

smart

Bristnall Hall Academy Magazine Issue 6 | September 2016



**A-Star
Students**

The results are in!

Also Inside this issue...Pride of Bristnall Awards 2016

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BHA Back to School

Welcome to Bristnall Hall Academy's first Smart edition for the new academic year. We hope you enjoy reading about many of the fantastic experiences and opportunities our young people have recently had.



We've had another amazing summer with our outstanding students achieving significantly improved GCSE and A Level results. These successes were well deserved after all of the hard work of students and staff.

Our GCSE results are now amongst the highest in Sandwell for many measures of progress and attainment and we are proud to be the most improved school in the area. In our sixth form, all students achieved two or more A Levels, which is above the national average.

Students that have been supported and guided by the superb team of staff here, now have the qualifications that will support them as they embark on further study, apprenticeships or the world of work. We strive to ensure that all of our young people have the qualifications and BHA employability skills and attributes that will set them apart from others in the job market.

Over the past year, we have continued to invest heavily in our facilities and resources. This will continue over the coming year and will include new, state of the art science laboratories, new student toilet and washroom facilities throughout the academy, as well as further enhanced ICT resources to support learning.

This term, we welcome outstanding new teachers and support staff, which will further strengthen our remarkable team. As Principal, I am very fortunate that our academy attracts high calibre staff due to the happy, warm working environment and the reputation of Bristnall Hall Academy as a great place to learn in and work in.

It has been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 students this year and see how our older students have worked with staff to support this cohort. The Year 7 students will benefit greatly from having so many excellent role models over the coming years.

We will continue to focus on developing responsible, highly skilled citizens who will have a positive impact on our community now and in future years. The links we have already developed with charitable organisations, local employers and higher education establishments will be developed further to ensure that all students can benefit from these partnerships.

Bristnall Hall Academy continues to be an inspiring, nurturing and purposeful school. We are all very excited about the coming year, working with our young people and community. If you would like to visit, do contact us to make an appointment to witness the fantastic learning that takes place within the academy.



Be Smart. Be in uniform.

We expect all students to be dressed in the correct uniform in and around the Academy. Our uniform is available from A. Oakes and Clive Marks School Wear. Further details are on the academy website.

Boys:

- Navy blue blazer with badge
- White button up shirt with collar
- Navy blue house tie
- Navy blue 'V' necked jumper *optional
- Mid-grey trousers
- Plain black socks
- Sensible black shoes (not boots, trainers or canvas)
- Plain black turbans

Girls:

- Navy Blue blazer with badge
- White button up shirt with collar
- Navy blue house tie
- Navy blue 'V' necked jumper *optional
- Mid-grey trousers OR Mid-grey knee length skirt
- Plain black socks
- Sensible black shoes (not boots, trainers or canvas)
- Plain black turbans/ headscarves

The results are in...



Results this year at BHA have been amazing!

In our sixth form, 100% of students achieved at least two A Levels and 80% achieved at least three. Both of these figures are above the national average and have meant that every student who wanted to attend university, is now doing so. Other students are using their qualifications, skills and attributes to embark on job roles or higher level apprenticeships.

At GCSE, the proportion of students gaining five or more A*-C grades, including English and Mathematics is 56%, up by 5% from 2015. For pupils taking the EBacc, there was a 6% increase to 33%, which is significantly above last year's national average and will be among the highest in the West Midlands.

This year, Bristnall Hall Academy's overall progress scores are significantly positive and indicate that our students make better than expected progress across a range of subjects. Among a significant proportion of students who achieved A* and A grades, Hannah Gowing was among the highest achieving with an amazing 7 A* grades and 4 A grades.

Amazing.



BHAmazing Hannah Gowing

Prefect Cohort 2016-2017

As we move into another academic year and our new Year 11 get to grips with their busiest year so far, a number of students have applied to take on extra responsibility.

Each student applied to become a prefect, stating hobbies / interests and in 200 words why they should be accepted as a prefect. Mr Jones and Mr Jeffrey processed all the applications and concluded with interviews for the positions of Head Boy and Girl and their deputies.

After the inevitable 'tell us a joke' from Mr Jones, the candidates produced a very high standard of responses, making the task of selecting the senior posts very difficult. Well done to everyone, you are a credit to the academy.

The outcome of the interviews were as follows:

Head Girl: Abbie Caddick

Head Boy: Adam Rose

Deputy Head Girls: Priya Purewell and Mahnoor Aslam

Deputy Head Boys: Liam O'Neill and Gopal George

In addition, nine senior prefects were elected along with twenty-five prefects, providing the academy with an incredibly strong team. Some of the initial duties for the team are to set up a Prefect 'Yammer' group, which implements improvements to prefect duties and decides on a charitable event for the coming year.



Wicked Writing

In April, Year 7 students were given the opportunity to exhibit their creative writing skills in a Young Writers competition.

Students had the challenge of producing a spine-chilling story in just 100 words.

Ethan Young, Jamie Thompson, Diljit Singh, Molly Stevenson, Mckenzie White and David Bordicott are all having their stories published in the anthology Spine-Chillers – The Wicked West Midlands.



Here's David's entry:

'SLAUGHTER ST.'

"I take a step.

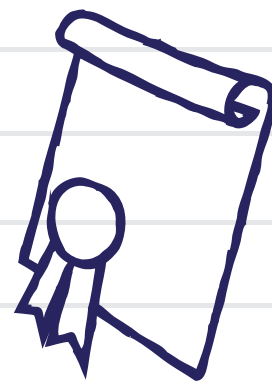
My mind won't work.

The walls brush my arms: the corridor is like a slit with doors on each wall. The exit light is flickering – just like my torch. I start running along the bloody path. The sound of screams cut through the air. I cover my ears and block out the shrieks from Hell. I start running again: running for my life.

A horned monster leaps from one of the ominous doorways.

It digs its claws into my arms – blood trickles to my elbow.

Save me, Emma Douvlin." The phone recording blares out the speaker.



Family Literacy Support Group

The Family Literacy support project uses the Little Bridge language computer programme to help children and adults develop Basic English skills.

It also provides an opportunity for parents/carers who have English as an additional language, to meet each other and share experiences in a relaxed environment.

The group aims to:

- Develop English language skills;
- Improve employability skills;
- Enable parents to support their children with homework tasks;
- Help parents to build friendships within the community;
- Build relationships with school staff;
- Break down the home/school barrier.

The group runs every Tuesday, 6pm – 7pm in the Learning Support Unit and has been up and running since April. Parents, please feel free to come along and take a look. **For further details, please speak to Miss K. White or Mr I. Jones.**





Lyme Regis

Our annual Year 8 Geography trip to Lyme Regis proved so popular that we ran not one, but two trips this year!

The sun smiled on us for both trips and a wonderful day out was had by the seaside. The purpose of the trip was to study coastal erosion, and how Lyme Regis is protecting itself from erosion from the waves. The students were astonished to see how much of Lyme has been lost, just in the last 90 years. Students completed a task booklet and were able to see for themselves a range of coastal protection measures. In addition to learning about coastal erosion, students also got to see for themselves why Lyme attracts so many tourists. The students had a great time sampling the fish and chips and ice cream, and buying fossils and local fudge from the shops. There was even time to do some pebble skimming on the beach and playing football on the sand. The students conducted themselves immaculately, and were a credit to the Academy and their families. Well done Year 8!

Frank Chapman Trip

A group of 25 SEND students spent three days at the Frank Chapman Centre at the end of June.

This was a fantastic experience for the students, not only for the organised activities they participated in, but also the fact of looking after themselves.

The students took part in: orienteering; rock climbing; archery; shelter making; making fire and forest walking. The life skills they achieved in just three days was invaluable and aided their future independence.





Pride of Bristnall Awards 2016

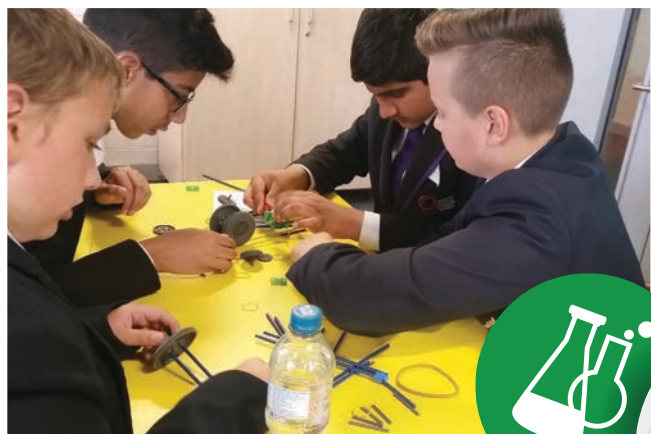
On Tuesday 12th July, Bristnall Hall celebrated the achievements of students across the academy at the annual Pride of Bristnall Awards.

Steve Clamp, of ITV News, returned for his sixth year to present the awards to students who have excelled in academic and extra-curricular life. The ceremony began after a greeting from the Principal, Mr. Green and there were closing words from Mayor of Sandwell, who we were honoured to have attend the event. The evening was beautifully presented and was a true celebration of the hard work and dedication of Bristnall Hall students across all year groups. All winners and nominees should be extremely proud of their achievements, as they are all a credit to the Academy and we are proud to have such a wonderful student body.

A special commendation must go to both Liam O'Neil, who won the Principal's Award and Jasmine Dosanjh, the winner of the Academy Transformation Trust Award.

Congratulations to all nominees and winners and thank you to the staff who helped to organise and present such a memorable and delightful evening.

Outstanding Effort in English - Joel Appiah
Outstanding Achievement in Media - Uwais Khan
Outstanding Effort in Film Studies - Amelia Fisher
Pythagorean Triple Award - Ramanpreet Kaur
Scientist of the Year - Aleeza Khan
Linguist of the Year - Ramanpreet Kaur
Outstanding Achievement in Humanities - Jasmine Dosanjh
Most Effective User of ICT - Fareen Akhtar
Sports Person of the Year - Jake Crackett
Most Promising Artist of the Year - Mya Rattray
Outstanding Musical Contribution - Berez Lawrence
Technologist of the Year - Matthew Stokes
Accelerated Reader Award for Literacy - Leanne Abraham
Most Inspirational Student of the Year - Ellie May Simcox
Most Promising Start to the Year - Muskaan Shabir
Principal's Award - Liam O'Neil
Trust Award - Jasmine Dosanjh



STEM Challenge day at ACE Academy

On 14th July 2016, 9 of our Years 8 and 9 students participated in the STEM Challenge for the West Midlands, hosted at the ACE Academy in Tipton. The day gave them an enjoyable insight into a higher level of science and technology. Activities included:

- **Robotics:** They were asked to build and program a robot to navigate a series of obstacles.
- **E-FIT:** They were asked to use police software to create an image of a 'criminal'.
- **Vehicle:** They were asked to design, build and then race a simple electric vehicle.

Throughout the day they worked with two young people from another school, which encouraged them to develop the team-work skills that they will need to study science and technology at a higher level. Our students did very well in all the challenges and two teams won the E-fit and the Vehicle challenge in their sessions. A brilliant day!



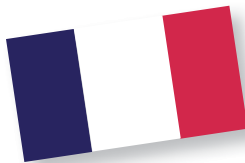
BBC Ten Pieces

A group of our amazing dancers took part in an exciting initiative led by BBC Learning, to open up the world of classical music to young people.

The BBC put together a repertoire of ten classical pieces of music to which young people could develop their own creative responses for. TBHA students chose to dance to Bernstein - 'Mambo' from 'Symphonic Dances from West Side Story'. The students spent two days with outside artists developing and choreographing their dance. They also created a video which introduces the story they told through their dance. This video was showcased on the BBC Ten Pieces Secondary website. They then went on to perform their creative response at the West Bromwich Town Hall in the BBC Ten Pieces Showcase on Monday 4th July 2016.



Paris Trip 2016



Following the success of the Paris trip in July 2015, students across Key Stage 3 at Bristnall Hall Academy had the opportunity to visit Paris again in July 2016.

The aim of the trip was for students to experience Mathematics and Design Technology in the real world.

The French capital offered an abundance of exciting visits and attractions, which touched upon much of the curriculum and allowed students to witness how Mathematics and Design Technology is practiced outside of the classroom. The trip also helped to expand each student's cultural awareness and encouraged group bonding and teamwork.

In the Mathematics department at Bristnall Hall Academy, we endeavour to combine education with fun in order to give our pupils an experience they will remember for years to come.



**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**

Exploring University

Several High Potential students from Years 9 and 10 recently visited the University of Birmingham.

They were introduced to lecturers, listened to seminars and visited several landmarks of the exciting campus. The students were all able to see what life as a student entailed, including being able to meet members of many different societies. They were also able to look at the possible subjects they could study and, the wide variety of engaging careers they could go on to, if they decided to go in to Further Education.

French Revision Weekend at Edgmond Hall



The Modern Languages Department here at Bristnall Hall annually organise a residential weekend for Year 11, at Edgmond Hall in Shropshire.

This year, we took a large group of Year 11 GCSE French students along for a hands on, practical revision weekend in preparation for their Reading and Listening Examinations. Students were sorted into Foundation and Higher groups and spent the weekend revising key vocabulary; perfecting examination techniques; listening to and transcribing songs. There was perfect weather for heading off into uncharted territories, with only a map and a sense of direction to help!

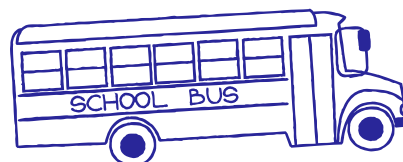
We are pleased to report that no student was lost during this activity. During the Saturday evening, after a packed schedule of revision and activities, the students were able to relax around a roaring camp fire as we munched our way through a lot of pizza. The students worked so well and were more confident when it came to tackling their examinations this summer, and the MFL department wished them “bonne chance”! Our strong results in the summer for GCSE French highlights what a valuable visit this was.

Castleton

June saw 98 of our Year 10 Geography students visiting Castleton as part of their GCSE controlled assessment on Tourism.



The students were gathering evidence to find out what sort of problems are caused by tourists in a honeypot location like Castleton. The students completed traffic surveys, environmental surveys, questionnaires and price comparison surveys. There was even time for pizza and cream teas, and some of our more energetic students climbed the steep hill up to Peveril Castle, which has overlooked Castleton since 1080. They worked very well in their groups, and coped with asking questions to members of the public with admirable skill and maturity. A wide range of data was collected, which will enable our students to achieve high marks in their controlled assessment tasks. Well done Year 10, you did yourselves proud.





Royal TV Society

During the Summer Term, Year 8s were invited to take part in an Enterprise Challenge which was delivered by the Royal Television Society and was based around careers within the broadcasting sector.

Teams became independent broadcasting companies for the day and had to design and develop a new TV Programme. One of the judges included Llewella Bailey of Central news and BBC WM Radio fame.

The winning team represented Bristnall Hall Academy at the University of Wolverhampton in the RTS Grand Final, against eleven other schools from across the West Midlands. They presented their ideas to celebrity judges (almost!) including, the head of programming at BBC Birmingham, and although they didn't win, they did BHA proud!



Enterprising Politics

Coinciding with the buzz of the EU Referendum, Year 9s brushed up their parliamentary prowess during the Enterprising Politics Challenge.

Teams of 8 were tasked with developing a manifesto for a brand new political party, alongside campaigning, marketing and taking part in a press conference with all other parties. Local Councillors supported students with their campaigns and explained their role within local government. Each party delivered a 3 minute party broadcast and we held a Ballot to determine the elected party.

Summer Science

On 7th July 2016, 15 of our Year 10 students went to visit the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition in London.

The exhibition was made up of 22 exhibits, featuring cutting edge science and research being done right now across the UK. The scientists involved in the research projects were on their stands to share discoveries and show the amazing technologies they use. Our students participated in many innovative hands-on activities related to the latest advances in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. A fantastic day!



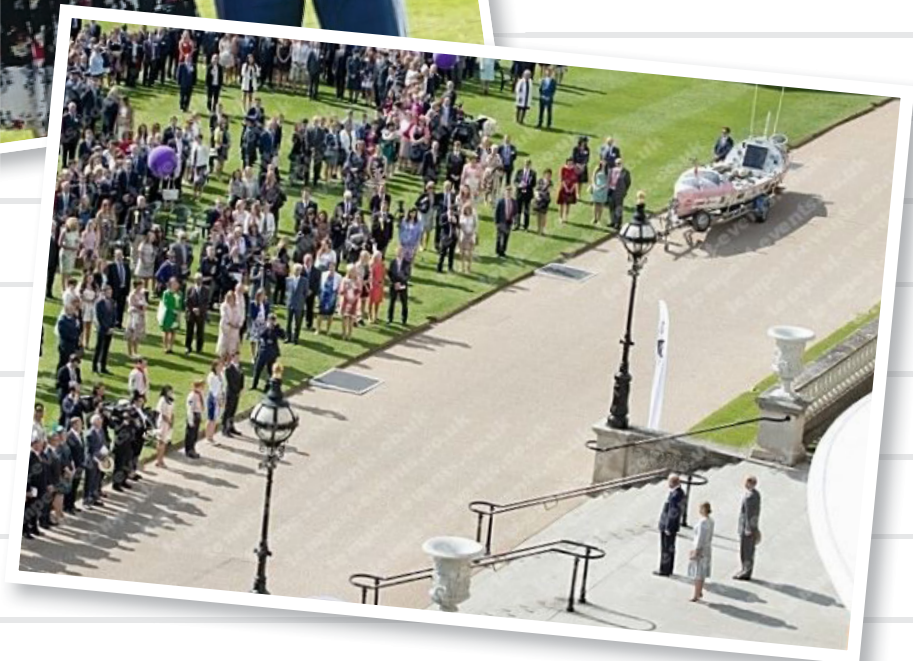


Bristnall Hall Academy visit Buckingham Palace

Bristnall Hall Academy were lucky enough to be invited to Buckingham Palace to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The award started in 1956 to bridge the gap between boys leaving school and entering National Service, and has since then grown into the world's leading youth achievement award. More than 1,000 young people and volunteers were presented with their awards and licence plaques by around 60 celebrities including Anna Friel, Ben Cohen, Ronan Keating and Anton du Beke, who had

all been drafted in to help Prince Philip and the Earl and Countess of Wessex hand out badges and certificates. As a licenced centre for the award, Bristnall Hall Academy offer students in Years 10 and 11 the opportunity to complete the award. In recognition of this, Mr Green and Miss Taylor received a plaque from England Rugby star Danny Cipriani and TV Sports presenter Jim Rosenthal.



Bristnall Brews and Bourbons

Bristnall Brews and Bourbons started in April 2016, to support the over 60s within our community.

On our launch, Year 10 students prepared and served afternoon tea to the over 60s. We have regular attendees who love to chat with staff and students in a safe caring environment, enjoying a brew with biscuits. During the summer break, there were free healthy eating and gentle exercise sessions running at the academy, which were supported by Groundworks WM, as well as our students and staff. Murray Hall Community Trust is involved with this initiative, offering advice and support to local residents.

For further information, please contact Mrs Kaur, at the Academy.

Over 60s are welcome at Bristnall Hall Academy on any Thursday from 10.45am until 12.35pm.



Public Speaking Competition

Supported by the local Rotary Club



On the 28th June 2016, we welcomed several local Rotary Club members to judge a public speaking competition involving fifteen students from the academy.

Our young people performed in depth and detail about the issues with the media/ social media in Britain today.

The Rotarians were very impressed with our young people who showed great courage, confidence and skill in speaking. All groups were superb, and the overall winners were Year 9 students Leehara and Georgia.

The academy will be developing this initiative over the coming year to ensure our students can develop these key skills.

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.

SHAPE National Takeover Challenge

Five of our young people represented Bristnall Hall Academy at Sandwell Council House for the SHAPE Takeover Challenge, which involved other local schools to take charge of a council meeting in the council chambers.

The takeover day's purpose was to influence adolescent health and wellbeing to important decision makers such as executive chefs, the Clinical Commissioning group and local politicians. Our young people displayed great maturity and understanding. They were a credit to the academy, showcasing excellent communication skills to influence the future of young people in Sandwell.

"I found the takeover Challenge very interesting and it was also very fun to do. I think being able to teach adults made us students feel like we know things they don't. Also debating was fun as we got to express our opinions."

Georgia Year 9



Bristnall Sport



National Sports fortnight.

Last term in PE, students from all year groups took part in a two-week timetable to celebrate National Sports Week.



The purpose of this was to give our students the opportunity to try some Olympic sports, in the build up to the 2016 Rio Olympics, which took place this Summer.

Students participated in a range of Olympic and Paralympic sports, including:

- Archery
- Rugby
- Football
- Basketball
- Boxing
- Rhythmic gymnastics
- Wheelchair basketball
- Boccia

Some of our students also had the opportunity to have a go on an inflatable challenge course. Well done to all students that took part over the last two weeks and thank you for your energy, efforts and enthusiasm!

BHA competes for Sandwell

Nine Key Stage 3 students took part in the Sandwell School Games - S.M.I.L.E Quad Athletics competition held at Tipton Sports Academy in May 2016.

Two teams represented Bristnall Hall Academy and competed in four athletic events against three local schools. Bristnall Hall came in 1st and 3rd place, with our 1st placed team going on to qualify for the Black Country School Games at Wolverhampton University, Walsall Campus. They represented the borough of Sandwell in June 2016 and came 1st against Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton! It was a fantastic event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.





'Life after Bristnall'



Name: Ellen Atkinson

Briefly outline your time at Bristnall. What do you remember about Bristnall? (Favourite subject/teachers/memories)

My 5 years at Bristnall is a time that I look back at fondly. One of my favourite memories from my time is from my Catering class where for our coursework we had to cook foods from a country of our choice. I chose Spain and my friend and I made Churros - we must have made over a hundred and it was incredibly fun and rewarding (and yummy!). I also very much felt like I was part of the Bristnall family and that is all down to the encouraging attitude of the teachers and all the lovely people I met here, with many being certain friends for life.

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

After Bristnall I went on to study English Literature, Geography and Geology at King Edward VI College, Stourbridge and I am currently studying English Literature at University of East Anglia.

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

A memorable experience for me has been beginning university which has been both challenging and fantastic. The move from home to Norwich has enhanced my independence, which in turn has boosted my confidence. Due to this, and for so many other reasons, going to university has been the best decision I have ever made and I thank Bristnall for helping me to get to where I am today.

What are you currently doing?:

I have finished my first year at University of East Anglia and I have loved every second of it. I have spent my time being surrounded by literature and the beautiful Norfolk Broads!

Future career path:

After university I hope to enter in to the Publishing industry to work within the Editorial sector.

Words of advice for students:

Always have faith in your own ability and with the right attitude and work ethic, you will be able to achieve whatever you set your mind to. Bristnall is a wonderful place and you should always cherish the moments that you have spent here. 5 years seems like a long time but it flies by so enjoy it!

Rounders of Applause

Over the course of the summer term, many girls from Bristnall Hall Academy have competed against local schools in the Sandwell Rounders League.

We currently have three Rounders teams; Year 7, Year 8, and a combined Year 9 and 10 team. The league got off to a rocky start with an unfortunate defeat against Oldbury Academy. This was quickly followed with our biggest success, as all years won their matches against Holly Lodge. As we have progressed through the league, the girls from all teams have improved massively on their skills and abilities within the sport. Well done girls for your continued dedication to the school Rounder Teams!

Boxing

During PE lessons, some of the Year 10 boys have had the opportunity to participate in boxing.

Soloman Dacres has been coaching the boys, not only at his own amateur gym on Tat Bank Road in Oldbury, but he has been leading an afterschool club which has been well attended. Pupils have worked on a range of things such as: technique, style, discipline and general fitness in these sessions.

The pupils have really enjoyed having the opportunity to work with Soloman, who has now been called up to have an initial assessment with Team GB!

Put a date in the diary!

OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 13th September 2016, 6-8pm

OPEN WEEK

**Come and have a tour of
Bristnall Hall Academy. See us learning!**

Morning Tours are available by appointment
Monday 19th September - Thursday 22nd September 2016

Call 0121 552 5425 to book your appointment