

# Shenley ACADEMY Spotlight

Issue 19

Summer Term 2, 2023



## Message from Dr Bartlett

As we come to the end of another academic year, I want to thank you all for your continued support of the academy. Shenley Academy is a wonderful school underpinned by our academy values and 'Building Futures. Changing Lives'. We pride ourselves on

our focus on learning and student well-being. We celebrate being part of E-ACT and as a Trust we have won the multi-academy trust of the year at the Excellence Awards in June which is an incredible achievement and demonstrates our dedication to Opening Minds, Opening Doors.

Recently we said good-bye to our year 11 students who worked hard towards their examinations and celebrated at the Prom which was a wonderful event with lots of glitz and glamour. We wish them every success in their next steps.

Students have had so many opportunities this year through our amazing extra curricular offer and our wonderful talents were celebrated with success at the E-ACT National Pupil Celebration Event held at the MAC in Birmingham with recognition for sustainability and sporting excellence.

We ended the academic year with our Awards Evening, celebrating the accomplishments of our students in all year groups. We were honoured to have poet laureate Matt Windle as our guest speaker.

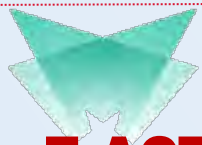
I would like us all to join in thanking Claire Evans our Academy Ambassador for her continued drive and dedication to the role. She has been an incredible ambassador for the Academy and representing ambassadors across E-ACT. Her work and commitment is recognised and appreciated by all.

We say goodbye to Carolle Alwright, who is retiring after 18 years, Sarah Benham, who is retiring after 14 years, Jahniah Burns, who leaves for a promotion, Chloe Jones, who is moving to London, Hayley Tatlow, who leaves for promotion, and Ellis Woolley.

We welcome Sonya Dhir - Assistant Headteacher, Kyle Gurney - Assistant Head Teacher, Laura Valente - Head of English, Harpreet Sohal - Head of PE, Bethany Parker - Pastoral Support Manager, Kyle Malley - PE teacher, Ruby-Mai Ellis - Head of Product Design and Aleema Ashraf - Teacher of Science.

Finally I wish you a wonderful summer break and look forward to welcoming all students back to the academy on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Best wishes  
Dr Jayne Bartlett



## MAT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### E-ACT Win Big!

We are delighted to announce that E-ACT won the award for MAT of the Year at the MAT Excellence Awards on Thursday 29th June 2023.

The panel were impressed with E-ACT's comprehensive approach, including community hubs, corporate partnerships and the school improvement framework. Serving schools in some of the most deprived communities, the trust is committed to inclusion and impact.

Read the full story inside.

## AWARD WINNERS 2023



# Building Futures. Changing Lives.

# Careers



The 5th July 2023 marked 75 years of the National Health Service and what better way to celebrate and spread awareness of career opportunities within the NHS than to welcome guest speaker Julia Holding to the academy. Julia has had a successful career in the NHS in a variety of different roles including nurse, midwife, health visitor and leader as head of patient experience. Julia shared her inspirational story of growing up with additional learning needs and her career journey. There was an assembly for year 9, our year 10 health and social students and a group of year 7 students to discuss careers in the NHS. Some key messages reinforced many of our Shenley values, such as being resilient and having aspirations for the future. Students had the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation and it was good to see many students getting involved. They found out more information about the many different careers in the NHS. It was good to see that our students represented the academy

well and we were proud that Julia commented on how respectful and well-behaved our students are. Julia was impressed by how quiet and calm our students move around the academy from lesson to lesson.

## Useful links

More information about over 350 careers in the NHS can be found at: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/explore-roles>

Take a quiz to see which NHS career might be of interest to you: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/FindYourCareer/intro>

*Mr Gwyther, Careers Lead*

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## Year 10 geography field trip to Carding Mill Valley

On 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June, the geography department took our Year 10 GCSE geography students to Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire. The purpose of the visit was to complete our physical fieldwork study ready for the third GCSE geography paper (Geographical Applications) that students will sit at the end of Year 11. Our students were collecting data to investigate whether the River Ashbrooke followed the Bradshaw Model, which is a geographical theory they had studied in class.

Our students behaved impeccably on the trip and both National Trust volunteers and members of the public commented on how polite students were, and how mindful of the environment they were. We had a lovely two days and our students made us very proud. Well done Year 10 geographers!



## Carding Mill Valley



*Miss Turton, Head of geography*

# Attendance

Over this half term students have worked hard to keep their attendance above our academy target of 96%. Over 60% of students have attendance above our academy target, which is a wonderful achievement. Please can I thank you for not taking your child on holiday during term time, this ensures they don't miss valuable learning time. Students have enjoyed several rewards including end of term disco for those students who's attendance is above the academy target. I wish all the students in the academy an enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing them in September. We are aiming for 97% attendance next academic year!

*Mr Pearce, Assistant Headteacher*

## Attendance Matters

**Well done and thank you to all those students who have 100% attendance at the academy so far this year.**

Attendance is one of the biggest factors deciding student success in school. Year on year, students who are in school with over 95% attendance achieve better grades and prepare themselves better for their future. We want every student at Shenley Academy to fall into this category and we don't want anyone to be left behind. We will be monitoring attendance closely this term and will be sending you fortnightly updates in regards to your child's attendance.

## The Importance of Punctuality

Punctuality is crucial to ensuring that your child's day at school starts smoothly and that they are in the right mindset to start learning and working hard.

**The academy gates open at 8:15am and form time starts at 8:35am.**

**Late arrival is between 8:40 and 9:00am.**

**Arrival after 9:00am is recorded as unauthorised and will**

## Rewards

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 200 students in Year 7-10 attended Alton Towers. The trip was a reward for attendance and good behaviour throughout the academic year. The students had lots of fun and represented Shenley very well. It was a joy to see students thrive outside of the academy setting, winning huge cuddly toys and running around the park to get on as many rides as possible with their friends! The students enjoyed it so much that they have asked to have this as one of the reward trips next academic year. I would like to highlight again that all students behaved impeccably and were a credit to our academy.



adversely affect your child's attendance record and achievement levels. Please support your child to develop lifelong habits of good attendance and punctuality in order to allow them to achieve their full potential.

## Medical Appointments

We request that, where possible, routine medical and dental appointments are arranged outside of academy hours as these appointments will affect your child's percentage attendance. We do understand that some appointments, such as hospital consultations are not always possible to arrange outside of academy hours. However, if your appointment time allows your child to come to the academy for registration and then leave later this will have a positive impact on their attendance figure. Likewise, if they are able to be back at the academy for afternoon registration – 12:20pm this will also have a positive impact.

## Important Reminders

If your child is too ill to attend the academy, please contact the school office before 9:00am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. If we do not hear from you, we will ring you to find out why your child is not at the academy.

If your child is absent from the academy for any reason they should not be outside the school gates at the end of the day meeting friends.

Thank you for your support in helping to raise the academy's attendance. If you would like any support or advice on attendance or punctuality, please contact your child's pastoral support manager.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> July we hosted our annual Summer party to reward students for their wonderful achievement this term of keeping their attendance above 96%. This tropical themed event was enjoyed by all. Students were able to dance with their friends and pose for photographs in the pink limousine, hand made and crafted by the very talented Mr Turner.



*Mr Pearce, Assistant Headteacher*

# Celebra



## E-ACT wins big at National Awards.

We are delighted to announce that E-ACT won the award for MAT of the Year at the MAT Excellence Awards on

Thursday 29th June 2023. Education sector leaders and outstanding individuals gathered to celebrate the very best in education at this event.

Presented by Optimus Education, the leaders in national events, the awards night gives multi-academy trusts the opportunity to celebrate their achievements and recognise their impact on pupils, staff and the community.

The event celebrated 44 shortlisted organisations across 12 categories. E-ACT was shortlisted in two categories, MAT of the year and community MAT of the year.



### Tom Campbell, CEO at E-ACT said:

*"I am delighted that E-ACT has been recognised as MAT of the Year. This award is a fantastic acknowledgement of the great work our schools do to ensure an outstanding education for all our children and young people.*

*E-ACT's vision of education is focused on the whole child. Our schools collaborate on Progress, Learning and Curriculum and drive high standards and great practice through a shared commitment that coming from a disadvantaged background should not shape your future.*

*To achieve this, we provide care for not only the children we*

*teach, but for the families, acting as a bridge between a range of charities, agencies, and interventions to support those in need.*

*Our Opening Minds, Opening Doors strategy is about providing students with the skills and experiences that allow them to thrive. Thank you to all our staff for the great work they do every day."*



This amazing win demonstrates the impact that our school and others like it are having in the community and celebrates the opportunities that we are giving our students. I'm sure you'll all join us in celebrating the incredible achievement.



# ating success

## E-ACT 's National Pupil Celebration Event 2023

On 6th July 2023, E-ACT hosted its highly anticipated National Pupil Celebration Event , bringing together an extraordinary display of talent, creativity and inspiration from across the Trust. Adding to the excitement , the charismatic Rhys Stephenson, from CBBC and Strictly Come Dancing, served as the engaging host.

The event embodied everything that E-ACT stands for, celebrating the whole child. It was more than just a "talent show"; it aimed to showcase the diverse range of talent and achievement across the trust, and the students certainly didn't disappoint.

The day was jam-packed with performances, but there was an extra layer of magic that is hard to describe. While the audience members were dazzled and astounded by the students' performances, it was getting to know their stories and hearing them praise their teachers that created something truly special.

For our entry, we wanted to demonstrate the impact of global warming and this event was to celebrate students across the trust, students from Shenley Academy decided to team up with a student from Nechell's Academy who had also based the entry around global warming, and together they performed a fantastic poem in front of everyone. We are all very proud! Riley (Year 8) also used this opportunity to demonstrate some of his boxing skills, that he has been developing through one of the many extra-curricular clubs that we have on offer at the Shenley.

As well as demonstrating some incredible talent, Shenley Academy was also awarded the 'Sustainability Movement Award 2023'. This is a fantastic achievement and thoroughly deserved by all, celebrates all of the hard work that our students have demonstrated over the year.



**Well done to all students, you were all super stars!**

**Thank you!**

# Shenley Academy

## Inclusion Awards



On Tuesday 20th June, 2023, Shenley Academy held its Inclusion Awards evening. The event was host to a truly superb turnout. After enjoying a sumptuous dinner prepared by the kitchen staff, the parents and students attended a range of insightful workshops designed to provide support for a range of learning needs. Following these, everyone made their way to the theatre for the highlight of the evening: the awards ceremony itself!



A packed theatre celebrated a multitude of different awards, cheering and applauding all of the students present for their efforts and achievements. As well as certificates, students received trophies, treats and bespoke keyrings made by Shenley's very own supremely talented Mr Turner—who also constructed the truly fabulous director's chair, camera and clapperboard (see photographs)! There was also a much-anticipated raffle.

The 2023 Inclusion Awards evening was a truly wonderful event. It was filled with enthusiasm, energy and excellence, and celebrated the outstanding efforts of a diverse group of students.



*Mr Dar, Inclusion Support*

# y Awards 2023



## Another remarkable awards evening!

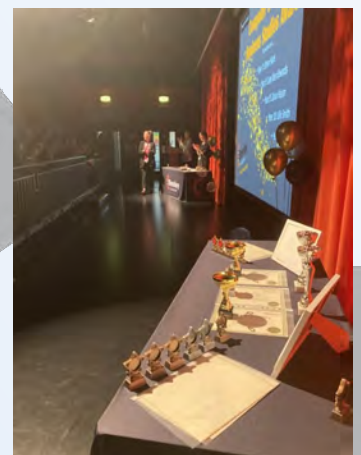
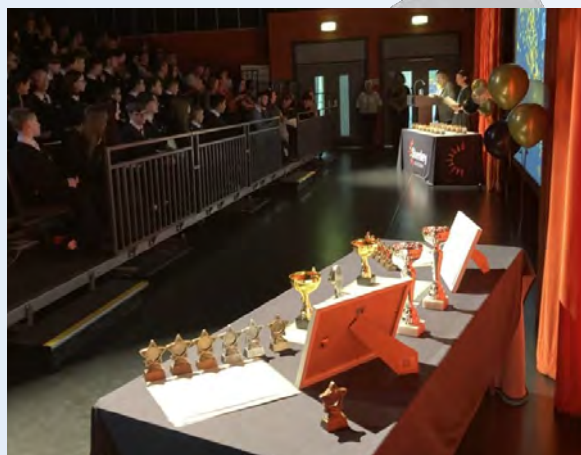
On the evening of July 11th, our school hosted our annual awards ceremony, honouring our students' remarkable achievements throughout the academic year. With an array of accomplishments in various fields, the event was filled with inspiration, gratitude and appreciation. The presence of distinguished individuals such as Matt Windle, Commonwealth Boxing Champion and previous Poet Laureate, and a heartfelt video message from sports personality Elliot Giles added to the significance of the occasion.

As the evening unfolded, Matt Windle took to the stage, captivating the audience with his eloquent words and inspiring message. In his speech, he emphasised the importance of hard-work, dedication, and pursuing one's aspirations relentlessly. With his unique blend of poetry and personal anecdotes, Windle encouraged our students to believe in themselves and to never give up on their dreams. His powerful words resonated deeply, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended.



Later, in a heart-warming moment, the students were surprised by a video message from sports person, Elliot Giles, European Championship medal holder. Through his message, Giles reminded the students of the virtues of perseverance and determination. He shared his own experiences of overcoming obstacles and urged the students to remain focused on their goals, reminding them that hard work and resilience always pay off. His encouraging words served as a powerful reminder to our students that success comes to those who persist.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the celebration of our students' achievements across various areas. From academic excellence to artistic endeavours, athletic prowess, community service, and embodying the values of our school, every student was recognised for their outstanding efforts. The atmosphere was filled with joy and pride as each student's name was called, and they stepped onto the stage to receive their well-deserved accolades. Throughout the evening, the diverse talents and accomplishments of our students were acknowledged. From top-performing learners to gifted artists and dedicated athletes; every aspect of their hard-work and dedication was celebrated. As the event drew to a close, we took a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation. We extended our gratitude to our hard-working students for their unwavering commitment and remarkable achievements throughout the year. Their dedication and passion have set an exemplary standard for their peers and have contributed to the overall success of our school.



We also extended our thanks to the parents and carers for their invaluable support, guidance, and encouragement that played an integral role in the children's accomplishments. The presence of parents at the awards evening further highlighted the strong bond between the school and its community, fostering an environment of shared responsibility and achievement.

*Mr Richardson, Assistant Headteacher*

# Living Sustainably in Birmingham

Living sustainably is more important than ever, and as students in Birmingham, UK, you have the power to make a positive impact on the environment. By adopting simple, eco-friendly practices in your daily life, you can contribute to a more sustainable future. In this article, we will explore practical steps you can take to lead a sustainable lifestyle!

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



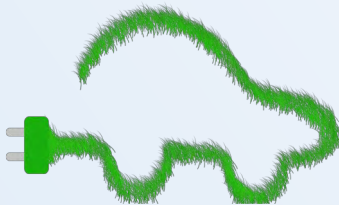
Embrace the three Rs as the foundation of your sustainable journey. Start by reducing waste: avoid single-use items and opt for reusable alternatives like water bottles, coffee cups, and shopping bags. Reuse whenever possible, whether it's clothing, furniture, or textbooks. And remember to recycle properly by sorting your waste into the appropriate bins provided by Birmingham City Council.

## Save Energy

Conserving energy not only helps the environment but also reduces utility bills. Make it a habit to turn off lights and unplug electronics. At home use natural light whenever possible. Additionally, dressing appropriately for the weather can reduce the need for excessive heating or cooling. Parents and carers will be happy too as it'll reduce the bills!



## Choose Sustainable Transportation



Birmingham has an excellent public transportation network, making it convenient to ditch the car and opt for greener alternatives. Utilise buses, trams or trains for your daily commute to reduce carbon emissions. If you prefer cycling, explore the city's cycle lanes and invest in a sturdy bike (and helmet!). Walking is another eco-friendly option, offering a chance to enjoy Birmingham's vibrant city while minimising your carbon footprint.

## Embrace Vegetarian/ Vegan Options

Reducing your meat and dairy consumption is a significant step towards sustainability. Birmingham offers a wide range of vegetarian and vegan eateries, making it easier than ever to embrace a plant-based diet. By choosing these options, you can reduce your ecological footprint and support sustainable farming practices.

**GO VEGAN**

## Get Involved in Community Initiatives

Birmingham has a vibrant sustainability community with numerous organisations and initiatives aimed at creating positive change. Join environmental clubs or societies at your university, participate in clean-up events, or volunteer for local environmental projects. Engaging with like-minded individuals amplifies your impact and creates a network of support for sustainability initiatives.

## Educate and Advocate



As a student, you possess the power to raise awareness about sustainability. Share your knowledge with friends, classmates, and even social media followers. Start conversations about the importance of sustainable living and the positive impacts it can have. By advocating for sustainable practices, you can inspire others to make a difference too.

Living sustainably in Birmingham as a student is an opportunity to lead by example and contribute to a more eco-friendly future. By implementing these simple steps - reducing waste, conserving energy, choosing sustainable transportation, embracing plant-based diets, getting involved in community initiatives, and educating others - you can make a positive impact on the environment. Remember, even small actions collectively make a significant difference. Start today, and be a sustainability champion in Birmingham!



*Mr Richardson, Assistant Headteacher*



# National Writing Day 2023



## National Writing Day Celebrates the Power of Words and Unleashes Creative Potential

On June 21st, a day dedicated to the written word, students across the UK celebrated National Writing Day 2023. This annual event aims to promote the importance of writing skills, particularly in children, while emphasising how it supports reading development. This year's festivities included an exciting in-school competition, recognising five outstanding young writers who showcased their efforts, creativity and talents.

Writing skills play a pivotal role in children's intellectual, social, and emotional development. By expressing their thoughts, feelings, and experiences through writing, children enhance their communication abilities, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Writing empowers them to organise ideas coherently; expand their vocabulary and improve their grammar and spelling. Moreover, writing helps children foster creativity, imagination, and self-expression, allowing them to explore the limitless possibilities of the written word.

Reading and writing are closely intertwined, forming a symbiotic relationship that fuels children's literacy journey. Writing enhances reading skills by reinforcing phonemic awareness, decoding abilities, and comprehension. When children write, they engage in active thinking and reflection, enabling them to better grasp the mechanics of language. Through writing, they become more skilled at recognising patterns, understanding context and interpreting texts - ultimately becoming more proficient readers.

As part of National Writing Day, our school organised an inspiring in-school competition to celebrate the writing talents of our students. It was a platform that encouraged creativity, originality, and self-expression. Participants were given the opportunity to showcase their unique perspectives, ideas, and storytelling abilities through written pieces. Following a rigorous evaluation process, five deserving winners emerged from a pool of exceptional entries. Our winners were: Grace in Year 7, Harshith in Year 8, Ryley in Year 8, Ross in Year 9 and Lan Lan in Year 10. Each of the five worthy winners was honoured with a certificate of achievement, acknowledging their remarkable writing prowess and efforts; in addition, they received a special gift—a carefully chosen storybook that would continue to inspire their love for reading and writing.

By recognizing and celebrating the achievements of these young writers, we aimed to foster a sense of pride and accomplishment within the student community. Their success serves as an encouragement for other budding authors to continue honing their skills and pursuing their literary passions.

*Mr Richardson, Assistant Headteacher*

## From our Ambassador Chair

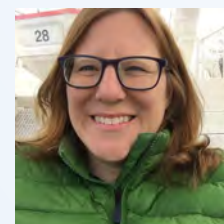
Firstly, a huge Thank you to all the staff for all their tireless efforts this year. The academy goes from strength to strength with its initiatives and continued development in all areas of provision, including academic progress, anti-bullying, mental health, carbon literacy and careers education to name a few.

Congratulations to all pupils on the completion of another year of your secondary education. Whether returning in September or leavers moving on to further education, keep striving for your goals and make the most of this time of learning.

Parents, thank you for forming part of the strong healthy school community. Your sharing of ideas and aspirations have made a big impact and provided invaluable insight. Encouraging our children to embrace their secondary education will lay the foundation of success for working life in modern Britain.

On that note, Shenley are creating a new role in the form of an **Eco Ambassador**. The expertise and creativity of a willing parent, relative or friend of the academy will be greatly appreciated to:

- Support the academy in its role of being a champion for sustainability and climate change
- Support the academy in fostering a sense of pride in our local environment
- Engage with parents, carers, and pupils in sustainability and climate change



Share knowledge and enthusiasm in the wider community

Dr Bartlett and Mr Thacker-Smith are passionate about making Shenley a sector leading organisation for work on sustainability. Join the Ambassador team to make an impactful change, enabling our young people to make informed choices and benefit from healthier lives now and in the future.

For more information or to register your interest email me at [Claire.Evans@E-Act.org.uk](mailto:Claire.Evans@E-Act.org.uk).

Have a wonderful summer break.

*Claire Evans, Ambassador Chair*

# Reading is fundamental

**Reading plays a fundamental role in a child's education and development, fostering imagination, critical thinking, and language proficiency. Some facts and statistics to underscore the significance of this endeavour:**

- ⇒ Improved Academic Performance: Studies have shown that children who read regularly perform better in school across various subjects. Reading enhances vocabulary, comprehension, and general knowledge, providing a strong foundation for academic success.
- ⇒ Vocabulary Expansion: Reading exposes children to a wide range of words, enabling them to expand their vocabulary. A robust vocabulary facilitates effective communication and helps children express themselves with confidence.
- ⇒ Cognitive Development: Reading stimulates cognitive abilities, such as memory, concentration, and problem-solving skills. It enhances mental agility and fosters analytical thinking, enabling children to approach challenges with creativity and resilience.
- ⇒ Empathy and Emotional Intelligence: Reading fiction nurtures empathy and emotional intelligence in children by allowing them to step into different characters' shoes and experience diverse perspectives. It encourages empathy, understanding, and respect for others.

**To support your child's reading journey at home, here are some hints and tips:**

- ⇒ Make Reading a Routine: Set aside a specific time for reading each day, creating a consistent and enjoyable reading routine. This can be before bedtime or during a quiet period when everyone can relax and immerse themselves in a good book.
- ⇒ Provide a Reading-Friendly Environment: Create a cosy reading corner with comfortable seating, good lighting, and a variety of age-appropriate books. Encourage your child to explore different genres and discover their interests.
- ⇒ Engage in Shared Reading: Take turns reading aloud with your child. This not only strengthens their reading skills but also provides an opportunity for discussion and bonding. Ask questions about the story, characters, and their opinions to enhance comprehension.
- ⇒ Explore Phonics: Phonics is a crucial aspect of reading development. Help your child understand phonemes (individual sounds) and graphemes (the corresponding written symbols). Practice blending sounds together and segmenting words into individual sounds (please see the following table). Encourage them to decode unfamiliar words independently.
- ⇒ Visit Libraries and Bookstores: Regular visits to libraries and bookstores expose children to a vast array of books, fostering a love for reading. Encourage them to choose books that captivate their interest and challenge their reading abilities. The libraries most local to Shenley Academy are:

s sat	t tap	p pan	n nose	m mat	a ant	e egg	i ink	o otter
g goat	d dog	ck click	r run	h hat	u up	ai rain	ee knee	igh light
b bus	f farm	l lolly	j jam	v van	oa boat	oo cook	oo boat	ar star
w wish	x axe	y yell	z zap	qu quill	or fork	ur burn	ow now	oi boil
ch chin	sh ship	th think	th the	ng sing	ear near	air stair	ure sure	er writer

Weoley Castle Library - 76 Beckbury Rd, Birmingham B29 5HR

Selly Oak Library - 669 Bristol Rd, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6AE

Bartley Green Library - Adams Hill, Bartley Green, Birmingham B32 3QG

The Orchard Learning Resource Centre - 986 Bristol Rd, Birmingham B29 6LB

Northfield Library - 77 Church Rd, Birmingham B31 2LB

Druid's Heath Library - 1 Idmiston Croft, Birmingham B14 5NJ



By actively participating in your child's reading journey, you can provide invaluable support and guidance. Together, we can empower them with the skills and passion for reading that will serve them throughout their lives.

# ental to education



## The Crucial Role of Reading and Fluency for Secondary School Children: Tips and Recommendations for Parents and Carers

Reading is an essential skill that serves as a foundation for academic success and personal growth. In secondary school, children face more complex texts and subject matter, making strong reading abilities even more critical. This article explores the importance of reading and fluency for secondary school children in the UK and provides valuable hints, tips, and recommendations for parents and carers to support their children's reading journey.

### The Importance of Reading and Fluency:

1. **Academic Achievement:** Proficient reading skills are directly linked to improved academic performance across all subjects. The ability to comprehend complex texts enables students to grasp concepts, analyse information, and express themselves effectively in written assignments.
2. **Vocabulary Expansion:** Reading exposes students to a wide range of vocabulary, enhancing their understanding and communication skills. A broader vocabulary empowers students to express their thoughts with precision and fluency, both in writing and in verbal discussions.
3. **Critical Thinking Skills:** Reading encourages critical thinking and analytical abilities. By engaging with diverse perspectives and encountering different genres, students develop their capacity to evaluate information, think critically, and form well-reasoned opinions.
4. **Empathy and Emotional Intelligence:** Through reading, students are exposed to diverse characters and experiences, fostering empathy and emotional intelligence. This exposure helps them better understand others, develop interpersonal skills, and navigate social complexities more effectively.

### Tips and Recommendations for Parents and Carers:

1. **Encourage Regular Reading:** Set aside dedicated time for reading each day and create a comfortable reading environment at home. Encourage your child to explore a variety of genres, both fiction and non-fiction, to expand their interests and knowledge.
2. **Lead by Example:** Be a reading role model by demonstrating your own love for books and engaging in reading activities. Let your child observe you reading, discuss your reading experiences, and recommend books to each other.
3. **Visit Libraries and Bookstores:** Take your child to libraries and bookstores to expose them to a wide array of reading materials. Encourage them to choose books that align with their interests, thereby fostering a sense of ownership and enthusiasm for reading.
4. **Support Fluency Development:** Encourage your child to read aloud to improve fluency and pronunciation. Engage in regular conversations about the books they are reading to enhance comprehension and develop critical thinking skills.
5. **Embrace Technology:** Leverage digital resources, such as e-books and educational apps, to make reading more interactive and engaging. Many online platforms offer audiobooks and interactive reading experiences that can captivate secondary school children.
6. **Engage in Discussions:** Encourage your child to discuss what they are reading, including their thoughts, opinions, and questions. These discussions promote deeper understanding, critical thinking, and active engagement with the text.

*Mr Richardson, Assistant Headteacher*

# Sport



## West Midlands Schools Athletics Championships.

The following Shenley pupils qualified to represent their area and compete in the **West Midlands Schools Athletics Championships held at Alexander Stadium on Saturday 10 June 2023.**

James Miles	IB	Discus & Javelin
Luke Morrison	IB	400M
Liam Handy	IB	Javelin
Lucy Bonham	IG	Discus
Mason Wilson	JB	Long Jump
Oliver Prentice	JB	High Jump
Meesha Vernon	JG	Discus

This is a fantastic achievement and means that they will be competing against some of the top athletes in the West Midlands in their event and age category and also an

## Celebrating the legacy of the Commonwealth Games

### Secondary Schools Games Legacy Celebration 2023

Thursday 22nd June was dedicated to celebrating the 1 year anniversary of the Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham. The day was aimed at identifying both pupils that have a talent for sports leadership, and improving confidence of this through sport. The event consisted of a number of activity stations that schools rotated around throughout the day. Sports included Athletics, Cycling, Wheelchair Basketball, Drumba, Rugby, Squash, Dodgeball, Boccia, Orienteering and Kin-Ball.

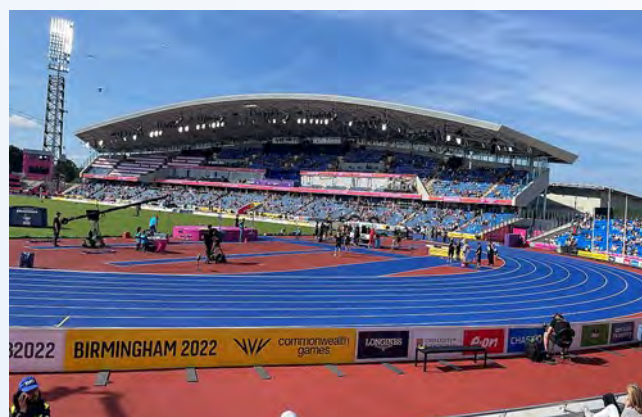
This was a fantastic opportunity, and meant that the students experienced a variety of sports at the Commonwealth Stadium in Birmingham along with lots of other key stage 3 students from schools around Birmingham.

Our students displayed teamwork and determination to learn new skills and work together with other schools and coaches. They were praised for their cheerful spirit and commitment to each activity. We look forward to introducing some new sports into our curriculum in the next academic year!

opportunity to compete at the Commonwealth Games Stadium in Birmingham!

Outstanding performance came from Oliver Prentice finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> with a personal best jump of 1.45m. Strong performances from Meesha, Lucy, Liam and Mason who all finished 4<sup>th</sup> in their field events and all competing against the year above too in their age groups.

Amazing achievements for all these pupils who gave up their Saturday (and to their families and friends for supporting them) to take part and also displayed positive respect towards the officials (who actually came up to me to say how polite they all were, especially as they are not club athletes so may not know all the etiquette) A credit to the school and to themselves for the commitment to training they do each week.



**Congratulations!**



*Miss Wczasek, PE Dept.*

# Dance World Cup

Eboni Thomas Witter 7E

We are so proud of Eboni Thomas-Whitter in Year 7 who recently participated in The Dance World Cup 2023, hosted in Portugal. Eboni is an avid dancer who is part of the team at Jordan School of Dance and Performing Arts. Eboni shared this about her experience:

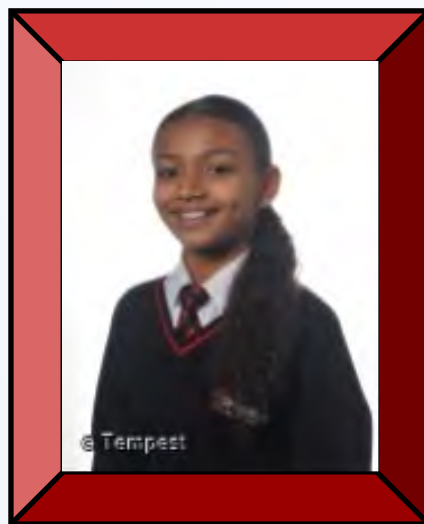
“Recently me and the team at Jordan School of Dance and Performing Arts travelled to Portugal to compete in The Dance World Cup 2023.

This was an amazing experience which we really enjoyed.

I competed in ten competitive dances, all placing in the Top 6 in the world! We won 2 Bronze, 2 Silver and 2 Gold medals! We also were placed 4<sup>th</sup> in three troupe routines and took 5<sup>th</sup> place for a trio.

This was a great achievement for our team and I feel very proud of us all. I am grateful for the support that the school have shown me as this has enabled me to take part in this competition and bring home Gold, wearing my England kit and waving my flag with pride!”

Shenley would again like to send a huge congratulations to Eboni and the team at Jordan School of Dance and Performing Arts. We look forward to the many more achievements that Eboni and the team will inevitably achieve in the future!



Well done Eboni!



# Sports Day 2023

Sports Day 2023 proved to be a massive success. We almost managed to keep the rain at bay but eventually had to surrender, cutting the event short. However, the Shenley competitors certainly challenged themselves to achieve their personal best in a range of track and team game events. Students competed in form groups accumulating points for each event. 7B and 7E tied, 8G, 9C and 10B were crowned the winners.

There were some fantastic team performances and the multi-sport event saw students demonstrating the PE values that they have learnt over the academic year in a range of fun team building activities. The team games were a huge success

and lots of fun. Tug of war proved to be the most popular with students showing great determination and resilience to become champions! Other events included a penalty kick challenge, howler throw, slalom agility race and the commando crawl. It was wonderful to see so many students giving committed performances throughout the events whilst performing with a smile on their face! Well done to everyone who got involved!

Here's to next year, where we hope to have a full day of dry weather...fingers crossed!

*PE Department*



# School Meals

## New menu for September



We believe that the food children eat plays an important role in their wellbeing and eating a well-balanced diet will not only maintain and improve their health, but will also set them on the right track for later life. We understand this and that's why we are passionate about ensuring our students are served fresh, high quality and locally sourced food that is cooked in our kitchen.

The menus offered are on a 3 week rolling cycle which is updated every term. We provide food for students with any intolerance, allergies or alternative choices due to religious beliefs. The new menu for the Autumn term can be found on our website.

Great value for money: we have a range of meal deals on offer every day to help save money. Whether they want a hot meal or something to just grab and go, there will be an offer available.

Free school meals: did you know that your child might be entitled to free school meals? For more information and details on how to claim click [here](#).

**FOOD FESTIVAL**  
Autumn Menu 2023/2024

### LUNCH WEEK 1 MENU

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>MAIN EVENT</b> Meat Dish	Beef & Vegetable Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Pasta Twirlers	Mild Chicken Curry with 50/50 Whole Grain Rice	Sausages & Red Onions with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	BBO Chicken Drizzle Pizza with Baked Potato Wedges	Fish & Chip Shop EnJoy Fingers or Sausage & Chips
<b>MEAT-FREE MAGIC</b> Vegetarian Dish	Cheese & Potato Pie	Sweet Potato Chickpea Bats with Whole Grain Rice	Homemade Cheese and Leek Sausages with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Pizza Margherita with Potato Wedges	Veggie Fishless Fingers & Chips
<b>RAINBOW ALLEY</b> Vegetables and Salads	Mixed Salad or Carrot Sticks	Green Beans or Cucumber	Broccoli or Tomato Salad	Peas or Carrot Sticks	Baked Beans or Shredded Lettuce
<b>PASTA TWIRLER</b> Topped Pasta			Hot Tomato Pasta with Hidden Veggies		
<b>BIG TOPPING</b> Filled Jacket			Crispy Skin Jackets with Cheese or Beans		
<b>DISSERT TROLLEY</b> Pastry	Marble Sponge Cake	Jelly & Fruit Slices	Fruity Flapjack	Lemon Cookie	Vanilla Ice Cream

**FOOD FESTIVAL**  
Autumn Menu 2023/2024

### LUNCH WEEK 3 MENU

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>MAIN EVENT</b> Meat Dish	Hot Dog with Potato Wedges	Chicken Fajita	Classic Cottage Pie	Sausage Pizza Bread with Potato Wedges	Fish & Chip Shop Friday Fingers or Sausage & Chips
<b>MEAT-FREE MAGIC</b> Vegetarian Dish	Cheesy Bean Wrap with Potato Wedges	Cheesy Broccoli Pasta Bake	Veggie Cottage Pie	BBO Drizzle Pizza with Potato Wedges	Veggie Fishless Fingers with Chips
<b>RAINBOW ALLEY</b> Vegetables and Salads	Green Beans or Shredded Lettuce	Peas or Carrot Sticks	Carrots or Tomato Salad	Broccoli or Cucumber Salad	Baked Beans or Shredded Lettuce
<b>PASTA TWIRLER</b> Topped Pasta			Hot Tomato Pasta with Hidden Veggies		
<b>BIG TOPPING</b> Filled Jacket			Crispy Skin Jackets with Cheese or Beans		
<b>DISSERT TROLLEY</b> Pastry	Watermelon Wedge (50g)	Vanilla Cookie	Duty Apple Crunch Slice	Strawberry Jelly	Vanilla Ice Cream

**FOOD FESTIVAL**  
Autumn Menu 2023/2024

### LUNCH WEEK 2 MENU

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>MAIN EVENT</b> Meat Dish	All Day Breakfast Brunch Sausage, Egg, Hash Brown and Beans	Creamy Chicken Pasta Bake	Roast Garmmon with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chow Mein Chicken Noodles	Golden Fish Fingers or Salmon Fingers with Chips
<b>MEAT-FREE MAGIC</b> Vegetarian Dish	All Day Veggie Breakfast Brunch Veggie Sausage, Egg, Hash Brown and Beans	Golden Vegetable Croquettes with Baked Potato Wedges	Super Veggie Pie Vegetable, Lentil and Onion Pie with Mash	Mexican Bean Wrap with Whole Grain Rice	Veggie Fishless Fingers with Chips
<b>RAINBOW ALLEY</b> Vegetables and Salads	Baked Beans or Sweetcorn Salad	Green Salad or Shredded Lettuce	Savoy Cabbage or Carrot Sticks	Green Beans or Shredded Lettuce	Baked Beans or Shredded Lettuce
<b>PASTA TWIRLER</b> Topped Pasta			Hot Tomato Pasta with hidden veggies		
<b>BIG TOPPING</b> Filled Jacket			Crispy Skin Jackets with Cheese or Beans		
<b>DISSERT TROLLEY</b> Pastry	Orange Jelly	Jammy Crumble Bars	Apple Crumble and Custard	Duty Cookie	Vanilla Ice Cream

## MEAL DEAL

**Cold Deli OR**  
**Streateries Main Meal OR**  
**Jacket Potato (with up to 2 Fillings) OR**  
**Pasta (with up to 2 Toppings)**

**+ MEAL DEAL DESSERT:**  
Piece of Fruit OR  
Flapjack/Shorbread OR  
5oz Yoghurt Pot OR  
5oz Fresh Fruit Pot OR  
Hot Dessert with Custard\*  
(\*only with Streateries Main Meal)

**+ MEAL DEAL DRINK:**  
500 ml Plain Water OR  
250ml Tetra Plain Water OR  
85ml Cuplet

# £2.30

**Aspens**  
Autumn Menu 2023/2024

With important learning to be done, we make sure that we are feeding healthy minds as well as bodies.

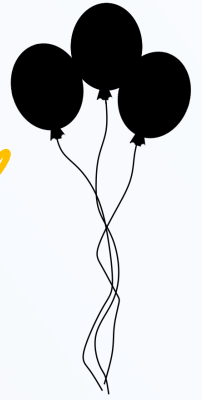
# Aspens



# 2023 Prom

On Friday 7th July we had the Year 11 Prom at the Westmead Hotel. The event was very well attended and enjoyed by all. The evening was absolutely fantastic, and we couldn't have wished for it to have gone any better; the students looked amazing (some of the staff scrubbed up well too!), the dance floor was always packed and there was laughter and smiles all round. The night ended with everyone on the dance floor in a circle to 'Giant'; a special end for a special year group.

*Class of 2023 Prom*  
*The Westmead Hotel*  
*Friday 7th July*



**Good luck for the future  
to the Class of 2023!**

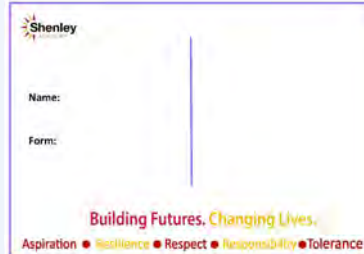




# Safeguarding

## United Against Bullying

In the Autumn Term we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week with the theme "Reach Out". We ran assemblies over the week to raise awareness for our students and to signpost support we already have in place at Shenley Academy. In Spring we launched our "Name the Bear" the winning name being Irene, meaning peace. In the last few weeks of term we will be giving the gift of kindness where students will be able to thank or say something kind about another student or member of staff.



### What is bullying?

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face to face or online.

Within this week we will also teach the acronym **STOP** which explains that bullying is; **S**everal **T**imes **O**n **P**urpose. We will also be educating students to distinguish between bullying behaviour and "falling out" which is a normal part of relationships.

### Bullying can be:

- Intending to hurt harm or humiliate someone, several times on purpose
- Repeated hurtful or harmful behaviour, several times on purpose
- The person bullying might have more power (i.e. older, bigger, stronger or more popular)

### Falling out is:

- A disagreement or argument in which both sides express their views
- Where there is equal between those involved
- Stops or changes the behaviour when they understand they are hurting someone



Mr Ward, Designated Safeguarding Lead

# Mental Health

You can access more information about Birmingham's Mental Health Services at

[Forward Thinking Birmingham](#)

Any concerns about Mental Health over the holidays? Contact Kooth.

It has been a busy few months looking at ways we can move forward with recognising mental health within the academy and our next steps moving forward. Students have been sharing ideas of what they would like and we have started to create some exciting steps for September.

We are moving forward and working hard on our mental health award and this will be shared more widely in September, with staff, families and students.

The therapy room will be up and running in September allowing students time to regulate their emotions and channel their feelings in a calm and safe environment.

The summer holidays can bring many emotions for students and it is really important that families and wider community understand where to go for support and what support is out there for our young people.

Mrs Nikolaidis, Mental Health Lead



# The summer holidays are here!

Summer holidays – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

## School's out for summer!

It's always best to be prepared

During the summer holidays, without the distraction of school, internet usage for many young people can increase all the way up to September. This guide is designed to help parents with a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games. Please click on each image below for more information.



**A Parent's Guide to Social Media**



**A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures**



**A Parent's Guide to Gaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers**



**A Parent's Guide to Fake News**



**A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings**

**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

**Parents** please contact your school if you would like to attend a parents internet safety workshop or have any concerns.

**Schools** please [contact us](#) if you would like a SKIPS Safety Net session delivered to your parent groups or staff.

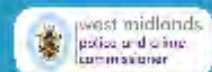
### Skips Educational

Web: [www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)  
Email: [info@skips.com](mailto:info@skips.com)  
Tel: +44 121 227 1941

142 Newton Road  
Great Barr  
Birmingham B43 6BT

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Developed in partnership with



Keeping children safe online

[www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)

Bring it on Brum is back for the summer holidays! Visit the [website](#) for more information .

**Bring it on Brum**

INCLUDES A FREE MEAL

WEGLEY CASTLE

SUP PRESENTS

BOYS & GIRLS  
**AGES 8-16**

**SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

**TIMES**  
11:00AM-3:00PM

MURAY THAI, FOOTBALL  
FITNESS & SPORTS

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
WEDNESDAY 26TH JULY	MONDAY 31ST JULY	MONDAY 7TH AUGUST	MONDAY 14TH AUGUST
THURSDAY 27TH JULY	TUESDAY 1ST AUGUST	TUESDAY 8TH AUGUST	TUESDAY 15TH AUGUST
FRIDAY 28TH JULY	WEDNESDAY 2ND AUGUST	WEDNESDAY 9TH AUGUST	WEDNESDAY 16TH AUGUST
	THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST	THURSDAY 10TH AUGUST	
	FRIDAY 4TH AUGUST	FRIDAY 11TH AUGUST	

PICK UP REGISTRATION FORM FROM THE GYM OR EMAIL [INFO@SUP.CO.UK](mailto:info@sup.co.uk) OR REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.BRINGITONBRUM.CO.UK](http://WWW.BRINGITONBRUM.CO.UK)

WEGLEY CASTLE - 112 SHENLEY LANE, SELLY OAK, BIRMINGHAM B29 4HA

**Key dates for Autumn Term 2023**

All term dates are available on our website [here](#)

Monday 4th September 2023	Inset day
Tuesday 5th September 2023	Inset day
Wednesday 6th September 2023	Term starts

Stay up to date with what's happening at Shenley and follow us on Twitter.

# SEND

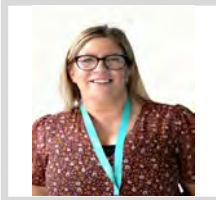
## Safeguarding Leads



Dr J Bartlett  
Headteacher  
DSL Trained



Mr A Ward  
Assistant Headteacher  
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs E Nikolaidis  
Deputy DSL



Mrs K Kent  
Deputy DSL

## Safeguarding Officers



Mrs E Housden  
Deputy Headteacher



Mr D Thacker-Smith  
Deputy Headteacher



Mr R Pearce  
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs L Jarvis  
Assistant Headteacher



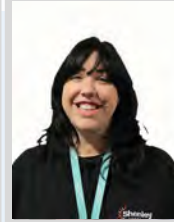
Miss M Hands  
Associative Assistant  
Headteacher



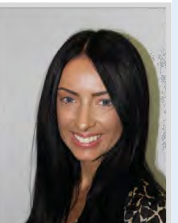
Mrs R Banks  
SENCO



Miss E Stevenson  
Assistant Headteacher  
Progress



Ms L Rowell  
Assistant Headteacher  
Progress



Ms R Evans  
Pastoral Lead



Mr R Jacobs  
Pastoral Lead



Mr B Monaghan  
Welfare Liaison  
Officer



Mrs M Tuckley  
Headteacher's PA

*'If you need to talk, we are always here!'*

Shenley Academy is committed to the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding the children entrusted to our care.

## SEND Local Offer

I am delighted to share the brand new SEND Local Offer website video which has been created to promote the site and its resources. The SEND Local Offer website includes information, advice, support and resources for SEND families, professionals, children, young people and schools in Birmingham....and we want more people to know that. Birmingham Council have produced a 2 minute video as part of the work to promote the website more widely; it shows what is on offer in Birmingham for SEND families, so please share and spread the word.

### YouTube link

<https://youtu.be/TcAbIK6EVQ0>

## Social Use of Language Programme (SULP)

Here at Shenley Academy, we offer a social skills group called SULP. This stands for The Social Use Of Language Programme and is used to help any students within the academy who may need a better understanding of social cues and skills. SULP helps students understand what social skills are necessary and teaches them how to carry them out appropriately in a variety of situations. The sessions run once a week and are suitable for all year groups; the intention is to learn and practice strategies safely in a familiar group, evolving to eventually feeling confident to take them into the wider community. Some of the topics include asking a question appropriately, good listening, giving and receiving constructive criticism, positive relationships, handling different opinions and many more. The students thoroughly enjoy the group and often friendships are formed during the skills-based games and scenarios.

## ADHD-Tips for Parents/ Carers

Please use the link below where you will find a useful guide about ADHD.

<https://eu-assets.contentstack.com/v3/assets/blt6a058882e024c625/>

[blt73f9f1747a233756/6131a5f34c97277f9f43a50a/parents-compact-guide.pdf](https://eu-assets.contentstack.com/v3/assets/blt73f9f1747a233756/6131a5f34c97277f9f43a50a/parents-compact-guide.pdf)

Mrs Banks, SENDCO