



Re-bounding@Bristnall

Some of our Year 11 Girls PE classes have been lucky enough to have a go at Rebound exercise.

Rebounding is a safe, effective and fun low impact exercise that involves performing exercises on a special mini trampoline using specific controlled movement patterns and rebound techniques that provide a myriad of health and fitness benefits.

The girls have enjoyed the specialist instruction provided free of charge by local company 'Complete Kidz'. The activity is lasting throughout the Autumn term with the hope that it will motivate and inspire our students to become more physically active.



Rugby with Warley RFC

Our Key Stage 3 boys have been receiving expert rugby coaching from Warley Rugby Club Coach, Mark Higgins.

The boys have used lesson time to learn the basics of the game, enjoying a range of activities and games - some getting rather muddy in the process! Mark has also set up our after school rugby club which runs on Monday evenings from 3.30pm - 4.30pm. It is free of charge to attend and an excellent opportunity to learn more about the game, develop skill, fitness and experience competition.

Bristnall Hall's own Robin Hood

Year 11 GCSE PE students have completed a 6 week course in Archery as part of their practical assessment.

Students were selected in order to help them boost their overall practical grades. Complete Kidz provided expert instruction enabling our students to learn all of the rules, regulations and skills of the sport. All students gained the top grade in their practical assessment. To complete the course Mr Green's photograph was placed on the Bullseye, with Ross Degville being the first to hit the highly prized target!



Serious about Learning!

BHA Opens It's Doors...

Inside this issue... The BHA Open Evening 2015!



The SMART choice

Welcome to the new edition of our academy magazine, SMART. You will see from the contents what a busy term it has been at Bristnall Hall. Staff and students have been working hard with the confidence of this summer's pleasing results supporting them.

We had several, new excellent teachers start with us this term and it has been fantastic to see the great starts they have made in working with the young people here.

The academy have managed to again to appoint outstanding teachers this time to the Science department in the form of Mr Grainger and Miss Lee who start in January. Another sign that Bristnall Hall's reputation as a great place to work is growing.

There have been several events around music, dance and poetry recently where students have been able to exhibit their talents outside of the classroom and this has been a real pleasure to see. These events are always advertised on our website, Twitter and now on our official Facebook page.

The Academy Transformational Trust is currently applying to start a new free special school in Sandwell separate from Bristnall Hall but overseen by us.

Thank you to those parents and carers who have attended the recent meetings around this new school. There is a huge need for this in the area and we are optimistic that it will be approved ready for opening in September 2017.

From January, students will have an Achievement Co-coordinator overseeing each group. These are the first points of contact should you have any issues:

Year 7	Mrs Brzosko
Year 8	Miss Jeavons
Year 9	Miss Haycock
Year 10	Miss Samuels
Year 11	Mrs Jackson
Year 12/13	Miss Kolade

I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy, safe, restful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to working with you in 2016.

Vince Green
Principal



BHA Open Evening 2015

On 15th September 2015, Bristnall Hall Academy opened its doors to prospective parents/carers and students for their open evening to showcase the amazing activities that take place every day.

Each subject created interactive activities for the visitors; parents and students were thoroughly impressed!

History had a Victorian sweetshop (pictured) where students were able to win a bag of sweets for completing the quizzes. Mr Binnie hosted a 'Horrible Histories' Victorian evening and Mrs Winters created a 'Jack the Ripper' murder mystery. The English department sparked interest by planning a 'Who Killed King

Duncan?' activity to challenge Year 6 students. Currently, Year 11 students are studying William Shakespeare's Macbeth and along with Year 6 students and their parents, they took part in forensic challenges, analysed fingerprint proofs and inspected the murder weapon. This proved to be a huge success and some visitors chose to wait until the end of the evening to find out if they had correctly guessed the murderer.

This has generated much interest around the academy with students pursuing their English teachers to solve the crime. Following on from parental surveys, 100% of visitors to the open evening were impressed with the academy and said they had gained an excellent impression. Comments were also made on the friendliness of the staff and the impeccable manners of the students. Well done to everyone involved.



ATT Common Training Day

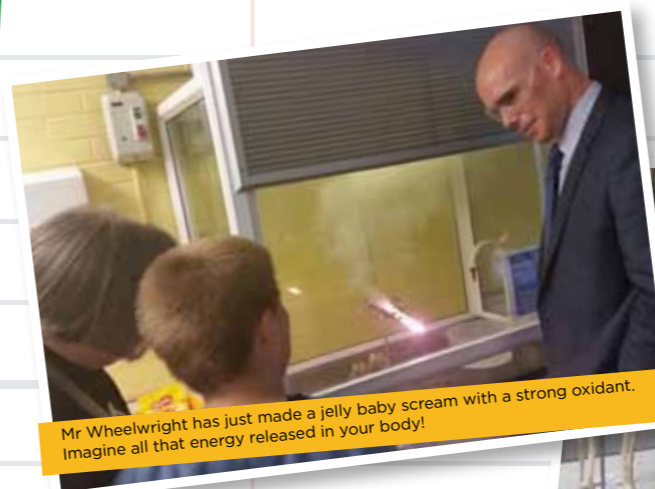
On Monday 2nd November 2015, all Bristnall Hall Academy staff, along with our Head Boy, Aaron Garcia and Head Girl, Bethany Leek, travelled to Peterborough to attend the first ever common training day for all academies that are part of the Academy Transformation Trust family.

The day gave staff the opportunity to share good practice across all of the academies nationally to ensure that we are providing the very best, first class learning experiences to our students. Since the day, Bristnall Hall staff have been working even closer with other trust academies on improving teaching and learning, anti-bullying projects and on using modern technology in the classroom.



Having Fun With Science!

Visitors to the Science Department during the Open Evening held on 15 September had the opportunity to participate in lots of hands-on activities and watch some really interesting demonstrations. Great fun!



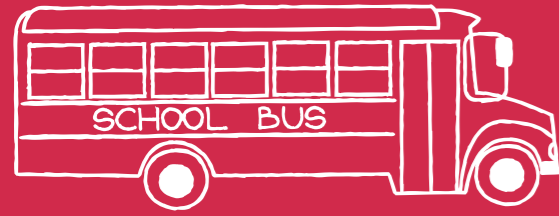
Mr Wheelwright has just made a jelly baby scream with a strong oxidant. Imagine all that energy released in your body!



Mr Mutharu has set this young visitor's hands on fire with some alcohol! Not to worry, the hands didn't get burned as the alcohol underwent combustion instead. Phew!!



Mr Haidar is here demonstrating the organs in a human model to some really interested visitors. Is all that stuff really inside of us?



Kenilworth Castle

On Wednesday 21st October, the History department accompanied 90 Year 7 students on a study trip to Kenilworth Castle.

The sun shone as we traversed many years of history through the impressive ruins, from the thick medieval defences to the luxuries of Gaunt's great hall.

"I loved Kenilworth Castle because it was picturesque and very informative. I mainly enjoyed seeing the size of the castle and the furnaces (they were absolutely huge). I also enjoyed the drawing, it was so fun."

Kirsty Squires

"I enjoyed our trip to Kenilworth Castle. We learnt a lot about how castles were protected. We also went inside most of the rooms and learnt more about what would go on in there."

David Bordicott

"Kenilworth Castle was amazing. You explore the remains of the castle and garden. You draw part of the castle. It's a great day out of school. You learn lots of facts."

Hollie Birch

"At my trip to Kenilworth Castle, I had a really great time. I went to the top of the castle and the view was absolutely amazing! I loved it so much. I had a great time there."

Emma Huckerby



BHA does Disney!

On 30th June 2015 the Modern Languages department at Bristnall Hall organized a trip to Paris for Year 7.

We spent three days and two nights in the capital.

After a long but fun journey on the tunnel, the students spent some time in the picturesque town of Arras before settling in to the hotel.

The second day was spent in Disneyland resort where students enjoyed the many rides, attractions and some lucky students even met some familiar faces! The parade was awesome and the students enjoyed the spectacle!

Day 3 involved a sight-seeing tour of the capital where we saw the magnificent Eiffel Tower, Notre Damme cathedral and the Champs-Elysee at peak traffic! That was a sight to behold. The trip was very successful so watch this space for more up and coming trips!



GIS Day - Global Apocalypse



On Wednesday 18th November 60 Year 8 students participated in the 'Ashcloud Apocalypse' event organised by the Royal Geographical Society.



The event was organised to celebrate GIS and Geography Awareness week. There are many events happening over the globe and it is estimated that 20,000 people will have participated.

Year 8 students participated in a hazard risk mapping activity which was based around the implications on a mega volcanic eruption. They used GIS software to map the hazard and analyse the data produced. The aim is to get students involved with a fun and engaging online collaborative mapping event to help promote the value of GIS and Geography. Students worked very well during the event and had fun mapping the impacts of a mega volcanic eruption; students were rewarded with a GIS day pencil.

Snapchat challenge!

Year 7 students recently participated in a Snapchat challenge as part of their English course.

Their job was to create a series of Snapchat images in order to represent the changing relationships in their class text 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo. The students were intrigued and immediately set about finding various images and composing hashtags to go alongside them! All of the work was excellent, and they clearly showed how well they had understood the book.

However, there could only be one winner. Due to its wonderful composition of humorous images and well-worded hashtags, the winning Snapchat Story belonged to Jay Walton and Bailey Collett in Miss Henderson's English group. They had clearly used the conventional structure and elements from the text in order to create something funny and fitting.



And they're off...

The academic year for our Post-16 students is well and truly under way and all of the students have all hit the ground running!

We have a fantastic group of students in both year groups, who are incredibly hard-working and diligent.

We look forward to seeing the results that they achieve in the summer exams and with the work that they are already putting in, we should be in for a treat. The focus for Year 12 has been settling into student life as Post-16 students and getting to grips with the demands of independent study and research. They have had workshops with some speakers from Student Finance and two local universities, who have introduced the students to starting to think about the decisions that most of them will be making this time next year when they are completing UCAS forms, writing Personal Statements and finalising their university choices.

All of the students will be attending a trip to the Skills Show at the NEC on the 19th of November, where those who are unsure about their career direction will get the opportunity to speak to the experts and get professional advice on this topic. We are sure that it will be an exciting and valuable day for all.

The Year 13 focus has been on completing their UCAS application forms, in addition to really focusing on the three core subjects that they have chosen to continue studying at A2. We have seen some great clarity and focus this term and the dedication illustrated by the students is admirable. They are determined to achieve the results that they need to get to the universities of their choice. All but one student will be applying to university this year, and this student has a clear idea of what direction she will be going in, knows how to get there and will be supported through that process.

Well done - a great start to the academic year!

International Students at BHA!



From September 2015, Bristnall Hall Academy have been delighted to welcome two international students from Argentina and Brazil to study with us. We will be sorry to lose them when they return home in January.



I'm Martin Volonte, from Argentina.

I turned 17 while I was here, on the 6th of November. I travelled 12 hours by bus from my city to Buenos Aires, the capital of my country. There, I took a plane to Paris, and travelled 15 hours more. And finally in Paris, I took another plane to England which took 1 hour. I really enjoyed the journey although it was really long!

My experiences at Bristnall Hall Academy have been really good since the beginning, the facilities and the modern system of education left me impressed! I have also been impressed with the quality of the teaching. The teachers are very friendly and are always willing to help. During my stay in England, my friends and I have visited many places such as Manchester, Blackpool, Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Bath, Gloucester and of course, London.

I would say my best memory so far is when we did the basketball camp with my host brother because he did not think that players from Argentina and Brasil were as good as English players. I soon proved him wrong! It doesn't matter where you're from, you can always be good at something!



My name is Daniel Mischiatti Rodrigues.

I am 17 years old and I am an exchange student from Brazil. I have been in Year 12 at Bristnall Hall Academy since September. My journey here was long! First, I went to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Then, I had to take a plane to Paris, France. This plane journey lasted for twelve hours! After that, I arrived in France. I then had to take another plane to Birmingham, England, which only lasted for one hour so it seemed to go really fast. I really enjoyed the trip!

One week after I arrived in England, I visited Bristnall Hall Academy for the first time. I was really excited to see what my new school was like. I really enjoyed my first day at Bristnall. I met new friends and teachers. I felt at home straight away.

After I settled into my new surroundings, I decided to travel and visit new places. The first place I went to was West Bromwich where I joined a basketball team. After about one month I decided I wanted to travel further so my friend and I bought train tickets to London. So far, this is my best memory! I really enjoyed it because every time you talk about England you think about London so when I arrived I thought it was a dream. I really enjoyed this trip and would like to go again.

I am finishing my exchange programme at the end of December. Thank you Bristnall for making me feel so welcome and helping me. I hope to return to England again in the near future!



Summer Internship Programme 2015



Shakela Brown - Year 13 Media A levels student with Sir Lenny Henry

The Year 12 voluntary Internship Programme has been developed by EES to equip motivated students with opportunities to develop their skills and potential in a corporate environment.

The Internship programme has provided opportunities for students to gain experience in a particular field, determine if they have an interest in a particular career, helped them to understand the programme of higher education or training required for a particular role, and have the opportunity to work alongside highly qualified and experienced colleagues.

Interested students were put through rigorous interviews by EES and members of the business community and businesses were approached that matched the requirements of the students.

Amrit Chahal and Ryan Dwyer accepted an Internship at Telford Hotel and Golf Resort. Here they were based mainly with the Director of Golf for Q Hotels who gave them varied tasks ranging from writing promotional materials for the website and cold-calling prospective members to updating membership records.

Isobel Stokes was paired with Tipton Litterwatch, an award winning community led environmental charity

commissioned by Serco. Below is a small excerpt from the reference received from Litter Watch in relation to Isobel's placement. "One day on the Eco Bus, the next day fishing with people with mental health issues. Not one job phased Isobel at all. She took it all in her stride and was enthusiastic about the tasks she was given. She has a flair for working with young children and this was shown when working on the Eco Bus. Isobel's creative skills are outstanding and these were put to good use on the Eco Bus."

Ramandeep Mann Picking up from his interview and application that Ramandeep enjoys helping people, we developed a link with Bleakhouse Library who were running a series of community events at local parks throughout the summer, such as kids clubs, story time and sports workshops. **Ryan Lawrence** and **Gurpreet Kaur Johal** both joined the Internship programme with the intention of gaining experience in environments where their love of Maths could be utilised in the world of work. They were placed with Keepmoat, one of the country's

leading housing and regeneration specialists where they were mentored by structural engineers and quantity surveyors and gained a varied insight into the construction industry. Wanting to continue her education at University to study Media or Performing Arts, **Shakela Brown** really wanted a placement in the media sector. Shakela was paired with Big Centre TV, the new digital TV station serving Birmingham, where she worked in the studio, newsroom and admin office. She received a glowing reference from Big Centre TV who commended her on her bright, confident personality and excellent manners as well as her superb support as an assistant during her time with them. Big Centre TV asked us to supply them with more talented young people as long as they are of the same calibre as Shakela (their words!)

Congratulations to all of the interns for volunteering their time over their summer holidays, and in doing so giving themselves a better chance of achieving their future potential.

National Women in Engineering Day 23rd June 2015



A group of enthusiastic Year 8 girls found out what it means to be an engineer from successful women working across all fields of engineering, with informative talks from mechanical and computer engineers, architectural technologists and waste solutions specialists at a visit to Birmingham City University in June.

The ten BHA students then split into two groups to take part in the Squashed Tomatoes Challenge against teams of young ladies from schools across the West Midlands.

The Humanitarian Engineering challenge presented the problem of helping farmers in Nepal to get their crops safely down a mountain to the village market, avoiding a river and without causing damage to the crops. Each team were allocated cardboard, paper, sellotape, a crate of tomatoes and a business mentor to help them complete the challenge within a strict deadline.

"First of all, we had to sit in a 45 minute talk about different types of engineering. We then took part in the Squashed Tomato challenge. I worked in a group of people from my school that I never actually spoke to before. We had to use teamwork, creativity, initiative and a lot of problem solving. In the end we made a cardboard tunnel and placed it inside some corrugated cardboard, it took a lot of sellotape! I've learnt that co-operation is key when working in a team"

Georgia Tooth

"We had to build something to transport tomatoes from the top of the mountain to the bottom. Our school won for the most tomatoes transported with a total of 640 tomatoes. We were against lots of other schools. After going on this trip I enjoy engineering and may consider it as my job. I never knew much about engineering until I went on this trip."

Parminder Kaur

"This trip was inspirational and memorable; we took part in the Squashed Tomatoes Challenge. It was great fun! We learnt teamwork, designing and problem solving skills"

Fareen Akhtar

The two BHA teams were joint first in the competition to safely transport the most tomatoes down the mountain without squashing them, with a combined score of over 900 tomatoes in two minutes! Wow! I think we may have some budding female engineers here at BHA, well done girls! We hope you enjoyed your vouchers.

Enterprise Day

On two consecutive Wednesdays last term, EES worked with Year 7 students to help them identify and develop their enterprise or employability skills.

The Year 10 students presented their social enterprise to a panel of judges from business and industry including Natwest Banking, CEO of Emmergeination, 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!!!



Get Caught Reading!

From May 2015 BHA have been running a 'Get Caught Reading' Literacy competition

Several students were photographed reading around the academy either during their DEAR time, break or lunch time. Jasman Sidhu was the lucky winner, receiving a brand new Kindle HD Fire, to reward his hard work.



The best of old and new

Meetings are ongoing to finalise arrangements for the additional buildings at Bristnall Hall to complement our classic 1920s buildings that we are in the process of updating.

The new spaces will include improved dining and catering facilities and state of the art science laboratories.

Fashion Club

Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 attend an extra curricular Fashion Club and are in the process of customising and renovating their own clothes.

This includes garments such as jeans, t-shirts, tops, dresses and accessories that the students redesign/recycle by cutting up, dyeing, decorating and remodelling to create interesting original pieces.

Francesca Spratt, a Year 12 student attends every week to help out and share her expertise.

Francesca studied Textiles at BHA and achieved an A Grade last academic year. She has a keen interest in the subject and has volunteered to work with younger students to inspire and encourage their skills and understanding of the subject.

She also designed the poster for the club and created samples at home in her own time to demonstrate the possibilities within the subject area.



The November Show

The November Show (Thursday 26th November at 7pm in Upper School Hall) is an annual performance evening organised to provide a platform to showcase work by students from 11-18 from three main sources:

- **Coursework from our students taking: BTEC Level 1, 2 and 3, GCSE and A Level.**
- **Extra-curricular routines taught at Dance Club on Thursday evenings & lunchtimes.**
- **Unfold Dance Company (a company providing dance classes at the Academy out of hours).**

It is also a celebration to showcase our students' talents and a great opportunity for parents, carers and members of the community to provide an appreciative audience for all eighty students' hard work in performing their routines in the show. possibilities within the subject area.



Dance Club

Runs on Thursday evenings and is open to any student in the Academy; boys or girls from 11- 18.

Mrs Rose has organised this popular club which has now been running for more than a decade.

This academic year, Mrs Rose has worked with the younger students Y7 and Y8, whilst two dedicated and talented Y13 students, Shakela Brown and Lauren Grove have choreographed and taught a routine to our Y9 - 13 students.

There has also been a Dance Club on Tuesday lunch times where Mrs Rose has continued to complete a routine that was taught on our Open Evening in September. This routine will be performed at our Dance Extravaganza in early February.

JOIN



Macmillan

Emily Morgan, the area representative for 'Macmillan', visited Bristnall Hall Academy on the 19th October to receive a cheque for £1150, raised by staff and students through a variety of charity activities.

This is a fantastic achievement and proves what can be done with team work and commitment! This tremendous total will be added to Bristnall Hall's previous donations to Macmillan. This takes our grand total to £3001.94! Bristnall Hall will continue to raise money for this worthy charity.

Children in Need!

On Friday 13th November, Bristnall Hall Academy held a cake sale to raise money for 'Children In Need'.

Overall, £160 was raised. Thanks go to all those budding bakers and for the staff and students who bought a cake! Well done to all involved!



Let's make it a BHAmazing Christmas!

This term, Bristnall Hall Academy's students, staff and governors have been working hard to ensure that hampers full of Christmas treats are packed full, ready to be delivered to members of our community who are elderly, in need or struggling around Christmas time.

Every member of each form can contribute either by bringing in items or organising the hamper. Students, accompanied by staff, are then given the opportunity to deliver their hampers personally delivered to worthy homes in the local area. Hampers are always generously received!

'Life after Bristnall'



Name: Sophie Best

Briefly outline your time at Bristnall.

What do you remember about Bristnall? (Favourite subject/teachers/memories)

I have always been more on the creative side in my learning, as I loved art and textiles. I enjoyed starting projects and developing it into something I was pleased with. I did struggle with other subjects such as Maths and ICT but always felt that the teachers at Bristnall understood I was more on the creative side, so supported me and didn't let me give up.



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.

What are you currently doing?:

I am currently running my business and working a part time job as a sales assistant. I am also volunteering with the Prince's Trust and working on big plans for my business next year.

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

Opening my own soft furnishings business, Nellie Pearl, with help from the Prince's Trust has been my biggest achievement since school. I have been running my own business for over a year now, including making my own items such as curtains, cushions and patchwork throws to recently starting my own soft toy range. I do my own accounts and all the marketing. I have recently been selected to be a Young Ambassador for the trust which I am very proud of.

Future career path:

It is my dream to own a shop one day, selling my handmade items. I would love to also teach people how to sew and run my business full time. I also want to screen- print my own designs and patterns

Words of advice for students:

Don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do something. If you have a talent, follow it. Also, enjoy your school years!



Duke of Edinburgh

More than 30 Year 11 students participated in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition in Kinver during September.

This involved walking, navigation, campcraft and cooking skills which tested all of the participants' survival skills. Students were lucky enough to complete the expedition in excellent weather and despite the physical challenge, excellent fun was had by all. Students are now working hard to complete their Physical, Skill and Voluntary placements to ensure that they achieve their award.