

Headteacher Column

Welcome to a double issue of Shenley news this week – with lots for you to enjoy!

I have to say I didn't think that I would be sitting here writing a newsletter at the beginning of March talking about snow once again – and yet we are! The first week back this half term has been filled with flurries of snow, and as I waved the X Band of Year 8 off on their trip to Aberdovey, and Mr Willshaw and I talked about a plan B for snow I didn't think that we would actually need to bring it into action. The X Band had an amazing 3 days and we are so impressed with the resilience that they showed in tough and challenging weather conditions. The Y Band had a great start, but we had to draw their adventure to an early finish when severe weather warnings meant that even the hardest of Outward Bound leaders said that it was the most challenging weather that they had ever known. They managed to squeeze in some sledging but then they were homeward bound.

Our thanks go to all of the staff who made this year's trips possible for the Y8s. Each year staff volunteer to accompany the groups to the programme, and a requirement of this is that they will join in and try out all the activities alongside the students. Long days, lots of responsibilities in freezing conditions meant that this year's staff team had to work even harder than usual – so a huge thank you from all of us for making it happen! To the team who stay behind it is just as unusual a week. We have all of our colleague's lessons and duties to cover to make sure that it is 'business as usual' for the rest of the school – so again a big thank you to all of you who helped man the fort back at base.

We managed to fit in some World Book Day activities this week alongside the normal run of everyday life at Shenley. The English team came into school dressed as their favourite characters, and this was a prompt for us to talk about our favourite books. We 'drop everything and read' (DEAR) every day at Shenley and so all of our students know how important reading is to improving their overall education, but it was great to see Ginny Weasley, the Queen of Hearts, the Joker and other favourite characters wandering the corridors on Thursday this week. Want to know more about our favourite characters? Then visit this page on our website: <https://shenleyacademy.e-act.org.uk/world-book-day-2018/>.

Y11 students had their final week of period 6 revision lessons before the mocks start next week. I'm certainly hoping that they will be using the snow day today to do that last lot of revision before next week. A reminder to all of our parents/carers that you can download revision resources and check which exam boards we are using for all of our GCSEs and BTECs this year by visiting this page on the website: <https://shenleyacademy.e-act.org.uk/curricular/our-curriculum-in-years-7-11/> You will need to scroll down the page as the information is by year group, starting with Year 7.

I also had to share the news that we will be suspending our Y12 for 1 year from this September. You should have received a letter from me outlining the reasons for this, all letters were sent out on Thursday 1st March via our email system. If you didn't receive the letter please can you check that we have your correct email address on our system once you have checked that our emails aren't going into your junk email folder, as this can sometimes happen. It is anticipated that this will be a 1-year suspension, and that we will secure sufficient applications for courses to start in September 2019. In the meantime, we will be supporting those students who have applied to us for a place in September 2018 to secure an alternative place in another 6th form college or school.

Cont'd

Finally. A group of our pupils have been working on a project with the Diana Award. They meet together with mentors from the Diana Award on a regular basis and have been working to pull together a week of fund raising for: Ditch the Label: an international anti-bullying charity. You can read more about the work of Ditch the Label here: <https://www.ditchthelabel.org/>. Pupils from our group will be selling raffle tickets in aid of Ditch the Label and this will culminate in a non-uniform day later in the term. Students will be allowed to wear their own clothes to school – but they must be appropriate for a day of work in the academy. If students have PE or Dance then they must bring their school kit for those lessons. They will be issued with a log if they do not have the appropriate kit with them. If pupils don't want to wear their own clothes, then they should attend school in their normal school uniform. They cannot then wear trainers or hoodies with school uniform. Non-school uniform days are something which our students would like to include in their year, but these come with a responsibility. On this occasion we are fundraising for a specific charity, and unfortunately when we have done this in the past some pupils have come to school in non-uniform and not paid funds to the charity. I trust that this will not be the case when we hold our next non-uniform day and that all pupils will understand the importance of the work of Ditch the Label and be prepared to pay their £1 to have the privilege of wearing their own clothes.

So – here's hoping that you've all safely survived the snow and that we are back to normality where March weather is concerned by the time that you're reading this, and that Storm Emma and the Beast from the East have realised that all good fairy tales end with a happy ending.... One where there is no snow and Spring finally arrives!

With best wishes,
Lucy Monk
Headteacher



World Book Day 2018

World Book Day is all about reading your favourite books, and this year was a chance for the English team at Shenley to share their favourite books and authors with our pupils. We 'drop everything and read' every day of the year because we know how important reading is for widening our vocabulary and experience of the world. But it's not everyday that we get to dress up as our favourite characters and share a little bit more about our favourite authors so the English team jumped at the chance to get involved. Find out more about our characters and books via the posters below.

WORLD BOOK DAY
1 MARCH 2018

I am the Queen of Hearts

From *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

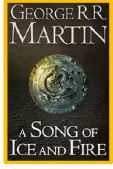




Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is an 1865 novel written by English author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson over the pseudonym Lewis Carroll. It tells of a girl named Alice falling through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures. The Queen of Hearts is the fictional character from the book in which she appears as the primary antagonist. She is a foul-tempered monarch whom Carroll himself describes as "a blind fury".

WORLD BOOK DAY
1 MARCH 2018

I am Daenerys Targaryen

From *A Song of Ice and Fire (Game of Thrones)* by George R. R. Martin





A Song of Ice and Fire is a series of epic fantasy novels by the American novelist and screenwriter George R. R. Martin. He began the first volume of the series, *A Game of Thrones*, in 1991 and had it published in 1996. *A Song of Ice and Fire* takes place in a fictional world in which seasons last for years and end unpredictably. The principal story chronicles the power struggle for the Iron Throne among the great Houses of Westeros following the death of King Robert in *A Game of Thrones*.

WORLD BOOK DAY
1 MARCH 2018

I am The Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come

From *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

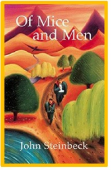




A Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost-Story of Christmas, commonly known as *A Christmas Carol*, is a novella by Charles Dickens, first published in London in 1843; the first edition was illustrated by John Leech. *A Christmas Carol* tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an old miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. After their visits Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man.

WORLD BOOK DAY
1 MARCH 2018

I am Curley's Wife

From *Of Mice and Men* by J. Steinbeck

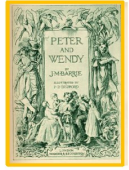
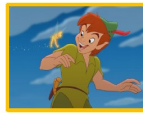



Of Mice and Men is a novella written by author John Steinbeck. Published in 1937, it tells the story of George Milton and Lennie Small, two displaced migrant ranch workers, who move from place to place in California in search of new job opportunities during the Great Depression in the United States. Curley's Wife is a young, pretty woman, who is mistrusted by her husband. Curley's wife's preoccupation with her own beauty eventually helps precipitate her death.

WORLD BOOK DAY
1 MARCH 2018

I am Peter Pan

From *Peter and Wendy* by J.M. Barrie

Peter Pan, or the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up or Peter and Wendy is J. M. Barrie's most famous work, in the form of a 1904 play and a 1911 novel. Both versions tell the story of Peter Pan, a mischievous yet innocent little boy who can fly, and has many adventures on the island of Neverland that is inhabited by mermaids, fairies, Native Americans and pirates. Peter has many stories involving Wendy Darling and her two brothers, his fairy Tinker Bell, the Lost Boys, and the pirate Captain Hook.

WORLD BOOK DAY
1 MARCH 2018

I am The Joker

From *Batman* by DC Comics




Batman operates in the fictional Gotham City with assistance from various supporting characters, including his butler Alfred, police commissioner Gordon, and vigilante allies such as Robin. Unlike most superheroes, Batman does not possess any superpowers; rather, he relies on his genius intellect, physical prowess, martial arts abilities, detective skills, science and technology. A large assortment of villains make up Batman's rogues gallery, including his arch-enemy, the Joker.

WORLD BOOK DAY
1 MARCH 2018

I am The Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come

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Shenley Dance Department news

The most recent showcase of Dance Fusion was a mind-blowing experience to all students involved, students from years 7 to 13 put on beautiful performances which showed many different dance styles. The finale was very meaningful, where students performed a piece illustrating their perception of mental health and what they could do to support others. Many of the audience commented on how emotive the performance was and allowed the audience to reflect in depth about the issues surrounding mental health. This dance went on to raise £95.10 for the Mental Health Foundation to help individuals struggling with mentality issues. What a success!

The departments next venture is to Move it in London, an annual trip for students in KS4 and KS5 where students explore many dance colleges and universities for their future prospects, watch live performances, participate in dance classes and view/purchase dance merchandise. Our dedicated dance students will be leaving at 6.45am on the 16th of march to embark on this eye-opening experience.

Written by Jordan Parton Year 13



Aim Higher Language and Culture event

"There was more important things than love in the air on Valentine's Day for the Year 9 French students as we headed across the city to Aston University. Although the journey was a short one, upon arrival we had been transported to a quintessential French village, comprising of all the local shops and amenities one could expect in a small rural French town. The students were given some Euros and a series of challenges to complete; ranging from posting a letter, ordering in a café to requesting medication in a pharmacy. Despite initial reluctance, the students by the end had fully immersed themselves into the experience and were conversing in French without giving it a second thought. They were all in agreement that the event had given their French skills a certain *je ne sais quoi* and were eager to continue to improve their *français* in the future."

Mr Smith, Curriculum Leader MFL



School Games Rowing Competition

Tuesday 13th February saw the arrival of much anticipated Rowing competition which took place at the Doug Ellis Sports Centre.

The year 10 boys and girls had done well in the qualification stage; competing hard and earning their place at the competition.

The first round of races saw students having to row for 3 minutes and record as far a distance as possible in the time specified. Each student qualified in a top 6 position setting a high challenge for the other competing schools and academies. The finals then consisted of a 5 minute row, which saw students have to use every ounce of their endurance and determination to finish in as high a position as possible. Unfortunately the year 10 students were unable to finish in any of the three medal positions.

The final events of the day were the 4 minutes relay races where each student had to row 1 minute each before changing over position. There was a huge amount of excitement and determination from the Shenley teams to ensure that they went home with a medal. The year 10 girls were up first and this saw a smooth and focused display; demonstrating a perfect set of changeovers and all working collectively as a team to perform at their best. They finished in second place; a fantastic result!

Next up was the year 10 boys and with the girls success ringing in their ears this assisted with them to get off to a powerful and strong start. Once again each changeover was well rehearsed and performed to perfection. Each member of the team demonstrated huge power and strength pulling away from their competition in first place and coming away with a gold medal.

Each competitor from Shenley conducted themselves in an outstanding manner, demonstrating a real desire and determination to succeed and finish their race in the best possible position.

Well done to all year 10's who took part, it was amazing to see everyone go home with a medal!

Year 10 boys relay – 1st place (Gold Medal)

Year 10 girls relay – 2nd place (Silver Medal)

Matthew Pankhurst, Ethan Ashley, Jake Henn, Tyler Balla, Becky White, Ellie Tipper, Saiyra Ali, Rose Tucker.

Mr Coy,



March to excellent attendance

There are only 19 school days in March and we want you to attend every single one of them!

Excellent attendance is vital to your academic progress. Research shows that students with excellent attendance are more likely to fulfil their potential.

Set yourself up for an outstanding second half of the academic year by collecting 19 consecutive days of attendance. As always, we have an added prize incentive! There are three JD sports vouchers to be given away in a prize draw for students with 100% attendance over the 19 days. In addition, we also have twenty-five chocolate eggs to give away in the same prize draw. All you have to do is attend!

3 £20 JD Sports vouchers to be won!



25 chocolate eggs to be won!



19 consecutive days could win you one of these prizes!

Help us make March a month to remember!

TARGET

19

Help us make March a stand-out month for excellent attendance. There are only 19 school days remaining in the spring term and we want Shenley students to attend all of them!

Week Beg:

Monday 5th March 2018

Will Be:

Week One

On the Academy Timetable.
Theme for Assemblies/ Form

Is:

World Book Day

DEAR

Period 1

SPRING TERM DIARY DATES

Tuesday 6th March 2018:

Year 8 Parents' Evening: 4.30pm—7pm

Thursday 8th March 2018:

Drama Visit: Playing Shakespeare at The Globe Theatre, London

Monday 12th March 2018:

12.30-4.00pm: Schools Games - Dance at The Birmingham Hippodrome

Wednesday 14th March 2018:

4.30-7.00pm: AAG Meeting

Friday 16th March 2018:

Dance Trip 'Move it' London