



# The Meadows Sports College Newsletter Summer Term 2015

## THIS TERM'S HIGHLIGHTS

### Principal: Mr Gordon Phillips

MA BA Hons Adv Dip Ed (Mgt) Adv Dip ED (SEN) Cert Ed CCRS Dip (ICT) CNAA Cert (Structured Mentoring)

## Our Principal's Introduction



Wow what a great year we have had with national successes in achieving Investors in People GOLD & RoSPA (Health & Safety) GOLD awards! We are also waiting to hear the results of the Governors Mark Award too. When you realise only 2 schools in the UK have the GOLD RoSPA award and only a relatively few schools have the GOLD IIP award then you soon realise that The Meadows Sports College really is a school of excellence in all it does.

But we never stand still! Now we are becoming a Forest School and we hope to achieve a Kite Mark for Outdoor Learning as well! There have been so many wonderful successful events as you will see when you read the rest of this bumper edition!

You will be delighted to know that we are continuing to provide outstanding Teaching & Learning and this term we exceeded our 50% outstanding for lessons by 10%! Great news!

We say goodbye to Mrs Judith Rowley and Mrs Elaine Cartwright who are both retiring and thank them for their wonderful contribution to the school. We also wish Mrs Becky Jaggard every success for the future as she takes up a position in a school in Nuneaton.

On behalf of the staff I wish you a most enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to welcoming all the students back on **Monday 7th September**.

### Diary Dates

#### Autumn Term

Students return  
Monday 7th  
September 2015

#### Half Term

26th-30th October

#### End of Term

Friday 18th  
December 2015

#### Spring Term 2016

Students return  
Tuesday 5th  
January 2016

#### Half Term

15th-19th February

#### End of Term

Thursday 24th  
March

#### Summer Term 2016

Students return  
Tuesday 12th April

#### End of Term

Friday 22nd July



## Summer Scheme 2015



We have lots of fun and exciting activities planned for this year's scheme.

As a reminder, the scheme will be running on the following weeks:

**Week 1: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2015  
(4 days)**

**Week 2: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015  
(5 days)**

The scheme each day will start at 10am and finish at 3pm prompt. You will need to provide a packed lunch and transport for your son/daughter. If your son/daughter takes any medication during the scheme hours, please ensure it is handed over to a staff member on your son/daughter's first day.

## Year 14 Graduation - 2015

We have many things to celebrate at the end of each school year, and one of the proudest moments comes when we congratulate our leavers on all their many achievements in their time here at The Meadows.

Our Graduating class looked magnificent in their caps and gowns as they proudly shared memories of favourite activities and time spent with friends.

Mr Phillips was pleased to present each student with their Leavers Certificate



Each and every member of staff at The Meadows would like to wish our leavers 'Good Luck and Bon Voyage' as they head for pastures new. Please remember to stay in touch.





## Our website

[www.themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk](http://www.themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk) contains a wealth of information for you particularly on the Parents' tab. If you need anything else added please let us know and we will be happy to assist you.

## Our Successes!

### ROSPA GOLD AWARD FOR THE MEADOWS SPORTS COLLEGE



We are one of only two schools in the country to have received this prestigious award at **GOLD** level! This award recognises that the school has exceptionally robust systems and procedures at all levels for safeguarding as well as the Health & Safety of all students, staff and visitors!

The Principal of the college Mr G Phillips attended the RoSPA awards ceremony on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015 which was held at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel.

### GOVERNORS MARK



Recently the school undertook the Governors' Mark and we are waiting results during the summer break. This is a very challenging award to achieve. It notes that the Governing Body is highly effective in challenging the leadership. It also notes through a skills audit matrix the huge strengths of our Governing Body as it supports the school to become outstanding at all levels.

The two assessors were highly impressed and although they are not allowed to comment on the final outcome, they did feel the Strategic Leadership Team, Governors and Clerk were all outstanding.

**Great News we have a useful Freephone service for Parents/Carers that has been passed onto us to share with you all.**

**The link to the website is,**



<http://www.hft.org.uk/News--events/Hft-news/New-national-Freephone-support-service-for-family-carers-of-people-with-learning-disabilities/>

The support service, which is run by Hft – the learning disabilities charity, will offer free telephone support, including from mobiles, between 8.30am and 4.30pm weekdays to ensure that family carers have sufficient access to information.

**Telephone number—0808 801 0448**

Support can be accessed using The Big Word telephone translation service which is available for people who don't speak English

The best way is to use the Home-School Diary. Please note that the best times for you to speak to class staff on the telephone are during a break, and immediately before or after school. It is our policy not to ring the classroom during lesson time simply because it can often disturb the children's learning. Many thanks for your co-operation.

## More Successful Trips



### The Meadows Sports College

#### Phase 1

Class 1:2 enjoyed some water fun outside as part of a school fun day. They also moved independently around the sports hall on toy cars and explored the ball pit.



### OUR THANKS!

Stourbridge & District Youth & Girls Football League donation

Committee members from the above organisation attended the School's Sports Day on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June and donated a cheque for £1,000. This money will go towards new playground equipment. To date we have raised £826 from the Principal's Annual sponsored run so with this donation we have now more than doubled this amount. We are so

very appreciative of the fund raising that Stourbridge & District Youth & Girls Football League have done to support us. Thank you all so very much.



To finish off our topic about The Victorians, students and staff from Mrs Chambers' and Mrs Noons' classes went on a visit to the Black Country Living Museum. We had a look inside the houses. We couldn't find an X-box, but Gino spotted a tasty loaf of bread!



We thought that Patryk would make a very good teacher, but he thought The Meadows was a much nicer school. (So do we all). We saw different shops, visited the chapel and learned how to play with some different toys out in the street! We ate our packed lunches, and enjoyed some tasty traditional chips. Everyone was really well behaved, and we all had a fantastic time as we learned so many new things.



**Well done classes 2.2 and 2.3!**



**Farewell to:**

**Mrs Judith Rowley (Teacher) & Mrs Elaine Cartwright (BST) who are retiring. We wish them both every happiness and an enjoyable retirement. Please do come back and visit us!**

### The Meadows Sports College



**5pm- 7pm on Thursday 12th November 2015**

As always, it will be lovely to see you there to share in the many successes of your child.

## FLSE (Federation of Leaders in Special Education)

The Meadows Sports College is heavily involved in supporting the FLSE. Both our deputy Principals: Mr George Smith & Mrs Tracey Pitt serve on the FLSE Steering Group for the West Midlands.

The FLSE champions the rights of young people with special needs and more recently, The Meadows Sports College took a leading role in organising a FLSE regional event involving Andre Imich SEN & Disability Professional Adviser for the Department of Education. This event was supported by leaders and educators in special education from six different local authorities across the West Midlands.



## Sports Day 2015

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 students participated in a range of inclusive field events and track races, as part of National Schools Sports Week.

Students were grouped into a house system and competed against their peers in a challenging environment and were encouraged to use their mathematical skills to count their scores and to identify colours.



During the afternoon events, every student took part in a race against other house teams. Parents, Carers and family members were in attendance to watch the fun and enjoyment unfold. The Yellow Team narrowly won Sports Day, reclaiming the trophy back from the Green Team. A special thank you goes to Russell Abbott, Ariane Parcell and Mandy Sonia for organising and leading this special event, and to all of the staff who helped make the day a success. It was a day enjoyed by all and also one that our students enjoy talking about and reflecting upon. We shall all look forward to next year's Sports Day!

## Transition News

This year we have 21 new students starting in September, from 5 different primary schools. Over the past few months we have had 5 successful transition days, the last one being very special as our whole school moved in to the classes we will be in in September! It was great to meet our new friends who we will be with, and 3 of our new teachers came in too, along with our new staff that will be supporting us in class.

As I walked around the school lots of smiles were evident, a very happy environment was felt. Some of the new parents paid us a visit and they too commented on how friendly everyone was and how the school felt like one big happy family. Quite a few of our new students were so excited about coming in they were up early and dressed well before it was time for school, and came running into their new place of learning, so eager!

Not to forget the older students who are moving onto new challenges, some of them planned a pool party, followed by karaoke and they even cooked their own lunch... A really fun day for them, they had 'A whale of a time'.

## Forest School is coming to The Meadows

In the next school year The Meadows Sports College intends to become a Forest School and implement yet another exciting new initiative, adding to the extensive range of learning opportunities available to students.

### Why become a Forest School ?

Research now backs up what forest school practitioners have known all along – that children and young people are stimulated by time spent in the outdoors.

Engaging in Forest School activities mean that young people are physically active a lot of the time leading to improvement in their stamina.

As the children gain confidence and improve their self-esteem this can impact on their emotional and mental well-being.

Some of our students have been taking part in a pilot project at LACE Forest School – Europa Woods, Sandwell



Typical activities include:

- ◊ Setting up camp – including carrying all kit to do this into base camp and working together to set up the seating area safely.
- ◊ Den building – following instructions, tying knots and working out the best way and place to secure the shelter equipment.
- ◊ Setting up and using a rope swing.
- ◊ Using a flint to light the fire to toast marshmallows, cook S'more, toast, hot dogs, jacket potatoes etc.
- ◊ Collecting twigs to set the fire, make pictures and build a tower.
- ◊ Using a saw to cut wood to make tree cookies.
- ◊ Using string/wool to secure the soft twigs to make dream catchers.
- ◊ Writing names in charcoal from the fire on a piece of wood.
- ◊ Using imagination in “free play” and exploration time whilst staying within the boundaries of the camp.
- ◊ Appreciating nature and the outdoor environment – dressing appropriately, listening for bird sound, looking for signs of forest creatures/wildlife, exploring natural textures.

All of the students involved thoroughly enjoyed spending time outdoors developing independence, teamwork, communication skills and problem solving in a natural outdoor learning environment.

Soon all of our students will have opportunities to engage in these enjoyable and worthwhile activities.

## New Orange Medical Bags

In September 2015 each student that has medication kept in school will be receiving a 'Med Pac bag'. These are practical bags, specifically designed for storing and carrying medicines safely and securely with personal identification. These have their names, photos and all their medical information on, and will be kept in locked cupboards in their classrooms.

This new system should make it more robust, but also easier, especially when students move from class to class and out on trips.



## Attendance threshold & attendance reports update

From the beginning of the next academic year, 2015-2016, the government is reducing the persistent absence threshold from 15% to 10%.

The current persistent absence threshold, of around 15%, means a pupil has to be absent for 56 sessions (28 days) of school to be classified as persistently absent.

This is in the government's opinion "a great deal of schooling to miss, setting the bar too high in this respect".

The following table shows estimated\* cumulative absent sessions thresholds for around 15% and 10%.

	15%	10%
Half term 1	10 or more sessions	7 or more sessions
Half term 1-2 (autumn term)	22 or more sessions	14 or more sessions
Half term 1-3	30 or more sessions	20 or more sessions
Half term 1-4 (autumn term & spring term combined)	38 or more sessions	25 or more sessions
Half term 1-5	46 or more sessions	31 or more sessions
Half term 1-6 (full academic year)	56 or more sessions	38 or more sessions

Parents/Carers are reminded that whilst 90% in a test is excellent the same does not apply to attendance

90% attendance over 1 school year = 1 half day missed every week (4 weeks in total)

90% attendance over 5 school years = half of one school year (20 weeks in total)



You are invited to visit the Victoria & Albert Museum to celebrate the launch of the new Curious Ceramics sensory back-pack for families.

*Curious Ceramics* will be the V&A's first ever sensory back-pack, and was developed with the help of Sense families. Come and explore the finished resource with museum staff. Discover curious ceramic objects from China to the Netherlands, learn how they were made and how ideas and materials travelled the world to reach Europe through multi-sensory objects, textures, sounds and smells. Bring a packed lunch to enjoy in the museum garden or lunchroom, and join our new Pop-up Performance *ROAR!* Find how a stone lion comes to life in this new piece of interactive theatre for families, developed especially for the V&A by No Nonsense Theatre (BSL interpretation will be provided for all performances on this date). **Saturday 1 August – Group A**

10.30 – 10.45 Meet at the V&A in the grand entrance next to the cloakroom

11.00 – 11.45 Explore *Curious Ceramics* sensory back-pack in the galleries with museum staff

11.45 – 12.45 Lunch. Visit the museum café, or bring your own lunch to enjoy in the garden or lunchroom

13.00 – 13.30 Join the new Pop-up Performance *ROAR!* in the galleries

#### **Saturday 1 August – Group B**

10.30 – 10.45 Meet at the V&A in the grand entrance next to the cloakroom

11.00 – 11.30 Join the new Pop-up Performance *ROAR!* in the galleries

11.45 – 12.45 Lunch. Visit the museum café, or bring your own lunch to enjoy in the garden or lunchroom

13.00 – 13.30 Explore *Curious Ceramics* sensory back-pack in the galleries with museum staff

Limited spaces are available for the Curious Ceramics sessions in the galleries, if you and your family would like to join Group A or Group B please contact Kara Jarrold, Head of Arts and



Invitation to  
Curious Ceramics Sensory  
Back-Pack launch  
Saturday 1 August 2015  
10.30 – 14.30

Wellbeing, Sense at [kara.jarrold@sense.org.uk](mailto:kara.jarrold@sense.org.uk).  
Please provide:

- Your name, email and phone number
- The name and age of your child/ren
- The number of adults attending session

Visit the website for more information about [getting here](#) and the museum's [disability and access](#) pages. There are twelve blue badge parking spaces on Exhibition Road managed by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and are on a first come first serve basis.

**Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road,  
South Kensington, SW7 2RL**

**For more information on these events and other useful information please see the schools website**



## Term Dates 2015 / 2016

### **Autumn Term 2015:**

INSET DAYS: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
Students Return: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September  
Half Term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October  
Last Day of Term: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

### **Spring Term 2016:**

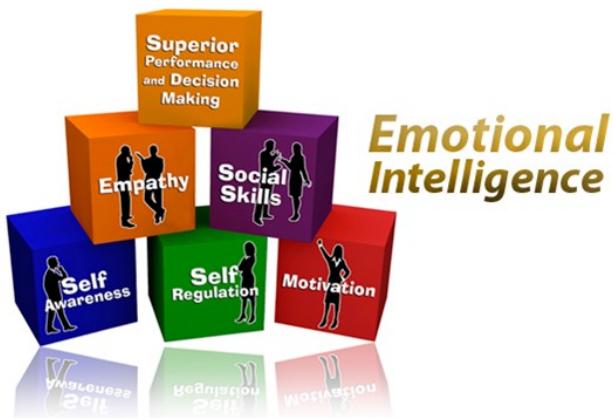
INSET DAY: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Students Return: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
Half Term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February  
Last Day of Term: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March

### **Summer Term 2016:**

INSET DAY: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April  
Students Return: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April  
May Day: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
Polling Day: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May (closed for students)  
INSET DAY: Friday 6th May (closed for students)  
Half Term: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Last Day of Term: Friday 22nd July



## “Emotional Intelligence”



### **“The emotionally intelligent school”**

*The Meadows Sports College – “The emotionally intelligent school”. We believe that the quality of a school comes down to the quality of the relationships between staff, students, parents and governors. Putting people first through leading with emotional intelligence is fundamental to the success of our school. The Meadows Sports College has an excellent reputation for effectively managing relationships through recognising, understanding and respecting the emotions, beliefs and values of others. As a result of leading with emotional intelligence standards keep rising as the school continues to achieve higher goals and positive outcomes. More recently our school was asked to train staff in emotional intelligence to support the growth and development of a Birmingham primary school. Our school shared research we had undertaken over a period of four years towards developing a truly outstanding school including:*

*The development of a whole school leadership philosophy*

*Staff wellbeing policies and practices*

*Putting People First Philosophy*

*Leading with Emotional Intelligence*

*We believe The Meadows Sports College is at the cutting edge in the development of leading with emotional intelligence in an education setting.*



# The Meadows Sports College

## School Uniforms



*We have a wide range of Polo Shirts,  
Jumpers, Hoodies and Reversible  
Fleeces available at The Meadows in a  
variety of sizes.*



## Hoodies

Sizes (S), (M) & (L) ~ £20 Each

#### **Polo Shirts (White or Navy)**

Sizes 30", 32", 34" & 36"(XS) ~ £12.00 each

Sizes 38"(S),40"(M),42"(L),44"(XL) & 46"(XXL) ~ £13.50 each

## Sweatshirts (Navy)

Sizes 28", 30", 32", 34", 36"(XS), 38"(S), 40"(M) & 42"(L) ~ £13.00 each

Sizes 44"(XL) & 46"(XXL) ~ £15.00each

## **Reversible Fleece (Navy)**

Sizes 9/10yrs, 11/12yrs & 13yrs ~ £15.00 each

Sizes 36/38(SM) & 40/42(M) ~ £21.00 each

Sizes 44(L) & 46(XL) ~ £22.20 each

**Uniform Order Form. Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact Number** \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM NAME	QTY	COLOUR	SIZE	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST

Please make cheques payable to 'The Meadows Sports College'.

**Please Send Your Completed Order Form And Payment To The Meadows Sports College, Dudley Road East, Oldbury, B69 3BU**

## Our Memorial Garden



The Meadows  
Sports College

