



Bushey St James Trust Newsletter

November 2014

Chair of the Trust Sam Russell Writes

I'm pleased to be able to write to you at a hugely exciting time for the Bushey St James Trust. Over the past year, the support of the students, parents, staff and Governors has seen both schools move through a period of significant change.

The Trust's role is to oversee the strategic direction of the two schools, to give our students the best chance of success. The Trust also has an ambition to play a leading role in our local community.

Now, we move forward with a relentless focus to make our schools the very best that they can be. In the short time they have been with us, Jeremy and Carly have led significant improvements to our schools, which you will read about throughout this newsletter. On behalf of the Trust, thank you for your continued support of our schools. I look

forward to sharing more news from the Trust with you in the coming months.



Bushey Meads School Sixth Form Students at Little Reddings Primary School

The two schools share much expertise, not least across the student body. Sixth Formers at Bushey Meads choose from a whole variety of community service activities, many of which centre around helping younger students in our local community – including students from Little Reddings. Further information is given on page 3.

As part of the Trust's drive to provide core services across the BSJT the Site Facilities Team are now working at both Little Reddings and Bushey Meads Schools.

During the summer holiday period key infrastructure projects were scheduled and this year was exceptionally busy for them with a number of major projects taking place at Little Reddings as well as Bushey Meads Schools.

These included the remodelling of the primary school library, installing combi-ovens in the kitchen, automating the main school gates, decorating the staffroom and providing many smart new signs around the site, to name but a few.

At the same time projects at Bushey Meads included the re-carpeting of a number of key classrooms and learning areas, roof repairs to the popular Music block, installation of CCTV in the Science block, new blinds provided in the Maths block and radio controlled clocks installed in all classrooms.

Of course, going forward, many projects/infrastructure purchases can be coordinated across the two sites in order to take advantage of cost efficiencies. One key project at Little Reddings was to provide a lovely safe, secure, new entrance way to the superb nursery provision. Feedback from parents, staff and the children has been very positive indeed. The children love their new entrance way!





The two schools in the Trust have both had a 'fresh start' since the appointment of their new Headteachers. This has been reflected in the development of a clear vision in each setting with a renewed emphasis on teaching and learning and raising achievement. The development of leadership within the student body has also been a shared focus in the two schools and some well received re-branding – not least with the school websites, which now sport a more corporate look, has received much positive feedback. ICT is a real area of strength across the Multi-

Academy Trust and something that is being used as a powerful tool to enhance the learning experience for all students in both schools and at all key stages. The ICT technicians are based at Bushey Meads School but provide an extremely fast and efficient service across both schools. Do have a browse around both schools' websites to keep informed of all the positive initiatives that are happening. Both schools publish a fabulous newsletter that shares some of the exciting things that are taking place across the Trust.



Executive Principal of the Trust Jeremy Turner Writes

It has been a very exciting first term here at Bushey Meads School and lots of positive changes have been made with a renewed focus across the Trust on teaching and learning and raising achievement. It has been great to meet regularly with Carly Simmonds the recently appointed Headteacher of Little Reddings and plan some exciting collaborations moving forward. I believe that the two schools working together will provide a superb learning community in the local area.

"Creating capacity, focusing on teaching and learning and moving towards outstanding."



Background Information About the Multi Academy Trust

'Schools at the Heart of Their Local Community'

Bushey St James Trust was established in February 2012 as a partnership between Bushey Meads Secondary School and Little Reddings Primary School. From the outset there was a determination for the schools to 'do something different' rather than to continue in the same way as they had before conversion. Therefore, the status provided an impetus for development, which has taken the form of sharing facilities and expertise, and developing the curriculum between the two schools. There is a shared vision to develop first class provision between phases and to:

- aim for excellence in all we do
- provide students with the best possible start for their futures
- nurture greater integration and community cohesion



- provide a programme of high quality continuing professional development and training for all staff to underpin and sustain improvements in teaching and learning
- emphasize to students the traditional values of self-discipline, responsibility, respect, trust and cooperation

The Transition from LRS to BMS

My name is Rafi and I came to Bushey Meads in September 2013 from Little Reddings. When I was in Year 5 I visited BMS with my



class to take part in Cooking lessons in the Catering Suite. We also came in Year 6 and took part in more Cooking and also Science lessons. It was fun because we used a lot of equipment to do experiments. When I got my place at Bushey Meads I was then invited to come to a Summer School. We went skiing on the dry sky slopes, made rockets and prepared a meal for our parents on the last day. I felt more confident coming to BMS in Year 7 because I had made new friends from other schools before I had even started.

“Students across the Multi Academy Trust are demonstrating real leadership and a genuine desire to work together for the benefit of each other – an encouraging aspect of the learning community.”

Reading has Never Been so Much Fun!

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 Davies, a Year 13 student 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 Gheasuddin 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 Fernandez feels that the experience has helped both her and her Year 6 Little Redding’s 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.”



Headteacher of Little Reddings Primary School Carly Simmonds Writes

After an extremely busy first term at Little Reddings, myself and the staff have settled in to a new academic year with a renewed vigour to strive for outstanding teaching and learning.

Many positive changes have been made and embraced and there is a real sense of improvement across the school. The partnership between ourselves and Bushey Meads is continuing to grow ever

stronger as the Trust works together to ensure the best outcomes for the children, young people and their families in our local community.



“The Trust provides a platform for increased collaboration and the chance to build greater capacity across the two unique learning communities.”

Much work has been done recently to streamline the work of the Trust Board and the Governing Bodies at the two schools. The two school’s Governing Body Committees now focus on Teaching and Learning, Student Achievement and Finance and Resources, with the Trust Board taking an overview on overall school performance. It has been encouraging to see the hard work and commitment demonstrated across the Trust by all the Governors and Trustees and a real, shared desire to work smartly in collaboration for the benefit of all children in the local area.

The Atlanta Falcons swoop down on the Bushey St James Trust

The Atlanta Falcons, otherwise known as the ‘dirty birds’ (a reference to a celebration dance, apparently), landed at Heathrow early on Monday 20th October. From there they made directly for Bushey Meads School, driving straight past their luxurious Grove Hotel basecamp, heading for their only school-centred community visit of their week-long England tour. Bushey Meads PE teacher,



Sarah Cooper, secured this coup for the Bushey St James Trust through her contacts with the Arsenal Emirates Stadium, the team’s main training post during their tour.

After the inevitable flight delay the tour busses touched down in

the school car park just before midday. Barely moments later the school astroturf was filled with the hallowed tread of top league players and their huge entourage.



Immediately the coaches and trainers set to work with lucky students from Bushey Meads and Little Reddings, putting everyone through their paces.



The Falcon’s Cheerleaders kept everyone’s spirits high with their rousing pompom-spangled routine, while pulsing rhythms from their sound systems filled the air.



The top players, some formidably tall and heavy, others more lightly proportioned, depending upon their playing positions, moved through the training session freely

dispensing advice and pep talks.



With media crews from Sky Sports News, CNN, Hayters and the NFL to name but a few, the Bushey St James Trust hit the headlines on a global scale, with the students from across the Trust definitely being the real stars of the show.



In short, the NFL team, more accustomed to their cavernous 75,000-seater Georgia Dome home stadium, filled the school astroturf with the sort of noise, buzz and excitement that only sporting showbiz can provide. Not surprisingly everyone involved had lots of fun and the whole project was another example of the benefit of working together as two schools within the Trust.

Thank you Falcons. Thank you Mrs Cooper.

Mini Olympics with the Bushey St James Trust

On Tuesday the 8th July, Bushey Meads in conjunction with Little Reddings school, once again hosted students from surrounding primary schools to run a mini Olympics event designed to practise and improve their French language skills.

Sixty students participated and were facilitated by the Bushey Meads Language Leader students from the new Year 10. The event was the culmination of a year of organisation and activities run by the Bushey Strategic Learning Network.

The attending primary schools- Ashfield, The Grove Academy, Highwood and Knutsford form part of the SLN to share good practise and resources, with the Bushey Meads Language Leaders visiting these schools to deliver language tutorials. The event was co-ordinated by Yvonne Kennedy, AST at Queens, Philippa Woodhouse, the French teacher from Little Reddings and Marie-Claire Dawson, the Head of

Modern Foreign Languages at Bushey Meads. It is an extremely successful annual, won this year by Ashfields school for their students' excellent use of French and team spirit.

The event finished with even more excellent language, with students having to ask for their desired flavour of ice cream in French.

Ex - Little Reddings' Student Ella Writes

My name is Ella and I am now in Year 9 at Bushey Meads School. I started at Bushey Meads in September 2012 in Year 7. Before we had come to see the school on the main Open Evening I already knew I wanted to come here. When I was in Year 6 my whole class came to do some Sciences lessons with Miss Lee which I loved. There were lots of activities organised for students at Little Reddings to do at Bushey Meads and it really helped because when we came in Year 7 we were already quite familiar with the school. When I was offered my place, I came to a 3

Day Summer School where we did lots of Technology related activities. We made a rocket, did cooking and also did some Maths activities.



Collaboration and Excellence



**Outstanding Language Links
Across and beyond the
Bushey St James Trust**

BSJT Governors Working Together to Share Best Practice

One of the real benefits of being part of a Multi Academy Trust is having that umbrella of the Trust Board, under which the two schools can operate independently under their Local Governing Bodies and retain all that is superb and unique about their settings, effectively run by their experienced Headteachers and Senior Leadership Teams. However, working effectively together, the two schools can also share best practice and work collaboratively to further the provision for all young people in the local community. In addition best value can be achieved between the two schools in terms of training for staff and governors and in a number of key support related areas, including site management, ICT support and finance and HR services to name a few.

One example of this collaborative working took place during the last half term when members of the two Governing Bodies came together to participate in a joint training session focused on Pupil Premium Provision. It was a very successful session that involved

many elements of sharing good practice between the two schools.

ICT Support Across the BSJT is Outstanding

The IT Support team continue to provide a high quality service to both schools, as has been the case since the formation of the trust in early 2012.

Several key systems have been introduced at Little Reddings this year, including: e-mail/SMS for parental communication, a new learning platform, a Library management system, plus an online payment service is coming soon. As well as replacing older computers, an additional class set of iPads has been purchased, loaded with carefully selected educational apps. A projector and large screen were installed in the Infants hall in the October half term break.

During the Summer holidays at Bushey Meads, new cashless catering, electronic registration and door control systems were installed and linked along with the Library system to allow students to access all these facilities using their fingerprint. Furthermore, the new catering system enables parents to view their child's

current balance and purchase history online.



The network infrastructure and cabling continues to be upgraded, 70 new computers installed throughout learning support, D&T, Library and the staff work area, as well as over 60 Chromebook laptops in Science, Humanities, Library and sixth form.

On the technological benefits of partnering with Bushey Meads, Mr Presky, ICT Co-ordinator for Little Reddings said:

"Without the IT support from our Bushey Meads colleagues we would never have made such substantial progress in our school's technology. The IT team are knowledgeable and always ready to respond quickly to our needs."



Future Plans across the Trust

Future plans to build further capacity and facilitate an even greater focus on teaching and learning and achievement include:

- recruiting an outstanding Key Stage 2 – 3 specialist English Teacher to secure even better progress across the important Year 6 – 7 transition phase
- the appointment of an HR Assistant to strengthen the Trust HR Team
- the appointment of a joint Clerk to the Trust and Governing bodies of both schools