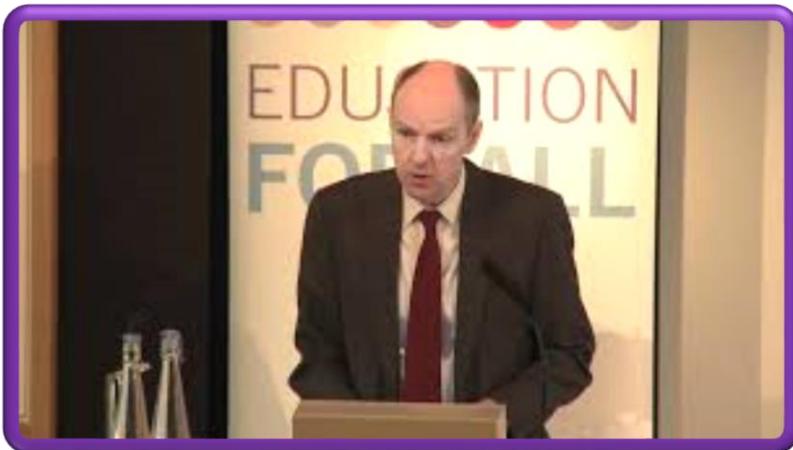


Bushey Meads School Represented at Discussion with Nick Gibb



It was a real privilege to represent the school at an important table discussion with Nick Gibb - MP and Minister of State at the Department for Education last week. Joining a number of other local Headteachers, I was able to pose some questions to the Minister related to recent curriculum reforms and initiatives and inform him about some of the outstanding work we are doing here at Bushey Meads School to truly personalise the curriculum for all our learners.



Richard Harrington MP for Watford was also present at the meeting and was very interested to hear about the plans we are making at the school to increase choice, create greater flexibility and provide more opportunities for all our learners to succeed at the highest level.

Jeremy Turner
Executive Principal

Dates for the diary

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

25 February

Y10 Maths Competition

27 February

Y10 Fire Skills Course Session 3

28 February

Stoke Mandeville Sports Camp

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

KEY STAGE 3



Bethany – 7 Oak

This week's student of the week for KS3 is Bethany in Year 7. Since starting at Bushey Meads School, Bethany's polite manner and willingness to help has been outstanding. She always has a smile for everyone and works hard in lessons. Bethany's most recent achievement is the work and commitment she has shown in being part of the school production, *Les Miserables*. Bethany has fully taken part in all of her rehearsals and every morning last week was part of the cast who have performed a taster for the all year groups in order to promote the show. Bethany showed confidence on stage while singing and acting which impressed the audience immensely. Well done Bethany, we are very proud of how well you are doing at Bushey Meads School!

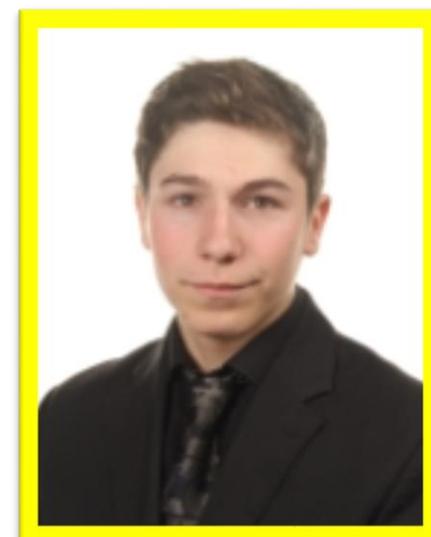
KEY STAGE 4



Ella - 10 Ash

Ella is this week's KS4 student of the week. Ella is currently performing in the school production of *Les Misérables* playing the part of Madame Thénardier. Ella enjoys the excitement of treading the boards each night and Mr Cox singled out Ella's commitment and professional attitude towards the show. Ella will be auditioning for the Watford Youth Theatre and wants to study drama at 6th Form here at Bushey Meads. Ella encourages all students to follow their dream and do something that they enjoy doing.

KEY STAGE 5



Ben - 13Sycamore

Our KS5 student of the week this week is Ben who is currently in Year 13. He has been awarded this for his excellent effort in all his lessons and his commitment to the School Production of *Les Miserables*. Ben played one of the main roles, Monsieur Thernadier, in the show for four evenings and demonstrated excellent comic timing and a lovely singing voice! Ben is currently studying Media Studies, Music and Psychology.

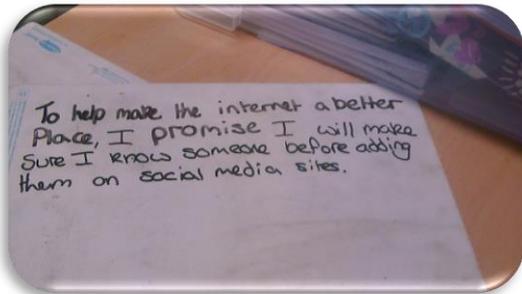
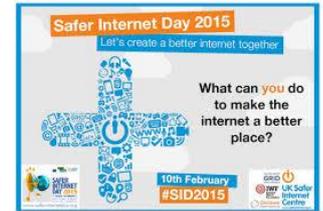
THEME OF THE WEEK

LETS CREATE A BETTER INTERNET TOGETHER

Linda Heartfield, Head of Computing



As well as our assemblies this week focusing on staying safe when living in the digital world. Form time activities have also been encouraging students to think about what they could do to make the internet a better place to coincide with Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 10th February 2015.



Students have been photographing their pledges and these will be made into a whole school montage.

Here is a pledge from Year 9.

Primary Schools Visit to BMS

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

On Monday of this week BMS hosted nearly 200 students from a number of local primary schools, including our partner school Little Reddings and they enjoyed one of the stunning performances of the School Production Les Miserables.

Pictured here waiting for Act 2 to start after enjoying some refreshments in the school restaurant, they all loved the visit to BMS and went away inspired to develop their own talents in the performing arts - possibly one day able to join our superb school and take part in a similar whole school production.



BMS Promoting Lifeskills...

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal



Besides learning about the content of a real variety of subjects across our curriculum, students also learn and develop a whole variety of skills for life on a daily basis at BMS.

In one of Miss Ward's PE lessons it was great to see the students working in groups to complete a research project linked to Healthy Lifestyles and Nutrition and then present their detailed findings to the audience of their peers in a confident, concise and engaging way.

STAFF PROFILES

By Mrs Armitage, PA to Executive Principal

Five Teaching Assistants have been recruited this term to join our existing team who support our physically and neurologically impaired (PNI) students. I would like to introduce you to each of them in turn:

Jana Diez Manrique: Miss Diez Manrique comes from a town called Burgos in northern Spain. Having attained a degree in Education and Psychology in Spain she decided to come to the UK three years ago to improve her English and to teach Spanish to adults. This is her first post as a Teaching Assistant which is now giving her the opportunity to work with children. Miss Diez Manrique is mainly assigned to assisting students in French and Spanish lessons where she can give them the advantage of her wonderful ability of both languages. In her spare time she loves photography and nature – the latter being an element of Spain that she certainly misses.



Alexandra Manta: Miss Manta originates from Eastern Europe and has a background of working with children with special needs, her area of specialism being autism. Prior to joining us she worked in Edgware as a support worker. She commented on how much she is enjoying working with our children here at Bushey Meads. Miss Manta's hobbies and interests include reading and playing chess.

Kerril Hockley: Miss Hockley joins us from Hertswood Academy in Borehamwood, where she was a Learning Support Assistant. She is already thoroughly enjoying working with our PNI students, and is assisting a number of them in various lessons. A mother of three children herself, Miss Hockley says she doesn't have too much time for hobbies and interests of her own – her main interest is sharing and supporting their hobbies and interests! All three children are currently at Little Reddings School so she doesn't have far to travel when she finishes at BMS at the end of the day, just in time to dash down the road to collect them after their busy day.



Janet Wright: Mrs Wright was able to join us by January when a vacancy occurred so that she could continue to support the student she had supported at his junior school who had moved on to BMS in September of last year. She is travelling for a minimum of one hour by car each way to get to BMS in order to continue this support – a true demonstration of commitment. Mrs Wright commented on how friendly everyone is at BMS and especially in the Base unit and said the happiness of the students makes her happy too!

Ellen Lazarus: And last but by no means least I would like to introduce you to Miss Lazarus, who has joined us straight from Uni. She graduated in Photography and has a particular interest in the application of using art in therapeutic techniques. This is something she is hoping to study in the future but at present she is gaining experience of working with young people with special needs. As with Mrs Wright, Miss Lazarus is also finding the children so happy, and also commented on how lovely and helpful the staff are too.



I am sure you join me in wishing all these Teaching Assistants who have recently joined a team who make such a contribution to the successes of our PNI students during their school day, every success with their personal careers too.

Student Learning Consultants - At the cutting edge of our teaching and learning

By Ms Morawska, Deputy Headteacher



You will have read from Mr Turner's recent article, about the time dedicated by staff and governors to review the excellent marking and feedback for learning, which is being received on a daily basis by our students.

This whole-school evaluation programme has certainly showcased some outstanding practice, which will be shared with staff as part of our continual drive to improve.

However, this 360 degree self-evaluation would not have been as successful without the support of a group of our Student Learning Consultants. They, along with our staff and governors reviewed practice and their comments from first-hand experience supported a fully-inclusive review. I certainly know they all found it very beneficial and it was wonderful to see a cross-section of our community working together to achieve a common goal. I am also certain they will respond much more keenly to their feedback, from now on, having learnt how very important it is to support progress.



Safer Internet Week at BMS

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

Our Main School Assemblies this week were planned around Tuesday's National Safer Internet Day 2015. Ms Heartfield our hardworking Head of Faculty for ICT led the superb assemblies and encouraged all students to enjoy the positive aspects of the internet but also stay safe and think carefully about how they use social media in particular in a responsible way.

I would like to thank Ms Heartfield for her work in, not only planning and delivering the very important assemblies, but also preparing the activities for Form Tutors that promoted wider discussion across our school community related to this hugely important agenda.



Motivational Speaker Visits BMS

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

It was a real privilege to welcome Lauren Wright to our school community on Tuesday of last week. Lauren has worked in education for many years and is also a Life Coach and motivational speaker.

Besides speaking at the KS4 Assembly and leading two sessions for our 'Reach 4 the Stars' students in Year 11, she enjoyed a tour of both Bushey Meads and Little Reddings Primary School and was really impressed with the teaching and learning in both settings.

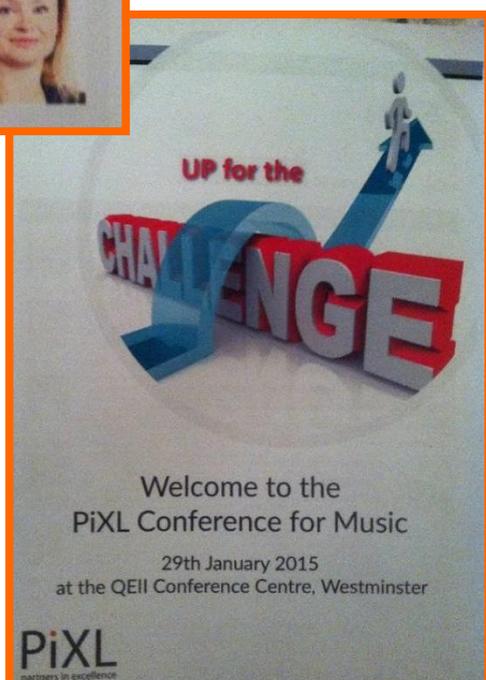
As always all students demonstrated superb behaviour and conduct, welcomed her to their classrooms, smiled and held doors open for her on the corridors. Lily in Year 9, one of our outstanding Student Learning Consultants, impressed her greatly with her personal welcome and explanation of the learning in her IT Lesson.



BMS Sharing Outstanding Practice at a National Level

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

the **PiXL** club
partners in excellence



As a school, for a number of years now, we have been part of the Partners in Excellence Collaborative (PiXL) – a national organisation of some 1500 schools from across the country.

A number of key staff in the school regularly attend their conferences and showcase exemplary practice to the many teachers and school leaders who attend. Last month our newly appointed BSJT Music Coordinator Miss Brown spoke at the PiXL 'Up for the Challenge' conference focusing on sharing outstanding practice in music education.

Miss Brown presented to a packed audience of some 250 music educators from across the country about key areas related to teaching and learning such as Personalised Learning Checklists, Tracking Success and Walking Talking Mocks.

It was great for the school and the Trust to see a member of staff from our Learning Community showcasing her work at the highest level.

Travel Surveys

By Ms Morawska, Deputy Headteacher



You may recall completing a travel survey linked to the transport provided to and from Bushey Meads School. Parents/carers were asked how they wished to purchase the fare either in the form of a pre-paid pass or on a casual cash-paying basis. The survey asked about the days and parts of the day (morning/afternoon) where parents/carers knew their child would make more use of the transport.

We had 135 responses overall, with 76 responses (56%) preferring to pay on a daily casual basis. The number of casual users for the morning service ranged between 8 and 15. The afternoon usage ranged from 26 to 33 responses. This information will help guide us as to how best we can approach alternative bus companies and negotiate transport which will be supportive of both parties.

In the meantime, Mullany's Coaches, who currently provide the commercially run bus service to Bushey Meads, have devised a survey to advise of three routes (one a potential new route). To complete this survey click on the following link: <http://goo.gl/AlwC3m>

We would be very grateful if you could kindly complete this survey and we will forward this information to them.

On the timely completion of the survey, we will present you with the results. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the current transport to Bushey Meads, please contact Mullanys Coaches, in the first instance.

Countdown to Examination Success

By Lee Arnold, Assistant Headteacher (KS4)

The countdown to the GCSE examination season for Year 11 students now stands at a mere 41 teaching days. Year 11 students have been working hard and engaged in a variety of revision activities in all subjects. Most students have also been finishing off assessed assignments and coursework.



There is also a comprehensive lunchtime and after school revision programme. English, Maths, ICT and Design and Technology are offering support sessions over the half term break to ensure that Bushey Meads School's results this summer will be some of the best ever!

Parents, of course, have a crucial role to play in their child's examination success. Please consider implementing some of these ideas to support your son or daughter over the half term holiday:

- Work out a revision timetable for each subject
- Find a quiet space where they will not be disturbed by younger sibling.
- Break revision time into small chunks – 45 minute sessions with short breaks at the end of each session often work well
- Make sure your child has all the essential books and materials
- Condense notes onto postcards to act as revision prompts
- Buy new stationery, highlighters and pens to make revision more interesting
- Go through school notes with your child or listen while they revise a topic
- Time your child's attempts at practice papers
- Agree with your child to limit access to mobile phones and social networking – help them to see this as a treat during the short breaks
- Feed them with healthy food, complex carbohydrates to keep them concentrating– feed their brains!
- Encourage them to avoid energy drinks as this will leave them tired and lacking in energy when the 'sugar rush' wears off
- Allow them to revise with a friend – gently remind them to stay on the revision and not gossip!

Super - Curricular Work at Bushey Meads School

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

Our **Friday Faculty Focus** last week led by Mrs Raghvani reminded all staff at our weekly Staff Briefing of the importance and impact that Super Curricular work can have in terms of raising student achievement. Work that is completed by students that is outside of their learning activities in school or that set as home learning, is Super-Curricular work – independent work that stretches and widens the breadth of knowledge that students develop.

One example of this type of work was linked to our Theme of the Week last week - **Courage** and I was really impressed with all the students across the school who completed some of this independent research and study. All students who participated in the Super-Curricular challenge were recognised for their work with Achievement Points and a letter from the Executive Principal but I was most impressed with the many students in one Tutor Group who had a go – well done 8 Ash!

My favourite though, was the work completed by **Noah** in **11Willow** published below:

Courage at Chernobyl

By Noah, 11Willow

The Chernobyl explosion is one of the most drastic examples in the history of nuclear power, but the disaster could have been much worse but for the action of three extremely courageous men. The situation was that a chamber which was holding a huge piece of radioactive carbon was in danger of melting through the floor into a pool of water. If this had happened there would have been an enormous steam explosion which would have forced thousands of tons of radioactive material into the atmosphere.

It was decided that someone needed to drain the pool in order to save millions of lives. Three men (Alexei Ananenko, Valeri Bezpалov and Boris Varanov) selflessly gave up their lives in order to open up a valve, which led to them receiving huge amounts of radiation. These

three men

saved most of Europe from becoming a radioactive wasteland. They knew it was a 'suicide job,' but they thought of others before themselves.

As it was, even with their bravery and courage, seven million people were affected, nuclear rain fell as far away as Ireland, up to 60,000 cases of thyroid cancer developed, 600,000 people were exposed to high levels of radiation and 200 Tons of radioactive material is still inside the reactor.

However the Chernobyl incident could have been much worse if it wasn't for the **courage** that the three men showed for the lives of others.

If they had not done what they did, then most of Europe would have been left as a nuclear wasteland.



Year 10 Fire Skills Course – DofE

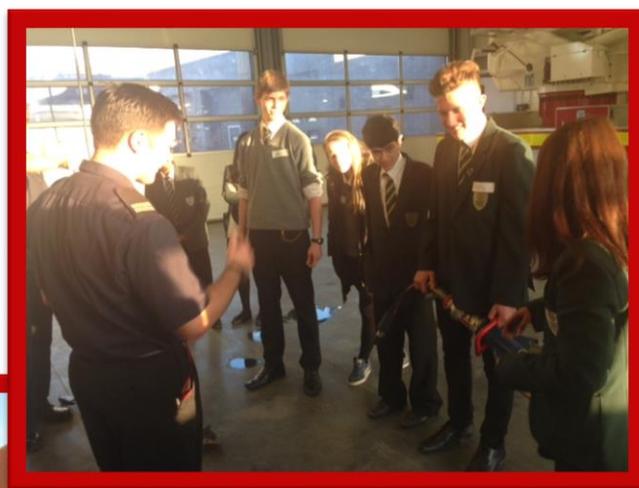
By Ms Kerr, Science Teacher

Nine of our year 10 Bronze award student have volunteering to take part in the newly set up Fire Skills course at Watford Station for 12 weeks on a Friday after school. The Bushey Meads Fire crew consists of five girls and 4 boys; Calvin, Christina, Vamsi, Harry, Thimeshi, Kimeera, Tungvidya, Neil and Frances.



Although we have only had two sessions the Fire Service have been incredibly impressed with our cohort especially last Friday with the cold weather and the even colder water.

So far our students have learnt to open water hydrant, used the fire engine and connected it to the water hydrant as well as learning the commands and formalities for drill runs. Over the next few weeks our students will have the opportunity to use breathing apparatus, cut open a car in a road traffic collision and much more.



Year 12 & 13

Pre-Public Examinations Results Afternoon

By Mrs Ash, Assistant Headteacher (KS5)

Friday 6th February was a very significant occasion for Years 12 and 13 as they received their Pre-Public Examination (PPE) results in a special gathering in the Hall. The students got a chance to feel what it will be like to receive their real examination results on 13th August.

Mr Turner led the presentations and spoke in detail about how students should best use the time remaining to ensure each students' potential is realised. To a motivational soundtrack, students were inspired to meet the various challenges that lie ahead with Mr Turner pointing out that the PPE results are a mark of current success but that there is more to be done with all still to play for.

At this point, Mrs Ash invited the students to collect their results envelopes from their form tutors. Anticipation was high with students' eager yet apprehensive to discover how well they had done. The tension was building in the room as the students were poised to open their envelopes. The moment finally arrived after everyone had counted down together to the point when the envelopes were torn open and results digested.



Judging from the many positive comments and reactions to their results, Year 12 and 13 students feel optimistic and have a clear understanding of the next steps of their journey with a big revision timetable ahead. With only 42 school days left for Year 12 and 57 school days for year 13 the time for action is upon us!



PE Lesson News - Faculty of PE and Health

By Mrs Cooper, PE Teacher



This half term has seen a wide variety of activities taking place in the PE and Health Faculty.

Students in KS3 have engaged in lessons ranging from dance, gymnastics, basketball, netball, healthy lifestyles, sports leadership and cheerleading. At KS4 the boys have been participating in table-tennis, hockey and football and the girls in a unit of fitness.



The BTEC sports leaders have assisted in KS3 lessons developing their own coaching skills for one of their theory modules.

The photos show evidence of just some of the hard work the students have undertaken, helping to embrace the faculty ethos:

'All students are regularly active and engaged in health-promoting exercise.'



Participation rates at Bushey Meads are very good but if for any reason a student cannot take part in PE then please remember the following ways you can inform the PE and Health faculty:

- A **valid written and dated** note provided by parents/guardians
 - **Parental/guardian email** to the student's **class teacher before 8.30 am**
 - **Phone call** to the **school reception before 8.30am**
- Should a student need to be excused for **more than 2 weeks** then a Doctor's or hospital note is required with an indication of when a student can start to participate again.



PE and support staff at Bushey Meads are experienced with all types of injuries and disabilities and many students undertake physio exercises as part of their PE lessons. If in doubt, bring kit and have a go!

Some of our Year 10 GCSE PE students also had a fantastic opportunity on Tuesday to take part in a yoga session.

As part of their course, the students look at various exercise methods and through active participation gained a greater understanding of the art of yoga. Thanks to Mrs Bingham for leading a really enjoyable session.



Watford Harriers Satellite Club

- ❖ Bushey Mead School
- ❖ Tuesday's
- ❖ 3.30pm to 5pm
- ❖ Year 7 and 8's
- ❖ Starting from 24th April



Athletes will have the opportunity to take part in a number of athletic events including sprints, hurdles, high jump and different throwing activities

Athletes who attend will be given the opportunity to join Watford Harriers

To book your place onto the satellite club please speak to Mrs Cooper

