



Newsletter - Autumn 2016

Penn Fields School Successful Once Again at Wolverhampton 'Digi' Awards

Each year Wolverhampton City Council stage the Digital Awards as a celebration of students' work with Information Technology (IT) in all schools in the Borough. These awards have now become affectionately known as 'The Digs' and students at Penn Fields have achieved a good level of success in recent years, with 2016 turning out to continue that tradition.



The Digi Awards were held at the Grand Theatre in July and students from Penn Fields were finalists in four categories: Best Animation at Key Stage 2 (two awards), Best Design at Key Stage 3 and Best Artwork at Key Stage 4. Jordan McQueen was overall winner for Best Design whilst students in upper Key Stage 2 won Best Animation. Congratulations to our winners and to all our students who made it to the finals. Well done everyone!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD TEACHER

Welcome back to the start of a new school year and a special welcome to all of our new pupils and their families. September always heralds the start of exciting new beginnings for our pupils and we are all very much looking forward to another successful year. It has been lovely to see all the children looking so smart in their school uniform so your help and support in this matter is very much appreciated. Many exciting curricular activities are already planned with Acorn class undertaking a 'Forest School' programme and a Key Stage 4 Duke of Edinburgh camp arranged at the end of the month. Our 'SHARE' parents support group starts on the 14th September and new parents will be made very welcome. I look forward to catching up with you over the new term but if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Miss E Stanley

Busy Acorns

We've had a busy term including a very interesting trip to the Gurdwara which gave us an opportunity to find out more about Sikhism.

All Key Stage 1 & 2 pupils have participated in an activity program on Water and have had the chance to go in sailing boats and Canadian canoes. It has given pupils the opportunity to practice holding and using a paddle, as well as handling sail ropes



Our VIP's (chosen by Key Stage 1 & 2 staff) enjoyed a trip to Baggeridge Country Park for fun in the Park, an ice-cream and then a picnic. A lovely time was had by everyone.

Ash Class Round-Up

We have had a fantastic Summer term. Everyone has worked extremely hard and made wonderful progress and Ash especially enjoyed our topic on 'Treasure Island'. They really enjoyed the stories we have read in literacy, as well as the art and sensory activities during theme sessions. A particular favourite has been science work on 'floating and sinking' with everyone in Ash Class really enjoying the practical experiments we carried out. Like Acorn Class, we also went sailing but we couldn't resist a water fight, of course, but it is safe to say the children definitely had more accurate shots than staff! A big thank-you comes from the staff to Ash Class for such a wonderful year .

Penn Fields Summer Fair

A big thank you for those who were able to support our Summer Fair where we were once again blessed with a sunny evening. Popular attractions this year proved to be the BBQ stall, face painting, the cake stall and the Café. We managed to raise over £1,200 which will be used to subsidise the running of the school minibus as well as Christmas trips and parties for pupils.

Key Stage 2 Visit to Kingswood

Key Stage 2 enjoyed their visit to Kingswood for a one night residential. They took part in a range of outdoor activities and stayed with their friends and teachers in a special house. Even the sun came out for us this year!



Key Stage 4 Art & Design

Students enjoyed a visit to Crosby Beach in Liverpool to view 'Another Place' by Anthony Gormley. They will use the visit as a starting point for their art work in the new term.

Boundary Way Allotments



The 6th form visited the Boundary Way allotment and gardens to take part in an art activity. They used a 'camera obscura' and took their own photographs which will be displayed for the allotment open day.

Gelliwig Trip for Years 9 and 10

In May ten Year 9 and two Year 8 pupils had a fantastic week-long residential visit to Porthmadog in Wales as part of their Geography topic about National Parks. Local visits included Coed-y-Brenin, Beddgelert, Greenwood Forest Park, Black Rock Sands and Criccieth beach. Activities included hill walking, rock scrambling, sledging and archery but also a water slide and even riding on the Green Dragon rollercoaster at Greenwood Forest Park.



Staff were all extremely pleased with pupils' attitude and behaviour and were very proud of the way everyone worked hard and dealt with the challenges. Everyone had a really enjoyable time.

Sixth Form Also at Gelliwig

The 6th form also enjoyed their trip to Gelliwig in Porthmadoc in June. Here they were able to practise their Life Skills by making decisions about visits, meeting new people, planning menus and working together as a team. They even did some cleaning ...

... how amazing is that!



Music at Penn Fields

We had two visits to the Symphony Hall in Birmingham to listen to The Ten Pieces concert with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and to listen to the CBSO school concert.

Year 7 have been working with Mrs Tulley from the Music School on two pieces –The Night Ferry and Mambo and pupils have used percussion instruments and played different rhythms to go with the music. In July we went to the Lighthouse theatre where we performed with the Wolverhampton Youth Orchestra.

Drama in Year 8

Pupils have continued looking at different ways to perform plays, practising still images to show different emotions and tableaux from well-known stories, such as King Midas for example.

Sad



Happy



Key Stage 3 Literacy -

BFG by Roald Dahl

Our 'Beyond Belief' work has focused on 'The BFG' by Roald Dahl where pupils have

enjoyed reading the story together, have acted-out different scenes and created their own Dream Jars. On the last day of the Summer term we went to see the new film and that was a real treat which brought the work we've done to life.

Sport Excels Again at Penn Fields School

Pupils have once again had a fantastic Summer Term of Sport. During the lessons they have all had the opportunity to experience athletics, golf, tennis, rounders and cricket. They have also taken part in 'Challenge Games' such as orienteering, team building and trust games. Many have progressed very well indeed and they now have the ability or knowledge of how to run, jump, throw, catch, bat, field and strike a ball.

This year we have embarked on a new assessment system called Skills2Achieve which we have found to be highly successful and one which we would like the parents and pupils alike to join-in with next year.

Everyone in Year 11 also took part in Young Leadership activities by teaching Oak, Elm and Ash class each Friday morning.



6th Form and Year 8 have been gaining experience with the trampoline where they have all learnt new skills such as tuck, pike, straddle and seat drops.

Students have also been sailing again

this year and, as always, the pupils had great fun with some of them getting somewhat wetter than others!

Clubs activities have continued to run every lunch-time throughout the term and these have been very well supported with excellent numbers turning up each



Sports Team News

Considering that many pupils have competed against students from other schools that are older, our school teams have performed extremely well within the Inter-School Competitions. Events in which we have taken part are:

West Midlands 5s Netball - the girls finished in third place.

6s Football – the Under 14s and the Under 16s finished third.

Rounders – the Under 14s and the Under 16s both finished fourth.

Athletics - Tobias Lee came First in the 100m and 600m, Tyrese Dunkley First in the 100m, Nikita Leadbeatter was second in the 100m as well as a number of third places.

Overall we finished third out of seven schools.

Indoor Athletics - we gained First place.

Finally, Year 11 were entered into five modules at Entry Level for Healthy and Fitness. Every pupil passed these at either Entry Level 2 or 3 and this was a superb effort by all of the pupils involved.

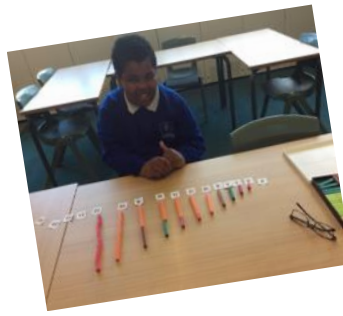
Well done to all pupils of Penn Fields School. It has been a brilliant year of sport with lots of successes and we hope to see even more next year. All the students involved should be very proud of their achievements and keep up the hard work.

week. We have around fifty different pupils attending sports-related clubs each week and we think this is an amazing achievement. Well done to all those that give up their lunchtimes to make these events a success.

6th Form Summary

At the end of June we said goodbye to Stephan, Jhamal, Emerlene, Lauren and Sheridan. This was a difficult time as they have been at Penn Fields since they were very young but, looking forwards, they will be continuing their education in well supported placements at different colleges. We wish them a happy future.

It's been a busy year for our 6th form students. Their new Work Experience Day was spent out of school undertaking a wide range of activities. This year they worked at the Albrighton Moat Project learning skills in horticulture, the environment and fishing, they also visited Wolverhampton Vocational & Technical College as well as Nova training for taster days of plumbing, painting & decorating, carpentry, car maintenance and hair & beauty. They also spent 5 weeks at Stable Relationships, near Telford, where they tried simple grooming and animal care ... and even rode the horses! Five weeks were spent doing outdoor adventure activities which included zip wires, independent map work, abseiling and climbing. Not only have our 6th Formers learned new skills, but their confidence to take on new things has grown tremendously. In September students will be starting yet another new project for their Work Experience Day: following negotiations with Boundary Way Allotments we are hopeful they will be involved with the maintenance and upkeep of the community gardens and sensory garden as well as starting their own allotment! We are all very excited about this!



Numicon in Maths

Numicon is growing in popularity in all Key Stages and is used within many topics such as counting, place value, adding, subtracting multiplying and dividing and fractions. Now, pupils will be able to use Numicon in geometry, measurement and statistics and this will help us deliver the new National Curriculum.

Penn Fields 2016 Prom

Our second Prom was held in June to celebrate both the end of term and the departure of Year 11. Over fifty upper school pupils attended the evening attired in their beautiful dresses and smart suits. A fabulous time was had by all – dancing in the disco, a buffet supper and creating great memories.

Class 8 Geography Trip to Chester Zoo



In June Class 8 spend a day learning about World Environmental Issues. The main topic was about Animal Conservation where they

learned about endangered animal species and wildlife crime. Their visit to Chester Zoo was a huge success and they learned lots about why animals are endangered and what we can do to help. They also got to meet some of the endangered species ... Tigers, Elephants, Rhinoceros, and Orangutans.

Religious Education in Year 7

We have continued to look at the beliefs of different people in our community. Students enjoyed Mr Hussain's visit to our class to talk about Ramadan and Eid. There were also tasty snacks and sweets donated by his family.



SCIENCE

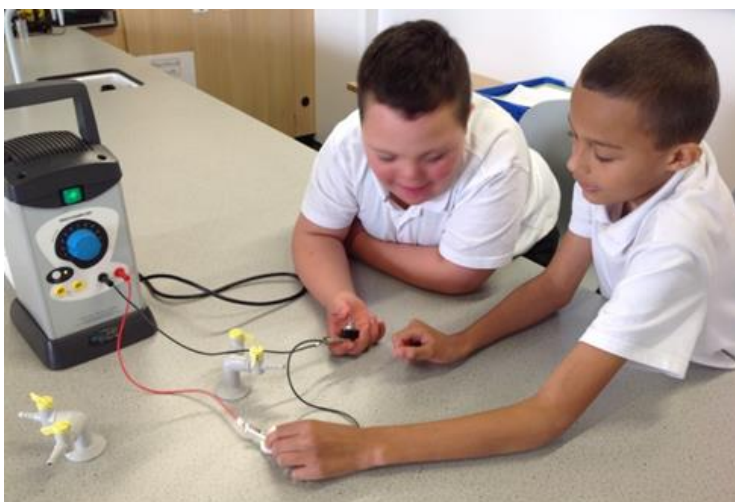
at Penn Fields School

It has been a busy year in Science with lots of really good progress achieved by all students. Key stage 3 have enjoyed a variety of different themes throughout the year including topics in Biology, concentrating on Living Things such as plants, animals and even humans! In Physical Processes pupils learned about electricity, forces and the solar system.

Materials is one of the favourite topics for many of our students who love to see chemical changes with lots of the exciting stuff using Bunsen burners and mixing chemicals to observe colour changes and chemical reactions.



Upper school pupils have worked extremely hard and did really well again this year to successfully achieve all the units they studied, so well done to everyone!



During the summer term pupils have been helping to maintain our pond environment by removing excessive pond weed and overgrowth.

It has been a very successfully year in science and I congratulate all the pupils and staff for the hard work.

Key Stage 4 Update

At the end of June we said goodbye to year 11 as they moved on to the next part of their education, so by the time you read this they will hopefully have started their new courses at various colleges and training centres around the city. Our Leavers' Assembly was extremely well supported and this year the Hallam award was jointly given to Adam Banks and Brandon Taylor, reflecting the progress both have made during their time at Penn Fields.

Exam results this year have been excellent with 100% pass in Entry and we are also extremely proud of our students with the GCSE results in August being the best in Penn Fields' history. It is always a huge pleasure to see our pupils achieve such great results which is a credit to their hard work and the staff at school.

Our new year 11 students have already started to look to their futures and have visited training centres and also Wolverhampton college. Their Work Experience is the first week in October as part of their Careers Programme to help give them an idea of working life.

DATE	STAFF/CLASS
6th September	Miss Stanley
14th September	Mr Roalfe
Monday 19th September	Reverend Ben – St Bart’s Church
September 21st	Mrs Morris’s literacy group
Monday September 26th	Mr Yates
September 28th	Mrs Morgan’ Literacy group
Monday 3rd October	Elm Class
5th October	HARVEST ASSEMBLY—School Only
Monday 10th October	Mr Hussain
October 12th	Mr Fletcher – Year 10
Monday 17th October	Mrs Griffiths’ Literacy Group
October 19th	Ash Class
HALF TERM	
Monday 31st October	Staff Training—School Closed to pupils
November 2nd	Acorn Class
Monday 7th November	Mr Jones
9th November	Remembrance Assembly—School Only
Monday 14th November	Oak Class
16th November	Mrs Stirling-Edge Year 11
Monday 21st November	Mrs Timbrell’s Literacy Group
23rd November	Mrs McGregor
Monday 28th November	Mrs Blower
30th November	Christmas Rehearsals
Monday 5th December	Christmas Dress Rehearsal
7th December	Mrs Callister
Monday 12th December	Miss Moran’s Literacy Group
15th December	Mr Craddock

If you would like to come to see your child’s Class Assembly please telephone school beforehand (**01902 558640**) to make sure it is taking place as planned. Assemblies start at **9.50am** prompt.

Important Reminders for Your Diary

- Year 11, Year 6 and 6th form Educational Health Care Plan Meetings are in October so please may sure you check your letters for the appointment your date and time
- Parents Evening is Wednesday 19th October from 6pm to 8pm
- Please note that school is closed to pupils for staff training on 31st October 2016

Massive Congratulations to Class 11

After lots and lots of hard work Simaren Atti, Scott Leadbeatter, Ryan Plant, Chad Hay, Mackenzie Carpenter, Adam Banks, Megan Turner, Armani Granville, Brandon Bloomfield, Brandon Taylor and Tyrese Dunkley have managed to complete their DoE Bronze Award. They are only the second group at Penn Fields School to attain this fantastic achievement, having completed three

months of volunteer work, three months using a skill and six months undertaking a sport. The final stage of the Award was to complete their qualifying expedition in May.



Class 10 are continuing to work hard towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award, focussing this term on expedition training. They have learned how to put up tents and use a Trangia, or cooking stove, and their first practice expedition went very well. The whole group managing to carry heavy rucksacks and walk 20km along local canal towpaths and disused railway lines. They then put their camping skills into action by sleeping in tents on the school field. The plan is to do another practice expedition early next term followed by the final assessed expedition soon after Easter next year.



British Values at Penn Fields The Queens Birthday Celebrations

Pupils throughout all Key Stages were involved in a range of activities to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. In lower school, classes enjoyed taking part in the celebrations and completed many activities and challenges. All the children involved had a great time dancing, singing and partying in the afternoon.

Key stage 3 also enjoyed an afternoon of celebrations.

