Being Part Of The Team

As we come to the end of this term it was a real pleasure to be able to represent Shenley at the E-ACT regional celebration event yesterday. Being part of a multi-academy trust means that we share core values with 21 other schools both nationally and regionally. In the time since I joined Shenley I have enjoyed visiting the other schools in the Midlands region and getting to know their staff and students. We all have much to offer one another when we discuss best practice, and yesterday was a chance for some of our students to meet one another too.

All of the E-ACT academies work to three value statements:

- Think big!
- Do the right thing
- Team spirit

For us at Shenley these chime with our core values of resilience, self-belief, kindness, integrity, altruism and respect. And so when we were asked to represent the E-ACT core values in designs for fabric bags and cupcakes, to be shared at the regional event we saw this as an opportunity not just to explore our creative talents, but to also spread the message far and wide about the importance of the Shenley Horizons curriculum. Mr Coy and three representatives from the academy council travelled to the West Walsall Innovations Centre with me to present our designs to judges from E-ACT Academy Ambassadors. Our fantastic cakes took second place in the secondary categories so well done to all involved!

And so to the end of term – thank you to all of the hard work from both staff and students this term. We will return to the public exam season for all Y11, Y12 and Y13 students so I trust that they will make sure to make good use of the revision sessions which are being offered during the Easter break. The key to success is undoubtedly working methodically through revision, making sure that you get a good balance of work and rest, and of course this means starting early so that you're not cramming everything in at the last minute!

And for those of you lucky enough not to be returning to GCSE and BTEC exams on our return - have a good rest! We return to the academy on Monday 24th April, ready for hard work as soon as we come through the door.

Enjoy a safe and peaceful break.

Lucy Monk, Principal
Sixth Form Immersion Day

In Sixth form, students spent the recent immersion day developing skills needed for their impending adult independence.

Year 13 asked for a practical cooking session to help them as they move away to university and have to cook for themselves. We are so grateful to Miss Bhandal for helping students develop adaptable recipe. Star cook of the day was Francis Gould for his curry. It transpires that these sessions were more needed than we first thought with one student admitting they ‘had never actually cooked before’, another student asking where they got boiling water from and many learning the difference between a garlic clove and a bulb. The quality of dishes made was excellent and students enjoyed these for their lunch.

Year 12 joined sessions developing their skills in interviews, budgeting and referencing.

Following this, students enjoyed a session from ‘Live and Learn’ presenter Gordon Campbell. This inspiring workshop looked at growth mindset, revision and skills for a positive future.

We were also grateful to our visitors from Project Ask, who gave invaluable advice about good apprenticeships and ways to source, then apply for these.

The final part of the day was spent finalising evidence folders for the Apollo Student Leadership Award. This is an SSAT accredited award which recognises the essential and fantastic leadership attributes and experiences that student’s develop during their time in Sixth Form. The majority of students will gain this at Gold level, making a superb addition to their CV and future applications. Key themes of self development, community contributions and working with others have challenging criteria at this advanced level, which students have to demonstrate they have achieved.

Huge thanks to past Sixth Form students – Dashen Allen and amie-Lee Wainman for supporting on the day

Ms Heath, Head of Sixth Form
On Tuesday saw the second of the three immersion days, focusing on a variety of different topic areas linked to Citizenship Education. Once again the Year 7 students engaged fantastically throughout the day, demonstrating excitement and enthusiasm with each activity, and how each relates to their everyday lives both in and out of the academy. The 7 students were involved in a variety of exciting sessions related to ‘Healthy Living’. Sessions focused on British Values, where students were able to explore the different aspects of these values and how they could affect their personal growth, development and engagement with others around them.

The second session focused on what it means to be a good citizen, exploring how students should behave when out and about within their local communities. Encouraging them to continue to represent themselves well and contributing in a positive manner to the local area in which they live. Students were given the opportunity to personally reflect on what they had already done within their own communities which make them a good citizen.

Students undertook a session on internet safety, learning how to stay safe whilst online and to protect themselves from potential dangers and strangers. This was a crucial session due to the growing popularity of social media and ensuring that students are using it safely and securely.

The fourth session focused on issues related to relaxation and how students can incorporate different techniques and strategies if they find themselves getting anxious or wound up. Students were able to explore the different aspects of the brain and how relaxation can be used to refocus and calm individuals down.

Finally our Year 7 students participated in a practical based session which focused on the importance of remaining fit and active through adolescence. During this session they learnt about different aspects of remaining healthy and monitoring their own levels of fitness through measuring their own personal heart rates.

The day was a huge success and one which the students got huge amounts from, it was fantastic to see how well they engaged with each session and the discussions which took place throughout the day. A monumental effort once again from the Venus College team, who planned, prepared and delivered outstanding and inspiring sessions related to our chosen theme.

Mr Coy, Head of Venus College
Immersion day Year 8

The second Immersion day saw Year 8 tackle the topic of Cultural Diversity. They were placed into small groups to be given the opportunity to experience all aspects of each session. The sessions included Changing Britain, exploring what it means to be British with the chance for thoughtful discussions throughout. My England was next, which looked at how England ‘was’ and is now, giving students really engaging information, with the opportunity to reflect. Another session was the Immigration Game, focusing on the process of Asylum seekers, sorting through evidence and making informed decisions using a board game. Next there was Lion – a cultural take on the newly released film, but focusing on the reality of how many children actually go missing in India and working in groups to research this topic. For some groups, there was a practical session, called Capture the flag. The students actively and brilliantly participated in the popular backyard game, alongside learning about the history behind the activity, going back to the American Civil war. Finally, the day concluded with African Drumming using all kinds of instruments, but coming together to create some fantastic renditions of Ed Sheeran’s Shape of you. This was a fantastic day for year 8 with some mature discussions, outstanding teamwork and decision-making in all sessions. Thank you to the tutors and teachers who presented the sessions.

Ms Luckman, HOC Jupiter

Year 9 Immersion Day – Our Global World

Session 1: We learnt about human rights and what a ‘Prisoner Of Conscience’. At the end of the lesson we made creative butterflies with hopeful notes to the people in prison for expressing their human rights.

Session 2: We learnt about the different STI's (Sexually Transmitted Infections) you could get from sexual intercourse. The group learned about this important part of health and well-being.

Session 3: We played a game called Kebaddi (a game that is popular in South Asia). Two teams compete, each occupying its own half of the court. They take turns sending two "raiders" into the opposing team’s half and earn points if the raiders manage to grab the opposing team’s straps that are connected on either side of their waists. They earn points for how many of the straps they manage to collect.

Session 4: We learnt about the European Migrant crisis. We learnt where most of the migrants (refugees) are mostly coming from and where they are headed. We learnt about the bad scenarios that happen to the migrants when they are on their journeys. We played a game that was similar to Monopoly where we had to make our way from our war filled country to England. At the end we read scenarios of migrants trying to get to a safe country and decide which one should be able to have a safe life. (They were true stories and they all got happy endings fortunately).

Session 5: We watched videos about world travellers and matched up the countries to their facts. After that, for the rest of the lesson, we made a Powerpoint about the 3 countries we would like to visit the most and a few facts about them.

Ysabelle Reyes – Year 9 (S5)

All of the staff from Saturn College worked hard to make the day an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for the students. My thanks also goes to the students who stepped out of their comfort zone, worked maturely and really engaged with topics that required empathy and potentially challenged their existing thinking on some topics.

Mr Wood – Head of Saturn College
Year 11 Immersion Day

Year 11 had a very successful day taking part in revision workshops as well as completing a study skills seminar. We were fortunate to have a representative from Maximize Your Potential speak to Year 11s on how to achieve their goals, raise their grades and fast track to their future careers. We had overwhelmingly positive feedback from these sessions which gave practical tips on how to maximise their revision time, how to de-code exam language as well as memory techniques.

Revision Tips and Exam preparation (Maximize Your Potential)

1. Short spurts of revision are most effective.
2. Find a quiet space to revise.
3. Make sure you don’t just revise the topics you like. Work on your weak ones as well.
4. Make your own revision notes because you will remember what you have written down more easily.
5. Re-write key points of your revision notes, read them out loud to yourself. We remember more than twice as much as what we say aloud than of what we merely read.
6. Use different techniques (as explained in your booklet and revision workshops).
7. Practise on past exam papers or revision tests on the web.
8. Ask for help!
9. Don’t get stressed out. Eat properly and get lots of sleep.
10. Believe in yourself and be positive.

We have some extra booklets from the Maximize Your Potential session in the Neptune office if you wish to collect one.

Good luck Year 11!

Mrs Baker, HOC Neptune

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Do you love dance, drama, art or music?

We are looking for committed individuals to join our performing arts team as official arts ambassadors. You will represent us at events, contribute to the organisation of our extracurricular clubs and performances and more!

Interested in finding out more information?

Please find Miss Rowell or a teacher in the performing arts faculty to register your interest in this fantastic opportunity!
KNSBFA district cup semi-final

Shenley Academy 2 v 5 Bartley Green

This was a fantastic game of football with two strong footballing teams battling it out for a place in the final of the district cup. Shenley had the early possession after kick off and were patient in trying to build chances. Luke Rowe was controlling the midfield moving the ball from side to side to create gaps in the Bartley Green defence. In addition the defensive players Cahan Lee, Jack Brayshaw, Adam Hickman and Jake Kettle were confident when dropping off into good positions to provide support backwards when the midfield were stuck going forward. Tyriess Atkinson was able to make some good forward runs throughout the first half, however, Shenley were often a little slow to move the ball forward to utilise these when trying to break down Bartley’s strong and physical defence. Unfortunately against the run of play a mix up at the back allowed Bartley to find a cross and poke the ball home from close range. This fired Shenley forward and towards the end of the first half Shenley nearly had a chance to level the scores with Luke Rowe breaking through, only for Bartley to make a well timed tackle in the box. From the Bartley kick off to start the second half Shenley were not able to deal with a long ball and Bartley immediately doubled their lead to 2-0. Shenley now had the choice to accept defeat or dig deep to pull back, showing the resilience that they always have Shenley found another level of play and this sparked a 5 minute goal frenzy. Some excellent work on the wing from Josh Chirambo and Ben Walker allowed Ben to cross the ball to back post. Luke Rowe still had a lot to do but was able to generate good power in his header to get a goal back for Shenley. Bartley then quickly scored again to make it 3-1. From the Shenley kick off some excellent wing play again resulted in a penalty when the referee was well positioned to spot a handball in the box. Cahan Lee confidently put this away in the bottom corner to make it 3-2. Shenley now had to push to find another goal to take the game to extra time. While doing this Bartley were able to break and score another two. The game finished 5 – 2 to Bartley, which was disappointing for all after a gutsy and determined team performance. The Year 11 team should be proud of their manner, conduct and success throughout their five seasons of football at Shenley Academy. They have been a credit to the school and we wish them every success in their football after school.

Team:

Class of 2017 Football Honours:

Year 7 – KNSBFA League Champions, All Birmingham Cup Semi-finalists
Year 8 – KNSBFA District Cup Winners, League runners up
Year 9 – KNSBFA League Champions, English Schools regional cup runners up.
Year 10 - KNSBFA League Champions, All Birmingham Cup Semi-finalists
Year 11 - KNSBFA League Champions

Anthony Blakeway
Curriculum Leader for Physical Education & Assistant School Games Organiser

Year 8 and 9 Girls Football (League game)

Shenley Academy 12 V 0 University Of Birmingham School

Well done, to the year U14 girl’s football team who took on UOB school in their first league game of the season. Shenley dominated from the start and thanks to some excellent teamwork they finished the match with a comfortable win.


Bishop Challoner 2 V 4 Shenley Academy

Shenley knew they were in for a test with taking on last season’s league winners. Shenley started strong and after some slick passing and moving they took the lead. At the start of the second half Shenley were leading two nil and looking comfortable until Bishop Challoner scored a well worked goal to make the game more interesting! This was short lived and thanks to some lovely play Shenley managed to score two quick goals to secure a well-deserved win.