

Half Term Year 11 Revision Classes

With just 8 school weeks to go before the GCSE examinations begin, it was encouraging to see so many hard working Year 11 students attending the all-important additional GCSE revision classes arranged last week during the half term holiday.



Aspire to Achieve



I would like to thank all the teachers for organising these important opportunities which can make a real difference in students' performance at this level and congratulate all the students for continuing to work hard work and demonstrate such aspirational attitudes at this important time in their education.

The photos capture some of the focused atmosphere during the Maths sessions on the Tuesday of half term.



Dates for the diary

3 March

Y11 Reach for the Stars Group 2
Debating Students Award
British Karting Championships
Y8 France Trip Parents Meeting

4 March

Y10 Weymouth Field Trip
British Karting Championships

5 March

Y9 District Netball Tournament

6 March

Junior Team Maths Challenge
Y10 Fire Skills Course Session 4

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

KEY STAGE 3



Josephine – 9 Willow

This week student of the week is Josephine and has been nominated by the Key Stage 3 Pastoral Manager, Miss Dhanecha. Josie is in Year 9 and since starting at Bushey Meads School she has had a consistently admirable work ethic. She is always polite, helpful and her level of maturity certainly defies her age. Josie is pleasure to have as part of the year group and this year, especially, her level of maturity and resilience has shone more than ever! Well done Josie!

KEY STAGE 4



Ben - 10 Elm

Ben is this week's KS4 student of the week. As well as studying hard at Bushey Meads School, Ben attends the Training and Education Centre based at Tabard Rugby Football Club once a week where sport and vocational activities are used to prepare students for their futures and motivating them to achieve. Ben has been getting some great reports back from the staff at Tabard RFC about his kindness and thoughtfulness towards others and how he is a credit to the school. Ben also gives up his own time to help coach football to children aged 3 to 7 with Barnet Football Club. Ben is a keen Arsenal fan and attends most home matches. He was recently disappointed with the defeat against Spurs.

KEY STAGE 5



Alex - 12 Elm

Our KS5 student of the week this week is Alex who is currently in Year 12. He has been awarded this for his excellent effort in all his lessons and for being a good role model within the 6th form. Alex is currently studying Biology, English, Music and Psychology.

THEME OF THE WEEK – ‘TIME’

By Hilary Morawska, Deputy Headteacher

‘Time is what we need the most and what we use the Worst’ - William Penn.

This quote greeted our student body, this week, as we all reflected on the value of time and how better we could make use of this precious commodity.

Students considered that time is a gift, it is given to them every day, but they cannot bank it or save it - it is the here and now and they have to use it wisely. Within form time, further reflection time was given to consider how time can be given over to the little things in life as we do not wish to consider the bigger, possibly more challenging elements of our lives. However, the students thought about how prioritising our time would ensure they were able to tackle the challenging parts of their lives, not waste their time with the little things and find themselves achieving. At this important time for our Year 11s, 12s and 13s, we hope this salutary tale has helped to galvanise their spirit to use their learning and time wisely.

Mardi-Gras

By Elise - 7 Maple



The week before half term, Madame Reid taught my class about the "Carnaval de Mardi Gras" which happens every year before Lent and is called Shrove Tuesday in England where we celebrate Pancake Day. We learnt about the main colours used on costumes and about the



celebrations and parades. Purple symbolizes justice, gold symbolizes power and green symbolizes faith.

Our homework was to make a mask using these colours that could be worn in the Carnival. It was a fun topic to learn about!

GCSE Art Trip to the Tate Britain

By Mrs Hoskins – Art Teacher



Last term, Year 10 and 11 art students enjoyed a visit to the Tate Britain in London. They enjoyed looking at a wide range of art works ranging from the 15th century through to modern art. Joe (Year 11) says "I thought it was really interesting to see how art has developed and changed throughout the centuries." Students were able to study and draw the art as they moved through the gallery and returned home having been inspired by the different artists. Ella and Jade particularly enjoyed the Turner collection. They thought



Turner's paintings were exquisite and were particularly interested in his use of light within his paintings.

Stunning School Production!

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

The recent School Production of Les Miserables was absolutely stunning and huge congratulations go to all the talented student performers, back stage crew, set designers and technical team who put on such a fabulous show over the four nights during the week before the half term holiday.



Directed by Mr Cox and ably supported by Mrs Lavelle and Miss Brown in the Music Department and the Head of Faculty Mr Knowles, as well as all the staff from across the school who have helped out and contributed in so many ways, the success of the show really epitomised the support and dedication to all students and their achievement.



So many parents, students, friends of the school and staff commented on the high standards that were attained through many hours of hard work over the last few months. It was brilliant – well done to you all!

Primary School 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.

Y7 Receptionist of the Term

By Mrs Biggerstaff and Mrs Nealon



Our Y7 receptionists all do an invaluable job and we would be lost without them volunteering to assist us. However, some students go the extra mile and stand out amongst their peers as exceptional.

Cerys (7Willow) who was one of our receptionists on Friday 30th January, has been identified as that special student for the first half of the Spring term and in recognition has been awarded 15 achievements points and a certificate of acknowledgement.

A big thank you goes out to Cerys and all our Y7 receptionists from Mrs Biggerstaff and Mrs Nealon.

Improved BMS Sixth Form Centre

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

A number of parents may have seen the recent headlines in the local paper related to our current expansion plans which involve extending the specialist Science provision at the rear of the school expanding the school restaurant area, comprehensive landscaping of the school site and the building of a new Sixth Form Centre.

Whilst very careful consideration had been given and detailed site surveys and feasibility studies completed over the past two years with the full support of the local planning department, the local Planning Committee have turned down the application, mainly due to concerns with the siting of the new Sixth Form Centre.

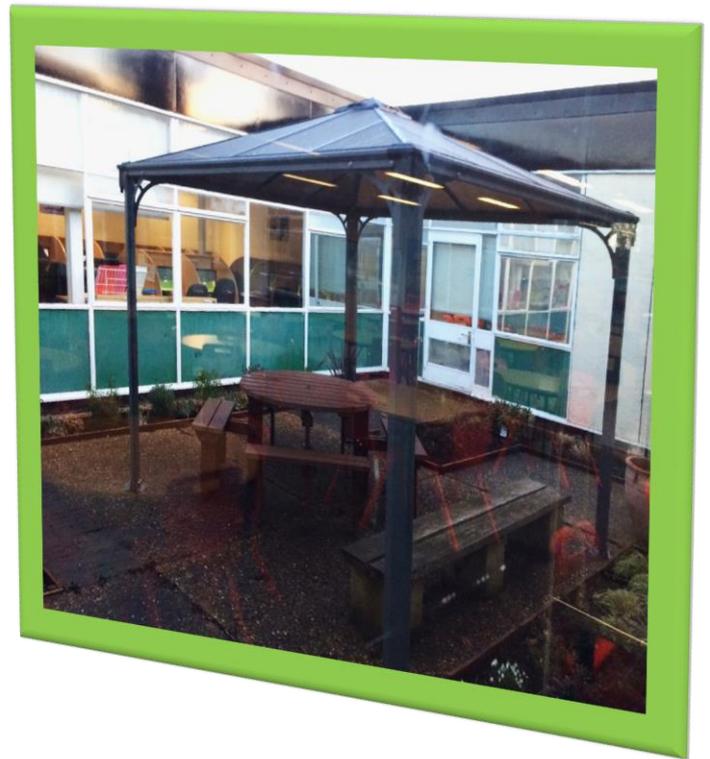
We are confident that the majority of the works proposed will still gain positive consent in the next few months so that the exciting project can progress and we are now revisiting the Sixth Form Centre aspect of the project as required.

In the meantime the school is not standing still and we are continuing to improve our school site in a number of ways. These include refurbishing our current Sixth Form Centre to provide an inspiring light and cheerful study area – now boasting a new look with new decoration, smart window blinds and colourful red chairs.



Our hard working Sixth Form students have their very own café bar where they can help themselves to complimentary drinks including all types of coffee, the ever popular hot chocolate and a variety of green and fruit teas for the more healthy option! Chrome Books continue to be provided – again free of charge.

Some work has even been done to enhance the Sixth Form garden area which, as the spring weather emerges, I'm sure will be a popular outside space.



Our Sixth Form students continue to be exemplary role models for the younger students in the school and many of them have stepped up to great positions of responsibility on the school's Student Parliament, as part of the thriving House System, running a huge variety of clubs and societies, helping out in lessons across the curriculum, taking part in community service activities across the Trust and beyond, or serving as Senior Student Learning Consultants in the school.

There is much to celebrate in our Sixth Form and display boards are regularly updated with the KS5 Student of the Week, news of achievements made across the school and destinations of previous BMS students – some of them to the very best universities in the country – including the top London ones and Oxbridge.



This House, Would Ban Valentine's Day: Junior School Debate 11th February 2015

By Lakshaa - Year 7

This was the first debate for the Junior Debating Team and the motion put forward was: **This House would ban Valentine's Day.**

There were many watching the debate, so the pressure was on. Year 7 students Lakshaa and Kenneth proposed this motion, whilst Marvin and George opposed it. Armed with information from intensive research before the day of debate, both teams were ready. To begin, Ryan (year 7), who was chairing the debate, took a straw poll to assess the feeling of the gathering. He would then compare it with the final vote.



Kenneth started the debate with a historical background of the Roman Saint Valentine, who was murdered and he declared that it would be more appropriate to remember his achievements rather than belittle his death on this day. Even more telling were his statistics into the increased suicide rates on Valentine's Day from those who felt isolated or unloved. If, for no other reason, this high figure could be lowered, then that surely would be an argument against Valentine's Day in its current form. In defence of this day, George told of the acts of love performed by St Valentine in the curing of the blindness of his jailer's daughter, which showed an act of love, to be celebrated. Nevertheless, I (Lakshaa) pointed out the sheer commercialism of the day, with confectioners and card manufacturers simply exploiting the gullible public. Marvin countered this by proclaiming that acts of generosity and acknowledgement of love were to be welcomed, not banned.

The audience questioned the two sides with some fierce questions, and Ryan controlled this brilliantly in his role as chair. Finally, the vote was taken and although it was not quite the same as the initial straw poll, the overwhelming majority went to Kenneth and me. Bushey Meads' students concluded that indeed, this House would ban Valentine's Day.

Thank you to all those who attended.

Supporting Transition from KS2 to KS3



This half term Bushey Meads and Little Reddings have been working together to consider how best to support and improve the transition experience for Year 6 students.



The process began with an invitation to Sebastian Gray, Literacy Co-Ordinator at Little Reddings, to observe a Year 7 lesson, followed by an invitation for Lauren Sibuns, Year 6 teacher, to also observe a Year 7 lesson. Both Sebastian and Lauren enjoyed their time at Bushey Meads and left brimming with ideas and enthusiasm.

Subsequent to these observations, Carla da Silva, Head of KS3 English at Bushey Meads, met with Sebastian to discuss the way forward. It was agreed that reading would be a key focus area. Both Lauren and Sebastian are keen to devote time to honing these essential skills in the Year 6 students after their SATs are completed.

Carla and Sebastian are also discussing and planning a 'master class' for the Year 6 students, to take place during the summer term, where they will get the opportunity to study Shakespeare. Carla is also due to visit Little Reddings next half term to observe the teaching of literacy in Year 6.

Both schools are looking forward to further collaboration and the potential benefits for our students.

Learning to meet the needs of all our students

By Ms Morawska, Deputy Headteacher



On Friday, 13th February, as our student body were busy working at home, our Bushey Meads staff joined together to focus their learning on meeting the needs of all our students.

Staff experienced a high-energy, motivational day led by our outstanding staff and external presenters.

The first part of our morning session focused on understanding more about the needs of our Highly Able students, where staff honed their skills by engaging in active strategies, presented by our staff, which will ensure stretch and challenge, for this group of learners, in our delivery. We look forward to evidencing the impact of these exciting strategies.

The second part of our morning saw our focus change as we were guided as to how best we can support our asthma sufferers, should our youngsters suffer an attack. In the very near future, we will be giving staff guidance on supporting sufferers of anaphylaxis.

We swiftly moved to another area of interest and national focus, that of E-Safety. An expert external adviser raised our awareness as he presented to staff legislation and guidance in support of our young learners, who are exposed to so many and often inappropriate platforms. Even for well-informed adults, realising the ease of accessibility within the internet to areas of concern, for our young generation, was an uncomfortable experience.



Our final presentation found staff reflecting on their own learning and mind-set as we engaged in learning how best we can motivate and support our students. The focus on the growth mind-set was a powerful tool, which will help staff present the learning and their feedback with their students as a 'can do' activity.

It was an excellent day and I would like to thank the staff and presenters who prepared the outstanding sessions and to our staffing body, for their commitment to their professional development in their pursuit of excellent outcomes for our students.

Superb Les Miserables Feedback

By Mr Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

Following the superb production of Les Miserable before the half term holiday, it was a real privilege to receive so many letters and emails of congratulations to all the students and staff involved. I have included some of them in this week's newsletter and I'm sure you will join with me in agreeing with all the sentiments expressed and feel very proud of what the students and staff achieved in producing such a stunning production of the highest quality.

Dear Mr Turner

I wanted to drop you an email, after the most amazing school production of Les Miserables. The whole evening was a true success to all the departments that give their time to help create and produce the school production. The solos the students sang reduced me to tears - very powerful. I would like to congratulate the whole cast for a wonderful evening and thank them for their hard work, time and effort they are all stars and deserve to enjoy there moment. Please relay this message to the whole cast, you have a very talented drama department, I look forward to seeing what they produce next

Kind regards
Mrs Weatherhead
Parent Governor

Dear Mr Turner,

I came and saw the show last night and wanted to say how fantastic it was. A very hard show to pull off, but Bushey Meads certainly more than managed it, as it easily rivalled the big shows in London. There are some incredibly talented students at Bushey Meads School and everyone involved in the show should be extremely proud of themselves. I am very proud that my daughter got to be a part of it.

Ms Jarvis
Parent of Year 9 Student

Dear Headmaster - Bushey Meads School

I attended the Monday performance of Les Miserables and was absolutely knocked out by the quality of the production. I've seen the West End production of this show and this was just as emotional and professional at an eighth of the price!! Please pass on my congratulations to everyone involved in the show. You should be extremely proud of all of them. A truly amazing evening that will live with me and my family for many years to come!

Mr Elson

Dear Mr Turner

What a fabulous performance! Please congratulate all the students, staff and volunteers involved in a wonderful performance last night. Everything was so professional. It is not the easiest show to pull off but they did it so well. It is great to see so many young people showing such commitment.

Thanks for a great evening,
Di Hoeksma
Chair of Governors

Dear Mr Turner,

Having attended last night's performance of Les Miserables, I thought it was only fair to pass on my congratulations to all those involved - the cast, technical team, directing/coaching team and everyone else who supported the production, including all those who gave up their time to sell tickets, refreshments and programmes, guide people to seats and so on. It was a fantastic group effort.

And, whilst the production itself was absolutely wonderful - the performances from the leads and ensemble were truly inspiring, along with the direction, music, costumes and set design - I was most impressed with the feeling of pride in their school that was obvious among many of the student members of the audience. That is not something I have experienced before, and is a testament to the quality of the production, the organisation of the evening, and a general feeling that Bushey Meads has come a long way in a very short space of time.

Thank you for enabling enriching activities such as Les Miserables and others to flourish inspire a whole new group of students to achieve even more than they might have thought previously possible. Please pass on my thanks and appreciation for a great production to Mr Cox, Mr Knowles and all the teaching staff involved.

Regards,
Mr Davies

Chair of the Student Achievement Committee

Dear Mr Turner,

I had the privilege of enjoying a performance of Les Miserables last night and I want to commend the school for the inclusivity of the cast in the performance as well as congratulate you on the standard of the performance itself. I have worked with students from Bushey Meads for a number of years and I applaud the work of Sue Lawrence, Nicky Day and the staff in the Base in supporting and actively encouraging those students who need additional support. This performance was an excellent example of how students with significant disabilities are included in the life of the school.

Regards,
Ms Billings
Children's Physiotherapist
Peace Children's Centre
Watford

Comic Relief - Friday 13th March

By Maddie 13Elm

We are 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 from Monday 2nd March.



Reach 4 the Stars!

By Mrs Ash, Assistant Headteacher KS5



Tuesday 24th February saw the second of our "Reach 4 the Stars" sessions for selected Year 11 students. The session focused on Exam Advice and Guidance with Eleanor Williamson in Year 12 sharing her tips for success having gained 2 A*, 9 A and 2 B grades in her GCSE examinations last year.



Chinese New Year – 19th February 2015

By Mrs Ash, Assistant Headteacher KS5

During tutor time this week, students have looked back at the Chinese New Year and learnt about the different animals that represent each year and their characteristics. 2015 sees the Year of the Goat (other years of the goat are 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991 and 2003). Many of our Year 7 students were born in the Year of the Goat and are believed to be calm, gentle, creative and thoughtful people.



Architecture Club

By Mr Donovan, Maths teacher



We are nearly there! After nearly 6 months of hard work and planning, we have nearly finished our Eiffel Tower model. We just need to do the restaurant at the top, and then do some finishing touches. We should be finished in a couple of weeks, and then will display it in a perspex case. We will then plan where the model can be displayed in the school!

