

# Retrospect 2019



2019 in review @ Sandwell Academy



## A welcome from the Headteacher

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the thirteenth edition of the Sandwell Academy Retrospect. I hope you enjoy looking through this in-depth review of the achievements of students and highlights of the 2019 calendar year.

2019 was a year to celebrate examination outcomes. Outstanding results at Sixth Form included 36% of grades at A\* or A. Our Careers and Guidance Team worked hard to ensure students had the best destinations, with 72% heading to their first choice of university. Congratulations must also go to the Careers Department this year for once again achieving the Gold Quality Award for careers education, information, advice and guidance. This was very well-deserved by all staff in the department.

The new Science and Sixth Form block was officially opened this year. This will give our students greater provision moving into the future as student numbers increase and the Sciences continue to remain a popular choice at A Level.

The Performing Arts department continued to raise the bar with their performance of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. The stunning costumes contributed to the magical experience for the audience.

Outside the classroom, students have participated in numerous trips and visits this year to enhance their curriculum studies and experience opportunities in the wider world. Cadets had the fantastic opportunity to go to South Africa and contribute to enhancing the lives and experiences of the children they visited.

The PE department has had another great year of Sport, a highlight of which was the Year 7 Boys winning the National Cup treble.

Many congratulations to everyone involved in another hugely successful year at the Academy. A big thank you to all our parents, business partners and Governors for their support in ensuring the Academy continues to go from strength to strength.

Ian Williams  
Headteacher



# The New Build

## Science Extension

The new Sixth Form and Science teaching block was officially opened in June. The extension features two additional Science labs and four teaching venues. The building was extended in response to increased student numbers and the growing popularity of outstanding Science education at A Level.

The guest of honour to cut the ribbon at the official opening was Dr Mhairi Morris, lecturer in Biochemistry at Loughborough University.











# Business

## Business Challenge Day

Year 9 BTEC Business students attended a Business Challenge Day at University College Birmingham (UCB). The students had talks from two local business owners, took part in a Q&A session, and had a tour of UCB. They then took part in three challenges: Design a Business Concept, Branding and Marketing, and Negotiation Skills. The event was a great success and the event organiser commented: "Your students were a credit to the school, showing interest and engagement throughout." A successful day for our potential young entrepreneurs!



## Cadbury World

Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed a trip to Cadbury World as part of their Enterprise Project. They toured the factory to see how chocolate is made and attended a talk on business ownership, business activity and competitors, business aims and objectives, functional departments and marketing/branding. All of their new knowledge was brought back to the Academy to help them complete their project!



## Enrichment

As part of Enrichment, Year 9 went to Drayton Manor and completed a workshop where they learnt all about Drayton Manor as a business. As part of the workshop, they were given an insight into a number of areas including: Drayton Manor's mission statement, vision, values and objectives, organisational structure and functional areas, recruitment and selection process, marketing department and campaigns, advertising methods, customer types and characteristics, customer satisfaction and expectations, conducting market research and its importance.

## Year 7 Enterprise

Year 7 students presented to real-life Business Dragons as part of their Enterprise course. During lessons, students were taught theory on pricing to promotion and branding to research. This then aided students, who were given a brief to create and develop a new chocolate bar product. Within the pitch students were asked to consider their branding, target market and the unique selling point. They presented and responded to questions from the Dragons.

## Year 8 Enterprise

In the Enterprise recruitment course, Year 8 students had the opportunity to hone their skills to become ready for the world of work. There were opportunities for them to self-reflect and construct a CV in a workshop. Interview skills were tweaked, which concluded in students taking part in real-life interviews with recruiters. This meant that students were given written and verbal feedback to improve even more for their future.



# English

## Bar Mock

On Saturday 9 November, 12 students from Years 10 to 13 attended the Regional Bar Mock Heats at Birmingham Crown Court. Students competed in three rounds of heats against nine other schools and colleges including King Edward and Thomas Telford Schools. Each heat was assessed by real-life judges and barristers and fellow students acted as jury members to agree a guilty or not guilty verdict. On the day, students beat Thomas Telford School and Birmingham Metropolitan College.

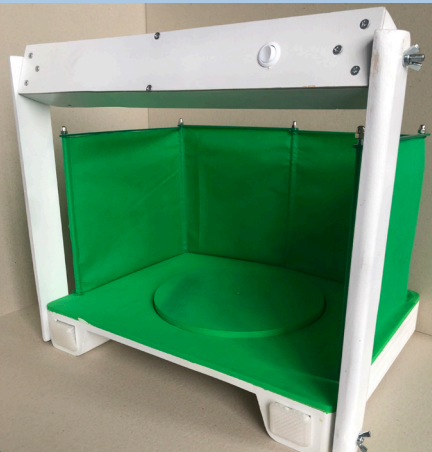
In order to prepare for the competition, students attended Session 3 and reviewed two different cases arguing for the defence and prosecution, practicing their communication and teamwork skills. Throughout the sessions, students demonstrated commitment and maturity and were a credit to themselves and the Academy on the day. Competition was high, but all remained calm in an extremely pressurised situation. Judges described the participants as 'impressive' and despite not getting through to the final, all were champions.

One of the Year 13 students commented:

**'My experience participating in the Bar Mock Competition allowed me to have an insight into what the court process is like. I found it highly interesting and enjoyed the challenge. Having participated in the competition for the past two years, it has given me relevant experience in Law and helped towards my decision of wanting to study it at university. Definitely recommend!'**



# A Level DT





# Achievement Evenings

## July Achievement Evening

### Special Award Winners

**Aleeza Shaikh:** Thomas Telford School Award for Key Stage 3 Student of the Year

**Lewis Harris:** Midland Oil Refinery Key Stage 4 Student of the Year Award

**Oliver Haydon:** The Sir Kevin Satchwell Award for Sixth Former of the Year

**Teesha Chavda:** Mercers' School Memorial Prize Merrett Bequest Community Service Award

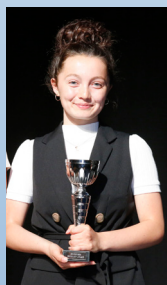
**Louriece Jopista:** The Tesco Award for Making a Difference in the Community

**Jordan Barlow:** Hadley Industries Environmental Awareness Award

**Umma Habibah:** The Roy and Hazel Harrison Award for the Most Improved Student

**Tiana Brown:** Personality of the Year Award

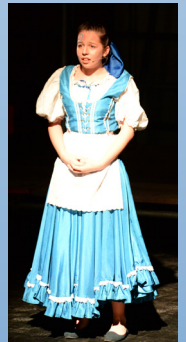
**Charlotte Christy:** Headteacher's Award



# Performing Arts

## Beauty and the Beast

The Disney classic 'Beauty and the Beast' was the Academy production this year. Two lead casts delivered incredible performances across three sell out nights. The students really brought the magic of Disney to the stage with their costumes and representation of characters. All of the classic songs were featured and were enjoyed by audience members of all ages. We look forward to stepping back in time for next year's performance of Popstars: The 90s Musical.



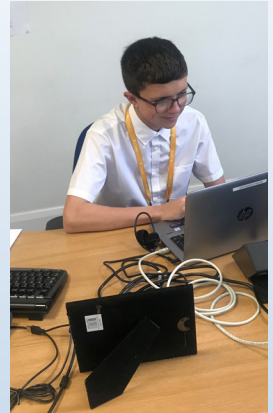
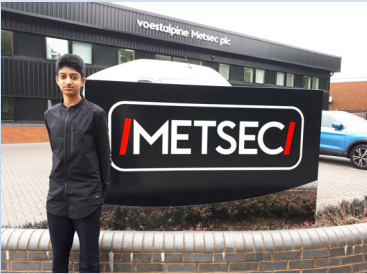




# Careers

## Work Experience

All Year 10 and Year 12 students took part in work experience during the summer term, which involved over 300 organisations offering high quality placements to our students. Students also took part in bespoke weeks which included Finance Week, Medical Week, FA Referee Course, Higher Education Week and Apprenticeship Week, all of which provided a real insight into the work of work. Several organisations were so impressed by the students on placement that many were offered paid summer work and apprenticeship opportunities for the following year.





## Careers Trips

The Careers Department have been involved in many trips this year, taking students to experience several industry sectors including engineering, car manufacturing and the NHS. Students have benefited from the exceptional industrial links that the department have developed.

## Industrialist of the Year - Lloyds Bank

The Industrialist of the Year 2019 award went to Lloyds Bank. They have supported a range of activities throughout the year, including work experience, work skills, mock interviews and supported the Finance and Apprenticeship weeks for the Sixth Form.



## Employers' Charter

Following on from the launch of the Employers' Charter in early 2018, six organisations have now been recognised with the award for their continued support for the students and staff at the Academy. They have been involved in a range of activities throughout the year and we hope this will continue during the 2019-2020 academic year.

The organisations awarded the Employers' Charter are: Tesco, Hadley Group, Sandwell College, Dodd Group, DWP Schools Team and Sandwell Homes. Well done and thank you.



## BMW Oxford

A group of students who have expressed interest in a career in engineering visited the BMW factory in Oxford. The students toured the factory to see the production line in action, spoke to current apprentices about their journey to date and took part in a recruitment workshop to gain a clear understanding of the application process.

## Nuffield Research Programme

This year, two Year 12 students, David Eboye and Ishreet Kaur, gained placements on the Nuffield Research Programme which takes places during the summer holidays. Following a gruelling application and interview process, they were both allocated placements in their chosen field, one at Rolls Royce and the other at Aston University. Well done to both students for securing a placement on this highly competitive programme.

## Technology & Business Event

A group of Year 12 female students attended Birmingham's first ever Technology and Business event for females, held at Innovation Birmingham. The event was attended by organisations from the sector including IBM, Capgemini, Lloyds Bank, EY, PwC and Experian. The students took part in workshops, attended keynote talks and had an opportunity to network with industry professionals.



## International Women's Day

A group of students celebrated International Women's Day by exploring a range of careers and challenging stereotypes. Guest speakers included an RAF Avionics Technician, an Educational

Psychologist, Project Managers for the power and water sectors, a Locality Manager in the Skills Sector and a Senior Occupational Therapist. The students heard about their individual career journeys and the barriers they had overcome.



## PwC Roadshow

PwC brought their roadshow into the Academy to raise awareness of their organisation and its opportunities for Sixth Formers. Students met with current members of

staff who were either apprentices or graduates. Students heard their career stories and participated in an interactive workshop focused around employability skills and awareness of the business and digital worlds.

## Sandwell Academy Achieves Gold Quality in Careers Award

Staff at Sandwell Academy have been recognised for their exceptional support in providing careers education, information, advice and guidance. The Academy once again achieved the Gold Quality in Careers Award, which was first awarded in 2015.



The award is designed to accredit good practice and encourage development in schools, academies, colleges, special schools and pupil referral units. The government recommends that all schools should work towards a quality standard for careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) as an effective means of carrying out a self-review and evaluation of the school's programme.

Sandwell Academy went through a rigorous process of checks and assessments to ensure the support it offered students was at the required standard. This involved meeting with students, senior leaders, and staff, reviewing the careers curriculum, evaluations and the resources on the website.

This is a well-deserved award for the careers and guidance team who work tirelessly to deliver outstanding careers guidance and secure positive destinations for all Sandwell Academy students.

# Cadets

## Cadets South Africa Trip

42 cadets from the Warwickshire & West Midlands (South Sector) Army Cadet Force visited Johannesburg, South Africa in Summer 2019.



To fundraise, students participated in several activities, including bag packing, and overall the group raised £80,000 in a year and a half for the Barnardos Charity, the Cadet Force and the orphanage in Africa which they visited.

Whilst in South Africa for two weeks, the Cadets took part in community engagement. The group visited a non-government funded school. This meant that the school had little income to supply equipment for the students. However, the Cadets made it possible and brought with them five suitcases full of supplies and books. On their visit they played sports with the school children, who beat them a resounding 15-3 in Netball! They also visited an orphanage and painted a Winnie-the-Pooh mural for them. The children were very happy and appreciative.

Alongside the community engagement, the Cadets went to a Giraffe Conservation, a three-day safari and planted trees in the blistering heat of 41 degrees. They also learnt about the Zulu Wars and walked The Fugitive's Trail where the British soldiers retreated from the Zulus.



Overall, the trip was a life changing experience as it really made the Cadets aware of the quality of life other people around the world have but met children who were happy and cared for each other a great deal.



*Photos courtesy of Warwickshire & West Midlands (South Sector) Army Cadet Force*



# Sandwell Run



# Sports Day





# Sport and PE

## Year 7 Boys Football

On 22 May, Sandwell Academy made history by winning the National Cup treble, completing the clean sweep by beating a strong Shenfield Academy in the Elite National Cup 3-0 at The Hawthorns. Cheered on by a 400-strong crowd of Academy students, there was a fantastic atmosphere. The boys made a slow start, with nerves getting the best of both teams in the early stages. However, a fantastic turn and finish by Jamal Jimoh eased all nerves, putting Sandwell ahead to take a 1-0 lead into the interval. The second half saw Sandwell step up a gear and Billy Fielding doubled the lead early in the second half, just before Leonardo Cardoso thundered in a shot to seal the victory.

Mr Hewitt said: "This is a fantastic achievement, to take all three national trophies is something that has never been achieved before. It shows what a talented group of players we have, but we all know that talent doesn't win trophies, it also requires a lot of hard work and dedication and the lads have worked phenomenally hard and are a credit to the Academy. We are incredibly proud of the team and we will be looking to try to retain the title next year."

Photos courtesy of ESFA





# Team Honours

## Athletics

U13 Mixed Quad Athletics Sandwell Champions

## Badminton

U13 Boys Inter Academies Champions

U14 Boys Sandwell Tournament Champions

U14 Boys Black Country Games Champions

U16 Boys Sandwell Tournament Champions

U16 Boys Black Country Games Runners Up

U14 Girls Sandwell Tournament Runners Up

U16 Girls Sandwell Tournament Champions

## Basketball

U13 Junior NBA West Midlands District Runners Up

U14 Girls Sandwell Cup Champions



U14 Girls Black Country Games Runners Up

U16 Girls Sandwell Cup Champions



## Football

U12 Boys ESFA Monster 5-a-side National Champions

U12 Boys ESFA Elite National Cup Champions

U12 Boys ESFA National Cup Champions

U12 Boys West Midlands Cup Semi-Finalists

U12 Boys Sandwell Cup Champions

U13 Boys Sandwell Cup Champions

U14 Boys Sandwell Cup Champions

U14 Boys Development Squad West Bromwich Foundation Champions

U14 Boys Development Squad Sandwell Champions

U15 Boys ESFA National Cup Semi-Finalists

U18 Boys West Midlands Cup Runners Up

U12 Girls West Midlands Cup Champions

U13 Girls Sandwell Cup 5 a side Champions

U14 Girls Sandwell Cup 5 a side Champions

U14 Girls West Midlands Cup Runners Up

U16 Girls West Midlands Cup Runners Up



# Team Honours

## Cricket

U12 Staffordshire Cup Semi-Finalists

U13 Staffordshire Chance to Shine Runners Up

U13 Sandwell Cricket Tournament Champions

U15 Staffordshire Cup Semi-Finalists

U15 Staffordshire Chance to Shine 3rd Place



## Netball

U12 Sandwell Netball League Runners Up

U14 Sandwell Netball Tournament Champions

U14 Sandwell Netball League Runners Up

U16 Sandwell Netball Tournament Runners Up

U18 Sandwell Netball Tournament Runners Up



## Boccia

U19 Mixed Level 2 Boccia Sandwell Champions

U19 Mixed Level 3 Boccia West Midlands Runners Up

## Dodgeball

U14 Girls Sandwell Tournament Champions

U14 Girls Black Country Games Finalists

U16 Girls Sandwell Tournament Runners Up



## Handball

U13 Boys Sandwell Tournament Champions

U16 Girls Tournament Champions

## Rounders

U14 Sandwell Rounders League Runners Up

## Volleyball

U14 Girls Sandwell Tournament Runners Up

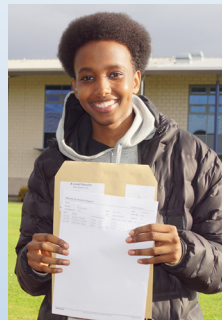
U16 Girls Sandwell Tournament Runners Up



# Results Days

## A Level Results 2019

The Academy's Sixth Form students achieved another excellent set of A Level examination results this summer. Outstanding outcomes included 36% A\*/A grades, which represented the highest ever recorded at this level, and 82% A\*/C grades, with 100% of the students achieving three qualifications or better. Equally impressive is that once again all students have gone on to either further education, employment or training. An impressive 72% of students gained places at their first choice of university and this included numerous students going on to study courses such as Medicine or Law at some of the top Russell Group Universities.

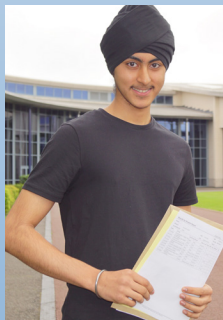


The tougher A Level and BTEC courses have proved challenging; however, our students have consistently led the way in Sixth Form performance in the borough since the Academy opened in 2006 and this year's results demonstrate the hard work of students and staff at the Academy.

## GCSE Results

Students in Year 11 celebrated their GCSE results in August. 75% of students achieved Grade 4 or better in either English Literature or Language and 74% in Mathematics. 65% of students achieved Grade 4 or better in both English and Mathematics.

70% of all results were graded A\*-C or the new 9-4 across a range of subjects. Outcomes were especially high in Art, Science (Triple), Physical Education and Business, and BTEC Sport.



27% of students achieved the English Baccalaureate gained by achieving grade 4 or better in English, Mathematics, two Science subjects, Geography or History and a Modern Foreign Language.

79% of students achieved five or more GCSE qualifications at grade 9-4 (A\*-C), with every student achieving success in at least one Level 2 course combined with other vocational achievements.



## Year 11 Achievement Evening

In November, the class of 2019 came together to celebrate their GCSE results and receive their certificates. Students were awarded for their effort, attainment and progress in all subject areas, and others were recipients of the Special Awards.



### Special Award Winners

Sport Specialism Award  
**Abbie Jane Mansell**

Outstanding Attendance  
**Simrit Bains**  
**Lydia Bevan**

Outstanding Progress  
**Jaskiran Kaur**  
**Abdi Rhman Mohamed**

Outstanding Academic Achievement  
**Katie Bevan**  
**Harriet Turner**

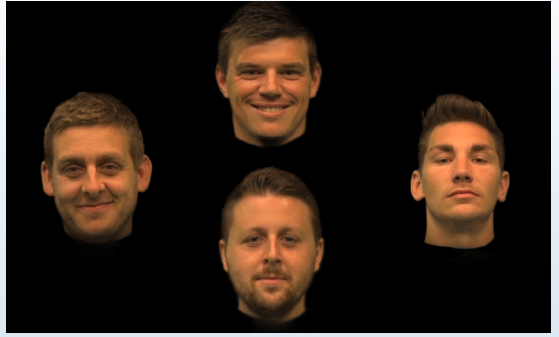
Personality of the Year  
**Tamara Mpofu-Manyanda**

Outstanding Student of the Year  
**Jessica Haxhijaj**



## Staff Video

The end of year performance was a little different this year as staff took to the screen to display their performance talents. With an adapted version of Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' staff from all departments seized the opportunity to show off their vocal skills. Not only that, but they all participated in a music video to accompany it, with some accomplished dancing and acting skills displayed.





FRIENDSHIP  
EQUALITY  
COURAGE  
RESPECT  
INSPIRATION  
EXCELLENCE  
DETERMINATION

