



## Girls' Football

Ten KS3 girls went on a trip to St Georges Park, the home of The England National Teams, on Wednesday 16th March.

**They took part in a football tournament and performed brilliantly.**

### Girls' Football Week

Girls football week is also fast approaching and we will be doing a girls' football tournament every lunchtime from Monday 25th - Friday 29th April to promote and encourage girls to play football.



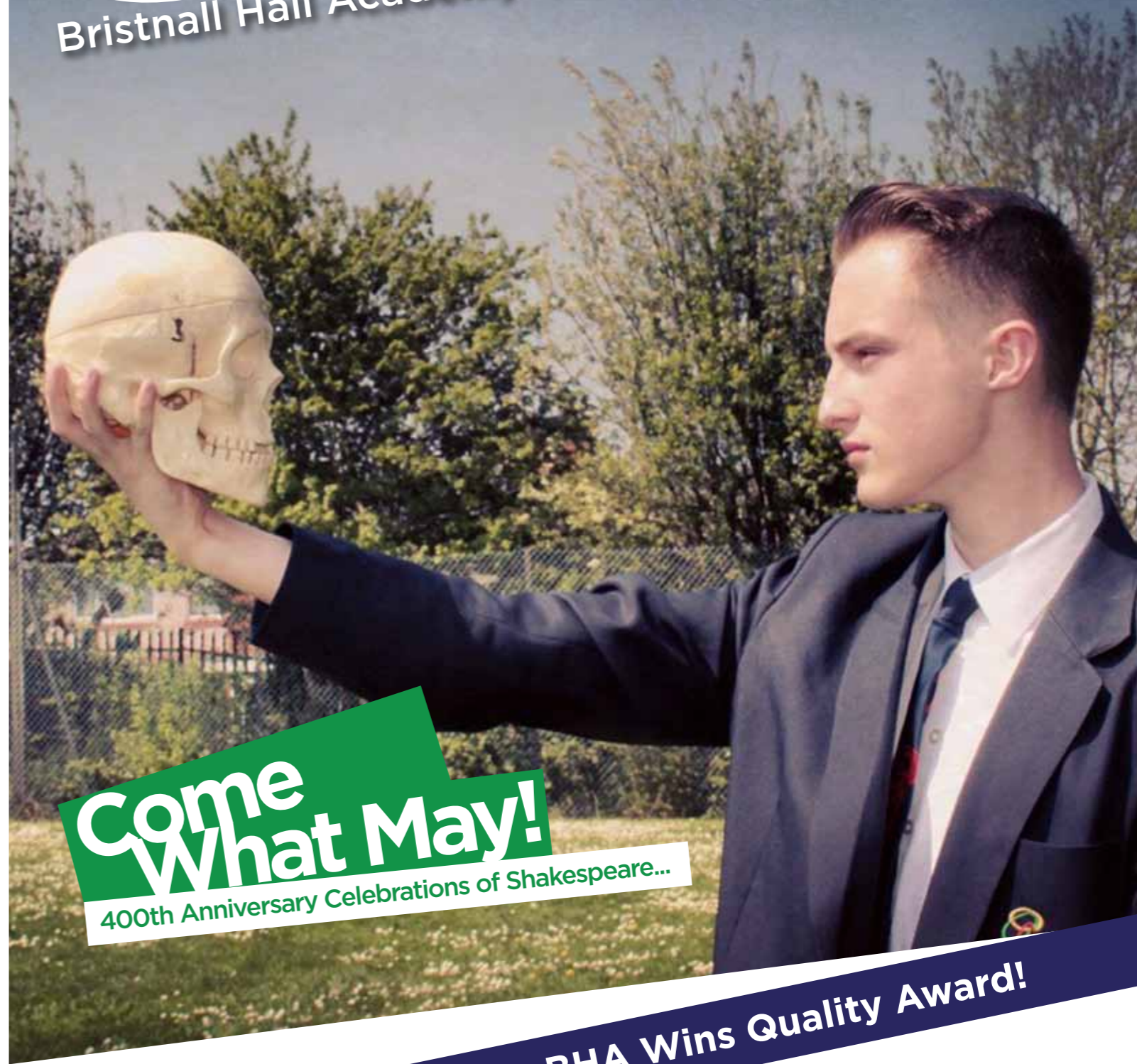
## Table Tennis Officiating

In preparation for their GCSE PE practical exam, Year 11 pupils have been working hard to improve their officiating skills in Table Tennis.

**They have been fortunate enough to benefit from the expertise of Brian Watkins, an ex pupil who left in 1957!**

Brian has officiated Table Tennis at the very top level including; The London 2012 Paralympics and the 2009 European Championships in Germany.

Pupils have benefited greatly from Brian's knowledge and his vast experience in the sport which will stand them in good stead for their practical examination.



## Come What May!

400th Anniversary Celebrations of Shakespeare...

**Also Inside this issue...BHA Wins Quality Award!**

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# Heads Up!

Bristnall Hall Academy has been a hive of activity this term and it continues to be a pleasure to see our young people making excellent progress in their learning, in and out of the classroom.

**Recently, we were reviewed by our sponsor, the Academy Transformation Trust, and they were delighted with the progress the academy continues to make in it's journey to outstanding.**

The high quality of teaching, excellent conduct and strong work ethic of our young people and the impact of leadership at all levels were recognised in their report. This supports our judgment that we are a good school, well on course to being outstanding.

Students in examination years have been working alongside the great team of Bristnall Hall staff in preparing for GCSE and A-Level examinations. This has involved many of them going over and beyond, and committing to extracurricular sessions during weekends, holidays and after school. Many Year 11 French students spent a weekend at Edgmond Hall in Shropshire, immersing themselves in the language and having a well-deserved break in the countryside.

Students across the academy continue to get involved in sports, performing, enterprise, charity work and community projects outside of lessons. Our Dance Extravaganza and Bristnall's Got Talent shows were outstanding this year and highlighted what well rounded young people attend our academy. Extracurricular music sessions have more than trebled this year and it is a joy to walk our corridors to the sound of music.

Students have recently started serving the community at our Bristnall Brews and Bourbons for over 60s in the area every Thursday from 10:45am and local residents are always welcome to attend this event in conjunction with Murray Hall.

Next year promises to be an outstanding one at Bristnall Hall with an oversubscribed Year 7 cohort joining us again. I look forward to the next edition of SMART when we will update you on a brilliant summer at Bristnall Hall.

Have an amazing summer.

**Vince Green**  
Principal



# A sign of real quality!

We are extremely proud to announce that Bristnall Hall Academy is now one of the few schools in Sandwell to achieve the Quality Mark Award in Basic Skills!

**The award is given to schools who demonstrate proficiency in "improvements in literacy" and recognises their "provision, practice and performance in literacy." This award is a reflection of the hard work and high expectations on Literacy and Numeracy at Bristnall Hall Academy.**

The award is being held by a selection of 'Wilson' students (A class strategically devised to increase and challenge the Literacy levels of specific students). The award takes pride of place in our reception.



## Bristnall Hall becoming Multi-Lingual

2016 will be a record year for GCSE Languages.

**Entering over 120 students into a GCSE Modern Foreign Language, these include: French, Spanish, Italian. Polish, Portuguese, Urdu, Mandarin and Panjabi.**

Do you speak another language at home besides English? Are you learning another language outside school? Come and see Mrs Nuara in room 21, she may be able to enter you into the appropriate GCSE next summer!

# Latin? Et tu Bristnall!

On Tuesday 15th March, Year 7 students experienced their second Latin Enrichment Day.

**They had previously looked at Latin meeting and greeting, and proved themselves to be adept at mingling at a Roman Party.**

This session was all about food, animals and a good old fashioned Roman myth! Yes, you guessed it, a little touch of melodrama in the form of acting. With a little help from Scientists Mr Grainger and Mr Wheelwright and the directorial talents of Mr Lannon, Year 7 were treated to a day of Latin adjectives, sorting and classifying sharks

and the Periodic Table of Elements using their Latin names and of course, a good dose of blood and gore when they acted out their Roman myth. (No students were hurt during the production of these plays!)

The students engaged well with the tasks and took part with enthusiasm and determination.

**Well done, Year 7 Latin Learners!**



# British Science Week 2016

Students across a range of Year 7 and 8 groups took part in British Science Week.

**The theme was 'Science in Spaces' and could cover a range of topics from outer space, digital space, personal space, open space and many more.** Within that they investigated the problem of acid rain by carrying out a series of chemical reactions on collected rain water samples.

They then made a series of conclusions based on their results, as well as carrying out in-depth research into the causes, effects and solutions to acid rain. Students then presented their findings through some fantastic posters and presentations. A number of students' work will be submitted for the British Science Week ATT poster competition in addition to applying to earn their Bronze Crest Award in Science.



# Extra-Terrestrial activity!

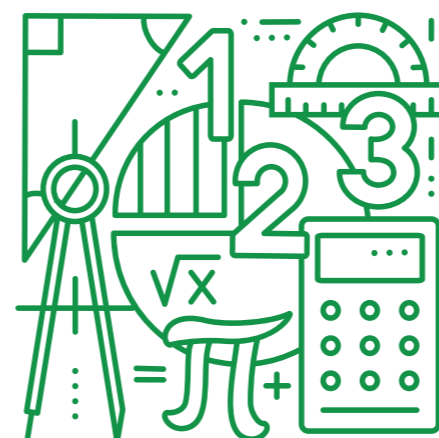
Collaborative learning on the subgenres of Science Fiction film.

**Collaborative learning is a strategy whereby students interact and work with other students in the classroom to help each other learn.** As part of their preparation for a GCSE Media Studies exam, Year 9 students need to demonstrate an understanding of the conventions in a range of Science Fiction films from various subgenres. Students were all put into groups and given a specific film belonging to a subgenre to research, from space travel: Gravity (2013) to alien invasion: Independence Day (1996).

Students were asked to focus on three different areas: the narrative, characters, settings and appeal to audience. Once the groups had thoroughly studied this information, they converted what they had learned into a visual display and manageable notes. This display was then used by a group member to peer teach other members of the class about the subgenre they were given.

The remaining students visited other learning stations and 'teachers' ran by other groups, and learned about the other subgenres. With everyone in each group now an expert in a particular area, students then relayed the information they learned about the subgenre station they visited, back to their original groups.

This type of collaborative learning, via peer teaching, was an extremely effective strategy for students, as it gave them independence and ownership of their learning, whilst being solely led by students.



# Pi day

Year 7 enjoy an active cross curricular lesson that celebrated pi day.

**Pi day is celebrated worldwide on the 14th March to embrace the importance the number pi has had on mathematics.** Year 7 successfully completed a treasure hunt in the hall for the circular prizes on offer.

# REC Club

REC club (Resistant Engineering and Cad) is an after school club open to all students in KS3 (yr7 to yr9) although students in year 10 & 11 are welcome, dependent on availability.

**Rec club takes place most Wednesdays and Fridays after school in either Room 43 or 44. It gives students the opportunity to enhance their existing skills and learn new ones in Design and Technology.** The club is based on Resistant Materials, Engineering and Computer Aided Design. The new skills and processes learnt are expected to prepare students for G.C.S.E. projects and include most elements required, with the main focus being on the practical element.

Students are invited to create and manufacture an item to a given theme, the current theme is 'nameplates'. This project completed by year 8 students gives them the opportunity to:

- Create a nameplate of their choice using technical drawing and creative techniques.
- Design the nameplate using 2D design, acting as mentors for each other and increasing their knowledge of the program.
- Making a template based on the design, to enable production methods to be considered, one-off, batch etc...
- Transferring the 'one piece design' to the raw material using accurate marking out and scaling.
- Manufacturing the product using the Scroll saws, Tenon saws, Coping saws and sanding machines and materials.
- Finishing the product with the 'finish' of their choice: paints, varnish or vinyl wrap.
- Enhancing the product using 2d design and the laser cutter, providing opportunities to operate the laser cutter and hone existing skills.

Future projects are likely to include:

- Manufacture of clocks using a variety of techniques and materials.
- An introduction to 3d printing.

For further details please contact Mr Jeffrey or Miss Neail.



# Year 9 Subject Ambassadors

All of the students in year 9 are working extremely hard to progress in each subject and we at Bristnall Hall Academy want to develop the students even more.

**We decided to award students to be Subject Ambassadors.** This is a very prestigious role that is brand new to the academy. The roles and responsibilities will be allocated by departments. However there was strong competition and a stringent selection process.

**Congratulations to the students awarded.**



# Art Ambassador

William Cash has always shown a great deal of enthusiasm for this subject, working hard to develop his skills and knowledge in this subject area.

**He has a great deal of natural talent.** The Art department hopes he makes a great ambassador for the subject and passes on his appreciation and understanding of the intricacies of the subject to other students of the Academy.





# The Hip-Hop Shakespeare Company

As part of the celebrations of Shakespeare's 400th anniversary, on Thursday 12th March, several classes in Year 10 were given the exciting opportunity to participate in an interactive session with *The Hip-Hop Shakespeare Company*.

The students were able to develop new skills by performing lyrical interpretations of Shakespeare's poetic language. The students found the experience exciting, and found that it not only developed their understanding of the Bard's language, but also their confidence and enjoyment of Shakespeare's works.



## RSC Stratford Trip

On Thursday 12th March, a group of students in Year 10 were given the opportunity to take part in an RSC Drama workshop in Stratford Upon Avon.

Students were able to develop an understanding of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* through lots of drama activities ready for their GCSE next year.

As part of the workshop, students were exploring the presentation of characters as well as what happens in the play. Charlie Jarrett made an excellent *Macbeth*! In the afternoon, students were given a guided tour around the theatre itself.

## Year 9 trip to Cadbury World

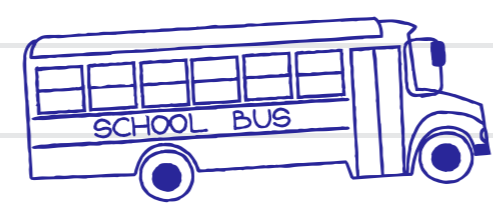
42 Year 9 students headed off to sunny Bournville in March for a trip to Cadbury World.

**An informative trip around the exhibit saw them finding out about the impressive achievements of the Cadbury family and how they brought chocolate to the whole country after a humble start, running a tea shop in Bull Street, which is now near Digbeth Coach Station.**

The students were visiting Cadbury World as part of their studies on Globalisation and Economic Development. A very interesting and informative talk was given by Curtis, one of Cadbury World's experts, including how Cadbury supports hundreds of cocoa farmers via its Cocoa Life Program. The program, of which Cadbury is part, will see them invest \$400 million over the next ten years to fund sustainable cocoa production in the Asia Pacific region and around the world.

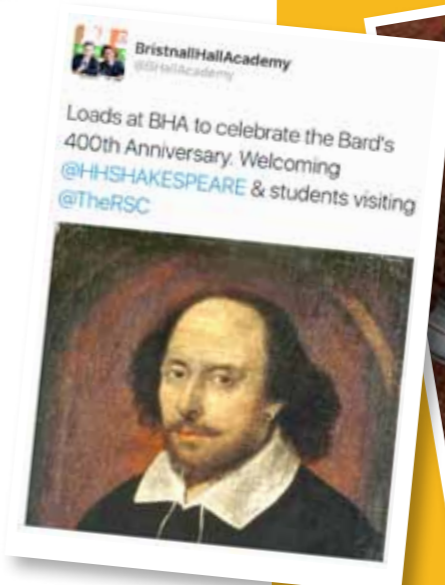
It will reach more than 200,000 farmers across six countries, benefitting more than a million people and ensuring that all Cadbury's cocoa is sourced sustainably.

In addition to the educational benefits of the trip, the students also had time for plenty of fun, including a visit to the 4D cinema; a chance to sample the delicious liquid chocolate with a range of mouth-watering additions (popping candy, anyone?); as well as running off some steam in the large adventure playground. Luckily there weren't too many little kids around to spoil the big kids' fun! All in all, a very enjoyable trip. The students were impeccably behaved and were a credit to Bristnall, themselves and their families.



**'I really enjoyed the session, it's really helped me understand it better'**

Sean Norris - Student





## English Learning and Teaching Conference

On Friday 11th March Bristnall Hall Academy invited Year 11 students to take part in an English Learning and Teaching Conference at the Village Hotel in Dudley.

**Students were able to sign up to workshops in advance of the day to greater prepare them for the forthcoming English GCSE Examination.**

Year 11 students also had an opportunity to attend a lecture with an AQA Principal Examiner which provided further insight into what the examination board is looking for. The day was a huge success and students had this to say about the conference:

**"I really enjoyed learning in a new environment."**

**"Keith Brindle made learning fun. He was hilarious and informative."**

**"It was helpful to be able to choose my own sessions based on my confidence level."**



## An Inspector Calls...

As part of their GCSE English Literature course, Year 11 students have been studying the classic play 'An Inspector Calls' by J B Priestly and the American novella 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck.

**To prepare for their examination and allow students to visualise both texts in a live performance, they were taken on two separate theatre trips in February.**

Students were able to appreciate and absorb the narrative of the texts in a dramatised form, as well as providing them with a detailed and emotional insight into characters, themes and settings.

## Bristnall Hall Visits Safeside

Bristnall Hall SEND students visited the ultimate child safety destination - Safeside; an experiential learning centre that provides an innovative, interactive and enjoyable learning environment to inspire students to think and act safely.

**They experienced road safety; waterways safety; fire safety; dangers of alleyways; safety in the home; behaviours on public transport; shop; law courts and police stations.** Our students were involved in all scenarios, which were also acted out by Birmingham City University students. This was a fantastic learning experience for all.



## Bristnall Hall Entertains a Sandwell Parents Conference

Bristnall Hall SEND students were invited to perform at the Sandwell Parent Voice Conference.

**The event was held at the Portway Centre, Oldbury on the 17th March 2016.** Fourteen students performed two dance sets and two songs. The large audience were very appreciative of all four performances, with some becoming very emotional. The organisers were amazed and have requested we return next year to perform a new show.



# Bristnall Brews and Bourbons

Bristnall Brews and Bourbons is a new BHA community venture in partnership with Murray Hall Community Trust and is aimed at over 60's in our local area.



The weekly sessions will run every Thursday from 10.45am - 12.15pm for the over 60's to drop in for a cup of tea and biscuits with friends or to make new friends. There will also be light exercise classes and craft sessions available for those wishing to participate. Murray Hall Community Offer will be available to offer support to the over 60s with the following:

- Advocacy and Support
- Befriending
- Community and support Groups
- Volunteer Transport Health, Hospital and GP Appointments
- Home Safety Checks
- Support to Stay Healthy and Well
- Support to help you live independently in your home

We actively encourage elderly residents or neighbours of our students to make time to share their life experiences with our young people, whether it is the history of the local area or if they are ex-students of Bristnall Comprehensive. We are keen for our young people to hear from individuals who may have served in WW2 to experience what life was like.

Bristnall Hall Academy and Murray Hall Community Offer Scheme are looking forward to building links with the local elderly residents of Old Warley and Bristnall. For further information on the Community Offer contact Murray Hall on 01902 826992.

## Creating a real impact!

Success in Year 11 Resistant Materials and Graphics Products Moderation

After moderation of the controlled assessment, Design and Technology are pleased to report that there has been an increase in students achieving A-A\* for their examination work in both subject areas. All the after school sessions and additional weekends have been worth it. Graphic Products and Resistant Materials students are now focussing on revision to support their great work. Good luck for the examinations.



## Speed Dating at Bristnall Hall Academy!

As part of the internal CPD programme, Bristnall Hall staff were involved in learning and teaching speed dating on Wednesday 16th March 2016.

The purpose of the session was to share good practice relating to revision, with the final push towards the GCSE and A level exams in mind. Before the day, staff were given time to think about effective revision strategies and were asked to bring evidence of this working in the classroom, via a resource or students' work. Overall, this CPD session was successful as it gave staff from different subject areas the opportunity to share useful, practical ideas that they could take away and use in their classrooms the very next day. More importantly, it has enabled students to revise in more innovative ways. At the end of the session, staff were invited to select the 'most attractive' idea and prizes were rewarded to the top three most popular revision ideas at whole staff briefing the following week. Top ideas included revision jenga, revision monopoly and revision jigsaw.

Well done to all staff involved!

## Bristnall Hall Book Exchange

Bristnall Hall Academy is looking forward to hosting their first Book Exchange.

This will take place during our over 60's coffee morning on Thursday 21st April 2016. Bristnall Hall Academy encourage the infinite pleasure of reading with our students and the local community. 'Give a book. Get a book. Be part of our infinite exchange'

Starting 21st April 2016

**Bristnall Brews & Bourbons**  
Inviting over 60's

Every Thursday  
10.45am - 12.15pm  
Join us for a brew, chat and make new friends at Bristnall Hall Academy

**Bristnall Hall Academy**  
Bristnall Hall Lane  
Oldbury  
B68 9PA  
0121 552 5425

**mh**  
murrayhallcommunitytrust

Twitter Facebook

## Fancy a Brew?

On the 21st April 2016 we held our very first *Bristnall Brews and Bourbons* morning.

Our amazing young budding chefs of the future served high tea to the locals. The young chefs prepared and baked an array of afternoon tea delights for all to sample showing great expertise in baking their own bread rolls and various cakes and desserts to serve.

# Breakfast at Bristnall!

At Bristnall Hall Academy we believe breakfast is an integral part of the learning day and we take pride in being able to provide a free breakfast and a safe environment for parents and carers to leave their children from 7.45am daily.



**At BHA we promote healthy and nutritional eating and encourage students to make informed healthy choices about what they eat.**

Students can choose from toast, crumpets and pancakes with juice or a hot drink to give a kick-start to their learning day. Continued research shows that students who eat breakfast everyday achieve better outcomes.

It increases concentration levels and eating with staff and peers helps to develop social skills.

With the continued support of Warburton's, BHA are able to offer free breakfast to all our students. The entire academy community is hugely grateful to them for this outstanding support.

# Katie and Aaron help to deliver toys...

The nursing staff on the children's ward at Sandwell Hospital were extremely grateful to accept the toys for the children.

**Toys and clothes in good condition have been kindly donated and collected by our Academy over the past few months.** Two Year 9 students Katie and Aaron, helped to deliver the toys to the children's ward. Toys that were collected will help the children who are admitted to hospital to make their time more enjoyable.

The Salvation Army made a personal visit to Bristnall Hall Academy and welcomed the generosity from Tia in Year 7. Tia gave generously to one of our many Christmas hampers that were distributed to people in need in the community.



# 'Life after Bristnall'

**Name:** Sandeep Gahir

**Briefly outline your time at Bristnall.**

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

I participated in the Gifted and Talented Language summer school in Year 9, where I was given the opportunity to produce a short media comedy film with some of my best friends. We were encouraged to be innovative and were given brilliant support with our learning.

The Spanish Edgmond Hall residential trip in Year 11 was absolutely amazing! During the day we did a range of activities to help us with our Spanish revision however in the evening we enjoyed outdoor games, music and so many laughs with our fellow peers and staff.

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

After Bristnall I decided to go into further education where I studied my A Levels at King Edwards VI College Stourbridge and then went on to university.

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

Last year I did a marketing placement in Reading for a whole year for Westcoast Limited. I worked alongside top ICT vendors such as Microsoft, HP and Samsung to execute some of their marketing campaigns. I found this to be one of my best achievements since leaving school, as this was a brilliant learning experience and developed my skills as a person.



**What are you currently doing?:**

I am currently in my fourth and final year at Aston University, studying a Business and Psychology degree.

**Future career path:**

After completing university I am aiming to secure a graduate placement in marketing to help increase my work experience and career prospects.

**Words of advice for students:**

Anything is possible if you put your mind to it and have the right attitude to work towards your goal. Enjoy your time at Bristnall and make the most out the opportunities provided to you. You'll meet some brilliant people here so enjoy each day as these are the memories that will be remembered when you leave school.