

smart

Bristnall Hall Academy Magazine Issue 7 | January 2017



**OFSTED
2016 Report**

The inspection results are in!

Also inside this issue... Bristnall's Got Talent!

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Happy New Year!



I am delighted to welcome you to the first edition of SMART for 2017 and to be able to share with you our great news that, in our recent Ofsted inspection, Bristnall Hall Academy was judged to be Good. Inspectors awarded the Good judgement in all of the five key areas:

- **Effectiveness of leadership and management** **Good**
- **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment** **Good**
- **Personal development, behaviour and welfare** **Good**
- **Outcomes for pupils** **Good**
- **16 to 19 study programmes** **Good**

The inspection report is available on the academy website and makes for great reading. It is excellent news for the community of Oldbury to have an Ofsted rated Good secondary school in the area. We will now continue the hard work until we are a truly Outstanding school in the eyes of not only Ofsted but everyone reading this edition of SMART.

As Principal of Bristnall Hall Academy, I am extremely proud of our amazing young people and staff and our report is testimony to their hard work and our caring ethos where “every individual is valued”. This would not have been possible without the fantastic support we receive from governors, the Academy Transformation Trust and you, our parents, carers, and community and I thank you wholeheartedly for this.

This term we welcome some outstanding colleagues to further enhance our already strong team of staff. We are fortunate at Bristnall Hall to have highly skilled, experienced staff who Ofsted described as “knowledgeable and enthusiastic teachers”. It was also noted that we have “consistently good teaching, supported by strong leadership and effective pastoral care” which supports one parent’s view that we are an academy where their child “is being really well educated and cared for”.

The refurbishment work has started in our Science laboratories, and designs have been finalised for all of our student toilets, our car park and changing rooms. We will continue to work to ensure that our superb, young people have the facilities they deserve.

2017 will be another amazing year at Bristnall Hall Academy.

Vince Green
Principal

The Great Big Thank You!



Our very own Mr Hipgrave, from Modern Foreign Languages, has been nominated by the community for Teacher of the Year for The Great Big Thank You Awards.

In the summer, the Express and Star asked their readers to nominate unsung community heroes and Mr Hipgrave was nominated and then selected as a finalist by the judging panel for one of their nine categories. The line-up was announced in September and readers, as well as our students here at Bristnall Hall, have been voting so that

Mr Hipgrave is recognised by everyone as being the amazing teacher he is, with such a well-deserved award. Voting closed in November and the winner will be announced in late January 2017 in a special awards ceremony at the Molineux stadium. We’re all rooting for you, Mr Hipgrave! Loads of luck!

Re-start a heart

Bristnall Hall Academy students were involved in a world record breaking attempt, organised by the British Heart Foundation, to empower as many young people as possible with the knowledge of basic CPR.

The lifesaving skill was supported and delivered throughout the day, at the academy, by West Midlands Ambulance Service.

We are passionate about our community and strive to have a positive impact in our local area. Through research, we realised that the nearest location of a registered defibrillator, with 24/7 access, was 3 miles away from the academy.

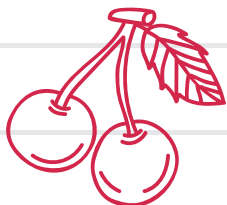
With this in mind, our students sought to raise funds to install a much needed defibrillator with an external cabinet for the community. Bristnall Hall Academy, together with other schools who were participating in Restart a Heart Day, were entered into a prize draw by West Midlands Ambulance Service and we were fortunate enough to win a defibrillator for our community!



Free Fruit Friday!

We at Bristnall Academy strongly believe in educating and encouraging our students to eat a healthy, well balanced and nutritional diet.

With this in mind, we launched our 'Free Fruit Friday' to encourage our young people to adopt healthy eating habits that will last a lifetime. To kick-start this amazing pilot scheme, Tesco West Bromwich generously provided us with a variety of fruits; apples, bananas, pears and oranges, which was hugely appreciated by all. Bristnall Hall Academy are immensely grateful to Tesco West Bromwich and thank them for their generosity. Fruit is available during break time on a Friday.



Creative Writing

Mr Lannon's 8X1 English group took part in a whole class creative writing task. Each group was given a section of the story to develop, making sure they focused on developing their use of vocabulary, language features, as well as applying a range of sentences.

Through collaborative learning (and some class debate over character names!) the story was brought together and resulted in an incredibly effective piece and a benchmark for future KS3 writing. Well done, 8X1!

Below is an extract from the story the class wrote.

He lay. Dying.

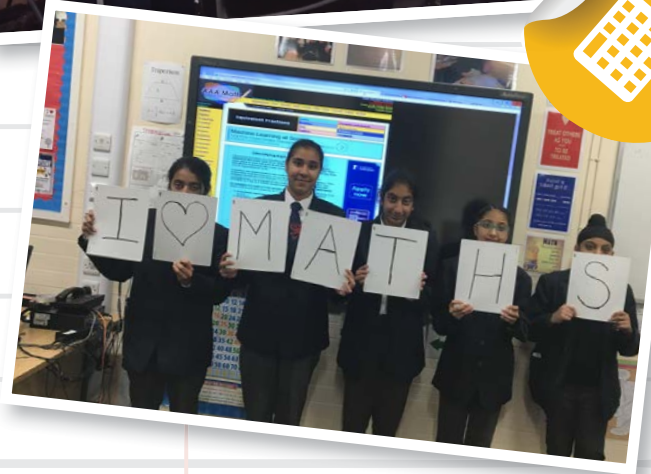
He tried to mutter only a few words but nothing could escape his dry lips. He mustered up the strength to whisper his final words:

"Beloved brother, I need you!" he gasped, as his hand stretched out and closed.

"Anything, Harvey." Shayaan smiled sadly. All he wanted was his brother to be free of pain.

Shayaan had black short hair and big round, blue glasses. He had crusty, brown teeth like almonds and a wonky nose. He untruthfully promised to look after the two kids. Which were his nephew and niece. However, this was not correct. Due to the fact that he detested them with a strong passion coming from his evil, dark heart.

The kids' names were Alfonze and Mackenzie and they were known to be very irritating and annoying.



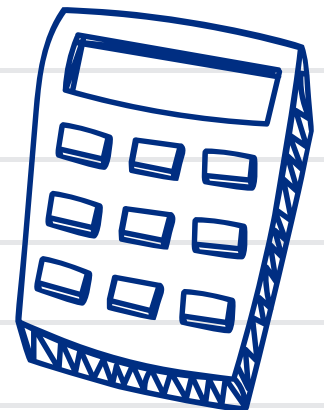
Maths-tastic!

What's happening in Maths?

There's a lot going on in the Mathematics department; **treasure hunts, maths clubs, revision sessions and more.**

Here, 7X1 enjoyed a treasure hunt in Miss Barber's classroom.

For updates and information about what is happening in Maths, **follow us on twitter:** @bha_maths.



Science club!



Budding scientists of the future can now try exciting experiments at our Science Club.

Our first session was very well attended and everyone enjoyed seeing a demonstration of a fire tornado and learning how to make secret writing appear. We didn't manage to write with fire quite as well as we'd hoped, but that's science!

Over the next few weeks we will be hearing some Cannon Fire, making a density game based on the Cartesian Diver experiment, generating electricity from fruit, making conductive playdough and becoming rocket scientists!

Science Club runs on a Friday after school in Lab 48 and is open to Years 7, 8 and 9. It is currently full, but you can pick up a letter to be placed on the waiting list for when a space becomes available.

For more information, please see Miss Hole, Miss Moore or Miss Hadlington from the Science Department. students were rewarded with a GIS day pencil.



Blood Brothers mannequin challenge



Year 7 have been studying Blood Brothers and have been practicing their best mannequin poses!

Learners were challenged to create a frozen image of the two mothers in the play at the moment Mrs Johnstone has to decide whether to allow another woman to take one of her unborn twins.





Bristnall's Got Talent

This year, we had an astonishing 46 acts audition for Bristnall's Got Talent, 14 of whom were lucky enough to make the BGT final.

The evening was a huge success, with over 100 tickets sold! The 14 talented acts were competing for 1st place, as well as some amazing prizes.

The judges were Mrs Chivers, Mr Lannon and Mr Brookes. Coming in at third place was Terrell Pinnock. He impressed the judges by playing two instruments (the violin and saxophone). In second place was Kathryn Wilson and Berez Lawrence with their rendition of 'I See Fire'.

Abbie Caddick was crowned the winner, with first place, who wowed the judges with her own version of the Britney Spears song 'Toxic'.

A massive thank you to Mrs. Westwood and Mr. Browne for organising the event. Mrs. Westwood is extremely proud of everyone who had taken part and has said that the standard just keeps on improving each year.

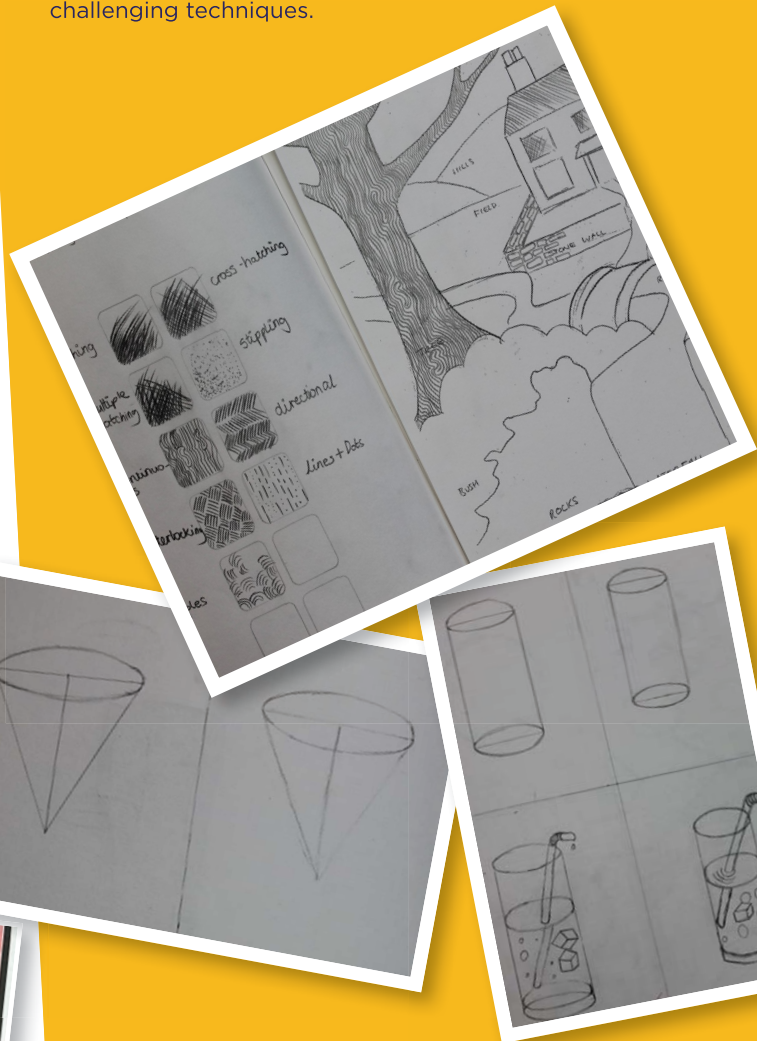




Artist of the term

Natalia Borun is a very hard working student who shows great dedication to, and a personal interest in Art and Design.

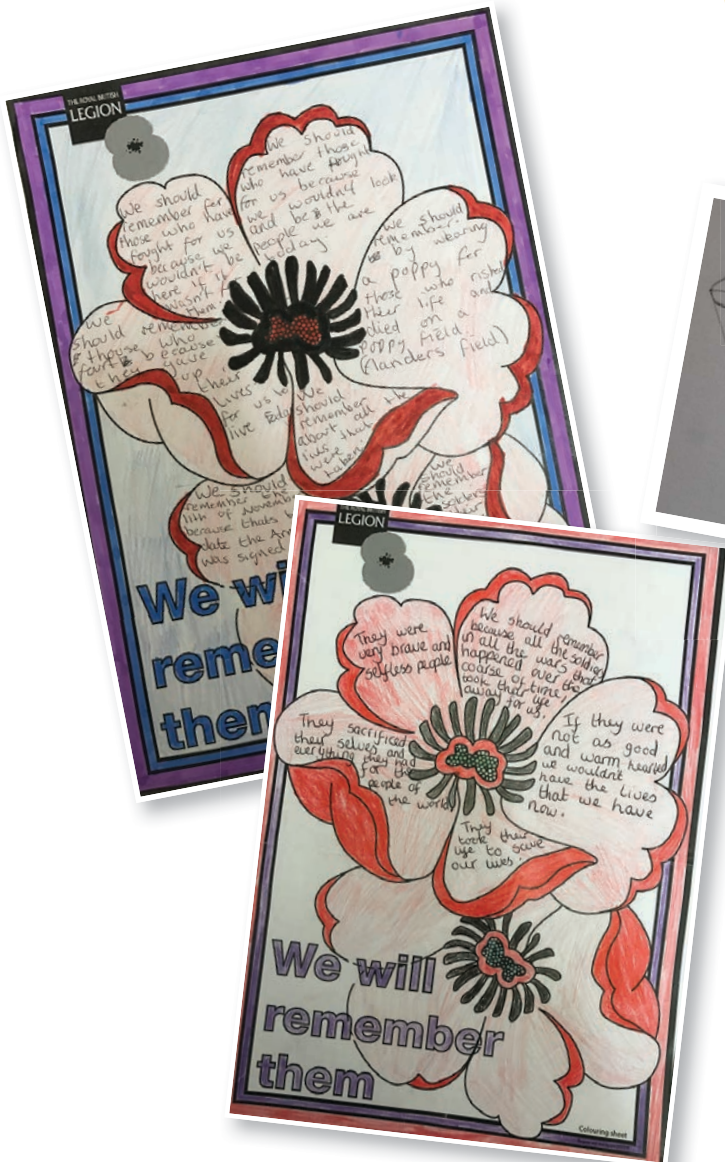
She has worked hard to develop her skills this year, coping really well with some very challenging techniques.



Paying our respects

As an Academy, staff and students commemorated Armistice Day on 11th November with a two minute silence, remembering those who lost their lives in wars, both past and present.

Students in history also wrote poems and passages explaining why they should be remembered, inside the petals of a poppy.



High Potential evening

On Thursday 10th November, parents of our Year 10 and 11 High Potential students were encouraged to attend a Parental Information Evening about how their child can achieve a grade 8 or 9 in the new reformatted GCSE.



Students gathered and were given various pieces of information, including: revision guides and strategies, examiner reports and an online platform for English Literature where students can access a wealth of resources. The students and parents all agreed that the night was informative and gave them lots of practical strategies to use to achieve Grades 8 and 9! We would like to thank our parents for their continued support at these events. Any parents who could not attend are welcome to request the information from Miss Henderson.

Equine therapy

Ten BHA students were given the chance to attend an equine therapy course. The course is designed to develop students' confidence, and they gained a lot from working with horses.

It was extremely interesting to see how students' reactions affected the horses reactions, so they needed to remain calm to be able to direct them.

We are fortunate enough to be able to have ten more students experience this opportunity in February. If anyone wants to know more about this, please speak to Miss Haycock.

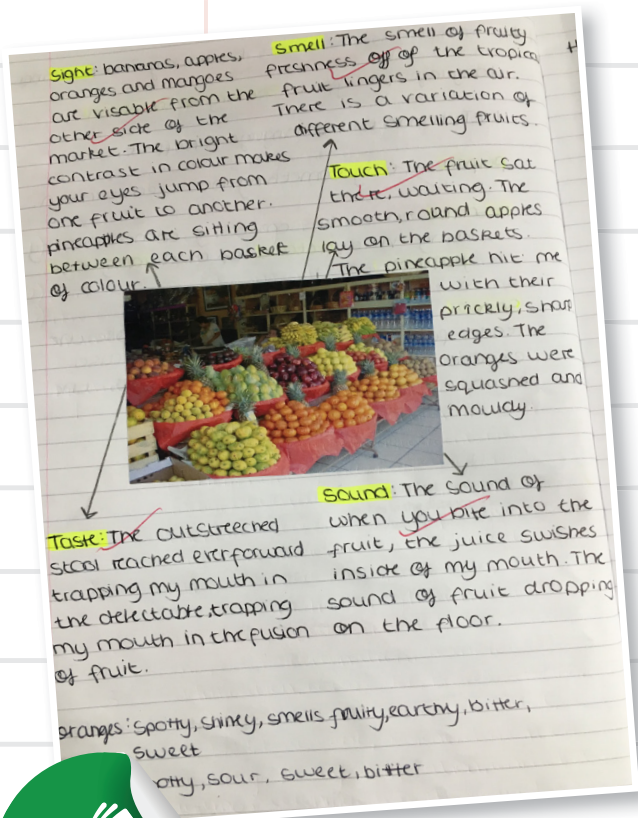
We would like to thank Murray Hall Community Trust who provided the funding for our students to attend this worthwhile therapy course.



Sensory writing

As part of a writing scheme, Year 9 students took part in a sensory lesson where they imagined entering a market stall full of fruit.

To engage the students and get them really thinking about their senses, and how they could incorporate it into their writing, the group used their senses to explore a range of fruits. They discussed and wrote down ideas about their smells; the different textures of the fruits; how they felt to the touch; the sounds they made when they were cut and bitten into, and of course, getting a chance to taste them too! Students then used their notes, as well as the skills gained from other lessons, such as the use of: figurative language; sentence variety; ambitious vocabulary; as well as a range of punctuation for effect, to write a creative writing piece.



Ready to Read



A number of Y10 students, and their parents, were invited to a launch evening for the Reading Intervention Program where they were given guidance and strategies on how to improve and develop their reading ability.

After an informative talk, students were able to select a book which matched their reading age to take home and read, and in doing so, begin their journey towards becoming more accomplished readers.



A Victorian Christmas

Two classes in Year 10 took part in a Victorian Christmas party at the end of last term.

They were treated to lessons on: how to make Christmas crackers, decorating Christmas cards and tasting some Victorian-style Christmas food. By the end of these lessons, they had managed to create lots of Victorian gifts to take home and embellish their own Christmas day with! As well as developing their English writing skills, and having a lot of fun, they also had the opportunity to learn more about the historical context behind their core text, "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.



Accountancy internship

During the half term break, I participated in an internship programme at an accountancy firm called Grant Thornton.

This was organised as a result of being involved with the Social Mobility Fund (SMF), which is an organisation that helps people from under-privileged backgrounds to achieve their dreams. The internship allowed me to learn more about my future career and helped me to develop new skills. Meeting and engaging with new people gave me a great confidence boost too.

Having a work experience placement which is directly relevant to my future career has had a huge impact; the experience I gained was invaluable.

Throughout the week, I realised that there is not only one route available to achieve my goal; there are other alternatives. I recognised that other than going to university I can also apply to the School Leavers Programme provided by the firm, which is equally beneficial.

This was an amazing opportunity and I'm thrilled that I was introduced to the SMF by Miss Kolade and that I had the opportunity to take part.

Neha- Post-16 Student and Student Ambassador



Danielle's year in South Africa

After attending a 4 day selection course on the Isle of Coll in October by Project Trust, I have been chosen to volunteer in South Africa for 12 months, looking after vulnerable young people in care homes and hospitals.

It has always been my passion to make a difference to the lives of people facing adversity and I know that I will embrace the opportunity to have a positive impact on the people I will be working with. In order for me to go abroad I must raise £6200. Due to the large amount of money that needs to be raised, I will be doing fundraising events such as; raffles and cake sales. I have also set up a fundraising page (below) and would really appreciate any donations, to get this volunteering project going.

If you have any questions regarding fundraising for my voluntary gap year in South Africa, you can find me in the academy and I will be happy to provide you with more information.

Thanks in advance everyone!

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DanielleHardingWebber>



Lord Mayor's quiz

Last term, I (Gareth), Adam, Jake, Fahudi, William and Owen went to the University of Birmingham to take part in the Lord Mayor's charity quiz.

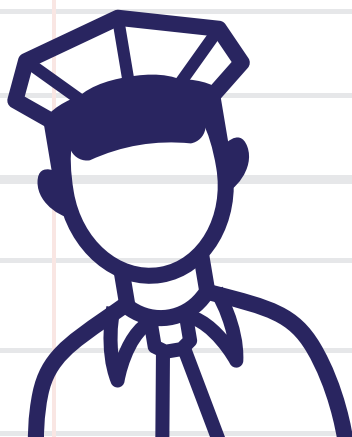


On the journey there, the team were telling each other random facts that we hoped would come up in the quiz, though none of them did! A memorable moment in the quiz was during the general knowledge round. The following question was asked: "Which African country shares its name with the little pieces of paper cut out by a hole punch?" Knowing the answer, we wrote it down. As the host Sarah Falkland read out the answers, she stopped at this particular question and asked the teams if any of us knew the answer, and being the proud members of Bristnall Hall Academy, we all shouted out, "CHAD!" ensuring that our team would not be forgotten, as being the group that remained subdued. By the end of the quiz, we were placed 12 out of 38 other teams. Overall we had a lot of fun, displaying our knowledge and competing with other sixth form colleges. Should you have the opportunity to take part in this event, I recommend you do it. Find yourself a team of six people and go quizzing!

Scene of the Crime

Year 13 sociology students are currently working on a 'Crime and Deviance' unit which will be assessed through a written exam.

Students delivered insightful presentations on how the media plays a role in crime. An interesting theme that one student chose to focus on was the way domestic violence is portrayed in the media. The presentations were excellent and students successfully learnt from each other. Students also had an opportunity to demonstrate their extensive depth of knowledge within this topic area, as well as develop their confidence and presentation skills.





Forward Thinking Students

Year 11 Forward Thinking Students graduated from their University experience.

During their time, they completed a series of Aim Higher events, including: mentoring sessions to help them apply to college and University, High Potential skill building sessions and lots of other exciting activities.

Well done!

Half-Term High Potential Camp

Year 7 High Potential students got together over the holidays to practise their High Order Thinking skills.

After some exciting events, including a hotly-contested debate, they finally came to a consensus and set up a charitable organisation which they would manage, plan for and run. The students are aiming to begin their time as the High Potential Charity Champions, by putting on school events to raise money for a cause close to our hearts.

More information about this will be released later in the year.



We're all heart!

On Saturday 26th November 2016, our young people spent the day bag packing at Asda, Oldbury.

Students and staff that participated thoroughly enjoyed themselves and managed to raise over £400!

The funds will be used to purchase a cabinet for the defibrillator that was donated to the Academy by West Midlands Ambulance Service.

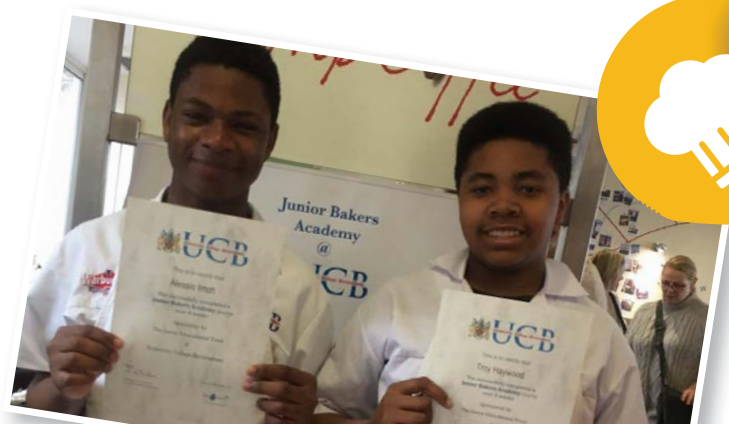
Bake off!

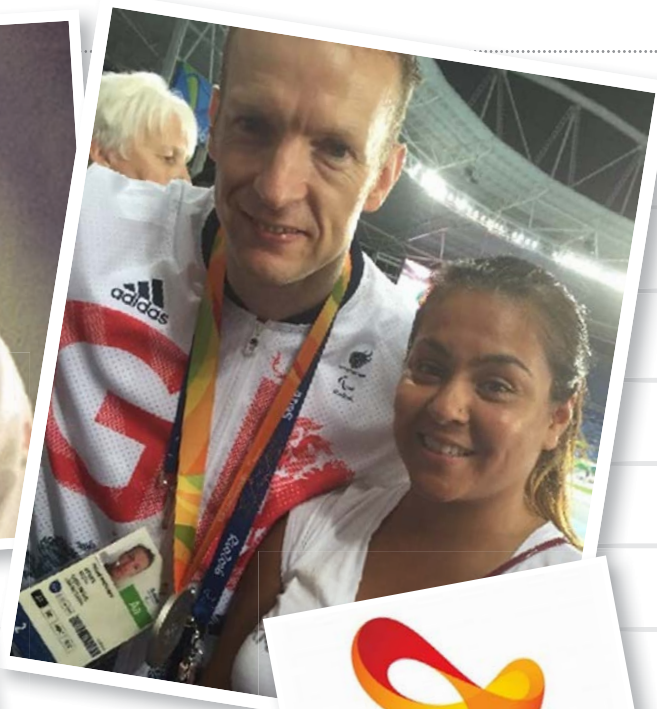
On November 12th 2016, Year 11 students Troy and Alessio graduated from the Junior Bakers Academy at University College Birmingham.

The course is sponsored by the Savoy Hotel London Educational Trust.

These two budding foodies got up early every Saturday to learn how to work in professional bakery kitchens, preparing bread dough, pastries and cakes. Bakery lecturer Charlotte Thomas presented the students with their well-deserved certificates and parents enjoyed a fantastic buffet prepared by the bakers.

Well done boys for your hard work and dedication.





The Superhumans!

Ms Claire's Paralympic adventure...

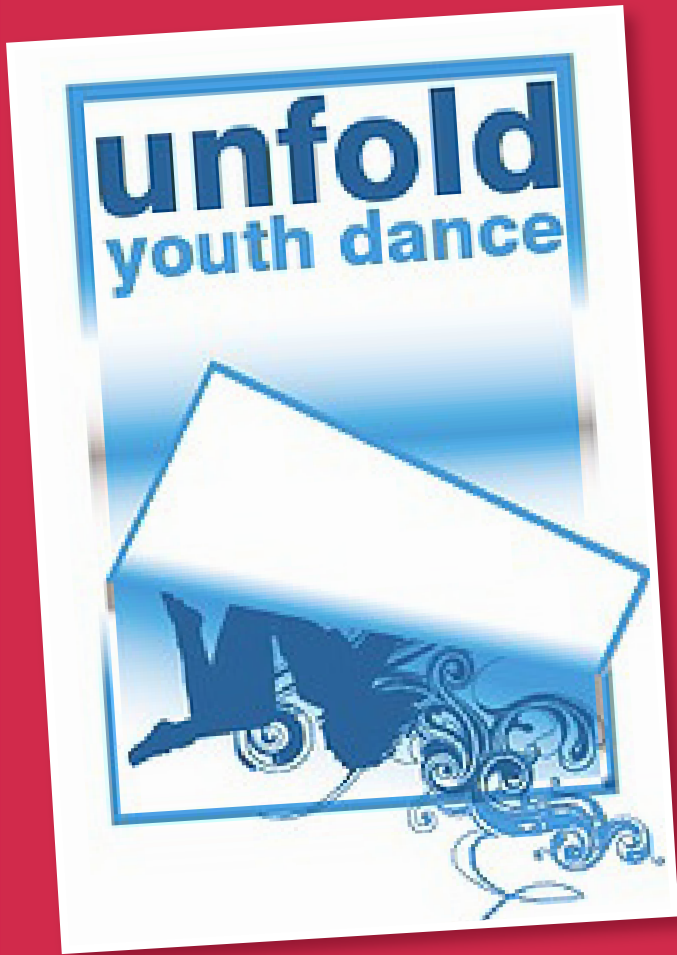
This year, the Olympics and Paralympics took place in Brazil and I had the privilege of attending the Paralympic games in Rio de Janeiro.

I was able to meet many of the Paralympian athletes behind the scenes, whilst they prepared for events and celebrated their success at the games. I knew that Olympians work hard, but Paralympians display an unbelievable amount of determination, courage and have to dig deep to find the energy within, to attain similar feats. Whilst there, I came to realise that every athlete came with an encouraging story of how they overcame their disabilities to excel in the sporting world, alongside their able bodied counterparts.

Kadeena Cox was always sporty as a young student. She actively enjoyed a wide variety of sports and trained and competed regularly. It wasn't until she was 15 that she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. But this did not deter her from her goals as she accomplished Paralympic Gold medals in both track and cycling events, which was the first time this was ever achieved. Having met her, I realised the importance of believing in yourself, as Kadeena continues

to do, and how being focused on your goals can really work. Throughout all the games, one athlete stood out for me. A person who, in spite of his physical disability and in the face of all those who said he couldn't accomplish his goals, those who told him to quit when he reached the age of 30, is still achieving success at 40 years old. I was proud to witness the sheer strength and determination of the man that again won Gold; Richard Whitehead. For anyone who watched this year's events, you may know that close on the heels of Richard's prosthetic blades was 14 year old Ntando Mahlangu of South Africa, who went on to win a Silver Paralympic medal in the same T42 event. What I found out from talking to Ntando after his success is that he only started to run in the four years prior to these games, as a direct result of watching a man with disabilities like himself achieve Gold at the London 2012. That man was Richard Whitehead. To think that regardless of the 26 year age gap, both men can run side by side and inspire not only each other but the next generation of kids.

They really are 'superhumans'!



Unfold

KS4 dance students have been lucky enough to work with dance artists Laura Milward and Rachel Boxley from Unfold Dance Company.

Students have been developing technique and skills in their BTEC and GCSE dance lessons under the expert guidance of the Unfold artists. They have also produced pieces for the upcoming 'Dance Showcase'. Unfold have a Youth Dance Company based at BHA which is open to all members of the community.

Sessions run on Thursday evenings from 4.30pm -6.30pm. For more information contact Miss Taylor or Mrs Rose in the Performing Arts Department. Alternatively, email Laura the company director at lauramillward18@hotmail.co.uk

Hairspray

The Performing Arts Department here at Bristnall Hall have been running a Theatre group every Monday between 3.30pm-5pm.

Currently there are 45 students in Years 7-10 who are working on all aspects of the production. The theatre group consists of 'The Bristnall Band', as well as an array of talented singers, actors and dancers.

Theatre group will be performing 'Hairspray the Musical' in late Feb/ early March 2017.



'Life after Bristnall'



Name: Jack Henderson

Briefly outline your time at Bristnall.

What do you remember about Bristnall?

(Favourite subject/teachers/memories)

Bristnall Hall was a fantastic place to go to school. I learnt a lot here and everything I learnt allowed me to make choices about my future life. I attended King Edwards VI Stourbridge after BHA for my Post 16 studies and then went on to study a Masters in Pharmacy after this. I really enjoyed my time at BHA and the teaching staff were always a big part of that. They went out of their way to help me in my studies and, for that, I will always be grateful.



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

After Bristnall Hall I studied Chemistry, Biology and Maths at King Edwards. I have just finished my Masters in Pharmacy at the University of Wolverhampton.

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

A memorable achievement happened this year. I went through an intensive interview process and was accepted onto a placement at Boots Pharmacy as a Junior Pharmacist. It is challenging but I really enjoy every aspect of my work there.

What are you currently doing?:

Currently I am working at Boots and this has given me the opportunity to engage with customers, deal directly with vulnerable members of the community and use a wide range of knowledge I have developed over my time studying Science. This love for scientific research began at BHA with Mr Liddle - so I am very grateful to him for harbouring my love of the sciences and persevering with me when I was stubborn and down hearted!

Future career path:

Future career goals include: possibly becoming a lead pharmacist at Boots or going to work in industry and actually produce the prescription drugs. I like the idea of being able to influence our lives in some way! However, I do really enjoy the people side of my current role! My days are never boring!

Words of advice for students:

You can do anything you aspire to do as long as you work hard at it. Nothing worth having is easy to get! You must always believe you can do it first and then keep trying! You'll get there in the end.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to Travis Perkins for donating these picnic benches for our students!





Sporting Stars of the future

Bristnall Hall Academy is very proud of two Year 10 students who are playing for Stoke City FC in the Junior Premier league.



Praise and Israel regularly make the journey to Stoke for training and matches. The aim of the Stoke Regional Talent Centre is to provide progression, opportunity and challenge to all players and coaches. This is a unique opportunity for Praise and Israel to experience an academy like system in a fun and holistic manner. There is a large focus on developing the technical ability and tactical awareness of players through the training and games programme. Furthermore, using the latest software from HUDL the boys will be able to analyse and assess their performances during games and training. As both students are currently studying for their BTEC Level 2 in Sport, this provides an excellent opportunity for them to use their experience of elite sport and apply it to their studies.

Girls' football week

KS3 girls took part in the national girls' football week between Monday 10th October – Friday 14th October. They played a tournament to promote the enjoyment of girls' football.



Basketball

The Sandwell basketball league started on Tuesday 15th November. Bristnall Hall have been drawn in a group with Perryfields, Shirelands and George Salter. The boys will play Perryfields in their first game and will look to finish in the top 2 to ensure progression to the next round. Good luck boys!