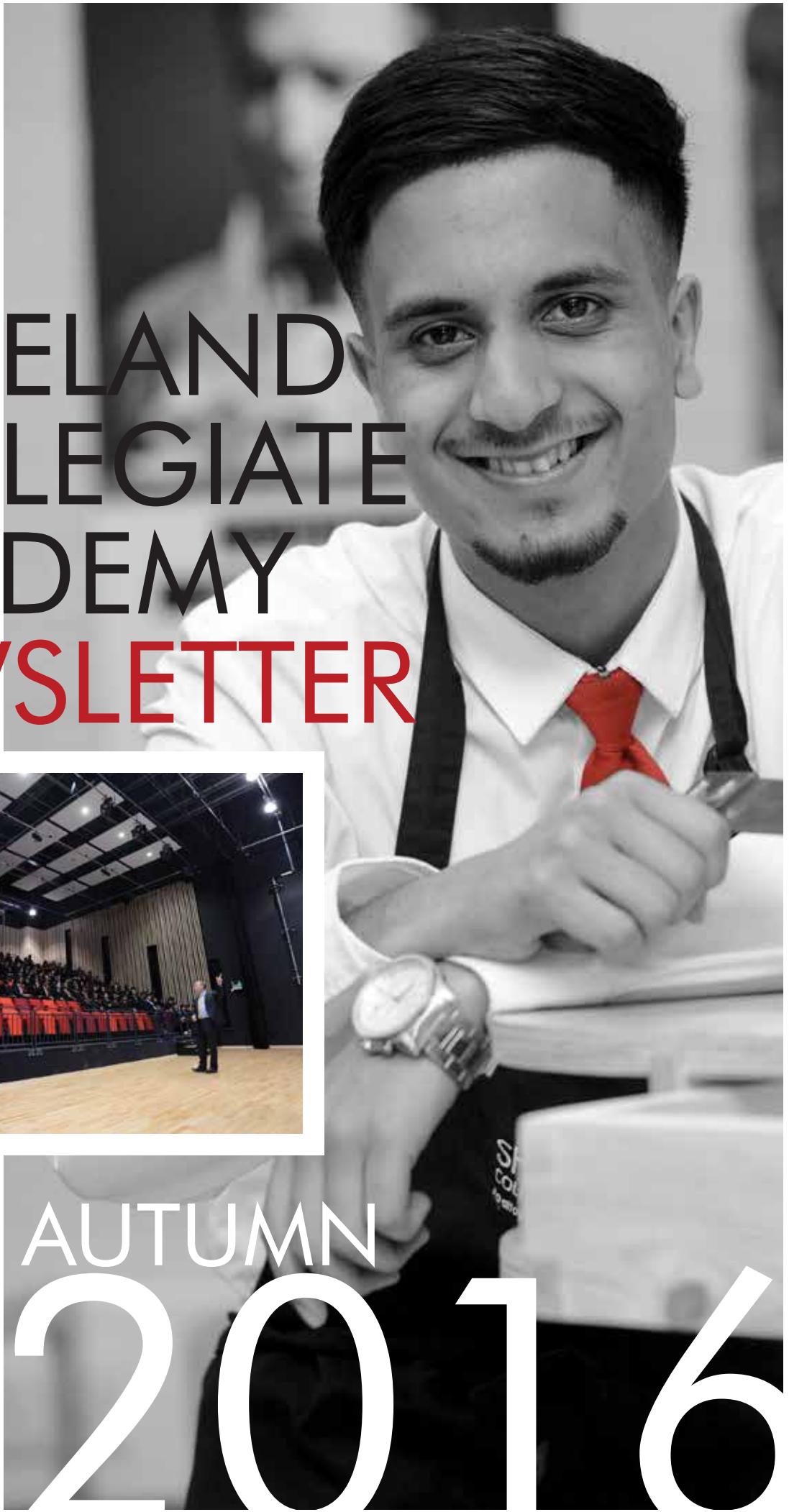




# SHIRELAND COLLEGIATE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN  
2016



## Dear Families,

As we approach the end of a very busy first half term I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new families of Year 7 students to our first newsletter of the year. We are all pleased that you have chosen Shireland as the school for your child and our recent settling evening was a wonderful success with a very positive turnout.

At the other end of the school spectrum, this summer our students in Year 11, 12 and 13 received some superb GCSE, AS and A2 results. This has been the culmination of many years of hard work on the part of staff and students. These great results have placed Shireland Collegiate Academy at the top of league tables in Sandwell for the amounts of progress that we make with our students.

I would like to congratulate the students, staff and families for all their efforts in achieving this success.

As we have had a very busy half term, I hope that you enjoy reading about activities that the students have participated in.

**Mr D Irish**

Associate Principal



## New Library

For the last year, since the completion of the Arts block and Auditorium, Shireland has been running a project to convert the old hall into a new library. To do this we were fortunate to secure a grant from the Wolfson Foundation who support educational causes in centres of excellence. This required three stages, the removal of the seating, the building of new walls for the Library and this half term we have completed the furnishing and stocking to make it ready for use.

While at first the library will not have lending facilities, it will be available for booking by departments and soon after school to allow students to come and use the facilities to complete homework with help and guidance from our staff. Phase two will be opening the library at lunch times providing a place for students to engage in quiet reading or study.

The library has three main sections; reference for subjects to help students with research projects, revision and reading round their subjects; an area with a shelf of books around each of the Literacy for Life themes; finally a section of general fiction.

Shireland is an outstanding Academy with some of the best facilities in the country and the opening of the library will add another fantastic facility for use by students and staff for many years to come.

### Mr G Faux

Senior Vice Principal



## National Theatre Live!

Since its launch in 2009, National Theatre Live has continued to broadcast live productions from across theatres in the UK. Over 5.5 million people have experienced live performances from over 2,000 venues around the world. Shireland Collegiate Academy is proud to announce that live productions will now be broadcast in the most up-to-date theatre space in the Midlands. Past performances include Dame Helen Mirren in *Phedre* and James Franco in *Of Mice and Men*. These live performances will not only be enriching for our students but also our local community who we encourage to attend these unique productions. For information on upcoming performances and how to book, please contact Daniel Donaldson.

**National  
Theatre  
Live**

**Watch Live at  
Shireland  
Collegiate  
Academy**

## Shireland News Network

This term sees the launch of Shireland's very own News Network. An evolution of the existing TV School this is effectively a journalism school, encompassing written journalism, as well as the television coverage of the school's key events. A committed group of student journalists have been working hard to make this a reality since last spring and the site goes live today! Access it from the Student Portal

The aim is for the content to be entirely student-generated, allowing them to focus on aspects of school life which interest them. The online format resembles online news platforms and allows the readers to comment and respond to articles.



## Year 7 and 8 Journal Groups

Journal Group runs in Year 7 and Year 8 and is targeted at our Gifted and Talented writers. Each year group of 16 students meets once a week for an hour during L4L time and students are then offered the opportunity to attend a 50 minute after-school session to support them with the task that is set each week.

The students undertake a variety of writing activities:

Year 7 students are currently working to improve their narrative writing skills starting with investigation of the five senses.

Year 8 students have been accessing the BBC School Report resources to develop their reporting skills, working towards the production of a Year 8 Newsletter.

## Karen Cross Visit

On Tuesday October 11th we were privileged to have in for a whole day a local Birmingham business lady, Karen Cross – a freelance photographer (KCI-Photography) and designer. She was in to help the Year 12 A level Photography students and give a talk, demonstration and hold a discussion with the Year 12 ICT students on the role of Social Media in Business.

She began the day with a 2 hour intensive session with Mrs Mortimer and Mr Armstrong as she showed the students her work, talking about how she went about finding the composition, the view point, the angle etc. She talked about using the camera, rule of thirds and lighting.

Karen then spent another full two hours with the Year 12 students carefully going through a presentation on her current company – Wrap and Go and the product she is re-introducing into the market.



The group were able to question her on her extensive use of social media and she was extremely grateful for the feedback. The group were able to give information on what she could do to improve her website and product itself.

In the afternoon session she went back to Photography and took them through a practical still life photography workshop using light boxes and studio lights. We are incredibly indebted to Karen for all the work and time she put in – bringing in all of her materials, equipment and photographs (of which Mrs Mortimer purchased one!).

We look forward to welcoming her back later in the New Year.



## Isle of Wight Trip

Year 11 Travel and Tourism/Geography students travelled to the Isle of Wight on 11th October for a 2 night stay on the island. This was so they could experience different types of tourist attractions ranging from cultural sites through to purpose built sites. Students were also able to observe coastal erosion through a boat trip to the Needles.

Staff and students were accommodated in original 1930's holiday chalets and were able to take part in a range of sports with Mrs Lees joining in with football, whilst Mrs Dee proved to be an excellent swimmer. Other places that were visited included Osborne House and the Model Village at Godshill. The two evenings that we were there students took part in both swimming and a laser tag competition. We discovered that the Year 11 boys were not as good as they thought as both Mrs Dee and Mrs Lees beat them on more than one occasion!

Highlights of the trip included the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary where students were able to feed, walk and groom the animals and the dinosaur which we met at Blackganag Chine theme park. All students who attended were a credit to the Academy.



## PGL Trip

18 Year 11 students took part in an outdoor adventure weekend from the 14th - 16th October at PGL Boreatton Park in Shropshire, with an aim of developing their confidence, resilience and team-working skills in order to provide them with the tools they need to perform in their GCSE examinations. The students tried a range of activities, including abseiling, the zip wire and Jacob's ladder, which took many of them outside their comfort zone. The group were a credit to the academy and we hope that they can use their experiences to help them with their work and examinations this year.



## UCB Trip - Student Report

On Monday the 3rd of October Year 9 and Year 10 went to visit the University College Birmingham. During the day we participated in lot of activities with different students from other schools and we were all working together, everyone had to take part. Some activities we did were matching the name of the airport with their code, and students from Walsall college came and they were showing us how to put on the life jacket in the emergency announcement. Our favourite part of the day was when we had to put things in the suitcase, hand bag that was my favourite part so far. This event will help us to think about our options and complete our Travel and Tourism work.

## Dance Trips

Post 16 dance students went to see a show by Alvin Ailey Dance Company to enrich their understanding of their Unit 2 Performance Skills. The students were able to watch the show live and empathise with the professional performance and experience the feeling that an audience gets from a live show.

To mark Anti-Slavery Week, we also went to see Mandela, the musical. This opened our students' eyes to a different genre of performance: Opera.

We hope this will inspire our students' development as performing artists.





## Geography Trip

The Year 12 Geographers went on an exciting trip to explore the difference in space and perception between Sparkhill and Solihull. We began our journey by walking swiftly down Birmingham's Balti Triangle, noticing various expressions of language, nature and identity. We then continued our journey towards the centre of Solihull for comparison between these different areas.

We considered various points and collected data in order to aid our current AS Geography work. Overall, the day was a successful trip that managed to get our eager Geographers to begin to think and consider their own identity and the influences this has on the perceptions of place.

## X Runner

On the 1st October L4L staff took on the Extreme Warrior Challenge, a 10km run with a terrifying 72 obstacle course which included swimming through a mud filled swamp, jumping 10 metres into an ice filled lake, and running over fire. It was a wet, cold and windy day, however this did not deter Mr Moore, Mr Yafai, Miss Pooni, Miss Hayes, Mr Fletcher or Mr Thaper and following a triumphant effort we emerged from the mud, and in doing so raising £100 for their chosen charities; Breast Cancer UK, The Stroke Foundation, and BLISS.



## **EAL Intervention**

Starting this Wednesday, Miss Rutter will be running a weekly Year 7 intervention group for students that would benefit from additional support in their English reading, writing and speaking skills. This will run in the Year 7 base every Wednesday from 3.10 until 4pm. Letters have been sent to families of identified students.

## **A-A\* Intervention**

The year 11 students who are targeted A-A\* this year are receiving specialised study support with Mr Green on Mondays and Thursdays to ensure as many of these students achieve at their full potential. Mr Green also took these students on a trip to PGL this week, to build confidence and independence.



## **European Computer Driving License**

All students in Year 11 will all be undertaking an additional qualification with Mrs Philpotts called the ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills. This qualification demonstrates the students' ability to use a range of Microsoft products across four examination units; Word Processing, Presentation, Spreadsheet and Improving Productivity. Students in the special intervention cohort may also have additional 1:1 support in lessons or via an online tutor, additional revision sessions, mentoring and support from a range of staff members. We aim for all students in Year 11 to reach their full potential.

## West Midlands Champion

Jehoni Ndofula in Year 10 was selected as the West Midlands Regional winner of the 2016 Sportivate and Satellite Club Award. This is due to the Basketball club that he attends outside of the Academy. He received his award from Dominique Allen who represented GB at Basketball in London 2012. Well done Jehoni!



## Y11 Boys Football

This was the first round match of the Sandwell School's cup. Shireland were playing away against a very good team who in previous years have been to the final of this cup. The match finished 4-0 to Shireland. It was a fantastic performance from the boys and in particular Joel Owusu who scored a hat trick and deservedly was awarded man of the match. Overall, the effort and intensity shown by the boys determined the outcome of this match. They will now go into the next round and face St Michael's at home.



# Shireland KS4 Study Support Timetable 2016-17 Autumn 2

## Week A

Y10      Monday      Wednesday      Thursday  
Science      Maths      English

## Week B

Y10      Monday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday  
Option 1      Option 2      Option 3

## Week A

Y11      Monday      Wednesday      Thursday  
Option 1      Option 2      Option 3

## Week B

Y11      Monday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday  
English      Science      Maths      Option 3

## Week A: Week Beginning

17th October  
7th November  
21st November  
5th December

## Week B: Week Beginning

10th October  
31st October  
14th November  
28th November  
12th December

Term Dates - Monday 31st October- Friday 16th December

To keep up to date with all the latest news, events and information about Shireland Collegiate Academy.

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