

Aspire to Achieve

Bushey Meads NEWS

Murder Most Horrid at BMS!

By Ms Heartfield, Head of Computing Faculty

Over the last half term some Year 7 students have turned detective and have been working on solving a murder mystery.

In the run up to half term they recorded some radio adverts pleading for witnesses to come forward. The very best 6 of these adverts are now being played over our school radio at lunchtime. Let's hope any witnesses come forward and that the murderer is locked away soon!

Please note: No students were actually hurt in the preparing of the crime scene, although the shape of the body looks a little like Mr Besira!



Diary Dates

20th November 2014
School will close at 1.30pm, to students, for staff and governor training

10th November 2014
 Year 11 District Netball Tournament

11th November 2014
 Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) Award Information Evening

12th November 2014
 KS3 & KS4 Parents Workshop – Coping with Teenage Anxieties and Exam Stress

13th November 2014
 Year 7 Consultation Evening

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

REMEMBRANCE

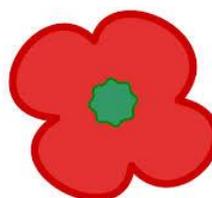
THEME OF THE WEEK

By Sara Ash, Assistant Headteacher (KS5)

The theme of the week this week is Remembrance. During tutor time students have followed the journey of the poppy and what the money raised is being used for.

In assemblies we have looked at the events of 100 years ago with the outbreak of the First World War and the reasons why we observe a 2 minute silence on Remembrance Day.

On Tuesday 12th November at 11 am everyone at Bushey Meads will participate in the 2 minute silence to remember all those who have died in service to their country.



Lest We Forget.

GCSE Revision Techniques Sessions

By Mr Arnold, Assistant Headteacher (KS4)

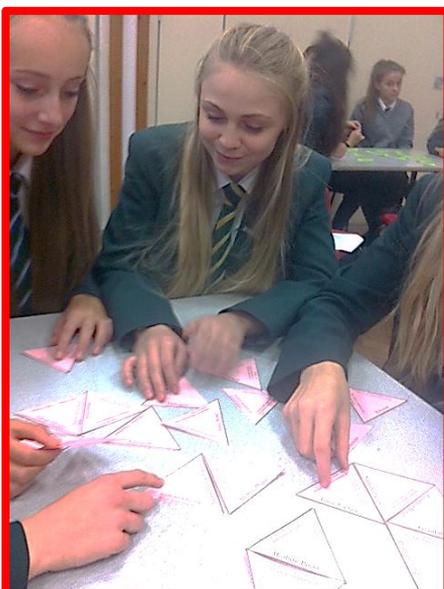


Year 11 students are entering one of the most crucial times in their education with the Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) only 4 weeks away and the actual GCSE examinations within 6 short months of starting.

With this in mind, all students in Year 11 gathered together for a "Revision Techniques Session" to hear the heads of English, Maths and Science deliver top tips for exam success. Among the many practical strategies discussed, students were encouraged to make revision an ongoing process and to also make it active perfectly demonstrated by Mr Bilton's inspiring and engaging scientific "tarsia" challenge.

Parents and carers of Year 11 students then gathered later that same evening to hear how their support and participation in their son or daughter's revision will prove crucial in helping them reach and even exceed their potential in the summer of 2015. Mr Varsani encouraged parents to purchase via the school a Maths specific revision booklet and a particularly useful resource - the MathsWatch CD - both for a mere £4.

Mr Dawson advised parents that the students' focus for the rest of the Autumn term would be on poetry and highlighted some techniques to help students and parents analyse poems together. Parents then engaged in various revision-related activities becoming - however briefly - school students once again!



BM2 Bus Service

By Ms Morawska, Deputy Headteacher

Parents of students who use the BM2 bus to and/or from school, will be aware of the recent change in policy regarding access to the bus which is now a 'bus pass' only system. Bushey Meads was made aware of Mullany's decision to change from a fare paying service to bus pass only on Thursday, 23rd October, at the same time as our parent body.

We, too, were concerned about this sudden change and the impact that it has on the buses casual cash paying students. We have discussed this, with Mullany's at length and asked if an additional bus could be provided in support of afternoon cash fare payers, but this was refused on account that it was not a financially viable option.

Unfortunately we cannot force Mullany's to run a service which they do not consider financially supportive to their company. We have no formal contract between the school and this bus company. Whilst they do offer this current service, they do it on a private financially driven basis and at any point they could withdraw the service. At that point, as with most other schools, all students would have to make their own way to school using the normal local bus services and other alternative transport means.

Meanwhile, we want to undertake a comprehensive survey to ascertain for ourselves how many students would use a bus service from the school, on which days (morning or afternoon) and to which locations. This may well support Mullany's with their plans in the future which may best serve the needs of the students at BMS or indeed enable us as a school to approach other transport providers in our quest to ensure that a service that is fit for purpose is secured.

We were saddened to hear that many of our parents did not receive the result, they wished, from their contact with Mullany's, but rest assured the school is working towards achieving a satisfactory conclusion to this recent concern.



Youth Connexions - Music Production Course

If you are interested in music, Youth Connexions have a four week accredited music production course at the County Music Studios, 206-210 Lower High Street, Watford, WD17 2EL. This free 4 week course will teach you how to create a music track. The course is on Mondays, 7-9pm, and Wednesdays, 6-8pm.

For more information and to reserve a place please email studio1@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Early School Closure – Thursday 20th November 2014

By Ms Morawska, Deputy Headteacher

School will finish early on Thursday 20th November, at 1.30pm, due to staff and governor training. Students entitled to a free school meal will be able to obtain this at break time. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Key Stage 3: Lacey, 7Ash



Lacey joined Bushey Meads School in September. After a nerve racking start to the year Lacey has shown great resilience and built her confidence in order to be able to manage life at secondary school. She has embraced school life in a fantastic way and in doing so, recently entered the Pastoral Manager's Monthly Challenge.

Lacey's entry was well thought out, presented and told the wonderful story of the challenges she faced in starting secondary school and how she has overcome them.

We are extremely proud of Lacey and her winning entry. Well done Lacey - keep up the great work!



Key Stage 4: Tristian, 10Sycamore

Our KS4 student of the week this week is Tristian from year 10. He has made an excellent start to his GCSEs displaying a positive attitude towards learning and consistently working hard to achieve his best.



Key Stage 5: Joe, 13Oak

Our KS5 student of the week this week is Joe who is currently in Year 13. He has been awarded this for his excellent start to Year 13 and for volunteering to support Year 1 students as a Maths "Study Buddy". Joe is currently studying English, IT and Mathematics.

F1 in Schools Competition

Mr Chalkley, Head of Design Technology Faculty



This week's STEM news comes from a group of YOUNG ENGINEERS entering the 2015 F1 in Schools competition. The students are designing and making a model of an F1 car, powered by a CO2 cartridge. In January they will be taking their cars to a 25m long test track to race against other schools. To design and make the cars, they are using the latest 3D design software, then emailing their designs to a factory for manufacture. Look out for an update on their progress.



British Physics Olympiads 2014

By Andre Pimentao, Head of Physics



The British Physics Olympiads 2014 are under way. A group of year 10 and 11, led by two A level Physics students are investigating a model of gravitational slingshot assist. They will produce a report, just like a real scientist would do, and the best one will be chosen to represent Bushey Meads School at the Olympiads.

You can still take part in this exciting challenge, but you must turn up next Wednesday (12th November) in order to be briefed and start your research.

House Cross-Country 2014

ASH HOUSE CHAMPIONS!

By Mr Cartledge, Head of PE & Health Faculty



The week before half term saw the first major inter house sports event of the year with all students in KS3 competing in the cross country events for their year groups. All students scored points for their houses and the effort and spirit shown by the students was commendable. After all the races ASH House ran out as overall KS3 Champions with a massive 1355 points. Both 7Ash and 8Ash won their individual year group competitions with 9Sycamore coming out on top in Year 9. The breakdown of the results is as follows with the INDIVIDUAL TOP 3 results of each race shown:

Overall results – year 7, 8 and 9 combined

Position	House
1	ASH 1355 points HOUSE CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONS 2014
2	SYCAMORE 1295 points
3	WILLOW 1257 points
4	ELM 1239 points
5	OAK 1238 points
6	MAPLE 1204 points
7	BEECH 1088 points

YEAR 7

Pathway 1/3 Boys	Pathway 1/3 Girls
1. Mohamed Djahnit ASH 2. Pavit Sangasinha MAPLE 3. Jack Talbot SYCAMORE	1. Myfanwy Taylor-Bean ELM 2. Thalia Graham-Sampson OAK 3. Elise Swain MAPLE
Pathway 2 Boys	Pathway 2 Girls
1. Jake Watt BEECH 2. Owen O'Mahony BEECH 3. James Kimber OAK	1. Kaitlyn Williams OAK 2. Lauren Bayliss WILLOW 3. Anais-Taylor Wells-Harbin OAK

YEAR 8

Pathway 1/3 Boys	Pathway 1/3 Girls
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aiadan Angold OAK 2. Josh Clark SYCAMORE 3. Ethan Fiordelisi ASH 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anouska Barrett WILLOW 2. Arabella Parker BEECH 3. Georgia Sargent OAK
Pathway 2 Boys	Pathway 2 Girls
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jack Leech ASH 2. Max Benveniste MAPLE 3. Joe Manning OAK 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jasmine Phillips OAK 2. Francesca Kelly WILLOW 3. Sky Wright-Hobson SYCAMORE

YEAR 9

Pathway 1/3 Boys	Pathway 1/3 Girls
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Euan Enright ASH 2. Tom Williamson SYCAMORE 3. Joe Blagden SYCAMORE 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Olivia Mcmanus ASH 2. Megan Lawrie MAPLE 3. Victoria Woolmer BEECH
Pathway 2 Boys	Pathway 2 Girls
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Curtis Meale MAPLE 2. Maciek Blasik ELM 3. Jack Leyshon ASH 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jessica Rosewarn WILLOW 2. Ella Ward SYCAMORE 3. Catherine Ryan WILLOW

Overall Year group results

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
ASH 464 points	ASH 491 pts	SYCAMORE 477 pts
WILLOW 438 pts	SYCAMORE 449 pts	WILLOW 405 pts
OAK 421 pts	ELM 441 pts	OAK 402 pts
ELM 420 pts	OAK 415 pts	ASH 400 pts
MAPLE 396 pts	WILLOW 414 pts	MAPLE 395 pts
BEECH 376 pts	MAPLE 413 pts	BEECH 388 pts
SYCAMORE 369 pts	BEECH 324 pts	ELM 378 pts



Channels of Communication

In a large school it is important to know who to contact if you would like to raise a concern or provide us with information. If you have a concern you would like to share with the school regarding your son or daughter your first point of contact needs to be the subject teacher or the form tutor. They can be contacted via the school email: reception@busheymeads.org.uk , marking it for their attention, or by telephone: 020 8950 3000.

Pastoral Managers Monthly Challenge

By Ms Dhanecha, KS3 Pastoral Manager

October saw the first set of entries for the newly introduced Pastoral Manager's Monthly Challenge. The challenge this month was to reflect on all of the themes we have had for assemblies during the first half term and produce either a written piece, Power Point Presentation or poster on a chosen theme. I was delighted when I received almost 80 entries; I have read and written comments on each and every one of them.

My biggest challenge was selecting a winner. The children were so creative and reflective that all who entered will be rewarded with points on our system. The overall winner, however, was Lacey Thorning (Year 7) for her entry who is also our Student of the Week. Each month the children will have a different challenge and I look forward to announcing the second Pastoral Manager's Challenge next week!

Very well done to all who entered!

Children in Need - Friday 14th November

By Maddie Hillman, 13Elm

Year on year, Children In Need gets bigger and better, raising more and more money for charity. This year, there will be various fundraising activities in order to be able to raise the most amount of money possible. The money raised by our school will be used to help disadvantaged young people living here in the UK; to date, Children in Need supports around 2,700 projects. In 2013, the money raised by Children In Need helped change the lives of about 450,000 disadvantaged people.

This year, there will be three main fundraising activities running at Bushey Meads. The first one, perhaps the most popular, is a non-uniform day in which students pay £1 in order to wear what they want for the day. The second activity will be a bake sale, run by students - prices will vary, but bring as much money as you can!

The third activity will be a copper collection, which pretty much means what it says; you give us all your coppers, which we then count and donate to Children in Need; this fundraiser will also be a competition for the houses so that we can find the most generous house!

The copper collection will run from after half term - please could all students bring their coppers and hand in to their class charity rep. We will also start to collect the £1 for the non-uniform day straight after half term so again please bring in your money and hand to your House rep. The non-uniform day will take place on Friday 14th November as will the bake sale. Please bring any cake donations on the day itself, not before.



Reading is fun!

By Kate Hoskins, Deputy Head of 6th Form



As part of their community service in the sixth form 25 Year 13 students pay a weekly visit to Little Reddings School to hear Year 5 and 6 pupils read as part of their accelerated reading program. Jessica, 13Maple writes: *“Over the last month I have really enjoyed going to Little Reddings. I’ve got to know the child that I help to read well and can already see a positive difference in her reading ability since the beginning of the year. Also, I’ve benefited from this experience as it gives me the opportunity to do something completely different outside of my A-Levels”.*

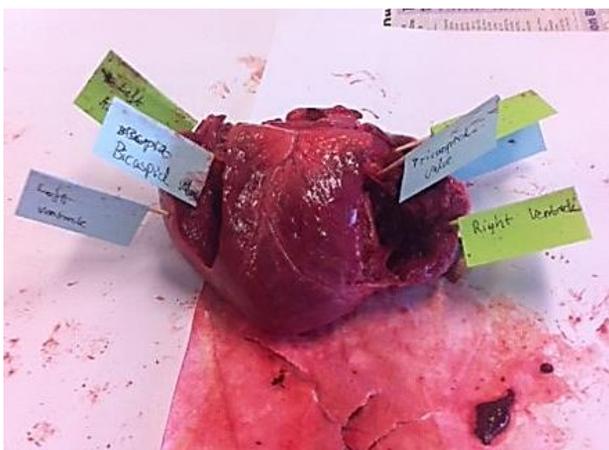
The sixth form students really enjoy visiting Little Reddings and have formed good relationships with the young students that they listen to read. Zara, 13Maple, says *“Over the past month, I have been going to Little Reddings to read with a Year 6 student. These weekly visits have allowed me to recollect my own experiences from primary school. Since the beginning of the term, I have noticed an improvement in my student’s reading ability and she now absorbs what she is reading. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that the schools have given me, as both of us have gained from it.”*

Elizabeth, 13Maple, feels that the experience has helped both her and her Year 6 Little Reddings student. She says *“Going to Little Reddings has allowed me to put another individual’s education before my own. I have had to think about what would help the child progress and how to do it in a way that would not lower their self-esteem but make them want to further their learning. I look forward to reading with them every week as it has taught me many different skills and attributes which I will be able to take with me into the future”.*



Getting to the Heart of the Matter

By Mr Bilton, Head of Science Faculty



AS Biology students got to grips with a heart last week, carrying out dissections and identifying anatomical structures.

As part of their studies our students need to link structure to function in order to understand how the heart functions, and whilst textbooks are excellent, there’s a huge benefit from actively engaging with a topic.

And what better way than to dissect a topic. Literally!

Word of the Week

By Mike Dawson, Head of English Faculty

“Status” (noun)

How important something or someone as seen and felt by others. Status is like a position or rank - but it is a more subjective (see next week) word choice.

Example: At the beginning of the war, the prestige of Prime Minister was unchallenged. He had the greatest status.

*Comment: To use the word **status** means one is evaluating the importance of something or someone. It is a more impressive term than **power** or **position** or **place**. It is a vital word in humanities, English and drama writing.*



Thank You

A huge thank you to all those who donated their old Bushey Meads uniform to the Project Hope charity. We had two van loads taken away which will enable children in Africa to attend school for the first time.

Teaching Assistant Vacancy

We are looking to appoint a part time Teaching Assistant with medical experience to work with a student with complex needs. Full details can be obtained from Anita Burton, HR Assistant, email: burtona@busheymeads.org.uk