



Introducing the SAM Learning Service

By Mr Arnold, Assistant Headteacher – KS4

Imagine a world where students choose their own avatars and race their classmates around some of the world's most famous cities by correctly answering questions and competing to achieve top marks.

Welcome to the online world of SAM Learning, a unique online service that provides students with learning resources in over 20 subjects in Key Stages 3 and 4.

Studies show that students achieve better than expected exam results with as little as 10 hours or more use of SAM Learning. As Bushey Meads is always looking for ways to extend our students' learning, faculties have been encouraging students to log-on and will soon be issuing students with their very own laminated personalised SAM Learning ID cards.

Many students have already been engaged with SAM Learning - both in class and at home - with English and Science seeing some of the most usage. Each month, the Key Stages will be rewarding those students who have engaged with SAM Learning the most. This month, we are congratulating Vorshaan Karunanithy (7Elm) and Harrison Glenister (10Oak).

Students are able to access the service at anytime and anywhere whether at school, at home, in the library or community centre. All they need to do is visit the website and enter their unique login details. Website address: www.samlearning.com

SAM Learning | Online study
with proven results.



BMS Christmas Concert - Tuesday 16th December

7pm in the school hall.

Tickets: £4.00 (including refreshments)

Concessions: £1.50

Please come and join us for a wonderful evening of Christmas music and entertainment.

Aspire to Achieve

Bushey Meads NEWS



Diary Dates

8th December 2014

Y7-Y13 Highly Able Evening

11th December 2014

Year 11 Options Evening

11th December 2014

Sixth Form Open Evening

16th December 2014

Christmas Concert

19th December 2014

Last day of term – school closes at
12.15pm

5th January 2015

Start of Spring Term – school starts
at 11am for all students

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

KEY STAGE 3



Cerys, 7Willow

Cerys has been nominated by her Form Tutor, Mrs. Fricker for consistently turning up early for school, working exceptionally hard in all lessons and demonstrating an exemplary work ethic.

Cerys is in Year 7 and since starting at Bushey Meads School in September she has fully embraced secondary school life. Cerys is a polite girl who always has a smile on her face at school. She is positive about her studies and has made some good friends. Well done Cerys. This recognition is very well deserved!

KEY STAGE 4



Natalie Ellison, 10Elm

Natalie is this week's KS4 student of the week. Natalie recently received an excellent report in which she scored an outstanding six 7s for her attitude to learning.

Natalie also has a 100% attendance record since the beginning of term. Natalie contributes her positive attitude to having a clear goal of wanting to study A levels at Bushey Meads and have a successful career working with children.

Well done Natalie.

KEY STAGE 5



John, 13Beech

Our KS5 student of the week this week is John who is currently in Year 13. He has been awarded this for his service to the school as a Senior Student Learning Consultant.

Within this role, John has had to present to the Senior Leadership Team, the Whole Staff and at School Assemblies. John is currently studying History, Mathematics and Psychology.

Theme of the Week – Excellence

By Ms Morawska, Deputy Headteacher

‘Excellent schools do not believe in excellence...only in constant improvement’

Assemblies on this week’s theme have been delivered by Ms Morawska with assistance from the SLCs. During form time, students have been asked to consider the activities within lessons that provides them with excellent learning experiences. Some of the student’s comments are listed below:

SOCIOLOGY ‘receiving informative comments and feedback whenever the teacher returns homework...’

LAW ‘practice essays, series of questions’

SCIENCE ‘I wrote a conclusion I was proud of’ and ‘every lesson we go over our work and check we understand’

FUTURE SKILLS ‘every project we do we get given many ways to improve our work...’

GEOGRAPHY ‘my teacher is always marking our books and then she gives us the time to do the improvements’ and ‘we have high quality feedback, even if it is just marking each other’s work. She (the teacher) always gives us helpful tips so that we can improve in our Geography’

PE & HEALTH ‘the teachers do warmups that are related to the topic we are doing’ and ‘at the end we talk about people’s performance’

MATHS ‘my teacher tells me to write things on mini whiteboards and tells us to hold them up so she can see how we have done’

MFL ‘marking our homework in a lot of detail’ and ‘vocab games’

RELIGIOUS STUDIES ‘there is always a question on the board to get us started’

ART ‘use lots of different materials and techniques’

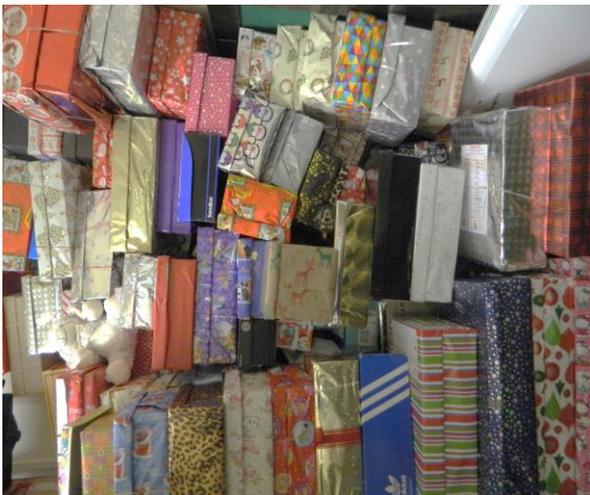
ENGLISH ‘interesting and involving lessons’

PSYCHOLOGY ‘making notes from a documentary’

Arrangements for the Start of the Spring Term

As a reminder the Spring Term starts on Monday 5th January 2015.

Students will be required to be in school from 11am following INSET training for all staff. The bus company are aware of the arrangements. A late breakfast will be available 10.15-10.55am for students.



Shoe Box Appeal – Thank You

By Mrs Hoskins, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

A huge thank you to the students and staff and parents who supported the Blythewood care shoe box appeal. We had over 85 shoeboxes!

The gentleman who collected the boxes was overwhelmed by the response and said a big thank you to all students, staff and parents who participated.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Cross Curricular Debate: Business Studies v Philosophy

By Ms Pinkus, Business Studies Teacher

Want to find out two different perspectives on a topic? Bring in two separate subject disciplines to debate the issue. A2 Business Studies students had been studying the aims and objectives of businesses and had decided that Profit is a Priority. To find a balance, the Philosophy AS students were invited to share a debating platform with these students.



Proposing the motion were Sacha Barkanay and Alfie Harris (year 13); opposing were Ashni Chauhan and James Allet (year 12). Year 13 Mabel Pooley chaired the session. A supported analysis was offered by the two Business Studies students who claimed that profit should not be considered as a negative factor but that indeed, with the profit, businesses could re-invest and grow, offering further employment, carrying out corporate social activities and shared values. They conceded that not all companies behaved appropriately but these were the exceptions and that thankfully there are watchdogs who will check their practice and audit their companies towards improved practice.

The Philosophy students held that businesses do not always consider the repercussions of cutting costs in order to make profit and that the victims of their actions are often those who rely on their employment to earn a fair pay to support their families and their lives. The economy too would suffer from outsourcing with many in the UK losing work because of this.

This was an exciting opportunity and Business Studies teacher Mrs Pinkus, together with Philosophy teacher Mrs Moore, were in agreement that it was inspiring to watch the development of ideas and argument and that this cross curricular event will be repeated with a different topic at some time in the future.

Well done to all students involved. An enjoyable and instructive session. Although the Business Studies students gained two further votes following the initial straw poll, the voting went against the motion.



Hertfordshire Headteacher Visit to BMS

By Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

Last Friday we were privileged to welcome David Croston the Headteacher of Chancellor's School in Brookmans Park to Bushey Meads School. As with all our visitors he was impressed with the quality of learning in all classrooms, the enthusiasm of the students and their excellent engagement and behaviour for learning.



He spoke to many students about their work and aspirations for the future and commented on their obvious desire to aim high and achieve their potential. As usual our Student Learning Consultants made our visitor very welcome and a number of them in classrooms across the school introduced themselves, welcomed Mr Croston to their classroom and spoke eloquently about their work and the learning that was taking place.



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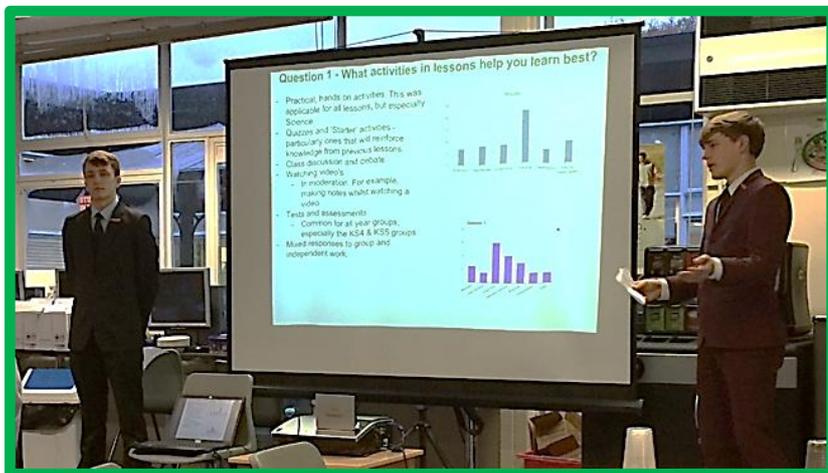
Mr Croston's comment in the visitors' book reflects his positive visit to our fabulous school....

'Lovely school, delightful students and positive staff. Thank you.'

Professional Learning Team Meeting at Bushey Meads School

By Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

All teachers and teaching assistants are part of a Professional Learning Team at Bushey Meads School and on Tuesday of this week we held our second full staff Professional Learning Team of the year – a chance to reflect on our exciting journey of school improvement and an opportunity to share some of the exemplary practice that exists across classrooms in our wonderful school.



The meeting started with an excellent presentation by two of our Senior Student Learning Consultants who presented the findings of the recent Student Learning Consultant survey which centered on the key questions:

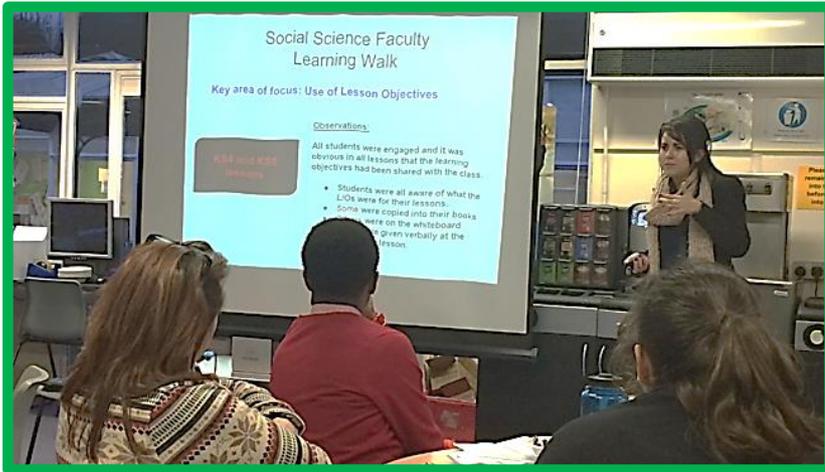
- What activities in lessons help learning?
- Which activities are not as effective?
- What makes an excellent lesson?

A number of key staff then shared some nuggets of best practice – particularly focused on our continued whole school drive to ensure that all students make maximum progress in lessons and are fully supported by the marking and feedback provided by their teachers and teaching assistants.



Mr Hawkins in the PE and Health Faculty showcased a superb idea to link feedback comments to a QR code. The code, when scanned by his Sixth Form students using an APP on their mobile devices, then links to a personalised comment which can then be acted upon to improve the work.

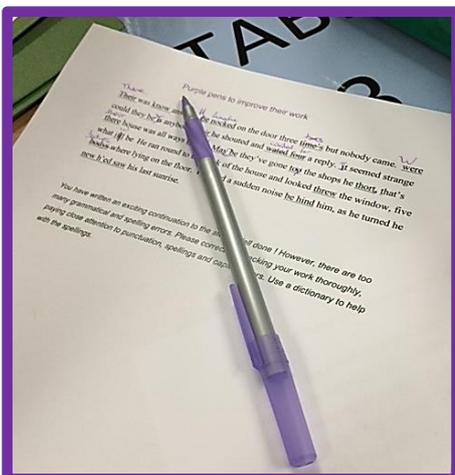
Other adaptations related to the stickers we are using across the school to highlight targets for improvement were also shared across the staff body.



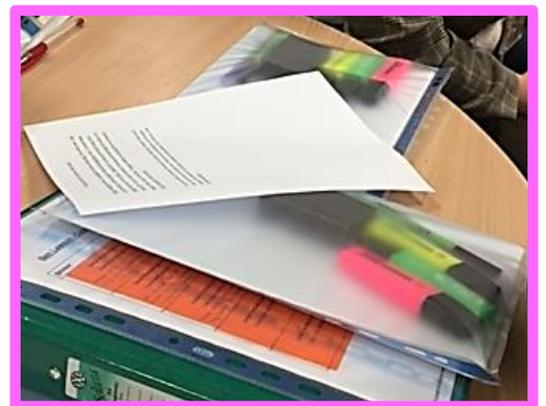
Ms Brewer, one of our Advanced Lead Teachers talked about Learning Objectives and how to use them more creatively to promote a greater understanding of the progress journey in lessons, with a move away from always copying them out at the start of the lesson. Suggestions were shared as to how create a more effective engaging starter activity to hook the students into the learning.

Staff also shared in small groups how they were promoting feedback to students using the variety of stickers available. Here is an example of verbal feedback given to students in an extracurricular activity to promote even better engagement and achievement.

Feedback given.	Date /staff
I have been advised to... Make sure you are following to every given instruction - Avoid Distractions	J.Helds 21/1/14
Verbal feedback given. I have been advised to... Be aware of all stages that need to be completed in a Practical Session	J.Helds 21/1/14
Verbal feedback given. I have been advised to... Make sure you are reviewing key terms for tests	J.Helds 21/1/14
Verbal feedback given. I have been advised to...	



At the meeting all staff were provided with a pack of resources to support them in the classroom with the progress agenda – highlighters pens, mini whiteboards and sponges and a purple pen to be used by students to demonstrate their clear response to feedback.

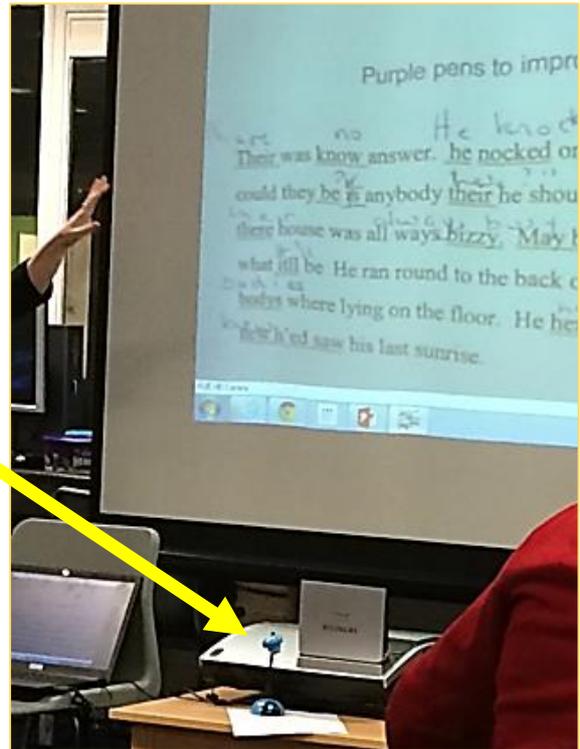




Mrs Charles one of our Extended Senior Leadership Team members then engaged us all in a fun memory recall activity demonstrating how effective the mini whiteboards can be in engaging all students and maximising progress in lessons – everyone engaged, every learning, everyone having fun and everyone demonstrating progress.

All staff are being offered a visualiser - a simple but effective technological resource that simply takes an image of anything and projects it up onto the screen so all students/staff can see it clearly at the front of the classroom.

An ideal aid to show a student's piece of work to the class and thereby model good practice to their peers.



I would like to thank all the staff who contributed to the superb Professional Learning Team meeting on Tuesday and congratulate you all on the exemplary work you are doing across the school to ensure that all our students continue to succeed at the highest level.

In particular I would like to thank Deputy Headteacher Ms Morawska who organised and coordinated the meeting and continues to oversee our teaching and learning agenda across the whole school community with such enthusiasm and rigour.



Christmas Lunch – Thursday 11th December 2014

Roast Turkey, Gammon and all the trimmings

Or

Quorn, Vegetable and Cranberry Lattice Pie

~

Seasonal Vegetables and Roast Potatoes

~

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Custard

Or

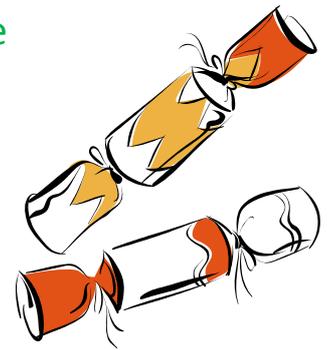
Chocolate and Raspberry Mousse

~

Choose from a selection of Christmas Cakes or Mince Pie

~

and a Christmas Cracker!



Christmas Lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Thursday 11 December. No other food will be served at lunchtime. Tickets will be on sale in the dining room from the catering staff. They cost £2.50 each for staff and students. Children on Free School Meals should get a lunch ticket from the dining room.

Students will attend by year group at the time shown below:

Year 7	11.45 am	Year 10	1.00 pm
Year 8	12.10 pm	Year 11	1.25 pm
Year 9	12.35 pm	Years 12/13	1.50 pm

Those having packed lunches or sandwiches will sit and eat these with their class group. Every student will also be given a Christmas cracker.

Word of the Week

By Mr Dawson, Head of English Faculty

Boring (adjective)

1. Not engaging and not interesting

Example: It was a really boring match. Nobody scored - and nobody seemed to want to win.

*Comment: **This week's word of the week is another non-word of the week.** Boring might be an accurate description of your reaction - but to a reader it's a boring word to see. It tells them only that you've switched off. And they switch off as a reader.*

So if you want to write the word 'boring' stop yourself. Try these instead:

tedious....dull....unengaging....flat.....uninspired....monotonous

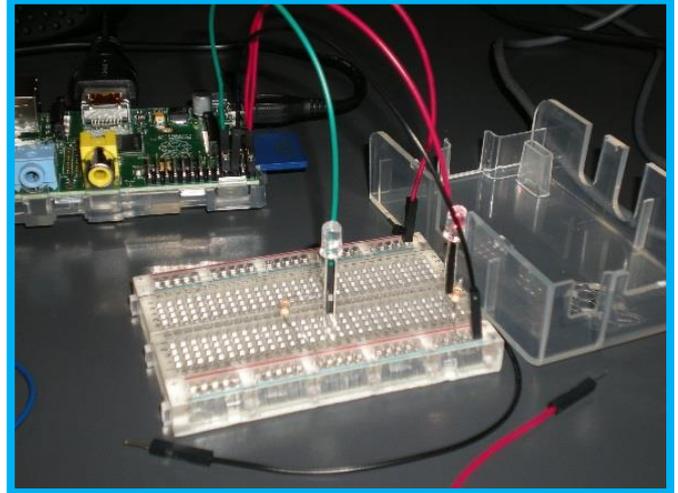
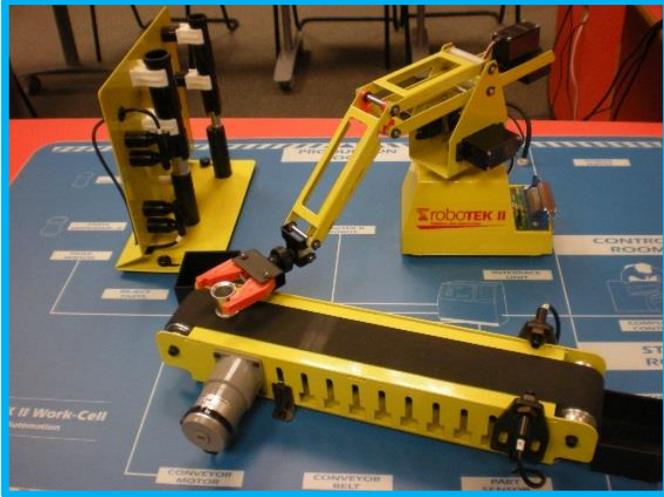
(words like these - and there are others - actually tell you what's wrong)

Robots at Bushey Meads!

By Ms Heartfield, Head of Computing and Future Skills Faculty



Last Tuesday the computing e-club was buzzing with activity as students from years 7 and 8 had a great time programming a robotic arm. The students were supported by our sixth form computing team. The club also takes place on a Monday for older students in years 9, 10 and 11.



If you have always wanted to get your hands on a Raspberry Pi or want to program your own game, come along to F6 on either Monday or Tuesday lunchtime or speak to Ms Gregory to find out more information.

James, 12Oak and Joshua, 7Elm pictured below working with the robotic arm.



Bushey Meads School - Multi Skills Course

By Mrs Sarah Cooper, PE & Health Teacher



Imagine not being able to tie your shoelaces, touch your right foot with your left hand or even being able to walk in a straight line, simple everyday tasks but they are not simple for everyone.....

For the last 2 years Bushey Meads has been giving the opportunity to some of our students with co-ordination and movement skill difficulties the chance to develop and work on these areas in timetabled small group sessions.

The students needs range from dyspraxia, autism, aspergers syndrome, to more general co-ordination problems but all of them find simple tasks more difficult than the 'average' person. Students are identified through the learning support team and PE and Health Faculty and invited to attend the fortnightly programme.

Currently students in year 9 are the focus group and they have been working hard with Mrs Cooper and Mrs Maloney to overcome their everyday challenges. Simple finger activities are the starter every lesson and students practice this at home along with shoelace tying and arm rotations-1 forward and 1 backwards, and WOW what results we are seeing!

All students in the group can now do the finger activities, and with their eyes shut!! They can all jump from 1 foot to 2, complete hopscotch and maintain balance and co-ordination on the trampoline. Along with this the students have grown in confidence, they now find it easy, within the group, to speak of the activities they find difficult and work as a team to support and encourage each other.



This term has been a really successful course with the year 9s and hopefully they will continue to practice their fine and gross motor skills to make those everyday tasks just that little bit easier.

After Christmas the Year 8 students will get their opportunity to build on the skills they started to develop last year, and our new Year 7 students will be invited to be involved from Easter through to the end of the Summer term.

THE AWARD-WINNING ULTIMATE PLUM PUDDING

If you haven't yet ordered a Bushey Meads Christmas pudding, there is still time to do so. Due to the response for orders this year we have been able to organise another delivery, so if you place an order this week we can guarantee stock will still be in – and still at the 2010 price of just **£5.00**.

The Ultimate Plum Pudding Company is a small organisation based in Kendal, Cumbria, who is committed to sustainable production. The puddings are endorsed by the BBC Good Food Magazine and The Guild of Fine Food, and they have received no less than three gold awards by the Great Taste Awards. This year they are very proud to announce that Fortnum and Mason are now also selling their puddings (at a cost of far in excess of £5 we are sure!).



All the vine fruits are soaked overnight in oodles of brandy and dry sherry. Only the finest ingredients are used and include almonds, walnuts, stem ginger, apricots, cherries, freshly grated carrots as well as the best raisins and sultanas. It's light, sweet, aromatic and tastes exquisite!

The Ultimate Plum Pudding is not available in high street supermarkets so it makes for a very special gift for family and friends, especially as it will come packaged with a Bushey Meads personalised logo and Christmas greeting from all the staff and students.

To order your 1lb (450g) Ultimate Plum Pudding (which serves 4 - 6) please complete the form below and return it to the student window, marking your envelope 'Xmas Pud order' and enclosing correct payment. We have ordered a limited supply of these puddings so the Ultimate Plum Pudding will be available on a first come, first served basis. To secure your pudding place your order as soon as possible!

Best Wishes
Mrs Armitage, PA to Executive Principal

✂ -----

I would like to order an Ultimate Plum Pudding

I enclose £5 in CASH / CHEQUE * (please delete as appropriate) for each pudding ordered, cheques made payable to Bushey Meads School.

NUMBER OF PUDDINGS REQUIRED: _____

(Your child will be notified when the pudding(s) is ready for collection from Student Reception).

NAME OF CHILD: FORM:

Return this slip with payment in a sealed envelope marked 'Xmas Pud' to the student window