



SHIRELAND COLLEGIATE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN
2016



Dear Families,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Academy Newsletter. I am very pleased to say that this is full of exciting news and information about many of the wonderful events and amazing achievements that our students have experienced this half term.

Next half term will be equally busy with mock examinations for year 11 and various Parents' Evenings getting underway. There are a variety of educational visits taking place across many of the year groups and I look forward to reading about them in the next edition of the newsletter.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to once again wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I hope that you have a peaceful break.

Mr D Irish

Associate Principal



Post 16 Open Evening 2016

On Tuesday 15th November all Year 11 students were invited to the Post 16 Open Evening. This exciting and informative evening provided the students with the opportunity to speak to all the different departments in person. It was the perfect way for our students to choose which subjects would be right for them.

The evening started off with a presentation from Sir Mark and Mrs Hughes about Post 16 here at Shireland. Following this all students had the opportunity to meet specialist subject staff. There was a great atmosphere to the evening, with both staff and students discussing the exciting curriculum available at Shireland.

The Post 16 team were also available to answer any queries that students had about life in Post 16. The successful evening was attended by 109 students.

For further information, students and families are encouraged to look at our Post 16 website or speak to a member of the Post 16 team.

We look forward to welcoming all Year 11 students to Post 16 next year.



HIGH STREET 41

Peter Pan Theatre School Pantomime

Peter Pan Theatre School Pantomime

Wednesday 14th December and Thursday 15th December

There was a fantastic opportunity for friends, families and students to come and support our Theatre School company in their pantomime of Peter Pan.

Peter Pan was a vibrant pantomime sharing talents from all year groups in dance, drama and music. The tale of the little boy who never grew up was a collaboration with Birmingham Hippodrome creative team and is by far our best show to date.

Heavy Reign Elite SCDC Under 18 Crew Competition Stoke on Trent Sunday 11th December 2016

The school crew 'Heavy Reign' wiped the board at the recent competition at Fenton Manor, Stoke on Sunday 11th December!

They came second in Teams, were placed sixth and first in Solos and fifth and first in duos !! 11 awards altogether!



Shakespeare School Festival

Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 took to the stage at The Crescent Theatre in Birmingham to perform one of Shakespeare's most famous and magical plays A Midsummer Nights Dream.

Everyone worked exceptionally hard in rehearsals and all of the cast thoroughly enjoyed their time in the spotlight.

The students and the Academy received some great feedback from the Shakespeare School Festival team and many compliments from both staff students who came to support.

We are very much looking forward to starting our rehearsals for next year.

Post 16 Showcase

The students from our Post 16 cohort brought to you a spectacular show of Drama, Music and Dance.

They performed in front of a sell out Audience and received some fantastic feedback. Our Executive Principal commented " The students here at Shireland make me so proud, their talents are above what is expected at a secondary school"



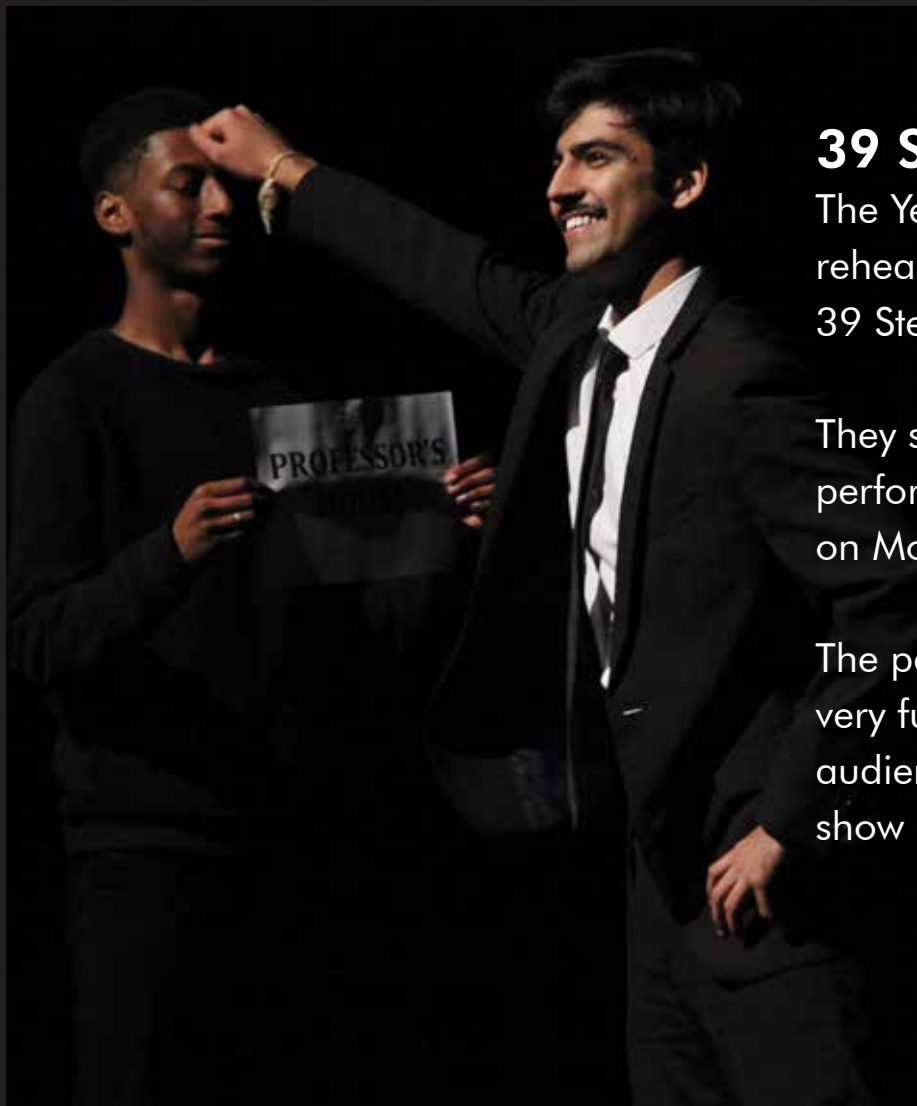
We thank everyone who attended the showcase to support.

Endless War - Year 12 Drama

As well as performing in the Post 16 Showcase our Year 12 Drama students also performed as part of the Year 7 Remembrance event on Friday 11th November.

The eight students devised a stunning piece that explored different aspects of war, using the structure of a play within a play. They told the story of a group of students who were trying to create the perfect war performance.

We had some fantastically positive feedback from the audience.



39 Steps

The Year 13 students are currently rehearsing for a performance of The 39 Steps.

They showcased a scene from this performance at the Post 16 Showcase on Monday 28th November.

The performance was fast moving, very funny and well received by the audience. We hope to see you at the show in May.

Y9 Boys: Shireland 4 - 2 St Michaels (Monday 17th October)

The Y9 boys football team managed their first win of the season after losing their first match and drawing their second match so far in the Sandwell league. It was a great team performance and more notably a fantastic individual performance by Jaeden Lascelles, who scored a hat trick.

By half time the score was 2-0 and although the boys conceded 2 goals in the second half they were fortunate enough to add a couple of goals to keep their lead by two goals.

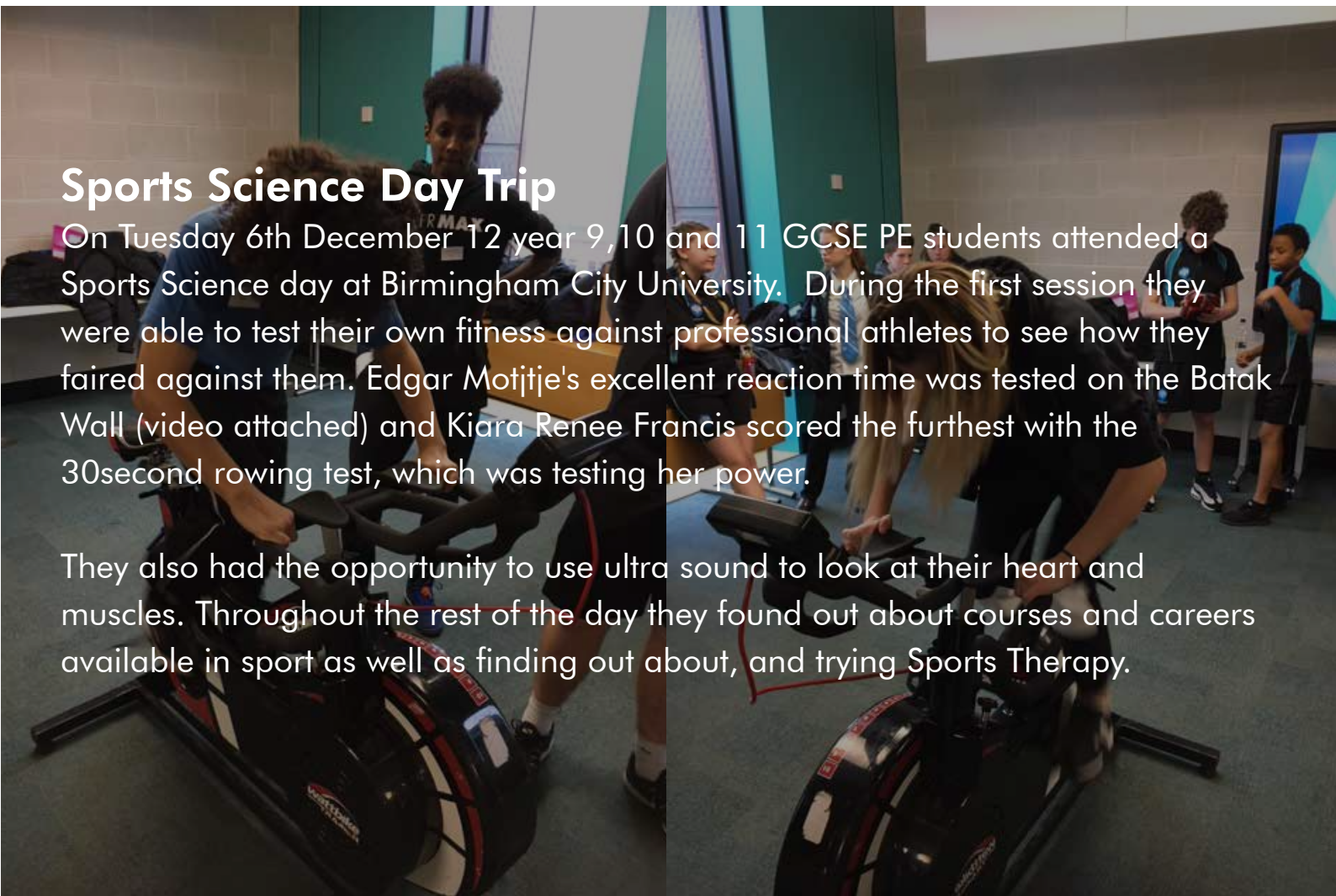
Fahad Miakhel managed to score the other goal from a long range effort. Well done to the whole team on a fantastic performance!



Sports Science Day Trip

On Tuesday 6th December 12 year 9,10 and 11 GCSE PE students attended a Sports Science day at Birmingham City University. During the first session they were able to test their own fitness against professional athletes to see how they fared against them. Edgar Motijte's excellent reaction time was tested on the Batak Wall (video attached) and Kiara Renee Francis scored the furthest with the 30second rowing test, which was testing her power.

They also had the opportunity to use ultra sound to look at their heart and muscles. Throughout the rest of the day they found out about courses and careers available in sport as well as finding out about, and trying Sports Therapy.



West Bromwich Trip

(student report)

Our trip to the West Bromwich Albion was a really fun and educational trip that benefitted us in improving our teamwork and communication skills.

Upon arriving at the Albion we were kindly seated in a room with a college student who specialised in business and an Albion employee who really made our experience enjoyable.

Despite maybe being distracted by the amazing view of the pitch, with the help of the visitor and our teacher, we were able to improve on our presentation and get the help that we, as a group, needed to confidently perform.

After being kindly greeted by the people at the Albion, who showed kind hospitality towards us to make us feel welcome as a group, we were then taken around the stadium where we stopped to see the football pitch, conference rooms, changing rooms and even got to stop and look at trophies and shirts and many other Albion accomplishments that were shown to us on the tour. After learning about the history of the Albion and taking millions of photos, we were then seated and offered either tea or coffee whilst getting ready for lunch.

After watching the other competitors, it was finally our turn to present and answer the hard questions from the judges. Despite their stern faces whilst asking the questions, they gave us great feedback and reassuring smiles which calmed our nerves down. Even though we didn't win the competition, we left the Albion our business skills immensely improved and getting a taste of what the business world is really like.

By Flayme Gideon

UK University Search Fair Trip

On Thursday 13th October 2016 Mrs Dhillon and Mrs Philpotts took 30 Shireland Post 16 students to the UK University Search Fair 2016 at Edgbaston Cricket Stadium.

This exciting and informative event provided the students with the opportunity to speak to exhibiting Universities in person. The fair catered for students of all ability ranges and was aimed to widen participation as well as cater for higher academic achievers. It was the perfect way for our students to choose which University is the right fit for them.

Students were able to participate in a number of seminars including; UCAS/Personal Statement Seminars – delivered by University experts, Student Finance Seminar and University Seminars from a wide variety of subject areas.

Bassets Pole Trip (student report)

We went to Bassets Pole which is an outdoor activity destination which is known for its adventure activities such as paintballing and quad biking.

My business class went there as a part of our criteria for team working skills. Basset's Pole was a fun place to go to get our team building exercises done; this is because we had activities such as sumo wrestling, the sausage ride exercise and the obstacle course which was thrilling and tiring at the same time. The staff at the place were friendly and really helped the class get the activities done as well as really motivating us to do our best. I think we learnt valuable skills such as learning how to communicate with each other and being able to cooperate with each other in order to gain a common goal.

Moreover, we learnt survival skills that can help us in the future at some point such as how to build survival beds as well as having knowledge on how to build a fire. Overall, I think Bassets Pole was a great outdoor adventure and it was a fun day out to learn how to build on team skills.

Oxford University Trip

On Thursday 10th November nine Year Eleven students attended Keble College, Oxford University, to explore their post-school options.

The first session introduced students to what you can expect from a prestigious university and how these establishments are well suited to all students, from all types of backgrounds. The key message of the day was it's not where you're from but how hard you prove you work.

Students then took part in three university style lectures where they experienced an academic approach to learning by listening to researchers explain their ideas about language, biology and philosophy. Although these aren't the subjects which all of our students planned on studying in the future they all agreed it was a good way of imagining what university may entail.

Following the lectures we made our way to Pembroke College to see a smaller college and learned about the different career pathways which are available to students who study at university. The key message here was that most career options for graduates are open to students with any degree but some, like medicine, are very specialist, therefore, if you don't know what you want to do, you should just keep doing something you enjoy.

We finished the day by returning to Keble for an overview of the day's activities before boarding the mini bus to return to Shireland.

BTEC Hospitality Trip to Skills Show

On 18th November the Year 10 BTEC Hospitality group attended the National Skills Show at the NEC Birmingham. The trip was designed to allow students to make some contacts with hospitality industry experts, employers and apprenticeship providers.

All students that attended the trip had a fantastic time. They were used as models for stage make-up, hugged a robot from Birmingham University and had photographs taken with members of our armed forces. We also had a number of boys who had a go at laying a carpet. Students were a credit to the Academy and are very much looking forward to the National Skills Show 2017.

National War Arboretum

What we did the trip was we had had a tour of the rocks that were put round a letter box that was blown out of a post office. Then we had a look at some special trees with soldier's name put in front of them.

Then we went to a children's garden specially made for them and each flower bed was a jigsaw puzzle but they would never click together because each child had their own culture and personality so they were all different. What I liked about the trip was that we learned a lot and we went to a recreation of a trench. And we seen the Christmas truce statue of the hand shake.

What I didn't like about the trip was that it half the school day and the man who was giving us the tour didn't know what he was saying and he was dragging on too long and it was quite annoying.

Chetan Kris Kumar



Year 11 Forward Thinking Graduation Trip to Birmingham University

On Monday 21st November, Year Eleven students who were part of the Forward Thinking Birmingham University programme for gifted and talented students, took part in their graduation ceremony.

The graduation took place to recognise four years of engagement in the programme which began with lectures in Year Eight; involved exploring the social side to university in Year Nine and entailed a ten week one to one mentoring programme in Year Ten. Not only did students get to experience an authentic graduation ceremony in Birmingham University's Great Hall but they listened to a talk from a Birmingham University graduate who will be working in banking when her studies are complete and took part in a study skills workshop with The Speaker with the Orange Tie.

Although the heavy rain made the journey from the car park to the Great Hall feel treacherous and meant we were sat in somewhat soggy socks for much of the evening, it was worth it to hear how much the students involved felt confident in their ability to progress to university when they complete their Post Sixteen Education.

A big well done to Abbie Roberts, Ariba Afzal, Aisha Jabeen, Romana Ali, Kianah Cousins and Sana Rasab for taking part in the event.

Smethwick Gurdwara Trip

On the 7th of November 7C1 and 7B1 students visited the Smethwick Gurdwara. Students had the opportunity to tour the Gurdwara and speak to the religious leaders about this place of worship.

Students had a great time at the Gurdwara and enjoyed eating the Langar. This trip has enabled students to extend their knowledge on places of worship.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT TERM

- Week Commencing 9 January – Year 11 Mock Examinations
- Week Commencing 16 January – Year 11 Mock Examinations
- 16 January – Post 16 Parents Evening
- 2 February – Year 11 Parents Evening
- 13 February – Year 11 to Post 16 Interviews