



In September we welcomed our partner schools to the College for the day to enjoy a range of activities such as, PE, IT, Maths, English and more. We enjoyed seeing year 6 pupils from Timberley, Kingshurst, Smith's Wood Primary, Yorkswood and Castle Bromwich. They enjoyed spending a whole day getting a real taster of what secondary school is like.

We also welcomed year 5 pupils to enjoy some PE sessions and a tour of the school, to help them prepare for the big step to secondary school. Year 5's and 6's were also invited to our Open Evening and we had a record number of pupils visiting us, with over 220 enjoying our facilities; pupils enjoyed a host of activities laid on by each department.

On Monday 8th December, we hosted 120 year 5 pupils from Castle Bromwich who came for an afternoon of Christmas themed workshops. They experimented with 'cooper tress' in Science, did some Christmas printing in Art, and lots more.



Mr Sims ~ KS3 Progress Manager

We have begun two exciting year 7 reward schemes this year, 'Student of the Term' and 'The Championship'. Both of these schemes motivate Year 7 pupils to work hard with a range of exciting prizes on offer to those pupils who meet their targets across their subject, or who achieve the "Student of the Term" award. Students achieve Vivos, a breakfast bonanza of hot chocolate and bacon butties and may even achieve a raffle ticket for one of our main prizes.

This currently includes a family cinema pass to Star City, vouchers for the Fort, vouchers for Go Ape and tickets to West Midlands Safari Park. Winners will receive their tickets in the summer at the final draw.



Mr Sims ~ KS3 Progress Manager

Term Dates

- 5th Jan - Term Starts
- 22nd Jan - Year 11,12,13 Report Evening
- 4th Feb – College Colours
- 10th Feb – Year 7 Report Evening
- 12th Feb – Half term
- 13th Feb – Inset Day
- 23rd Feb – Term Starts
- 19th March – Year 9 Report Evening
- 27th March – Term Ends

On the 7th November, twelve adventuress headed to Wales to start their expedition to conquer CNICHT. After a day at work and a long journey to Snowdonia, the evening was spent with a fine meal. The following day we departed for our challenge. The whole group reached the summit at 12.30pm with a sense of achievement.

Thank you to all who participated.

Mr Cushen ~ Outdoor Activity Manager

As part of our 'Forest School' program with Unity the following students; Holly Evans, Lilly Wall, Aimee Rickards, Dylan Graystone and Lewis Lancett had the opportunity to visit a working horse demonstration at Allcott Wood.

The students had the opportunity to watch a working horse being used for woodland clearance and how it encourages new growth in a sustainable manner. The students also had the opportunity take part in other woodland based activities.



Good News! We have another international partnership which will allow our students to not only host a foreign student but to also travel overseas free of cost to one of our partner schools. It is called an Erasmus Plus Partnership. If you are interested and would like more details please come and see Mrs Antonio and she will provide details.

Mrs Antonio ~ Head of Food Technology

In the growing economy, an ability to type quickly is of importance especially for homework. Selected year 7 pupils have begun a touch typing course after school. The pupils learn to type quickly and accurately without looking at the keyboard. They will receive a certificate for their hard work.

Mr Sims ~ KS3 Progress Manager

Selected year 7 pupils are enjoying taking part in extra sessions in reading, writing and maths to help their skills. This began with a launch evening, where parents enjoyed talking to staff about opportunities for their children, and will culminate in summer with a prize ceremony including tickets to the National Space Centre.

Mr Sims ~ KS3 Progress Manager

Did you go to Smith's Wood Sports College?



We're working in partnership with a charity called Future First to keep in touch with all our leavers and their progress. We would like to track down 'older' former students to ensure we have a wide range of contacts to support current students. This is where you can help by spreading our sign up link everywhere - Facebook, Twitter etc. It'd be great to have your support making sure this happens.

We have a personalised online link for former students which is below.

Please do circulate it to anyone you know who used to attend the School/College and ask them to sign up to our network.

Former Student (those that have left pre 2014) -

<http://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/smithswood>

Current Student (those that are leaving in the 2014/15 academic year) -

<http://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/student/smithswood>

Mrs Seward ~ Head of Sixth Form

Students have had the opportunity to attend 'Baby Think It Over'. This is a 10 week programme. This gives young people accurate information about relationships, sexual health and teenage pregnancy. It allows them time and space to explore their own attitudes and beliefs. The programme includes sessions about Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships and Sexual Exploitation. During the programme they explore the realities of becoming a teenage parent through discussion and activities. It also gives them an opportunity to take home an electronic baby for a weekend. The baby simulates a real life baby, who cries for nappy change, feeding etc. A simulation report is then printed off showing them how they did. Miah Battle, Ellie Bird, Chanelle Coley and Heidi Dugmore have successfully completed the ten modules including the final module looking after the "real care" baby for the weekend. Their simulation reports were good which has shown their dedication throughout. Special praise was given to Heidi as she achieved the highest score we have ever had with 98%.

**Ms Whitehouse, Mrs Buttery, Ms Hughes
And Miss Sheldon**

On 23rd October Mr McIlwraith led a campus meeting, which brought Forest Oak, Merstone and Smith's Wood together to plan the autumn term joint activity. This included a theatre film experience with small, group discussions, involving a group of our Year 7 SEND students, 100 Forest Oak and Merstone pupils and our Pupil Parliament. The meeting also addressed enhancement of curricular and extra-curricular integration. UNITY provision is extensive this term covering, music, dance, cheerleading, rugby, drama, outdoor learning and art.



This is all done through the support of five excellent UNITY staff members and two out sourced sports coaches. Community Sport hosted here at Smith's Wood continues to swell, including basketball, football, hockey, trampolining, cross country, gymnastics for primary, secondary and various special school events. Our pool is well used by Forest Oak, Merstone and our own students.

Mr McIlwraith ~ Director of Sport

Well done Smith's Wood we have broken the 100 mark for pupils attending after school sport on a given evening and we continue to provide a vast range of extra-curricular sports and activities. Individual pupil successes in sport include county badminton championship winners – Charlotte Asbury, Jessica Collyer and Casie-Jean Harriott-Poyner. Borough swimming champions, Lucy Male and Holly Eva- Franks. A karate victory for Kye Adams. Cross-Country, Shannon Brain. Kirstv Duggins, Oliver Appleyard, Corey Beighton and Scott Melvin. Regional Motorbike titles for Liam Devlin. Four of our Sports Council members are now Youth Sport Trust Rugby Ambassadors; Sam Bissell, Brad Farley, Renne-Lea Lawrence-Chamberlain and Charlotte Wood with the remit of promoting the sport at Smith's Wood and in our local area.



Mr McIlwraith ~ Director of Sport

For the first time Smith's Wood took all of Year 10, 12 and 13 to the NEC for the annual Skills Show on Friday 14th November.

Students had the chance to see the familiar (carpentry) to the surprising (forensic archaeology), with everything in between. They were able to try out skills for themselves and find out what it's really like to do a job and see it in action.



Mrs O'Donnell ~ Careers Advisor

Matthew Mansell a Year 11 GCSE Food Student took the opportunity to participate in the Young Chef Academy at University College Birmingham. The course is run over an 8 week period on a Saturday morning. Students are taught how to prepare and cook, starters, main courses, sweets and puddings. Matthew said 'I have had a really good time and I plan to be a chef in the future'.



As part of the new cottage ritual 5 members of staff headed down to Penyeuleen Cottage to close it down for the winter. They had a lovely evening in the Bengal Brasserie followed by toasted marshmallows on the cottage open fire. The next morning all 5 were up bright and early for a lovely walk around the forest area before heading back.



Mr Cushen ~ Outdoor Activity

Thank you to everyone for all your support with our local food bank. It has enabled us to send large boxes of food each week which has really helped support our local community. The collection of food will continue throughout the year.

Mrs Carroll ~ Ash Family Worker

A careers Fayre for Year 11, 12 and 13 students will be held on 22nd January 2015 between 4-7pm here at Smith's Wood.

Year 11 Graduation Ceremony & Prom 2015.

Deadline for ROA February Half term. Do you know what you need to graduate and attend prom?

- . 95% or higher attendance
- . Excellent punctuality
- . No external exclusion in year 11
- . Internal exclusions may affect invitation
- . High uniform standards
- . Positive work ethic
- . Attend all Exams
- . All coursework completed by set deadline
- . Locker key returned or £5 paid to replace key
- . Record of Achievement completed (Graduation only)

We have selected students from Smith's Wood B36 area to complete a survey for the Big Local. This is a project for young people to see what they would like to change and improve about the area. Pupils carried out the survey during guidance times. Pupils enjoyed having their say.

Ben Meggeson, Taymar Jeffers and Benjamin Everitt attended a construction boot camp during the summer break for two weeks. They gained constructions trade skills and gave up their own time during the school holidays to complete this course. All three students collected their certificates. Well Done Boys!

Science club started on the 1st October. The first experiment was to test different ways of designing a hoop glider. The club also made bath bombs and to celebrate Halloween they made a steady hand game using spooky shapes. As science club fell on bonfire night, they carried out a flame test experiment where it changed the colour of a Bunsen flame using different chemicals. In addition all the pupils made their own sparklers.

On the 19th October the club had a live chat with two scientists on "I'm a scientist get me out of here". The club had a chance to ask them questions about their jobs and qualifications. Our scientists where Alex who is a Cancer Research Scientist and Ali who researches Motor Neurone Disease.



Mrs Parry ~ Science Academic Mentor

Forest Oak students were so moved by a presentation by Georgina Moseley, mother of the late Harry Moseley that they decided to start making bracelets to sell themselves. With the assistance from the "Award Winning" Smith's Wood Enterprise students.

Amy Carlin, Molly Warrilow and Sean Moriarty, with students from Forest Oak, visited Touchwood shopping centre in Solihull to sell their wares. We are enormously proud of their tenacity and drive. That morning the students raised £200. Amy Carlin and Molly Warrilow organised and led the sale of HHHO bracelets during break times at Smith's Wood on the 18th, 19th and 20th November. They managed to raise a whopping £226.00 in the three break times.



Mrs O'Donnell ~ Careers Advisor

Apprenticeships give students the opportunity to work for a real employer, earn a salary and gain a real qualification. Anyone living in England over 16 years and not in full-time education can apply. All apprentices must receive national minimum wage. They must work for at least 30 hours a week.

All apprenticeships must be at least 12 months long and lead to a national qualification. After finishing, 85% will stay in employment with 64% staying with the same employer.



Laura Dawes spent a week at Jaguar- Land Rover during October half term. Laura was chosen from hundreds of applicants along with three others from Smith's Wood, Amy; Carlin, Alice Ward and Ellie Wright. Laura stated 'We were able to experience first-hand the working environment and I would recommend that any teenager fill out the application for this amazing experience.'