



SHIRELAND NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN TERM





L4L UPDATE

Cold, damp, wet, grey and shorter the days maybe upon us, but in the L4L department it is a time of great growth!

Our new Year 7's (all 250 of them) are now settled and starting to produce high quality work. And whilst we eagerly await our new building (to open in September 2019), our supersized cohort have wasted no time in expanding their knowledge by looking at different cultures, faith and the diversity of our community. Their feet have also been grounded in their studies of gravity and the physics that underpins our universe.

In Year 8 the students have investigated the myths that have entertained our world for centuries, considered the physical process that shape our Earth and the significant kings that have influenced our history. A group of students also had the opportunity to visit the Grand Designs exhibition prior to the start of their next theme, Grand Designs, that explores the development of our built world.

Careers and Options are the most recent curriculum driver in Year 9. The students have had opportunity to meet with a careers advisor, hear from a variety of professionals and higher education experts and begin to formulate clear thoughts on their future. It is therefore important that staff and families support the children now, when they are considering their passions, interests and the strengths that they wish to invest further in. At the Academy we are keen that our students are able to make well informed decisions regarding their GCSE Option Choices and therefore appreciate the support you can give to your child.

So as the days draw in we hope to continue to enthuse and provide opportunities for the students to grow, develop and improve. For this is the season of the after-school club...bring on Debate Mate, Art Club and Homework Club... there are plenty of opportunities to brighten the dark evenings.

Sixth Form Careers

This academic year the Academy has launched a new programme of study in Sixth Form aimed to make our students more employable. A range of courses are being delivered that heavily involved the support of local employers. Last week a group of Year 12 students took part in a Skype meeting with the electricity company npower. The students were introduced to their assignment brief by staff from NPower's digital team.

Students now have several weeks to create proposals providing ideas about how npower can engage further with their customers in the use of voice activated technology and social media. Five students will be selected to visit the npower offices in the new year to present their ideas to digital team. Good luck to the students involved.



Business Studies Trip

On 8th November, our business class went on a trip to the Jaguar Land Rover Engine Manufacturing Centre in order to learn how a big corporate business operates and solves the problems they face. We started the day with an introduction to the company and saw the types of cars they are designing for the future. It was surprising how far ahead they were planning and showed us that the business is always looking for and taking, the next step. After this, we proceeded to have a tour of the centre, looking at all the machinery that they have invested in and just how precise they have to be in creating the 120 types of engine they make. Whilst on this tour, we learned just how much Jaguar Land Rover thinks about the environment, even designing their building to have the least amount of impact on the surrounding area, people and animals. The last activity we did was a team competition in which we were given a picture of a plastic model of an engine, which we had remake as accurately as possible. The challenge was harder than expected and required a keen eye for detail and good problem solving skills. Overall, the trip taught us the skills that are required to work at Jaguar Land Rover, a company that looks ahead and puts customers first.



Shireland Dance Competition Success

Twenty Nine students from Year 9 to Sixth form attended the annual 'Encore Dance Experience' between 1st-5th November at Brean Sands. The weekend was a huge success. Shireland Dance Club students work tirelessly around the clock to keep up with the standards of the professional companies with whom they compete head to head with each year.

That hard work and dedication most certainly paid off this weekend. They achieved 1st place in the over 16 Tap and Ballet categories, 3rd in the Over 16 Musical Theatre, 4th in the over 16 Advanced Hip Hop and 5th in the over 16 Contemporary. Their huge technical improvement and stunning performance styles encouraged these places. Mrs Prince and Miss Hughes could not be prouder of their success. The students are competing with some of the most elite dancers and biggest dance companies in the uk and with their humble competitive nature and natural driven work ethic they left some of those companies outstandingly surprised to find out that we were a high school. Mrs Prince and Miss Hughes congratulate the students and are extremely proud of their showmanship and competition etiquette throughout the whole weekend.



Faith Leaders visit in Year 8

As part of the India theme, Year 8 were visited by different faith leaders in our community - Sikhism, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam. The focus was community cohesion, having respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs (British Values).

After a presentation by each faith leader, several year 8 students had the opportunity to participate in a question and answer session with all four faith leaders



Liverpool Trip

On the 7th of November, 22 students embarked on a coach journey to the Liverpool Albert docks. While there, Mr Cooper told students a brief history of the docks and how they were formed, he then took the group to look around the Tate Liverpool, an art gallery holding some of the most valued modern art in Britain. The first floor contained a mixture of famous painting by artists such as Henry Matisse and Salvador Dali, and the second containing OP art based on optical illusions and famous artists such as Damien Hurst, Bridget Riley and an intriguing instillation with the use of coloured tape on the floor, providing the students with inspiration for their own art work. By looking around the gallery, they were exposed to different styles and artistic concepts, allowing them to get a better understanding of the place of art in a modern day society as well as it being a great fun filled day out for the students.



Year 8 trip to Ackers Outdoor centre

During the PE focus day on 7th November, year 8 students went to the Ackers Outdoor Centre. Throughout the day students took part in Rock Climbing, Skiing and Orienteering. Students were impeccably behaved throughout the day, despite the torrential rain in the morning



Shireland Rugby

Shireland is part of the Rugby All Schools Programme which is a unique opportunity provided by England Rugby. The All Schools programme provides the students with expert Rugby coaching in lessons, opportunities to go to watch matches as well as opportunities to play in Rugby festivals against other schools. Bournville Rugby club has re-located to a multi million pound facility on Sandon Road where the Rugby festivals are held. Both girls and boys in years 7-9 have attended the festivals and have done amazingly well despite it being, for many, their first time playing Rugby. Diana Denca (year 9) has subsequently joined the girls Rugby team at Bournville who train on a Thursday evening. Well done to everyone involved in Rugby this term. We will see you again after Christmas!



Girls Football Team

Throughout the term our girls football team have travelled to Sandwell academy to attend their girls football tournament. Every game the girls played exceptionally well suffering only 3 losses throughout the whole tournament and finishing joint third.



KS3 Netball

The KS3 Netball team had another good season in the Sandwell Netball League, where they came across a variety of schools in the borough. There was a mixture of results and performances that saw the team win some and lose some. Notable performances were from Faith Idiahi as Goal Attack and Alexcia Wallace Kerr as Goal Keeper. Students now need to build on this by attending training on Mondays afterschool.

Smethwick Students Step Inside the World of Housing

Local students were given an insight into the workings of a live housing development by home builder Countryside, with a visit to its current Galton Lock development, in Smethwick.

Countryside welcomed the group of 16 pupils from Shireland Collegiate Academy for a tour of its Mafeking Road development, with a closer look at the homes currently being built. The visit was organised to support the students' 'Grand Designs' project, which focuses on designs from around the world, by providing the opportunity to experience the homebuilding progress - from the construction of the timber frame to dressing the showhomes.

During the visit, the students also heard from Countryside's Health and Safety Manager, Jonathan Haw, who spoke to them about how Countryside builds its homes and the materials used throughout the process, plus the safety aspects of working on, and living near, a live construction site. Joanne Bradbury, Sales and Marketing Director for Partnerships Midlands at Countryside, commented: "The visit from Shireland Collegiate Academy was a brilliant opportunity for the students to experience first hand the stages involved in building homes, as well as the in-depth safety procedures that Countryside follows. We hope the students were able to take away a greater understanding of how homes are designed and that it's inspired some of them to become the next generation of housebuilders or designers." Mr Brogan, L4L Teacher at Shireland Collegiate Academy, added: "The Galton Lock visit was a great experience for our pupils, who were able to meet housebuilding experts and bring their 'Grand Designs' project to life. Countryside's site staff were fantastic and we hope to build on this relationship to organise future visits for more of our students."



Key stage 3 Basketball

KS3 Basketball team played their first competitive season with many new players joining the group from year 7 and 8. The boys results got better and better each game and they became more competitive. They have trained hard this term and we are looking forward to next years fixtures.

Warwick Castle

Over 195 pupils in Year 8 attended a trip to Warwick Castle to support with the 'Off with your Head' theme covered in L4L. The students were a credit to school and engaged with all the sessions provided by the experts from the castle. During the visit, the pupils got to experience an 'Attack and Defense' workshop to help understand how enemies would attempt to attack the castle and how Warwick Castle was never defeated. They also experienced a weapons workshop and had the chance to watch the birds of prey show. The students had a splendid day exploring the rich culture and history of the castle.





Anon, Anon! To the theatre we hath gone!

Shireland Collegiate Academy celebrates their annual performance at the Shakespeare for Schools Festival 2018.

On Tuesday 6th November a cast of 24 students from Year 7 to Sixth form attended the annual Shakespeare School Festival at the Old Rep Theatre.

Since the start of September all the students have worked exceptionally hard on their chosen production, one of Shakespeare's most celebrated plays "Romeo and Juliet".

The night was a huge success with fantastic feedback from the professional actors and directors of the National Shakespeare Festival Team.

Miss Lester and Miss Hughes would like to thank all the cast for their hard work, effort and commitment throughout the rehearsal process, and congratulate them one last time on a fantastic show!



"I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Shireland Collegiate Academy for your fantastic production of Romeo and Juliet as part of the 2018 Shakespeare Schools Festival. This was a brilliant, thoughtful and surprisingly funny tragedy from a talented and committed ensemble."

Alex Whiteley

Shakespeare School Festival Team

Year 11 Trip to Gurdwara

On Tuesday 11th December Year 11 Religious Studies students attended the local Gurdwara (Sikh place of worship) and visited the Lions of the Great War monument. Both the tour of the Gurdwara and the Q&A sessions supported students with their GCSE course and forthcoming examinations. They were all offered to sample the free food during their visit and some even asked for more. All students were respectful and represented the Academy in a positive manner. Well done.



Year 9 Trip to Hippodrome.

A group of year 9 L4L students went to Birmingham Hippodrome to watch the production of War Horse and took part in a 'page to stage' workshop. The War Horse is studied quite intensively as part of our 'Over the top' theme in year 9 L4L and the play gave them a deeper understanding of the lives of ordinary people and animals during WW1. We all thoroughly enjoyed the performance.



Year 12 Trip to JCB

Year 12 Business students visited the JCB factory in Staffordshire to learn about how a large international business operates. It was an excellent day and provided a real insight into how a family business has turned into a huge world wide organisation. The opportunity to see the building of large machinery from start to finish was fascinating.

Ex-Student Visits to Shireland

An ex-Shireland student, Prem Kushwaha who is now a 5th year Dentistry student at the University of Birmingham came into school in October to talk to current Year 12/13 A-Level Chemistry students about applying for Dentistry. He completed his GCSEs and A-Levels at Shireland and is also grateful for the support he received in applying for Dentistry. 31 students attended the talk after school which ran for 1 hour and the students found the session very useful.

In October, an ex-Shireland student Manjot Singh came in to do a talk about applying for Medicine. Manjot is a 5th year Medical student at the University of Birmingham who completed his GCSEs and A-Levels at Shireland. Manjot also talked about his experience of applying to Medical school at Oxford University and the 2-day interview process. Over 30 A-Level Chemistry students attended the session and it actually ran over due to the number of questions that students were asking.

Rehman Alam, an ex-Shireland student also came into the Academy on Wednesday 5th December to do a talk on Studying Optometry at Aston University and School life at Shireland during his GCSEs and A-Levels. He talked about his experience of completing his A-Level studies which he said "was the hardest two years of his life". He gave some excellent advice on revising for A-Levels and how to apply for Optometry. Students also asked lots of questions about University life and how he was finding the course. The talk lasted over an hour and was attended by over 25 A-Level Chemistry students.

Year 7 November – December half term

Festive Year 7s spent an exciting, fun-packed day learning all about pantomime. A series of interactive workshops enabled them to learn about the history and origins of pantomime, how audiences participate during a pantomime and what pantomimes are performed today. They were able to get creative by producing their own pantomime programmes and by designing a character for a performance of Punch and Judy. This fast-paced day ended with students working in groups to script and perform their own version of the ever-popular Cinderella – with many memorable and hilarious results! In addition to this, 'Debate Mate' has been launched with 70 students attending across the year groups, many of which for the first time. Competitions for the club will commence after Christmas and we eagerly await seeing them in action. Curiosity club was successfully introduced to pupils in Year 7 with students participating in a Trojan Horse challenge in the new library. Finally, we would like to congratulate the Year 7 Star Students. Pupils were rewarded for all their hard work this past term with the opportunity to build gingerbread houses!





Year 7 on Safari

As an introduction to Science at Shireland, Year 7 have been learning about living organisms. Half of the year group paid a visit to West Midlands Safari Park to see examples of multi-cellular organisms in action. Highlights included a baby rhinoceros, elephants, giraffes, lions and tigers (but no bears). Once the safari expedition was complete students were able to explore the park on foot where they could travel back in time to the Ice Age, walk with dinosaurs and venture into the dark depths of the bat cave. Those seeking an adrenaline rush investigated the effects of circular motion and gravitational field strength on living organisms by making the most of the short queue in the funfair. The other half of Year 7 will get an opportunity to visit the Safari Park later in the year.

Here's what the students had to say:

"I enjoyed seeing the animals and finding more about them. I also loved the water fast ride, I got soaked! Ha ha."

"We had a great time – the white lions and the hyenas were the most popular. Everyone adored the rides too. I will never forget that day."

"I enjoyed the photography contest and going on the rides. My favourite animal was the tigers."

"It was amazing because we got to see animals and take pictures of them. We also got to go on the rides."

"I enjoyed seeing the rhinos and elephants. I also loved going on the rides. Finally, I liked getting to research and learn about the animals."

"I enjoyed seeing the lions and the cheetah. Also, when I was eating, I got surrounded by ducks! My favourite part was seeing how scary the ride was."



Spring Term Dates:
Monday 7th January - Friday 15th February

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