



BUSHEY  
MEADS  
SCHOOL

# In Touch

Spring 2014

Issue 12

**Regional Gymnastic Competition Winners — Junior Girls (Under 14)**



Articles include:

Acting Headteacher News

Key Stage News

PE and Health Faculty News



# Acting Headteacher News



Welcome to the Spring edition of our termly magazine. It is fitting that I write to you on one of our somewhat rare, but beautiful, Spring mornings.

I hope you have been reading and keeping up to date with the many events beyond the timetable, through my Headteacher's blog on the school's website.

The key message I would like to communicate with you all is how proud I am of all the excellent work both the staff and students have produced this term and I thank you, the parent body, for your support and commitment to assist in making this all possible.

The responsibility of Acting Headship this term has given me further insight into just how hard everyone within the Bushey Meads community works to strive to produce the best for your children. I have found the role so rewarding to date, and I am looking forward to the privilege of continuing in this role through the summer

term, pending the arrival of Mr Turner in September.

Although we are looking forward to new beginnings in September we all have a very important and equally busy term ahead of us, culminating with internal and external examinations. I am sure you will join me in wishing all our students every success in achieving their full potential.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a well deserved break over the Easter holidays. May we collectively also think of all those senior students who will be using the time to revise for their upcoming examinations and attending the revision classes we are offering through the holiday period. This time, I am sure, will help support their progress and confidence. My good wishes to every one of them.

Ms Morawska



## Our new Executive Principal & Headteacher

As the parent body is already aware, our new Executive Principal, Mr Turner, will be joining us in September.

Mr Turner is currently the Headteacher at Friern Barnet School in North London. In his time there, the school has been transformed from one requiring improvement to one rated as Outstanding by Ofsted. In his interviews he showed a clear vision for the future of the Trust, as well as innovative ideas for the continued improvements in teaching and learning at Bushey Meads.

Mr Turner is very keen to get to know the school, the students, the staff and the parents as soon as possible and is keen to build on the success of the past and work together towards an even more exciting future for the school and the Trust.

We would like to take this opportunity again to thank you all for your support through the recruitment process. We would also like to thank Ms Morawska and her Senior Leadership Team who have led the school through this transitional period with distinction and will continue to do so until the end of the school year.

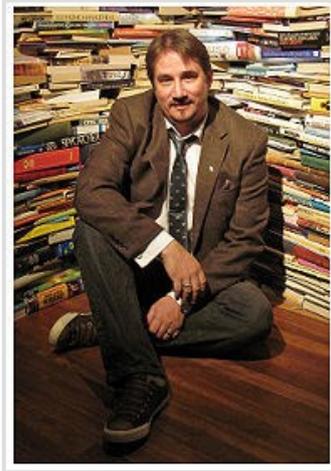
Sam Russell  
Chair of Bushey St James Trust

Di Hoeksma  
Chair of Governors, Bushey Meads

# Key Stage 3

## Tony Lee Visits Bushey Meads

Just before half term we had a visit from author Tony Lee, who came to speak to the year 7 and 8 students. Tony is a successful writer of graphic books, who as a child didn't like reading. Then he discovered comics and graphic novels which he loved and these led him into trying other books and becoming an avid reader. He spent the whole day with us and he showed the students that by "Changing the Channel" they could all find something that they enjoyed reading, and that they should keep trying different things until they did.



Tony then led workshops with the year 8 students based on how they would react in a fantastical situation. This was - vampires are attacking the school, and the class is trapped in the hall! The vampires could only come in if invited, but if you went outside or invited them in - it was all over. The students had to work out how to stay safe until morning. What could they use as weapons, who would be leader and how could they save themselves?

Prospective leaders fought for control, others decided to

Raghavi Aravindan said "I thought Tony Lee taught everyone a lesson that day, he said that even if we do not enjoy doing some things, we should keep trying and we could then find that it becomes more enjoyable". Ollie Van Til thought Tony Lee was a friendly, funny person. "He was constantly making us laugh and towards the end he told us a story about an old woman who loved doing jigsaws. He finished it with a 'BOO' that made the entire hall jump out of their seats."

betray the group and join the vampires and some set about working out what they could use as weapons from the things around them. Some wanted to fight, others to keep quiet and stay safe and others said they would use religious objects to save themselves, or their friends. It was a noisy, exciting hour with lots of discussion and everyone really enjoyed themselves. Lots of wonderful stories came out of the day.

We would love to have Tony back to visit us again.

## Simon Mayo at Francis Combe

Miss Court's year 8 English class were invited to Francis Combe School to hear Simon Mayo, a BBC radio DJ and children's author, talk about his new science based book series called "Itch". Itchingham Lofte is an element hunter who collects all sorts of elements from the periodic table. But when he is given a mysterious rock by a strange man he discovers there are others who will stop at nothing to take it from him!



Simon told us all sorts of facts about chemical elements, so if you like thrillers and want to find out more fascinating facts, you should check out these books at Simon's website [www.itchingham.co.uk](http://www.itchingham.co.uk)

Claudia & Riya, year 8

# Key Stage 4

## Coca Cola Real Business Challenge

On the 6<sup>th</sup> February, a group of seven students, including myself, woke up in the early hours of the morning in anticipation of reaching school by 7am, as we were to partake in the Coca Cola Real Business Enterprise challenge that was being held at Brighton. We were one of the teams of regional finalists in the South East of England, as our school was chosen out of 17,000 applicants due to the originality of our juice brand idea. Unfortunately, we did not win, however we were singularly praised by the organiser of the event, on the sheer level of our presentation in front of an audience of around 80 including the panel of judges which starred the general director of Coca Cola.



The challenge was to come up with a marketing campaign in order to promote a charity called 'Street Games', which is an

organisation that has been set up to encourage more children from disadvantaged backgrounds to actively take part in sport from a wide range being offered, e.g. basket ball. We had to create a poster and viral video, using professional equipment whilst also giving an outline of an app that would induce more people to join up. The general director of Coca Cola, upon seeing us working together, positively commented on our teamwork and collaboration.

Overall, I think we all found the experience to be exhilarating as it certainly was a one in a lifetime event. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn some new skills that would definitely come in handy in the future, especially in the world of work.

Sainka Shah: year 10

## Highly Able trip to the PiXL Oxbridge and Russell Group Student Conference

In January we had the opportunity to visit the Kia Oval. We accompanied a group of forty of our Highly Able pupils from years Ten and Eleven to the conference and we all came away feeling well informed and excited about the opportunities available to our potentially high-achieving young people.

The day began with refreshments ...I have never seen such happy faces at such an early hour and could overhear many pupils discussing the merits of the flapjacks and the fact that they alone were worth getting up early for!

We were addressed firstly by Peter Rawling, the Vice-Chair of the PiXL6 group who had organised the conference. He took us through a presentation outlining what our students

needed to know about the process of university application and course selection, what pupils needed to do to ensure their applications stood out in amongst the thousands received - he gave the example of one university's Law Department receiving 2,367 applications for just 70 places.

We were then addressed by Dr Joe Organ from Oxford University, on behalf of Oxford and Cambridge, he outlined the benefits of studying there: he spoke of challenging, stimulating courses, the intimacy and support of small-group teaching and was quick to dismiss the idea that it was only for 'posh' or 'public school' pupils. He wanted our pupils to aspire to attend these

institutions and encourage them not to dismiss them as 'out of their league'.

Our final speaker was Jack Haynes, Oxford alumni but speaking on behalf of King's College London and other Russell Group universities. He reminded pupils of all that London city had to offer, KCL had the best graduate employment rate in 2012 - 13.

I think the day gave our students a real boost as it made them realise that they have the potential to achieve at the highest levels through hard work and determination. Those pupils I spoke to throughout the day were happy to be recognised for their potential and many of them had not considered the possibility of attending such prestigious institutions. They certainly will be now!

Ms C Bailey

# Key Stage 5

## Striving for the Best

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March, seven Sixth Form students with plans to attend our country's most prestigious Higher Education establishments visited Watford Grammar School for Girls for a presentation by Kate Kettle, the Outreach and Student Support Officer from Balliol College, Oxford. The presentation was aimed at helping the students to decide upon either Oxford or Cambridge, and explained the collegiate nature of these highly respected universities. Students were also provided with an insight into the application process for Oxford and Cambridge and how it differs from all other universities.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect for the students was that they could be expected to attend 7 days of interviews at Oxford! However, when it was explained that they would get to sample the university lifestyle as they would be hosted in halls of residence, their concerns soon transformed into excitement. The students were also given some very useful information regarding their personal statements and interviews.

When looking towards the future and deciding destinations following sixth form, the students who attended certainly have a head start in their application to Oxford and Cambridge.

## SIXTH FORM VISIT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

In February a group of Sixth Form students who are studying Government and Politics at AS level took the opportunity of being able to tour the Houses of Parliament. Whilst they were there they witnessed MPs busily preparing for an emergency debate on the national flooding crisis which brought the whole experience to life and close to home. They also met Geoffrey Robertson QC, the leading advocate on human rights, on his way to a court hearing at the Supreme Court.

The visit also included Westminster Central Hall and Whitehall, including the Treasury, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the



Cabinet Office, home to the famous COBRA meetings.

Mr Arnold, who teaches the students Government and Politics stated:

*'This was a very exciting day for these students and has made this challenging subject choice more real by being able to visit the very place where those all important political decisions are made.'*

*The students came back so inspired and enthusiastic about the subject.*

*This will really help them in the final months now before their public exams*

# P.E & HEALTH FACULTY

## A Busy Term !

It has been another very busy term in the PE and Health Faculty, finishing with a very successful Health Week and Fun Run. The improved weather this year has also enabled more fixtures to be played and we have enjoyed some fantastic success over the last 3 months. Amongst the competitive sport this term has been gymnastics, rugby, football (girls and boys), hockey (girls and boys), basketball (girls and boys) and indoor athletics. Well done to all those who have represented school teams - our students continue to be a credit to the PE and Health Faculty and the school as a whole.

## Health News – Healthy Schools Status

In February of this term Bushey Meads was awarded the **Hertfordshire Healthy Schools status** from Hertfordshire County Council. This is in recognition of all the work done by the school to promote the health and well-being of the student body. The Hertfordshire Healthy Schools co-ordinator wrote :

*“Your whole school review is a fantastic accolade to all the work you have done and are undertaking to promote health and wellbeing. I am delighted to inform you that your school has achieved Hertfordshire Healthy Schools status. Many congratulations to you and your school community.*

*The key strengths that our team would particularly like to commend your school community for are:*

- *Health and Wellbeing issues are covered extensively throughout a number of curriculum areas. The schools Opening Minds programme for year 7 students is an example of effective practice and delivered at a time when students are particularly vulnerable. The content of the programme demonstrates the schools commitment to equipping young people with the resources to grow and develop in school.*
- *The range of systems and strategies that are in place to ensure the school culture and environment enables the engagement of the whole school community. The whole school review also illustrates that the PE Faculty is very strong and well supported by the senior leadership team and the governing body”*

## Health Week

This year saw **the 4<sup>th</sup>** annual Bushey Meads Health Week in the week of March 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. During the week all the students in Years 7-11 were fitness tested with further health checks to take place before Easter. Parents will be able to access this information after Easter and will be able to track their child’s fitness throughout their time at Bushey Meads. All students have also been completing Health Surveys in lessons to provide us with further information about how active and healthy the student body are. Students also covered a number of other health related subjects throughout the week. As a school we remain committed to ensuring our students lead as healthy and active a lifestyle as possible.

The week also included a number of other special events. On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March the whole of year 11 took part in a **Health Education day**. This involved educational sessions on mental health, sexual health and physical health. Also all students took part in Self Defence sessions led by Mark Thomas, a qualified Ju-Jitsu instructor. The day was a great success with the year group responding really well to all activities.

We also had nearly 40 young chefs from KS3 taking part in the annual healthy eating **Masterchef** competition. As ever the competition was very high with some outstanding food enjoyed by the scorers. Full results of the competition will be issued shortly.





## FUN RUN

The highlight of the week was the annual Fun Run with this years proceeds going to the Sport Relief charities. The whole student population really got into the spirit of the event with some fantastic costumes including Batman and Robin, Wonderwoman, Super Mario etc.

It was a great day with all students and many staff completing the mile challenge and some students running

nearly 4 miles in the 30 minute time allocation. **Well done all !** These photographs celebrate a fantastic whole school event.



## Extra-Curricular Success

Special mention this term must go to the **Junior Girls (Under 14) Gymnastics** squad who recently competed in the Hertsmere Regional Gymnastics Competition. The girls faced tough competition from teams from St Clement Danes, Watford Girls, Royal Masonic and Haberdashers Schools. The girls were scored over both floor and apparatus work and after some amazing individual performances managed to win the competition outright - an outstanding achievement and a reward for all the hard work the girls had put in in the build up to the competition. The squad members were :

- Scarlett Cloona
- Anouska Barrett
- Sky Wright-Hobson
- Sophie Melsome
- Lily Scourfield

Mention also to the Senior girls team (Sophia Wright, Gracie Hill, Charley Stewart and Jess Boseley) who came a very creditable 4th despite being a performer down through injury.

The boys have also had some really pleasing success on the rugby field with District success for the Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 teams. The Year 7 team won both the District Development Qualifier and the District Development Championship without losing a game. The boys look forward to competing in the County Finals day in St Albans. The Year 8A rugby team have managed to win 2 of their 3 games in the District Premier League after promotion from the Development League last year. The Year 8B team also managed to win the District Development championship. The Year 9 team came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the District Development qualifier and tied 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Development championship.

Finally the Year 10 team won the District Qualifier before narrowly losing in the County Semi-Final qualifier to JFK School. On the football fields the Year 7 Boys team have made it into the Semi-Final of the District Cup with a fine 1-0 win over St Clement Danes.

The Senior girls football team have also had a very successful season and are on the verge of winning the District League.

Well done to all students who continue to represent the school with such spirit and commitment.

# Rotary Problem Solving Competition

Bushey Meads entered 3 teams to the annual Rotary Problem Solving Competition held at Bushey Academy. This year's challenge was to design and make a mechanical arm to carefully extract 'radioactive' material (a tennis ball) from a container at a distance of 1.5m.

All the teams performed really well throughout the competition and all managed to produce a working product.



It was particularly great to see the team of Louis Smart, Frazier Mulford-Lawlor, Natalya Smart and Joe Learmonth be crowned 2014 champions.

Well done Bushey Meads problem solvers!



## British Schools Karting Championship

Back on Track

As the start of the Grand Prix resulted in an excellent outcome in Malaysia, with the first podium position going to Lewis Hamilton, I am pleased to announce that Bushey Meads are yet again entering the British Schools Karting Championships.

The qualifying races for the regional final were held at the F1K kart track near Heathrow in March. We always manage to field an excellent team of enthusiastic 'Hamilton's' and 'Button's' and this

year is no different with nine eager drivers entering the competition.

They will race others schools from the north and west of London on this challenging course. I will keep Ms Morawska up to date with their results for her Headteacher's blog and I am sure you all wish our budding world champions every good luck for a successful season.

Mr Chalkley

## Annual School Production

Students returned from their Christmas break knowing that the challenge of the annual School Production was only a matter of weeks away. This year's production was 'Little Shop of Horrors'.

Whilst auditions and rehearsals were ongoing for some time the real hard work of bringing the whole event together happens in those final few weeks.

The production ran through the last week running up to half-term and ticket sales increased night on night as the word was spread that this was a show not to be missed! The Acting Headteacher, Ms Morawska stated: 'Every year I am impressed with what the students deliver but I have to say this year's show has to be one of my absolute favourites. Congratulations to all the cast and crew who have brought together such team spirit and commitment from within the Bushey Meads community. I am so proud of them all.'



On Monday 3rd March, Year 11 GCSE Catering students were given the challenge of catering for 25 guests including school governors, Ms Morawska and candidates for the Executive Principal post.

The students designed a menu comprising of savoury canapes such as mini burgers, gazpacho and spicy chicken kebabs; and sweet canapes such as churros doughnuts with melted chocolate, brownies and cheesecake.

The very talented students cooked and presented the food in a professional manner and customer feedback was full of praise for the tasty, attractive and colourful looking food on display.

Well done to all of you who cooked so well and served with a smile and to the few who managed to wash-up too!

Mr Chalkley

