



Friday 10th October 2014

ASH OAK SYCAMORE ELM

History in the Making at BMS

By Mrs Sara Ash, Assistant Headteacher (KS5)

The first ever House Assemblies took place at BMS last week and the photo above shows Assistant Headteacher Mrs Ash speaking at the first one – the House Assembly for Ash House. Outlining all the benefits of the vertical House system, which will complement the super horizontal Pastoral System at the school, students heard about all the exciting competitive and charity events that are being planned, as well as all the fantastic leadership opportunities that exist within this new exciting structure within the school.

All tutor groups will now be choosing House Reps and House and Deputy House Captains to sit on the House Council and then go forward to represent the Student Body on the new Student Parliament to be formed to help run the school.

BEECH MAPLE WILLOW

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**2014

To celebrate the annual Black History Month students have learnt about key dates and figures during tutorial time. They will also watch clips and debate the topic “Why do we celebrate Black History?”. The restaurant will also be providing themed meals on selected dates throughout October.

Aspire to Achieve

Bushey Meads NEWS



Diary Dates

13th-17th October 2014
Book Fair in the Library

14th October 2014
Y10 Entrepreneur Live

15th October 2014
Y8 Girls HPV 1 Vaccination

24th October 2014
INSET Day

27th-31st October 2014
Half Term

CHANGE OF DATE FOR
JUNE 2015 INSET DAY

Please note that the Inset day scheduled for Monday 1st June 2015 has now been moved to Friday 26th June 2015.



Netball Team of the Week – Year 8

By Ms Sarah Cooper, PE Teacher

Monday 6th October

Bushey Meads 14

Bushey Academy 5

Tuesday 7th October

Bushey Meads 15

Immanuel 6

Congratulations girls on the double win!

Professional Learning Teams at BMS

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal



All teachers and teaching assistants at BMS are now part of a **Professional Learning Team** or **PLT** and last Thursday after school our first PLT meeting took place.

Led superbly by Deputy Headteacher Ms Morawska, staff shared their outstanding practice in the area of assessment and feedback across their mixed faculty groups.

In addition to the sharing of classroom practice, a number of key staff profiled some 'Golden Nuggets' or short teaching and learning 'Sound Bites' – examples of superb practice that they themselves had tried and tested in their classrooms and enabled students to make great progress in their learning.



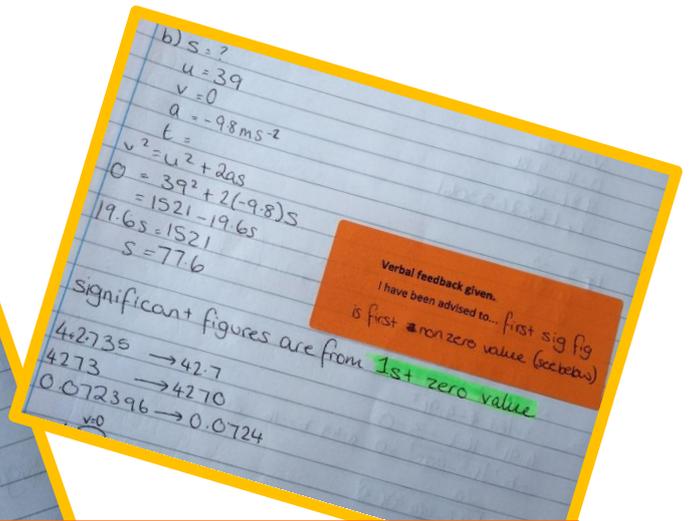
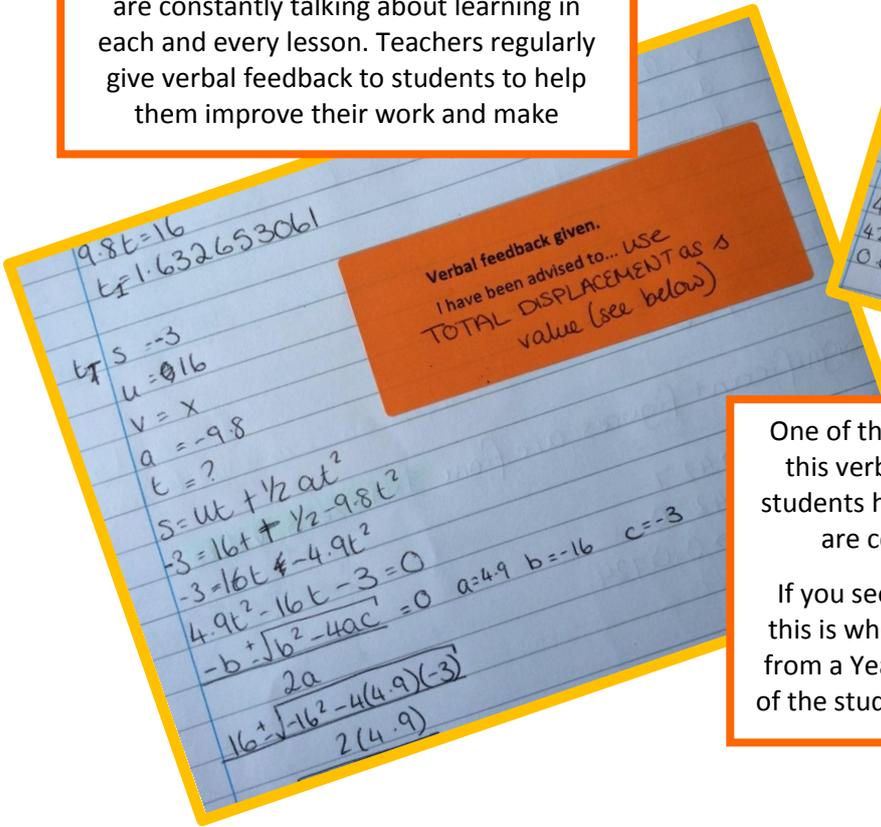
All staff left the PLT meeting with many ideas to put into practice. They also agreed to complete a 'gap task' related to working with at least one colleague to observe each other teach and/or work together to plan how to continue to take their teaching and learning to the next level in their own practice in relation to marking and assessment.

I would like to thank Ms Morawska and all the staff for making the PLT meeting such a success.

Ongoing Verbal Feedback

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

All teachers and students across the school are constantly talking about learning in each and every lesson. Teachers regularly give verbal feedback to students to help them improve their work and make

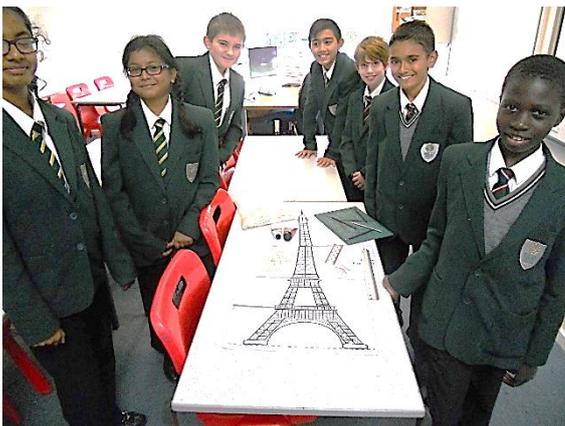


One of the school's new initiatives is to evidence this verbal feedback as much as we can so the students have a record to refer back to when they are completing their next piece of work.

If you see an orange sticker in your child's book this is what it represents. Here are two examples from a Year 13 A level Maths lesson and evidence of the students responding to the teacher's advice.

ARCHITECTURE CLUB

By James Donovan, Maths Teacher



In Architecture Club, students will be exploring buildings, making models and designing their own buildings. The first project is to build a scale model of the Eiffel Tower using headless matchsticks and balsa wood. There are already ten members for the first workshop, mainly from very keen Year 7 and 8 students! The group is open to all students, so that younger students can benefit from the help of older students (and vice versa). We will keep you up to date with pictures of the model as it develops, as well as student logs on the planning and building process.

Architecture Club will be meeting every Wednesday from 3:30-4:30pm in G5 (with Mr Donovan).

Deputy Head Boy and Girl

By Sara Ash, Assistant Headteacher KS5

Our Deputy Head Boy is Ben, 12Beech, and Deputy Head Girl is Carly, 12Willow.

They will be assisting the Head Girl, Sophia, and Head Boy, Jamie, with their duties and leading on other activities such as charity events.



Year 7 Welcome Evening 2014

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

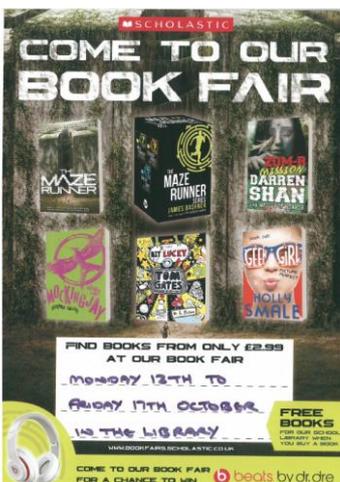
It was lovely to see so many new Year 7 parents and students attending our Year 7 Welcome Evening on Tuesday of this week. From 6.15 pm there was an opportunity to informally gather, enjoy some refreshments and touch base with the Year 7 tutors and Key Stage Pastoral Team.



The second part of the evening was an opportunity to hear further information about the school and answers to questions that the parents had submitted.

I would like to thank all the students who helped out at the evening, the Year 7 Tutors and KS3 Pastoral Team, our school nurse Karen Sabourin, Assistant Senco Lisa Pochetty and of course our hard working Pastoral Manager Preya Dhanecha and Assistant Headteacher with oversight of KS3 Mr Fisher who all made the evening so successful.

Our Year 7 students have made a very good start to their learning journey at BMS and we wish them well for their future here – right up into Key Stage 5 when they will be enjoying our new state of the art Sixth Form building due to be starting next summer.



Book Fair: 13th–17th October 2014

By Ms Castle, Librarian

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair starts next Monday 13th October and will be open all week – before school, at break time, at lunch time and at Homework Club after school.

Everyone is welcome. Please come and have a look around.

The Book Fair is a great way of promoting and encouraging reading and directly benefits the school by providing new books for the Library as we get commission on all sales. Last year we were able to choose books worth over £400. It would be wonderful if we could do even better this year.

Word of the Week

By Mike Dawson, Head of English Faculty

'hypocrisy' (noun)

1. to pretend to have beliefs or qualities you do not really have

Example: He said he loved Q.P.R. football club - but he moved to Chelsea as soon as they made an offer. What hypocrisy!

Comment: Other synonyms for hypocrisy?? Being two-faced, having double-standards, being insincere. Use this word in an essay - and spell it correctly - and the reader (or examiner) will know they have an 'A' grade writer in their hands. In debates - accuse the opposition of hypocrisy... that can win the argument in one fell swoop.

Careers Update

By Mrs McIldowie, Head of Work Related Learning



Herts Police Recruitment

For any students interested in a career in the Police, Connexions have advised that Herts Police are going to be recruiting. Their website is:- www.hertspolicecareers.co.uk

Visit the website to see the list of events. The events run from 6th October to 22nd October. You will need to register your interest to attend the event through the website. You need to attend one of the events before you can apply.



KPMG

Taster sessions being held at KPMG. Are you interested in a career in Finance? Are you on track for your final A-Levels? If so you can find out more on Tuesday 14th October at the KPMG office in Watford - 58 Clarendon Road Watford, Herts, WD17 1DE. Phone: 01923 830 000.

Profile on New Maths Staff

By Roz Armitage, PA to the Executive Principal

NEW STAFF

We have recently welcomed two new Maths teachers to the school - Mr Manoj Patel and Mr Aaron Sennessie.



Mr Patel joins us from Westminster City School, having taken a career change from Engineering a few years ago. This was inspired by his involvement in his own daughter's school. Already he is impressed with the family atmosphere at Bushey Meads where he finds everyone so helpful.

Mr Sennessie embarked on a teaching career in Maths as he has always so enjoyed the practical applications of Maths in life. He loves travelling and mentioned how much he enjoyed hiking around Europe in his student days. Mr Sennessie loves the community feel and positive attitude of Bushey Meads and commented on the collaborative work ethic of the staff.



We wish them both every success in their new roles.

National Junior Games, Stoke Mandeville Stadium 22nd – 25th September 2014



After what seemed to be an endless wait, the 2014 National Junior Games arrived and an excited team of 15 students departed from BMS, to travel to Aylesbury, to compete nationally with other schools in a variety of sporting competitions.

Charlie, Courtney, Tristian, Grace, Meesha, Ben, Megan, Lee, Hannah, Chloe-Mai, Sarthak, Matt, Jack, Parag and Kai made up our enthusiastic, motivated and determined BMS team.



The zone hockey team (Charlie, Megan, Lee, Hannah, Sarthak, Matt, Jack, Parag and Kai) played some fast, energetic and exciting games....there were nail-biting finishes and some exceptional goalkeeping from Jack and Sarthak!

On the track our team excelled in the running races with Jack, Matt and Parag taking first, second and third places in one race alone! Meesha, Megan and Hannah came in first and second places in the girls races.



On the field, Ben and Hannah made great progress with their javelin throws. Archery was a popular event, with all students taking part.

Grace, who has shown great promise on past trips, hit the bullseye twice.





Chloe-Mai and Matt reached the final of the polybat competition and, after a hard-fought match, Chloe-Mai clinched the winning point.



Wheelchair football was a resounding success. Kai's experience led to him being commandeered for some coaching sessions and Kai, Tristian and Lee all went on to take part in an event at Woodside Stadium on their return.



Records were smashed! Charlie beat his personal best in both discus and shot-put as well as lifting an awesome 100kg in the powerlifting competition.

Mr Turner, who was visiting at the time, was persuaded to have a go - the best-dressed competitor by far!



Courtney, as well as being a great mentor to our younger students, also participated in the table tennis competition for the first time and beat fierce competition to get through to the semi-finals.

Students and staff had a fantastic, though exhausting time, all saying that it was "the best ever" and are already looking forward to the 2015 event! Staff who supported on the trip feel privileged to have been part of such a memorable and inspiring four days.



A big thank you to all staff who supported during the event: Sarah Cooper, Sam Hawkins, Matt O'Kelly, Emma Burton, Julie Clayton, Lee Cox, Sarah Davies, Jo Hedges, Jayne Maloney, Hatice Sweeney, Carmel Mullen and Tracy Tingey.

Students of the Week

Key Stage 3 – Sahil, 9Sycamore

By Mr Bill Fisher, Assistant Headteacher KS3



After first tucking into one of our delicious pasta pots, student of the week Sahil makes sure he gets all his vitamins by finishing off with one of our healthy fruit selections. When not munching his way through the restaurant menu Sahil is a keen sportsman; a cricket team member with some cunning spin bowling technique, and an active participant in our clubs for hockey, basketball, table tennis and trampolining.

A good diet and plenty of exercise seem to be working, because across the curriculum teachers report that Sahil attempts all extension activities, takes an active role in discussions, shows dedication through the quality of his work, is self-motivated, displays excellent levels of effort and a mature approach to learning.

He gained the top mark in a recent maths test and gained a rare and coveted GOLD award at this term's UK Maths Challenge. Still with space in his heart for modesty, Sahil was keen to praise the red-hot maths competition he is getting from others in his class, Sahir and Nicole in particular, who give him no respite from challenge.

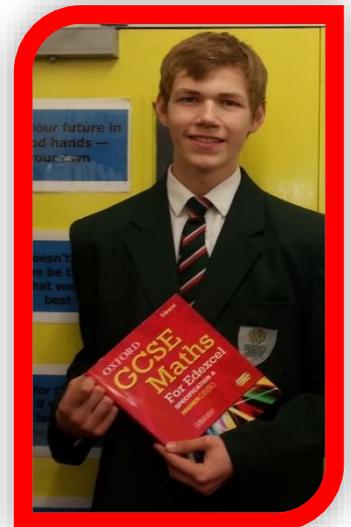
We are very pleased to have you at Bushey Meads, Sahil!

Key Stage 4 – Vamsi, 10 Willow

By Mr Lee Arnold, Assistant Headteacher KS4

Vamsi has been unanimously nominated by his classmates as KS4's student of the week. He demonstrates a real passion for Maths by often volunteering to come to the front of the class to explain key concepts and to explain how to solve mathematical problems.

He is also a fantastic role model for his peers, always willing to assist others when called upon during a lesson. Vamsi's determination to excel is clear from his regular attendance at Maths surgery during lunchtimes. Unsurprisingly, Mr Varsani has no hesitation in awarding Vamsi full marks - 7 - for his Attitude to Learning!



Key Stage 5 – Hannah, 12Ash

By Sara Ash, Assistant Headteacher KS5



Our KS5 student of the week this week is Hannah, who is currently in Year 12. She has been awarded this for her positive start to her Year 12 studies.

Hannah is currently studying Art, Drama, Media Studies and English Literature.

Life in the Trenches

By Josh – 9Ash, Amie – 9Sycamore & Claudia – 9Maple.

Last week on Friday 3rd October, the majority of year 9 students travelled to Belgium on a history trip about WW1 and the life in the trenches.

Our first site to visit was the Memorial Museum Passchendaele which was made up of different army uniforms, badges and weapons such as rifles with bayonets, grenades and much more. Next we walked down a very steep staircase leading to another area which gave us an insight of the dugout trenches.

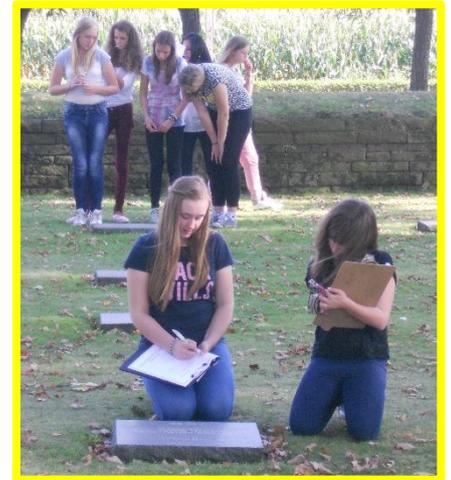


These areas were split into scenes with wax mannequins, each depicting a different aspect of the trenches. After leaving the dugouts the path then lead on to a reconstruction of British and German trench networks.

Tyne Cot Cemetery is the largest allied WW1 gravesite with 11,954 people buried at this site of which 8,367 are unnamed. I think most of our year found this site particularly touching as these people had died fighting for our country's future.

Langemark was our third destination; this was a German cemetery which contained 4 statues of mourning men. This symbolised that Germany are ashamed for forcing men as young as 16 to fight for their country or be shot.

Next we visited Sanctuary Wood, which was owned by a farmer, who had to stop farming in WW1 so that his land could be used as trenches. When the war was over his family turned the trenches into a memorial, so that people could see what the trenches were really like. They were extremely muddy, and the corrugated metal was eroding. There were many artillery craters that were filled with water. There was also a small museum with pictures of soldiers and the trenches.



Before we left for the Eurotunnel, we had a chance to visit the town of Ypres. When we first entered we walked under a structure quite like the L'arc de Triomphe with walls with engraved names of soldiers who battled at Ypres during the First World War. I think all of us were particularly impressed by the chocolate shop that we visited and most of us came out with our hands full of Belgian confectionary.

All in all we had an amazing day thanks to Mr Newbold and the Humanities Department.

BMS Radio

By Michael Besisira, Computing Teacher



The School Radio has been officially re launched and takes place at lunchtime in the canteen Monday to Friday.



The Radio Managers Devan, 9Sycamore and Erikson, 9Beech and their team of DJ's make sure that the radio is up and running effectively each lunchtime.

This week there have been auditions for students in all year groups to come and test out their DJ skills and see if they have what it takes to be a good DJ. With this month being Black History Month there will be a special dedication section to famous Black singers and entertainers from young and old. For any requests or shout outs students can e-mail the Radio Team at School_Radio@busheymeads.org.uk.



Saracens Present PERFORM!

By Ms Sarah Cooper, PE Teacher



SARACENS

Saracens Dance Team are running two day camps to learn new dance and cheer routines. £40 for two days.

- Ware/Hertford: 9.30am-3.30pm, 27th -28th October 2014
- Hendon: 9.30am-3.30pm, 29th-30th October 2014

To book your place please contact Annabel Hay:

Email: annabelhay@saracens.net Phone: 020 3675 7246

THEME OF THE WEEK - ASPIRATION



This weeks' theme of the week echoed the school motto - **Aspire to Achieve**. Assistant Headteacher, Bill Fisher, led the assemblies this week, following this theme, and provided materials for a related tutor activity. The key messages were:-

"Dream big, set goals high. Focus on the future, not on the past; on what you're going to do and not on what you've done or not done; on what you can do to reach your goals and not on what you can't do. Be strengthened by overcoming set-backs; don't blame others; and do something different tomorrow if what you did today wasn't good enough."

Debating Society News

By Ms Elaine Pinkus, English Teacher

We began our debating season with a topical debate focused on the statement by Nick Clegg, leader of the Liberal Democrats and deputy Prime Minister, that: 'The Liberal Democrats are 'open minded' about allowing licensed cannabis shops on British streets as part of a sweeping review of drugs laws'. What did we think as young people?

25 students from across the age range of our student body attended this lively debate. Questions were asked of the speakers and views were shared. Chair, Dylan Kelly (Year 12) conducted a straw poll at the start of the debate, which indicated that the majority opposed the motion that 'This House would support Nick Clegg in his view of allowing licensed cannabis shops on British streets as part of a sweeping review of drugs laws'.

FOR	AGAINST
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dylan explained clearly the format of the debate, which opened with Lucy Bonner (Year 11) supporting the view, arguing that by de-criminalising the use of cannabis, it would reduce the appalling trade of drug pushing. Similarly it would not be seen as 'cool' and 'rebellious' and might achieve the effect of reducing the number of people taking this drug.• Her colleague, Deborah Gosden (Year 11) supported this and pointed out that in medical practice, some doctors even prescribe this herbal drug which relieves nerve pain and helps patients suffering from different forms of Cancer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opposing the motion were year 12 students Kevin Tailor and Daniel Ellis who were keen to point out that the effects of taking cannabis are far more wide reaching, often causing sluggishness and affecting memory capability.• They conceded that drink and cigarettes were harmful and emphasised that adding another to that list was pointless and simply expanded the potential for problems in the future.

Hands were raised after the speeches with many intelligent and challenging questions posed to both teams. Congratulations to our audience for keeping the speakers on their toes; congratulations to our speakers for handling the questions well and answering clearly and with thought and composure.

At the close of the debate a vote was taken, where it was held that Bushey Meads does NOT support Nick Clegg in this controversial view and that we would not wish licensed cannabis shops on our high streets.

Well done to all who attended. The Debating Society Group meets every Wednesday at 1.30pm in room H2. Those wishing to join the group are welcome to attend.