational equivalent subjects. 100 per cent of pupils achieving A-level or equivalent passes is a tremendous achievement and reflects the hard work and commitment of students and staff."

"It is particularly impressive that 92 per cent of students achieved two A-level passes and 46 per cent three A-level passes with fantastic outcomes in higher level passes with half of students achieving the highest grades. This shows a significant improvement on last year. Well done to everyone."

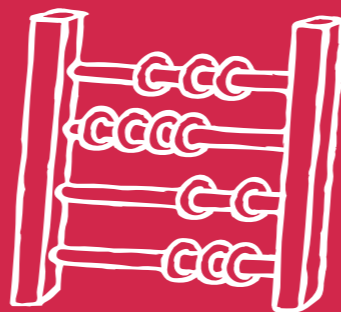


High Attainers

On Thursday 9th and Friday 10th July, Bristnall Hall Academy invited Year 5 high attaining students from three of our primary feeder schools: Moat Farm Junior School, Uplands Manor Primary School and Abbey Junior School.

On Thursday 9th July, students enjoyed interactive learning through algebra with Bristnall Hall's Mathematics Lead Practitioner, Mr. Burrowes and Assistant Area leader, Miss Bassi. Miss Snaddon, a Year 5 teacher at Uplands Manor Primary School, who accompanied her students, tweeted "We had a fab day! Lots of algebraic discussions on our walk back to school!" Friday 10th July was over to

English where Bristnall Hall's lead practitioner in English, Mrs. Chivers, and our literacy co-ordinator and English teacher, Mrs. Billingham engaged students using problem-solving skills to complete an investigation. Feedback from all students for both days was overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to future collaboration with our primary school feeder schools.





Actively Green...

Frank Chapman Outdoor Education Centre is part of Sandwell's Residential Educational Service, who run four, high quality specialist centres in terrific locations, providing a wide range of residential and day-visit learning experiences for groups of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

The Frank Chapman Outdoor Education Centre, in Bewdley, has been supporting Bristnall Hall for several years. Predominately targeted towards our Year 7 cohort, but in the past we have taken a mix of Years 7, 8 and 9. Frank Chapman offers a residential trip with high quality adventure activities provided by the centre, which runs all sorts of courses including climbing, canoeing, orienteering, bushcraft and archery.

This year nineteen of our Year 7 students stayed in 'glamping' pods which are like posh wooden tents! Each of the students shared a pod which comprised four bunk beds. It was like a holiday adventure away from home, learning through new and exciting activities.

Some of the activities enjoyed this year included mountain biking in and around the forest and open water canoeing. This is always a hit along the river Severn. Students also gained their Paddle Power accreditation stage 1 which is where some of our Olympian canoeists started! We also overcame our fear of heights and climbed the high ropes and towers. We worked as a team to abseil down with an exhilarating view across the forest as we descended back to the ground.

We also learnt survival tips for living in a forest, building shelters, making fires and cooking our dinner. The best bit was camping out in the forest in our shelter made from nothing but sticks and bracken found in the forest! Edward Michael "Bear" Grylls eat your heart out!

Mathematics in Paris

In July 2015, Year 8 ventured out on a trip to the cosmopolitan French capital, Paris.

The students were able to explore mathematical conundrums all around them, just waiting to be solved. NST's Mathematics created a fantastic opportunity for our younger students to be able to bring the city's mathematical themes to life. The trip covered a wide range of learning outcomes and gave our students the opportunity to absorb the many famous attractions in this 'city of light'.



FUN FACT

Did you know the Eiffel tower is 30cm taller in summer than in winter? You do the Maths! Or is it Physics?



Shakespeare is alive in Year 8!

For two days this term, Year 8 students took part in a series of Shakespeare workshops, incorporating both drama and music, with a professional theatre company.

The students produced a ninety minute version of A Midsummer Night's Dream (which they have studied in English this year) including costume, music and improvisation! All students had the opportunity to perform and to experiment with staging and using the words of Shakespeare in front of an audience.

The workshops not only gave students the opportunity to work with a professional theatre company, but also the chance to develop their understanding of Shakespeare's language. This is a skill which they will continue to develop throughout their time at Bristnall Hall. Students used costumes from real theatres, including the RSC, and worked with a professional musician to incorporate percussion music into their performances.





Sahdia Bi, Victoria Inott, Jeyashalini Jeyaprathees and Madison Johnson made up our winning team who then went on to represent BHA at the RTS Grand Final on Thursday 18th June which was hosted by BBC Birmingham. The challenge gave students the chance to be creative and design a new TV programme and the winning team from each school took part in the Grand Final.

RTS Grand Final

On Friday 6th March 2015, our Year 9 Media students participated in the school heat of the 'Royal Television Society's Careers in Media Challenge' here at Bristnall Hall Academy.

The programme is run by Royal Television Society, Midlands Centre, to raise awareness for the variety of jobs there are in the television industry and to help students develop essential transferable skills which will prepare them for the world of work.



The judges were:

- Isabel Clarke**
Chair RTS Midlands Centre
- William Gallagher**
The Writers Guild
- David Jennings**
Head of BBC Birmingham
- Dorothy Hobson**
Vice Chair, RTS Midlands
- Jenny Wilkes**
Project Manager, BBC Birmingham

The finalists were from the following schools:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bristnall Hall Academy, Sandwell | Charlton Academy, Wellington |
| King Charles I School, Kidderminster | SCA Academy, Walsall |
| Holly Lodge, Sandwell | Stourport High, Stourport |
| Wednesfield High, Wednesfield | St Benedicts, Alcester |
| Blue Coat Academy, Walsall | Baxter College, Kidderminster |

The winning team were Wednesfield High.

POB Awards

On Tuesday 7th July, Bristnall Hall Academy hosted 'Pride of Bristnall', an annual awards ceremony to highlight the success and achievements of students from all areas of academy life.

Steve Clamp, an ITV news presenter, hosted this prestigious red carpet event once again. We were also honoured to have the Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Barbara Price, in attendance to share this special occasion.

All winners are listed below but a special mention must go to the winner of the Principal's award, Elle Jones and the winner of the Academy Transformation Trust award, Emma Bassi. Congratulations to all involved! It really was an inspirational evening; all nominees should be extremely proud of their hard work and achievements.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Writer of the Year
Rayphia Gabbidon | Most Promising Artist of the Year
Annie Turley |
| Pythagorean Triple Award
Priya Purewal | Outstanding Musical Contribution
Abbie Caddick |
| Scientist of the Year
Adam Rose | Technologist of the Year
Lucy Hunt |
| Linguist of the Year
Shoaib Mohammed | Accelerated Reader award for Literacy
Edna Dass |
| Outstanding Achievement in Humanities
Tyler Johnson-Thomas | Most Promising Start to Academy Life
Aleeza Khan |
| Most Effective User of ICT
Zuzanna Koryto | Outstanding Contribution to the House System
Annie Turley |
| Most Enterprising Student of the Year
Jeyashilini Jeyaprathees | Most Inspirational Student of the Year
Ellie May Simcox |
| Sports Person of the Year
Bethany Leek | Principal's Award
Elle Jones |
| Performing Artist of the Year
Elle Jones | Trust Award
Emma Bassi |
| Health and Social Care
Nosheen Akhtar | |



Artist of the Term

Annie Turley is a Year 10 student. She has a great natural ability within Art and a great enthusiasm for it...

She has not been content with her skills and has worked extremely hard to develop them over the first year of her GCSE course. She has shown a true passion for the subject, working independently in her own time to refine and develop her portfolio of work. She has the hallmark of a true artist. She is creative, enthusiastic, determined and resilient.



Humanities on Tour

The Humanities department have run two residential trips this term.

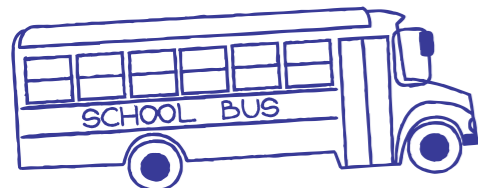
Bowness-on-Windermere - Lake District

The Year 10 Geography students went to Bowness-on-Windermere for three days at the beginning of July. They enjoyed sunny weather whilst collecting data for their controlled assessment. Students worked incredibly hard and were a credit to the academy. They spent the days out in the field collecting data and their evenings in the classroom writing up their projects.



Normandy - France

Year 9 had the opportunity to enjoy the sites of Normandy on a trip to France to find out more about World War II. Thirty three students set out on Sunday morning at 7am for the eleven hour journey to Normandy. Whilst there, they got to see the American Cemetery, the beaches from the D-Day landings and the Pegasus Bridge museum.



Student Blog: Normandy - France

Day 1: Travelling

We began our journey at 7.30a.m and made our way to Normandy. This was a great experience as some of us had never been abroad before and many hadn't been on the Eurostar. Our first stop in a French service station was interesting; they were small in comparison to British services! Finally, after twelve hours of travelling, we arrived at our hotel in Ouistreham.

Day 2: Sightseeing

After breakfast, we made our way to Ranville Cemetery. This held the graves of many British soldiers who had died fighting on D-Day in France. After this, we visited Pegasus Bridge, which was taken on D-Day by British soldiers as a vantage point during the fight. We also saw a model of the gliders that were used to land near the bridge to take it over. We also went to the first café to be liberated in Normandy and had refreshments there. We then visited Sword beach before spending some free time shopping, buying gifts for friends and family back home. After this we visited a Battery which held bunkers and trenches from World War Two. In the evening, we went bowling. Everyone enjoyed having a go on the crane machine and some of us even won teddies!

Day 3: American War Museum

On the second day of visiting historic places in Normandy, we visited the American War Museum from World War Two and the cemetery of the American soldiers who died during D-Day. This was an amazing experience as it allowed us to see the American point of view of the war. We then walked down to Omaha beach to see where they landed. From there, we went to a beach which allowed us to see Mulberry Harbour, a harbour that British troops created in order to make it easier to travel to France. We also visited Bayeux to see the Bayeux Tapestry. The tapestry was an extraordinary experience as this 1000 year old, embroidered fabric shows the detailed story of the Battle of Hastings and the fight for the King in 1066. After this, we visited a local cheese farm which had a very distinct smell! In the evening we enjoyed a disco, as a last night treat.

Day 4: The journey back home

The last day consisted of travelling back to England. Unsurprisingly, many students were very tired after our trip to Normandy and most of us slept during the twelve hour journey back...



Royal Society Visit

Twenty five of our Year 9 and 10 students had the opportunity to visit the Royal Society at Carlton House Terrace in London for the 2015 Summer Science Exhibition.

This event is an annual display of the most exciting cutting-edge science and technology in the UK and had twenty two exhibits from the forefront of innovation. Students met the scientists behind the research, tried some of the hands-on activities and attended an inspiring talk on light. We even had the chance to have a picnic in St. James' Park and have a peek at Buckingham Palace and the change of the guard! Definitely a day to remember!!





MFL Edgmond Hall

Every year, the Modern Languages Department here at Bristnall Hall organises and plans a revision weekend for Year 11 GCSE students to practice listening and reading skills in time for their examinations.

The languages team organises and plans a range of activities and students carousel in groups and work with a specialist linguist to perfect, recap and revise key language and grammar.

Students have access to a range of activities including match ups, group reading, reading relays, listening to and gap filling songs, walking, talking mocks and orienteering to find texts and questions in Spanish or French.

Students sleep in dormitories with their friends and have access to a range of free time activities including football, basketball, pool and also a TV lounge and lush food! Saturday night was spent eating pizza and having a chilled

time round a camp fire (after the students had collected the wood - of course). Even Mr Green came along and joined in collecting wood and eating pizza!

Student feedback is always positive and the students have a good time, as well as feeling they worked hard. This year, the department took the most students ever, with a record number of students! 50 students participated in the weekend and felt that the whole weekend was very beneficial and, as a result, they felt more confident with their exams.



Year 7 induction and Sports Day

Post-16 students have enjoyed a wonderful end to the academic year and have been involved in a number of events here at Bristnall Hall Academy.

With great pride and responsibility, our current Year 12 students played a large part in both the Year 7 Induction Day and Sports Day here.

The events were a huge success and the maturity demonstrated by our wonderful Post-16 students was instrumental in the smooth running of both events. On Sports Day, the Year 12 students supported the PE department in noting scores and running the events. The weather was great and all of the students thoroughly enjoyed taking part.

During the new Year 7 Induction Day, Year 12 students guided the new Year 7 students throughout the entire day and all had incredibly overwhelming, positive feedback regarding their involvement from staff, SLT and parents alike. Thanks to the meticulous planning of the day by Mrs Harris, Ms Brzosko and Mrs Filippi, the day was a huge success, and the Year 12 students most definitely contributed to that success. Well done to all involved!



House of Commons



On Tuesday 14th July, one of our Year 13 students, Dalton Cooper, was invited to to an awards event organised by the Academy Transformation Trust, Bristnall Hall Academy's sponsors.

This prestigious event took place at the House of Commons in London and was attended by representatives from the Trust academies nationwide.



Year 13 Leaving Day

On Friday the 26th June, we said goodbye to our Year 13 students.

After having studied with us for seven (and some eight) years, all enjoyed a fun but emotional final day at Bristnall Hall Academy. Following their farewell assembly, they were taken bowling to enjoy some quality time together. Later that evening, the students were joined by members of staff to dine together and say their goodbyes. The majority of our departing Year 13 students will be starting university in September. We wish them the best of luck as they embark on the next leg of their journey towards independence and future success.



BHAmazing Marie Curie

We held a number of events at Bristnall Hall Academy in support of Marie Curie in July, including a Blooming Great Tea Party to help raise much needed funds for Marie Curie.

Staff and students baked an array of mouth-watering afternoon tea goodies to appeal to the parents, carers and staff during the tea party. Staff and students showed great skill in producing eye catching and appetising cakes and savoury goodies to tantalise the taste buds.

A massive thank you to the local businesses for supporting our events in July! We were proud to be able to handover a cheque of **£520.91** to Christine Binks, Community fundraiser for Sandwell Marie Curie.

This will help pay for three people to receive overnight care in the comfort of their own homes or four people to receive day therapy.

Marie Curie offers care and support to people with a terminal illness in the comfort of their own homes



Blastbeat

BlastBeat is an award winning, fun and exciting music and multimedia business programme offered to young people around the country to teach social entrepreneurial business skills, promote young musicians, and support youth communities on a local and national level.

BlastBeat leverages young people's interests in music, social media and friends to help charities they choose, and empower themselves in the process.

BlastBeat brings both fun and relevance into the education process, leading to highly motivated young entrepreneurs who love being part of the BlastBeat movement. The competition is in two parts; music and business.

A team of BHA students participated in BlastBeat this year. Their company is 'Hungry 4 Change'. Their event on Tuesday 30th June was a huge success. Profit made was £97.23, a percentage of which will be donated to Acorns Children's Hospice.

Congratulations to all the team. You did a fantastic job!



Hungry4Change



'Hungry4Change' entered the regional finals at South and City College in Digbeth on Saturday 11th July and was represented by Emma Bassi, Aisha-Kelsey Sheikh and Sophie Smith.

The Year 10 students presented their social enterprise to a panel of judges from business and industry including Natwest Banking, CEO of Emergeination, CEO Brumtown Records, Punch Records, National Lottery, Founders of Blackthorn Festival, Professors of Sheffield University & University of Birmingham.

The judges were impressed with their performance considering 'Hungry4Change' was one of the youngest teams.

The judges appreciated the journey the young people had gone through and the social change that they want to create. 'Hungry4Change' are now eligible for funding up to £2500.

In addition, members of last year's team were helping to organise the competition (Candra George, Sean Pratt and Victoria Bruce), one of our previous students (Akin Sid) was the headline act and Blastbeat Kit is a former head boy. The regional finals were dominated by Bristnall Hall students past and present!!!



Ski Trip 2015

During the Easter holidays, a group of Bristnall Hall students, accompanied by staff, including a small group of absolute beginners, travelled to a village called Matrei in Austria and had a fantastic time both on and off the slopes.

The highlight for the staff was watching everybody ski a red run from the top of the mountain on the last day. The organiser of the ski trip, Mr. Liddle, hopes to be able to organise a repeat trip during Easter 2017 so make sure you start saving up if you want to come!



Forward Thinking programme

Ten of our Year 9 students had a full day of workshops at Birmingham University on Tuesday 21st April 2015.

Activities included: a competition to make the best aerodynamic aeroplane, spectating a working theatre performance entitled 'The Promise', playing Squash, visiting some student accommodation and being treated to Bowling at Hollywood Bowls, Rubery.

Race for life

The all-female Bristnall Hall Track Team got together again at the end of July 2015 to take part in the annual 'Race For Life' event for Cancer Research, at Himley Park near Dudley.

Students began their training three months prior to the race in order to build up their stamina and endurance. Having successfully finished the race, sponsor money raised by students and teachers began to pour in. The Track Team has been taking part in the charity race for four years now and this year we raised the most money, totalling a massive £1395.39!!!! This is a great achievement for both the students and staff who participated.



New Minibuses

We are pleased to announce that we have brand new minibuses arriving at the academy for 2015/16!

These will ensure that our students travel in comfort and arrive in style when representing the academy on visits and at sporting events.



'Life after Bristnall'

Name: Gurbinder Manku

Briefly outline your time at Bristnall.

What do you remember about Bristnall?

(Favourite subject/teachers/memories)

- I remember being quiet, shy and relatively unnoticed in Year 7. But I left in Year 11 with much more confidence in myself because of the opportunities I had taken.
- I was a Peer Mentor and remember being involved in lots of fun activities with the mentoring team!
- My favourite subjects were Art and GCSE English.
- Miss Greatrex's maths lessons stand out; she was always very patient and engaging.



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

- I went to King Edward VI College and studied Law, English Language and Literature and Mathematics at A-Level.
- I then studied Law at the University of Birmingham.

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

Whilst at university, I took part in a programme where I was mentored by Luciana Berger who is an MP. I took part in work experience where I shadowed Luciana in Parliament, and had a real insight into the political world.

What are you currently doing?:

I am about to begin an internship in an investment bank.

Future career path:

I am still uncertain about my exact future career path. I may pursue a career in law, or a government policy-based role where I can make a real difference.

Words of advice for students:

You don't need to know exactly what you want to be or do, right now. The important thing is to make the right choices, and know that you have tried your best. I believe that if you do this, you will be equipped to become anything you want to.

Also - don't give up easily! In today's job market, you will face lots of rejection before you get to your dream job. But if you persist, you will get where you want to be.



Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme has had another successful year at both Bronze and Silver Level. Students have completed expeditions in Kinver, Church Stretton and the Peak District in order to gain their awards.

In addition, some excellent community work for various charities, youth groups and organisations has been undertaken. Well done to all award recipients.