

School to School Partnership Visit

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

As Bushey Meads School staff continue their excellent work to ensure that all teaching and learning is good and outstanding when benchmarked against the new rigorous Ofsted Framework for School Inspection, we are strengthening our links with other good and outstanding schools and making sure that we are learning and sharing the very best practice in education.



St James Catholic High School in Colindale, North London is a school that is currently showcasing some hugely innovative ideas and achieving excellent progress measures – particularly at Key Stage 4, and several of their staff have led workshops at National Conferences and other regional events. As a school they are partnering with Bushey Meads in a number of areas and it was a real privilege to show their Headteacher, Mrs Niamh Arnull, around the school last week and introduce her to staff and students at Bushey Meads.

She was clearly very impressed with what she saw and heard and commented on the focused atmosphere, engagement of all students, excellent evidence of marking and progress and genuine friendliness and politeness of the students as they moved around the school site at breaktime (many students saying hello and holding doors open for our important visitor.)

She also spoke very highly about the well maintained fabric of the building, the motivational and inspirational display for learning, the excellent resources and lovely outdoor environment and feeling of space.



I would like to thank all students who spoke to her and made her feel so welcome. She has asked if some of her staff can visit our fabulous school in the near future to see and learn from the excellent practice at the school

Her comment in our Visitor's Book summed up her visit....

*Thank you for letting me see your wonderful learning environment!
Such a pleasure to be here.*

Aspire to Achieve



Dates for the diary

7 & 8 February

School Production Rehearsals

9 to 12 February

Les Miserables School Production

9 February

Y13 Biology Trip

10 February

School Group Photos

12 February

Y12/13 A Level Drama studies conference

13 February

School Ski Trip to Bardonecchia
Inset Day – school closed

Half Term – 16 to 20 February

24 February

Y12 Parent Consultation Evening
6-8pm

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

KEY STAGE 4



Dylan - 11 Maple

Dylan is this week's KS4 student of the week. Dylan has been giving up his time to help train and coach the year 8 school Rugby team. Come rain or shine, Dylan is there every Wednesday after school and states " Not only is it a rewarding experience to help the younger students, it is something to write on my CV and further education applications to set me apart from the competition."

Dylan is also a sports leader and SLC and is planning on attending Oaklands College in September and aspires to join the RAF.

KEY STAGE 5



Sean - 12Sycamore

Our KS5 student of the week this week is Sean who is currently in Year 12. He has been awarded this for his outstanding effort in all his lessons and his excellent attitude in and around the 6th form.

Sean has also been actively involved in Sycamore House activities and in the wider school community as a Senior Student Learning Consultant. Sean is currently studying Design and Technology, Maths, Further Maths and Physics

THEME OF THE WEEK - COURAGE

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things in great love'

Mother Teresa



This quote was highlighted in main school assemblies this week and students were reminded that the whole of Mother Teresa's life bore witness to the value of little things done faithfully and with love. In line with the Theme of the Week students heard that Mother Teresa was very much about the little acts of courage that we do in life are so often the little things that make a big difference.

Do remind your children to take those daily steps of courage to do the little things well and, in their journey of learning through Bushey Meads School, do encourage them to make the most of all the superb staff at the school who are all here to help them achieve their true potential.

Comic Relief - Friday 13th March



By Maddie, 13Elm

Early warning! We will be holding a Non-School Uniform Day on Friday 13th March in aid of Comic Relief. We are asking for a donation of £2 per person to be able to come to school out of uniform on that day. House Reps will start collecting the money after half term.

Reach 4 the Stars!

By Mrs Ash, Assistant Headteacher KS5

Tuesday 3rd February saw the launch of our "Reach 4 the Stars" programme for selected Year 11 students. The aim of the programme is to support these students with their studies and to aspire to the highest possible grades. The launch saw Lauren Wright, an experienced school leader and Life Coach, give a motivational workshop with insights into



how the brain learns, mindsets and study environments/techniques. Six of our top year 12 students also assisted with the programme and shared their experiences and tips from last year.



The students all enjoyed the session and are looking forward to putting the tips into action.

Bushey Meads School Site Improvements

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

Along with the more long term and large scale improvement plans currently in the pipeline, the school site also continues to be improved on a regular basis with the small, but often important, changes that help to make the organisation run smoothly and provide an effective environment for learning for all students and staff.



Colourful House style tutor group signs around the edges of the astro turf to enhance our safe and orderly evacuation procedures from the school building.

Outdoor table tennis tables complimenting the new indoor ones have been provided for all students to use whenever they feel like a game – before and after school or at break and lunchtime. (Just bring in your own bats and balls and have a go!)



Brand new 'rustic style' fencing to edge our lovely park-like open spaces towards the rear of the school.



One of the many circular style sociable benches provided for students to sit on during their free time.



Further small improvements, as well as the major ones such as the 'state of the art' 4 million pound Sixth Form building, are planned and will continue to ensure that our school is one of the very best in the local area.

As we continue to enjoy our super school, I would like to thank Mr Richard Chambers, our excellent Site Facilities Manager, and his hard working team for their ongoing major contributions to the all-important school improvement agenda.

Marking and Feedback

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

With this academic year's whole school focus on providing effective marking and written feedback that encourages student progress, we have been really encouraged by the events of the last two weeks.

Our school community undertook a 'Whole School Marking and Feedback Evaluation Fortnight' and as part of the thorough self-evaluation process, we have been conducting some extremely detailed work scrutiny exercises. These have been arranged by year group and curriculum area, as well as through a number of focused learning walks in all faculties.



Besides members of the Senior Leadership Team participating in all of the activities, additional rigour has been facilitated with colleagues at middle leadership level from across the different faculty areas acting as peer reviewers.



All the books being scrutinised from each year group have been chosen at random to truly reflect a cross section of student learning and show the reality of where we are at with our work in this important area.



Experienced governors have also taken part to add an external dimension and our superb Student Learning Consultants have played a vital role in adding a hugely important element of student voice.

The collaborative approach across our learning community with all stakeholders involved has not only been a chance to celebrate the good work being completed in different areas of the school, but also enabled some real sharing of excellent practice.

There has been much this fortnight to be very proud of and a lot of very detailed and thoughtful marking is clearly taking place on a daily basis in our school, enabling all students to progress to the next level and ultimately achieve their true potential. Many clear targets written by the students themselves or their peers, or written or given verbally by teachers have been evidenced in students' work. Our colourful stickers are being used effectively to signpost students in their learning journey.



I would like to thank all the staff and students for their hard work this year with the all important progress agenda. I would also like to thank all students, staff and governors for the role that they have played during this important fortnight and for Deputy Headteacher, Ms Morawska, and her talented administrative assistant, Mrs Ennis, for making all the arrangements to ensure the evaluation fortnight ran so smoothly.

STAFF PROFILES

Sophie Walsh

Hello everyone. My name is Sophie Walsh and I have joined Bushey St James Trust recently as Human Resources Assistant. I come from an HR background, mostly working for high street retailers. I also worked as a Governor at How Wood School for the last 7 years, where I supported the school with HR work. I am really enjoying settling into the friendly team here, and learning how I can make a difference.

It's great to be working in education where you can contribute to students' reaching their potential, and I have been very impressed with how polite and friendly the students I have met have been.

I like to spend my free time being outdoors with my family, we like exploring new places and being active. We go to Devon when we can, and swim and surf in all weather! Coming from an Italian family, food is always pretty important too.

I am really pleased to be working at Bushey Meads School, and would like to say thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome.



Mrs Walsh

Matthew Lull



I am Mr Matthew Yull and I joined the Site Team of Bushey St James Trust in January as Caretaker for Little Reddings and Site Assistant across both schools.

I am a qualified plumber and have mainly worked on a self-employed basis, but before I joined here I was working at Leavesden Studios where I had the opportunity to meet all sorts of celebrities – Tom Cruise, Jonathan Ross, One Direction, to name but a few

In my social time I enjoy playing snooker and I am a keen football supporter – I used to play for my local Hertfordshire Olympia football team.

I am finding working in a school environment a very friendly place to be and I am really enjoying the variety of my role - no two days are ever the same in a school it would appear!

Mr Yull

Falcade Pre Visit

By Mr Besisra, IT Teacher

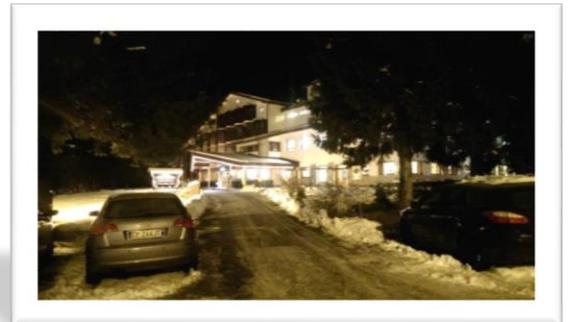
With the annual school ski trip only weeks away there is a need for a pre visit in order to see what the resort is going to look like. Leaving Southend Airport and arriving at Falcade later that afternoon it was interesting to see how the landscape changes especially when thinking about how big Italy is as a country. Falcade itself is a small town with over 100km worth of skiing available to the students (3 Valleys). There are a variety of runs ranging from green (nursery) to black (expert). The San Giusto hotel is situated not too far (10 min) from the main 4 man chair lift which links students to the main ski run in the valley. The hotel itself is

typical (Italian ski resort) in design, welcoming, spacious and well equipped to deal with school groups.

Students will have the opportunity to ski long, winding runs for all abilities and take in some amazing venues at the same time.

The countdown has officially

begun. Bushey Meads students, it will soon be your turn to experience Falcade and all it has to offer.



BMS Table Tennis Stars!

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal



Despite the cold weather and a bit of a breeze it has been great to see some of our outdoor table tennis tables being used at breaktime and lunchtime. One of the real advantages of our school site is the amount of outdoor space (something that newly built schools sometimes compromise on) and students are utilising this to the full.

The table tennis tables are there for anyone to use before school, during breaktime or lunchtime and even after school – all you need to do is bring in your own table tennis bat and balls and start playing!



BMS Students Talent Spotted at National Junior Games

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

Last Sunday one of our hard working TAPIs Mrs Hedges escorted Kai (07Maple) to the prestigious UEL Sportsdock in London to compete in the London Region Boccia Championship competition. Kai had been previously 'talent spotted' by Boccia England at the Stoke Mandeville National Junior Games in September 2014, even though he had only been playing for a few weeks since joining Bushey Meads.

The competition was a challenging but enjoyable experience for Kai as his two matches were both against extremely experienced players, one of whom is a member of the current England team!

Throughout the competition Kai showed enthusiasm and determination, and although he was unsuccessful this year, he is already talking about next year's competition where he hopes to improve his game play. Well done Kai – we are really proud of you representing the school at such a high level!



Read for My School 2015

By Ms Da Silva, English Teacher

Love reading? Want to try different types of books for free? Then *Read for My School* is perfect for you!



Read for My School is open to all pupils in Years 7 and 8 and it couldn't be any simpler; you just read as many books as possible before 20th March! In doing so, you have the opportunity to win prizes both for yourself and the school.

Prefer to read online or via a tablet? No problem! *Read for My School* has a free online library, containing over 150 books covering lots of different genres, all compatible with Kindles, iPads and most major tablets. Alternatively, you can choose printed books and read those too – you just need to log in and enter the details of what you've read.

There's a book review competition for those budding writers out there and opportunities to share your views on what you've read via the online polls.

Simply sign up using the Bushey Meads classroom code – **508216** – and get started!

Go to www.readformyschool.co.uk to sign up or to get further information.

Living as a Family

By Mr Donovan, Maths Teacher / Head of Sycamore House

Last week every BMS House held an assembly in the Main Hall and gathered as a vertical group with House members from Year 7 – 13 to focus on the Theme of the Week – Family.

It was a privilege to be part of the Sycamore House Assembly on Friday and celebrate the achievements of so many students in Sycamore House – recognised for their effort, attainment and contribution to the school and local community.



Our Head of House, Mr Donovan, called out their names and encouraged us all to be inspired by their work.

Mr Donovan also encouraged us all to think about the Theme of the Week and recognise and celebrate the wonderful diversity that exists in our own House, our inclusive school and our world. Three students from Year 7, Luxsa, Lakshaa and Geerthigan shared with us some images and thoughts about their own family and cultural backgrounds as a great example.

Les Miserables - Catch Up With The Stars

By Amira, Arts Faculty Journalist

The Les Miserables rehearsals are swiftly coming to a close as we have run the whole show now and start to round things off in preparation for the performances. I'm sure by now most of you have bought your tickets and are eagerly anticipating the performance. If not, hurry, they're selling fast!!

I caught up with Ben, Year 13, who plays the principal role of Monsieur Thénardier. Here's what he had to say...

Amira: So Ben, who do you play in Les Mis?

Ben: I play the role of Monsieur Thénardier.

Amira: Have you seen Sacha Baron Cohen in the film then?

Ben: Yes I have.

Amira: Is there a lot of pressure, are you taking any inspiration?

Ben: Yes, I like the way he acts.

Amira: Ok, are you feeling the chemistry between Madame Thénardier?

Ben: I really enjoy acting with both the junior and senior Madame Thénardier and their reactions are always hilarious.

Amira: What's your favourite song in Les Mis?

Ben: Gavroche's Little People I think.

Amira: Good choice, best of luck performing on all the nights!

Law-making in Westminster

By Mr L Arnold, Assistant Headteacher KS4



Year 12 students of Government and Politics toured the Palace of Westminster on Monday and visited both chambers of Parliament. Commemorations and displays marking the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, which paved the way for the emergence of the House of Commons and democracy as we know it today, were on show in Westminster Hall along with tributes to Winston Churchill who died 50 years ago. The students stood among the rows of green benches where MPs fiercely debate the issues of the day and marvelled at the splendour of the House of Lords.

At the end of the tour, the students engaged in an interactive workshop where the process of parliamentary law making was explored. The students enjoyed simulating a debate in the Commons over a prospective bill and then considered how the public, MPs, Peers and the monarch shape our laws before evaluating the role played by parliamentary processes.



A visit to the Supreme Court was next on the itinerary. An exhibition below the main courtroom explained how the UK's highest court of appeal is modelled on the US's Supreme Court and, even though it has less power, how its separation from government in 2009 has seen its influence increase. Students were able to make their own rulings on various authentic cases and to sit in the court room chairs usually occupied by the 12 Law Lords.

We also visited the great offices of state along Whitehall. Students got as close as possible to 10 Downing Street and visited the sites of government departments such as the Cabinet Office, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Treasury.

After an exhausting yet rewarding day, Dylan of 12O, remarked: "It has helped bring our studies to life" and all were unanimous in saying they would be approaching the remaining weeks until their first Politics exam with renewed energy and enthusiasm.



BMS Sports News

By Mr Cartledge, Head of PE



The Year 8 basketball team have successfully won the Watford District B League after defeating Rickmansworth and FC Academy. The withdrawals of Immanuel and Westfield schools from the league means the boys finish with a 100% record and promotion to the District Premier League.

In match 1 against St Joan of Arc, the boys put in an excellent display winning 31-12. With Joel and Yama dominating on defence, and Charlie orchestrating the offence, the boys were ahead from start to finish. Charlie top scored with 18 points with other points coming from Yama 4, Tadas 3, Ben 2, Finlay 2, Joel 2.

In match 2, despite some resolute FC Academy defiance, the team finally overcome them 42-28 with an outstanding display from Charlie who top scored with 26 points. Other scorers were Yama - 12 and Joel - 4. The win is a reward for all the hard work put in by the team who regularly practice before school.

Full Squad : Charlie, Joel, Yama, Tadas, Ben, Finlay, Ben, Carter, Sam, Jack, Anas, Peter, Harrison, Mert.

Year 10 Football

Last Thursday, the Year 10 team put in a spirited performance in very difficult conditions in the U15 District Cup semi-final but eventually lost to a very strong St Joan of Arc team.

Squad : Archie, Charlie, Andrew, Tom, Louis, Sam, Leon, Kobe, Luke, Lyes, Danny, Alfie, Ben.



Sixth Form Basketball – Wed 21st Jan 2015

By Mr O'Kelly, PE Teacher

Starting a new season in the very competitive Sixth Form Watford District league the boys played their first game against Rickmansworth School.

A fine display of defensive play, coupled with periods of scoring dominance led to a 47-36 win.

The squad has some way to go to replicate the dominant performances from last year but with their continued hard work and growing team cohesion, confidence is growing and the play is sure to improve.

Daniel (13Ash) top scored for the team in the win over Rickmansworth, scoring a very impressive 20 points, with Tate (13Oak) contributing 10 more points. Without the extra height you might expect to see in Sixth form basketball Zac (13Oak) and Tom (13Willow) produced some extremely agile build up play, leading to many of the scoring chances.

The squad are looking forward to their weekly training sessions and the chance to compete against other local schools.

Final Statistics –

Student	Points Scored
Tarik	4
Tate	10
Sam	2
Zac	5
Daniel	20
Tom	4



Steady as you go!



By Ms Heartfield, Head of Computing



Harri (7B), Billy (7E)

During future skills lessons this term Year 7 have been making steady hand games. They have invented some amazing themes and concepts for the games and once they are completed the best ones will win a prize.

It's been very rewarding for some of these students, who are soldering for the first time, to create a circuit which powers a light and a buzzer. It is a pleasure to see their faces the first time they test their work and it works! Here are some of 7Newton at work.



Jake (7B), Ella (7W)

Little Reddings and Year 10 Language Leaders make pain au chocolat!



By Mrs Dawson, Head of MFL Faculty

Last week, Year 5 came to use our fabulous Catering Suite to make pain au chocolat with some of the brilliant Year 10 Language Leaders. Many thanks to Mrs Woodhouse for bringing up her class.



Vital health and safety instructions to eating hot pain au chocolat



Happy Year 5 looking forward before using the ovens



Year 5 quizzing Year 10 on their numeracy skills by testing their times tables!



The final result with spares for friends

Queen Mary, University of London

By Mrs Charles, Spanish Teacher



Nat (13E) has been offered a place at Queen Mary, University of London where he will read Spanish and Portuguese.

I am particularly proud of Nat as the interview was conducted in Spanish and in addition to his timetabled Spanish and FLA lessons, he attended a practice interview session with Jana Diez Manrique our Spanish TAPI.

Many thanks to Jana and to Nicky Day for your support

Safer Internet Day 2015

By Ms Heartfield, Head of computing



Assemblies this week have focused on staying safe when living the virtual world and have a particular focus on half term when many students are at home unsupervised.

Students have been reminded that the internet can be a great resource for discovering new things, being creative and communicating with others world wide but it's also a place where students can find themselves out of their depth and needing help.



If you need more information

- [BBC Top Ten Online Safety Tips – BBC Webwise site](#)
- [ThinkUknow - advice for parents and carers](#)

Les Miserables

By Mr Cox, Cover Supervisor



The rehearsals for the school production are now in their final stages and the cast and crew have been working tirelessly to prepare for the performances next week. *Les Miserables* opens on Monday 9th February and will run until Thursday 12th.



I am so very proud of everyone involved and I urge you to grab your tickets and come along to what is poised to be an unforgettable show. I have very much enjoyed directing the production this year and I am eternally grateful for all the help and support that I have had from students, staff and even parents alike. Break a leg everyone and above all...



have fun!



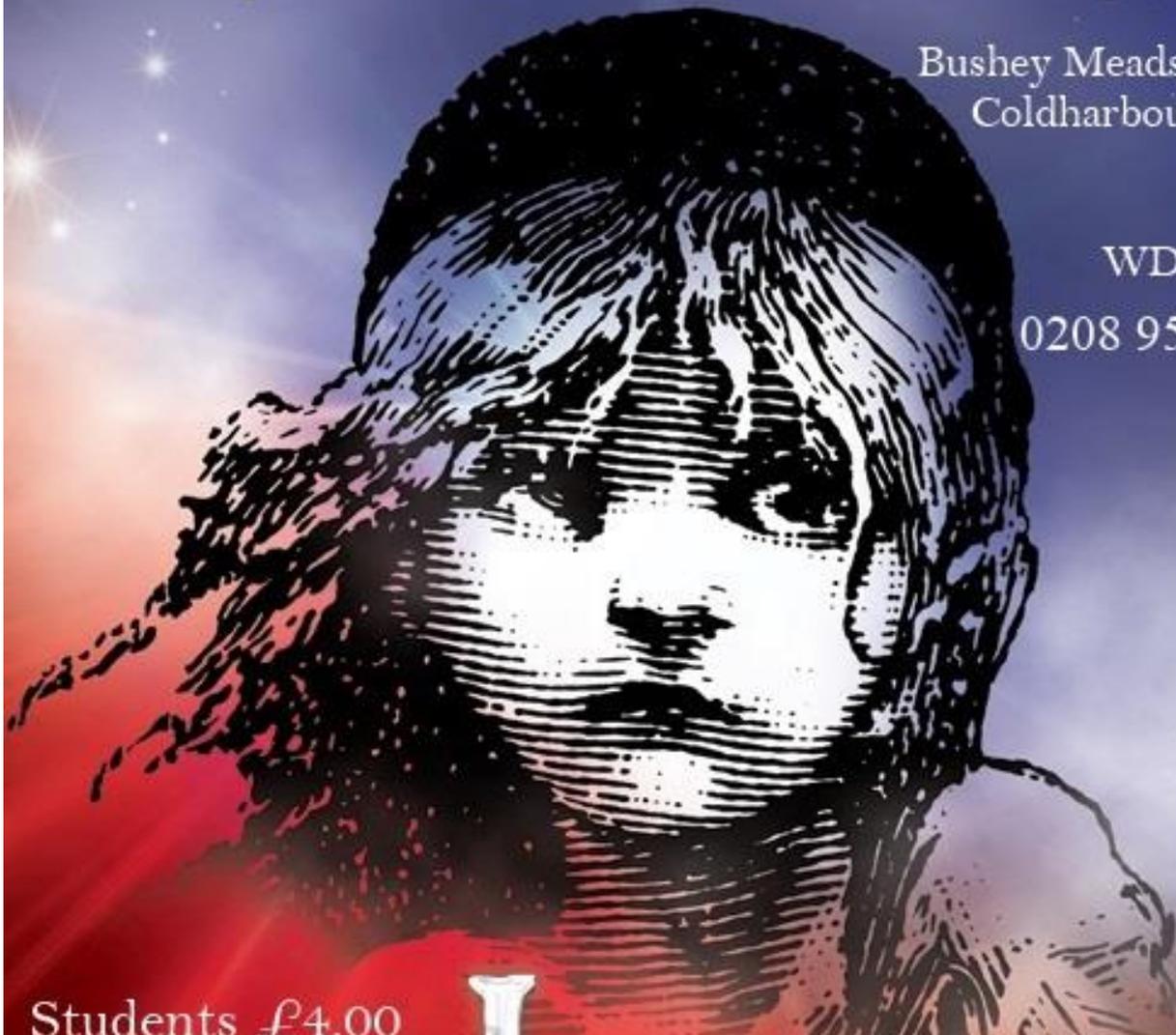
Bushey Meads School

February 9th - 12th 2015

All performances start at 7:00pm

Bushey Meads School
Coldharbour Lane
Bushey
Herts
WD23 4PA

0208 950 3000



Students £4.00

Adults £8.00

Tickets available now

Les Misérables

School's edition

TERM DATES – 2015/16

Autumn Term 2015

TERM STARTS	Thursday 3 September	Yr 7 Induction Day (11.00am start) Yrs 8-11 start P4 (12:30pm) Yr 12/13 Registration all day
	Friday 4 September	Yrs 7-11 commence at 8:40am Yrs 12 & 13 – Induction Day

HALF TERM

Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October

INSET DAYS

Friday 25 September

Monday 2 November

TERM ENDS

Friday 18 December at 12:15pm

Spring Term 2016

TERM STARTS Monday 4 January at 11:00am

HALF-TERM

Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February

INSET DAY

Monday 22 February

TERM ENDS

Wednesday 23 March at 12:30pm

Summer Term 2016

TERM STARTS Monday 11 April at 11:00am

BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 2 May

INSET DAY

Tuesday 3 May

HALF-TERM

Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June

TERM ENDS

Friday 22 July at 12:15pm

