



Aspire to Achieve

# Bushey Meads NEWS

## Monday Magic Moment!

*By Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal*

One of our superb Advanced Lead Teachers (ALTs) Miss Bevan-Davies shared a great 'Monday Magic Moment' with all staff at the staff briefing on Monday of this week. With our whole school focus on marking and feedback and all the hard work we have all made to ensure that every student achieves their true potential and moves constantly forward in their learning she was encouraging us all to go to the next level.

Top Tips for how to ensure that students take more initiative in responding to teachers' clear targets for improvement and detailed comments, and clearly evidencing this in their books and work moving forward, inspired us all to continue with the good work and progress we have made this term as a school with the key progress agenda.



## Diary Dates

5<sup>th</sup> January 2015

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

8<sup>th</sup> January 2015

PPE Results Afternoon

13<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Year 11 PPE Results  
Parent Surgery

### FIRST DAY OF TERM STARTING ARRANGEMENTS

As you are all aware, we are starting back at the later time of **11:00am** on Monday 5 January to accommodate staff training. Breakfast is available for the students from 10:15am – 10:55am. No student should be on site any earlier than 10:15am. Tutor time/assembly time will be held at 11.00am and then P3 will start as normal at 11:30am.

For those students who use the Mullany's bus service, both buses will run two hours later than normal, ie if your child normally catches a 7:30am bus then this will run at 9:30am.

## Sixth Form Study Area Update



There was a great atmosphere in the Sixth Form Study Area last week with the Christmas tree up and decorated, hot chocolate, keeping everyone warm and students focused on working and making progress in their AS and A level studies.

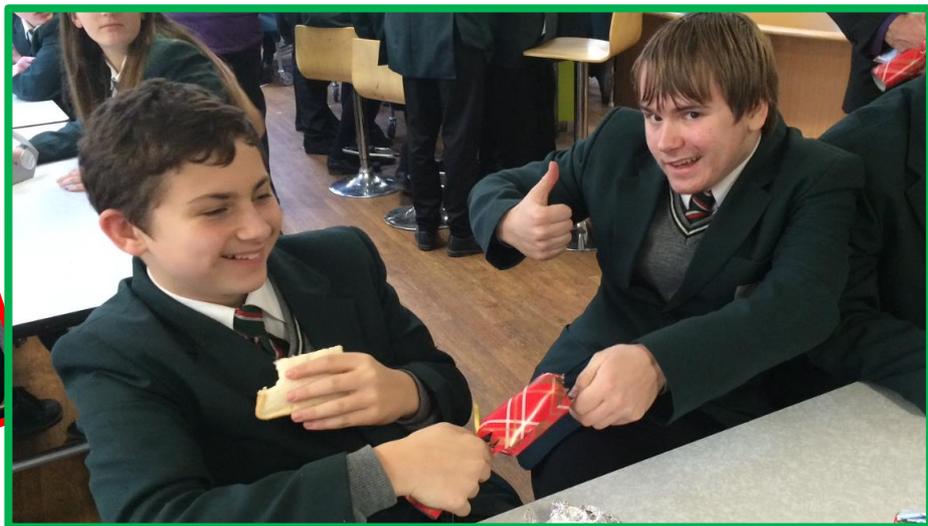


I had a number of conversations with our sixth formers and was delighted to hear about their aspirations for the future and the steps they are making on a daily basis to reach their goals. They spoke of the excellent support they were receiving from their teachers and all the Sixth Form staff.

I wish them all a very Happy Christmas and successful New Year as they continue to ***Aspire to Achieve*** at the highest level, both in and out of school.

# Christmas Dinner at Bushey Meads School

Christmas was very much in the air at Bushey Meads School last week and many hundreds of students and staff enjoyed a fabulous Christmas dinner in the school restaurant with all the usual trimmings and even this year Christmas crackers and party hats to wear!





Students and staff really entered into the spirit of the occasion and all form tutors were given the opportunity to sit and eat Christmas dinner with their tutees over an extended lunch period from 12.00 noon until 2.30 pm.

I would like to thank all the staff involved, but especially our restaurant staff and our hard working chef Nathan Bryans for making our Christmas dinner 2014 such a success.



## Christmas Main School Assemblies

Assistant Headteacher Mr Fisher led the main school assemblies in this the last week of term and unpicked the meaning of Christmas and its relevance in our multicultural, multi-faith Britain. He shared his own experiences of a more traditional Christian upbringing and how Christmas was celebrated and also shared views from other faiths about how they engage with the Christmas festival at this time of year.



With a reminder and emphasis on the 'British values' of family, tolerance of others, sharing, giving and receiving presents - which are all very much part of the Christmas season, it was a chance as a school community to reflect on what we can do at this time of year to build an even more positive society – both in and out of school.

The assembly finished with some superb Christmas music and dance performances by Ben, Georgie and Adam.



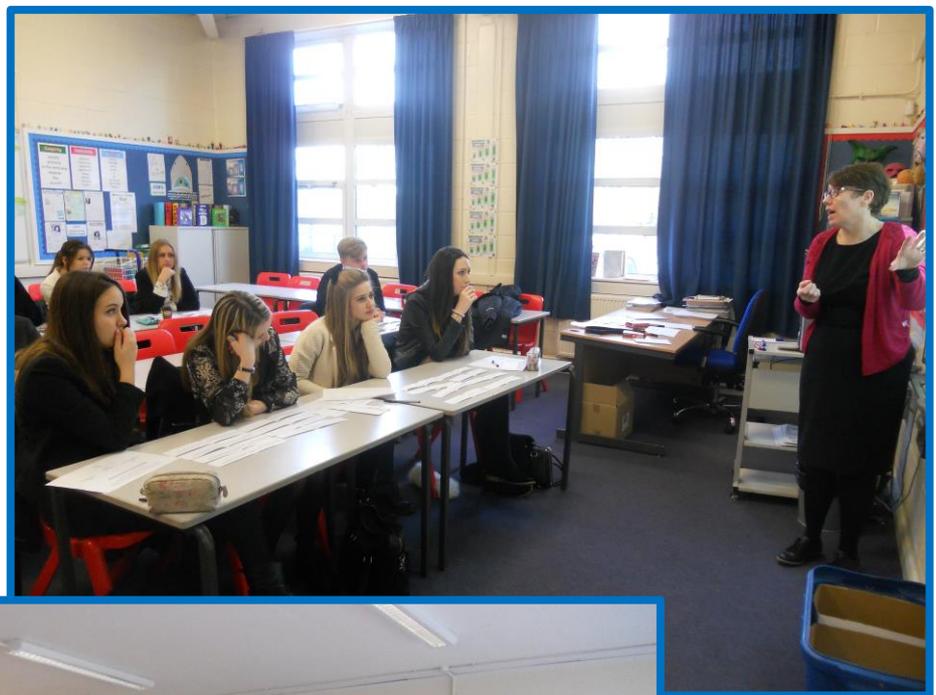
# Year 12 AS Level Taster Day

By Rachel Smallwood - Head of 6th Form

Monday saw prospective year 12 students' taking part in the Year 12 AS level taster day. Year 11 students were invited into the 6th form and were provided with a timetable of AS level lessons to follow. The Key stage 5 curriculum offers a wide range of choices and we were able to offer our more traditional courses such as Chemistry, English and History and this year, we offered new and exciting options of Child Care, Catering and Geology. Students' were also able to use the 6th form facilities including our new coffee machines that provide a range of hot drinks free of charge to students.

Year 11 student Deborah Gosden commented that the day was '*incredibly interesting... with a good balance between work and information about the courses.*'

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind students to hand their application to the 6th form office by Friday 9th January.



# BIMA Digital Day Update!

By Ms Heartfield, Head of Computing and Future Skills Faculty



You may remember an article back in October reporting on the successful BIMA Digital Day at Bushey Meads?

This week the organisers of the event tweeted to let us know that one of the app ideas had been shortlisted for further consideration. With over 4,000 students taking part nationally, just getting to this stage is a great achievement. Well done boys!



Fingers crossed that the New Year will bring even better news!

## Word of the Week

By Mr Dawson, Head of English Faculty



### Spectrum (noun)

*This week.. 'Spectrum' is the activity - not the word.*

Read the list of words below. These words are similar in meaning - but there are subtle differences between them. There is a spectrum of meanings here.

angry   livid   furious   cross   irate   agitated   irritated   annoyed

Arrange these words in order of intensity... from most... to least angry. The first person who has a version which tallies with the version done by our ever-helpful English Advisor ( Ms. Tamsin Church) and gives this version to Mr. Dawson, wins a prize - well, it's Christmas....

## PE End of Term Extra-Curricular Report

It has a very busy term for recreational and competitive sport at Bushey Meads. We have played nearly 70 football matches and 40 netball matches with some fantastic levels of effort and performance from all of the school teams. Participation in extra-curricular clubs continues to be very high with Sports Credits awarded in football, rugby, basketball, hockey, dance, badminton, trampolining, swimming, table tennis, cheerleading and SEN sports.

A reminder that the annual health and fitness testing will be taking place in March with all students in years 7-11 being tested. Fitness has a significant impact on progress in PE and we will continue to provide a range of clubs and fixtures after xmas for all students.

### FOOTBALL

#### Year 7 Football Report

Sam Hawkins, PE Teacher writes ....



The Year 7 Boys have made a very promising start to their football careers at BMS with some pleasing results. The boys have shown excellent dedication to training throughout the year and this has helped them to build the foundations for a successful first season together. They have played a number of schools and have always been competitive in every game. The A team, captained by Owen O'Mahony are in contention to win the District League Division 1 and are through to the quarter finals of the District Cup.

The best performance this season was against St Michaels Catholic School. After being one nil down in the first half they boys went on to win 4-1 after an inspiring second half performance.

The B team, captained by Nathan Angold have been played a number of games against schools. The stand out performance from this team was a 5-2 win against Queens where the boys showed put everything from training into practice.

Well done to all boys that have represented Bushey Meads School either in the A and B team.

Squad: Owen O'Mahony, Zachary Faulkner, Heath Blakey, Ross Marsh, Luke Fletcher-Gray, James Kimber, Kai Jackman, Kieran Barnard-White, Jake Watt, Kai Jackman, Mohamed Dejanit, Mohammed Mansouri, Billy Garvey, Prince Coaster-Etuk, Nathan Angold, Jack James, Jack Elson, Hassan Ali, Jackson Heyler, Andre Fernandes, Avon Shrestha, Levi Haughton, Harrison Middleton, Jamie Alexander, Lewis Reid, Billy Henson, Olu Oshisanya, James Demir, Casey Ford and Pavit Sangasinha.

#### Year 8 Football Report

Ashley Cartledge, Head of the PE and Health faculty writes.....



The Year 8 Boys have continued making good progress this year playing 13 games over the term and recording 8 wins. The boys are set to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> for the second year in a row in the District league Division 1 winning 6 of their 7 League games.

The boys are also through to the District Cup semi-finals. Highlights of the season included an excellent 2-1 win against Hemel Hempstead and a very narrow 3-2 defeat to St Michaels. Regular squad members are :

James Dodwell (GK), Connor Cameron, Anas Djahnit, Josh Williams, Ethan Fiordelisi , Sadiq Kazmi, Jack Leech, Joe Manning, Joel Feeley, Aidan Angold, Thanujan Tharmakulasingam, Conner Atkinson, Finlay Horastead, Ben Faulkener, Peter Ayani.

## Year 9 Football Report

Mr O'Kelly PE Teacher writes .....



The Year 9 football team have shown great hard work and determination this season playing in the Premier division in the Watford and District league. The boys have had to step up their game this season and have managed to adapt well to the higher pace of the top division games. Coming up against some very strong teams the squad has produced some memorable displays. Victories over Francis Combe 3-1 and St Michael's 4-0 will be sure to stick with both the boys and supporters alike as they were littered with excellent performances and even once in a lifetime super goals!

Special mention should go to both Victor Williams and Callum Bedwell for their representation of Watford and District within the district representative squad playing against teams from across the county.

Full squad - Julius Pazio, Jack Leyshon, Callum Bedwell, Curtis Meale, Aiden O'Mahony, George Whitman, Connor Freeman, Jake Zimmatore, Maciek Blasic, Victor Williams, Euan Enright, Luca Castello and Ethan Thrale.

## Year 10 Football Report

Ashley Cartledge, Head of the PE and Health faculty writes.....



This has been another pleasing year for the Year 10 team although the boys will be disappointed finishing Runners-Up in the District League Division 1 after winning the League last year.

The boys are also in the District Cup quarter-final. Performance of the season came in a hard fought 1-1 draw with FC Academy where the boys played some excellent football in tough conditions.

Full squad: Archie Levy, Tom Harford, Andrew Fordham, Luke Piesley, Lyes Titouah, Sam Farman, Alfie Linden, Ellis Stewart, Louis Cozens, Ben Thomas, Kobe Johnson, Danny Finley.

## Under 18 Football Report

Ashley Cartledge, Head of the PE and Health faculty writes.....



It has been a tough term for the Senior football team who have faced some tough competition at county level. The boys have managed to finish as runners-up in the District League Division 1 with the County league continuing after the Christmas break.

Best performance to date came in the extra-time defeat to Buntingford in the County Cup. Squad: Charlie Peters, Tom Evans, Alfie Harris, Josh Lawrence, James Leach, Joe Marks, James Yallop, Michael Sturgess, Sam Yelland, Sami Huseyin, George Tabor, Alex Garvey, Cameron Richards, Matt Walker, Dominic Ashwell

## NETBALL

### Year 7 Netball Report

Sarah Ward, PE Teacher writes .....



The girls have impressed me with their enthusiasm and their commitment to training this first term and it has paid off with lots of wins in the league including a particularly impressive win against Belmont. Their game has improved significantly over the last twelve weeks as commented on by lots of parents who have come to support games. Lots of our girls play outside of school and I hope more of them decide to do so between now and next season. Well done year 7!

Squad: L. Bayliss, M. Taylor-Bean, K. Williams, A. Andrews, E. Henson, A. Wells-Harbin, A. Finley, N. Redmond, A. Moss

## Year 8 Netball Report

Sarah Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> in PE and Health faculty writes .....



The turnout for Year 8 netball has been fantastic this year. Regularly there have been upwards of 12 students at training. Such has been the girls improvements it's made it very hard to select the strongest team and lots of students have had the opportunity to play in matches.

The best result was the dominating victory of local rivals Queens 11-3.

Regular Playing Squad: A.Trivedi, E.Houghton-Brown, J.Phillips, F.Kelly, A.Rashid, A.D'Alwis, M.Bonyadi B.Parker, G.Bryant, R.Aravindan.

Other Squad Members: M.Sjollema, M.Shah, R.Kulkani, O.O'Connor

## Year 9 Netball Report

Sarah Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> in PE and Health faculty writes .....



The year 9 squad have had a difficult year having moved up leagues from last season. Whilst some games have been close others have been perhaps a step too far. Special mention to Lauren Parr and Layla Campbell for their regular and enthusiastic attendance at training which has been really noticeable in their play. Well done girls.

Best result, a thrilling 9-8 victory over St. Margarets.

Squad: M.Stefanov, I.Hadland, R.Bharmal, V.Pratt, L.Parr, O.McManus, E.Ferguiras, B.Lipman, L.Campbell.

## Year 10 Netball Report

Diane Cartledge, PE teacher writes .....



The Year 10 netball team have played 6 matches, won 2 and lost 4. All the girls have worked really hard in games with all the games close and competitive. We are looking forward to next season where will concentrate on consistent attendance to training by all players.

Squad :Tehya Bingham- Thacker, Isabella Stovey, Elin Bonyadi, Alysson Sunpongco, Myah Sharif, Emily Leeves, Tayla Barnard –White, Jess Pickles, Imogen Vincent.

The best performance over the season goes to Myah Sharif for her impressive defending.

## Year 11 Netball Report

Sarah Ward, PE Teacher writes .....



Another fantastic season for this team. Although not quite undefeated, very nearly. I have never seen a more committed group of year 11 girls. Not only have they trained regularly as a team, many of them have helped me with year 7 training sessions too. It was a much harder league than last year with the district deciding to mix but the girls played excellently and their attitude when playing schools such as Habs and Parmiters was commendable. I look forward to them ALL becoming part of the senior netball team next year in year 12! Well done girls.

Squad: A. Leech, C. Stewart, G. Hill, D. Noel, A. Francis, S. Wright, M. Baker, E. Jarman, D. Olcot.

## Senior Netball Report

Sarah Cooper and Diane Cartledge write .....



With students spanning both Year 12 and 13 it's often been difficult to get everyone training at the same time, combined with twilight lessons the team has seen lots of changes between matches, and some of the Year 10 and 11 students stepping up to play.

The girls are always committed and give 100% to every game they have been great role models to younger students helping with practices and matches.

Squad: N.Sharif, M.Pooley, M.Sharif, T.Barnard, E.Charalombous, E.Cowley, S.Wright, E.Jarman, I Stovey, A.Bates



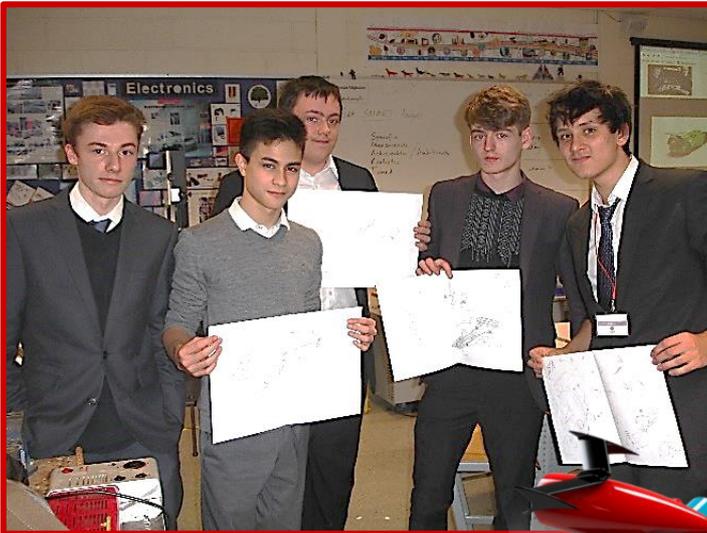
## The Christian Message at Christmas

Last week Mr Walker, from the Gideons, visited an assembly of younger students to tell us what Christmas means to Christians. As a representative of the Gideons, he brought along a supply of little bibles for anyone who wanted to take one to read, or to give as a present.



This complemented Mr Fisher's themed assemblies for this week, looking at the secular side of Christmas and exploring what British values can be celebrated by all faiths during this period of national holiday.





This week's STEM news is an update from the YOUNG ENGINEERS entering the 2015 F1 in Schools competition. The students are midway through designing and making a model of an F1 car, powered by a CO2 cartridge.



Three teams are hoping to make it to the competition in January. They will be taking their cars to race against other schools. They must also present to judges and justify their design engineering decisions. A big ask!

Look out for further news in January.



## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KEY STAGE 4



### Sainka Shah, 11Beech

Sainka is this week's KS4 student of the week. Sainka recently received an outstanding report in which she scored an amazing nine 7s for her attitude to learning. Sainka also has a 100% attendance record since the beginning of term. Sainka plans to study A levels next year and recently enjoyed the experience of the 6th form taster day. Sainka stated that she really liked the interactive lessons especially Mr Arnold's Politics lesson.

Well done Sainka!

# BOOKFIZZ

Mrs Castle, Librarian

At Bushey Meads we know how important reading is and how enthusiastic readers do better in their studies. Our library is full of books to both support students in their studies and to encourage the love of reading, and is an extremely popular place for students to be in their free time.

So to support 'Reading for Pleasure' we are delighted to have been able to give a free book to all of our Year 7 students, just in time for Christmas. The **BOOKFIZZ** scheme is run by The Hertfordshire School Librarians Group and students were able to choose from 16 carefully selected books to cover all tastes.

There was great excitement when we took them round to distribute during English lessons, and we hope everyone enjoys their choice.



Two English classes show off their books



# Watford Inter-School Debating Competition 2014: Hosted by Richard Harrington MP

Now in its third year, Watford's Inter-School Debating Competition was held at The Houses of Commons, Westminster, on Thursday 11 December 2014. Bushey Meads debating team spent three weeks in preparation for this event, giving up their lunch breaks to work together in devising their arguments for:

- The budget for development aid should be enshrined in law.
- Tobacco should be classified as an illegal drug.
- People who commit terrorist attacks on the UK should be stripped of their citizenship

And so the day arrived. Setting off for Westminster were team speakers (year 12) Sam Bonner, Dylan Kelly, Sherkan Malik, Aliyah Safdar-Ahmed and Kevin Tailor supported by their committee members from year 12. A sense of excitement and nerves pervaded. How would they fare?



Six schools participated, including Queens, (winners of the 2012 and 2013 competitions), Watford Grammar School for Boys, Watford Grammar School for Girls, Parmitter's and Bushey Academy. Competition was fierce and Richard Harrington, together with the judges at the event, commended the excellence of the speakers.



So, how did our Bushey Meads debating team fare? Delightedly, they won this year's trophy and were declared the winners of the Watford Inter-School Debating Competition, 2014. In addition to the trophy, the participants will be taken to tea at the House of Commons with speaker John Berkow in celebration of their achievement.

Well done to our wonderful team. We look forward to an exciting 2015, with numerous debates and our challenge event with Queens School.



On behalf of the Debating Society, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

# Herts Sports Partnership 'Service to Sport' Awards 2014

## Tuesday 9th December, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield

*By The Base SEN Sport Team*

Four weeks ago we received an invitation to these awards and were dumbstruck (and very proud) when we were told that it was our Base staff team who had been nominated for the 'Paul Pearce Award: Contribution to Disability Sport'! It has been all the more poignant that the nomination came from Michael Pope, past student and future paralympian.

Emma Burton, Julie Clayton, Sarah Davies, Nicky Day, Jo Hedges and Jayne Maloney attended the event, which was held in the Weston Auditorium at the University of Hertfordshire and hosted by David Croft (Sky Sports presenter). Sports representatives and dignitaries from all over the county filled the auditorium and we were humbled by the commitment and enthusiasm shown by so many as the awards were handed out. David Moorcroft (three-time Olympic athlete and former 5000m world record holder), the guest speaker, gave an uplifting talk about his past and present sporting opportunities and achievements.

Our award category finally arrived. We were up against some fierce competition: disability riding schools, boccia clubs and a disability sports club. The results were read in reverse order. Having agreed among ourselves that to have been nominated was reward enough for us, we were totally blown away when our name was read out as the winner! There was a loud, collective gasp (which amused those around us) and we made our way to the stage to receive our trophy. None of us can remember what David Croft said but we were told later that he explained that Base is a specialist unit at Bushey Meads School, designated for students with physical and neurological impairments. The unit has been recognised nationally as a centre of excellence. He went on to say that it is student-centred, allowing students to grow and develop into happy, confident and successful young people.



We all feel so very honoured to have been selected to receive this award but most of all feel totally privileged to have the opportunity to work with such inspiring students who continue, without fail, to overcome hurdles in their quest to achieve great things.

We would also like to pass on our huge thanks to Michael for his nomination.

## Ash & Oak Charity Fundraising Event

On Monday, Ash and Oak House Charity Reps assisted Miss Bevan-Davies (Head of Ash House), Mr O'Kelly (Head of Oak House) and Mr Hawkins (Ash House) in running a lunchtime charity sports fundraising event in the Sports Hall for Cancer Research UK. Students had already prepared for this by raising awareness of the event in their Form Groups and then acted as stewards, encouraging students to come in and have a go at a wide selection of sporting activities.

Keen and excited students all paid 50p to have a go at a number of stalls, from testing who could kick a ball the fastest, to competing at how long students could maintain a handstand. Some students tried to see how many basketballs they could get in the net in a minute, whilst others used their cricket bowling skills to test how accurate their aim was. With fantastic music playing, a great atmosphere and a well-organised, motivated team of Charity Reps, Ash and Oak House are now proudly able to donate money to Cancer Research UK, on behalf of Bushey Meads School.

### Competition Winners

- Handstand Challenge - Zak Kassapian (7Ash)
- Crazy Cricket - Vanshita Mishra (7Ash)
- Speed Shooting - Thomas Canning (10Oak)
- Basketball Shooting - Angela Quarib (7Ash)
- Cricket Bowling - Arunesh Uthayakumar (7Ash)
- Badminton Aim Game - Alan Sidik (9Oak)
- Netball Shooting - Arabella Parker (8Beech)

## PE Uniform – Boys Multi-Sports Shirt

We have been informed by D J Uniforms that the delivery of boys multi-sports shirts has now arrived. For those families who have been issued with a temporary shirt by D J Uniforms in the meantime, would you please take this shirt back (in clean condition) to the shop in order to receive your new replacement shirt.