

Feedback from Parents



It is always fantastic to get positive feedback about our work at Bushey Meads School. This week I was delighted to hear from the parent of a Year 7 student who wrote in to a member of the Pastoral Team.....

First of all I really want to thank you.

My daughter is having an amazing time at your school, she has settled in very well, has a lot of friends, joined the Athletics club and Netball Club and plus she's really happy with all the teachers.

I would like to thank all the parents who take the trouble to write in – it means a lot to us.

Mr Turner
Executive Principal

Dates for the diary

30 March

Y11 Science Walking Talking Mock
Y11 Mock Drama Performance

31 March

Y10 Work-shadowing
Y11 Seated Volleyball Taster day
Y11 Raising Achievement Evening
Y12 & 13 Music Btec Performances

1 April

Y10 Work-shadowing
Y12 Drama Exam Performance
BMS Governors Meeting

2 April – Term ends 12.30 for
Easter break

21 April – Summer Term

Commences: 08.40 a.m.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

KEY STAGE 3



Adam - 9 Elm

This week's KS3 Student of the Week has been nominated by Miss Dhanecha, the KS3 Pastoral Manager. Adam has been chosen for a number of reasons including his consistent polite manner and good behavior. However, this week, Adam showed an incredible amount of honesty and integrity when he handed in a wallet that belonged to another student. The wallet contained cash, foreign currency for a holiday as well as bank cards, gift cards and loyalty cards. Adam's simple, yet significant act of kindness prevented a considerable amount of stress and upset for the student and members of her family. We are very proud of Adam. It is students like him that make Bushey Meads School such a wonderful community to be part of. Well done Adam and thank you!

KEY STAGE 4



Samuel - 10 Elm

Samuel is this week's KS4 student of the week. Samuel received an outstanding Spring term assessment report in which he scored an excellent six 7s for his attitude to learning. Samuel aspires to attend our 6th form and go on to study at a Russell Group University. Next week, Samuel will be taking part in the year 10 work shadowing event and will be working on the front desk of a busy hotel.

KEY STAGE 5



Jessica – 13 Maple

The KS5 Student of the Week is Jessica. Jessica has been awarded this for her outstanding attitude to learning as recognised by her class teachers. Jessica is currently studying Maths, Psychology and Philosophy and Ethics

Transport Update



As you are aware, earlier this year as a school we facilitated a number of thorough transport surveys and asked all Bushey Meads Parents to respond. Detailed responses regarding preferred transport to school and a break down by each half term and even daily preferences were encouraged. This enabled us as a school to gain a clearer picture of the transport needs of our main stakeholders. For your information just over 15% of all families responded and completed the surveys.

In line with our desire to work in partnership with local bus companies and transport providers last week, along with Deputy Headteacher Ms Morawska, I met with the General Manager and Operations Manager of Mullany's Transport.

The meeting focussed on the data the surveys provided and enabled us as a school to feedback about the wishes of our stakeholders.

Whilst Mullany's, like all the local bus services, are a private business entity and clearly need to run a viable cost efficient and profitable service to survive, I was impressed with their desire to offer the best service possible to Bushey Meads students within the parameters of their business model. Opportunities we discussed included the possibility of using larger buses on existing routes and combining local routes to provide even more choice.

They appreciated the feedback we provided and assured us that they are looking seriously at combining some of their local routes and bus services in the area - some of which currently service other local schools, in order to broaden the service for Bushey Meads students. Whilst they cannot guarantee provision for September they are certainly looking to facilitate some kind of service for Bushey Meads students in the area local to Oxhey which I am sure would be very welcome.

One thing they stressed was how much they appreciate the very good behaviour and positive relationships they have with the school and all the Bushey Meads students who they said were fantastic ambassadors for the school.



I would like to thank all parents for sharing their views in our surveys earlier this year and congratulate all the students who travel on all the local bus services in the area and help to maintain such a good reputation for our school in the local community.

Jeremy Turner
Executive Principal

Theme of the Week

Rewards

By Ms Smallwood, Head of Sixth Form

The theme of this week's assembly was Rewards. Traditionally, in the 6th form, we would acknowledge student achievements with prizes and certificates. However, this term, I wanted to students to focus in a different way when considering the notion of reward.

As we move ever close to the summer examinations, I urge students to really focus on the work they are putting in behind the scenes in order to reap the reward of achievement when they receive their examination results.

This time of year is particularly challenging for students and staff. Staff are working together with students in order to maximise their potential.

As I pointed out during the assembly, A level study is not easy, the challenges can sometimes appear to be insurmountable. I would encourage all of our students to focus upon the powerful motivation of the end goal, the final reward and that is opening their envelopes on 13th August. The road to success is not always easy but I would like to remind students that '*Effort only fully releases its reward after a person refuses to quit*'.
(*Napolean Hill - Writer.*)

May I take this opportunity to wish our students the very best of luck with their revision and preparation for the exams

Year 11 Exam Preparation Evening 31st March

Mr Arnold – Assistant Headteacher KS4

Year 11 parents and students are invited to a GCSE exam preparation evening on Tuesday 31st March between 6.30pm and 7.45pm in the school Hall. This event is designed to support both parents and students in the remaining weeks as students prepare for their GCSE exams and will aim to inspire and motivate everyone involved.

The evening will focus on general and subject specific information about how best to revise over the Easter holidays and we shall be offering advice on how to manage stress and time. There will be details of catch up and revision sessions so that parents and students are aware of all the extra opportunities. Resources to support revision at home will be available.

Counting Down to Exam Time!

Mr Arnold – Assistant Headteacher KS4

There are now less than 20 school days to go before the GCSE exams begin. Students who love technology and want to plan their revision online will love ExamTime, a free website designed for students to help them study smarter. Essentially this is a productivity app, allowing students to create mind maps, quizzes, flashcards, groups, notes software, and a study planner.

But crucially, ExamTime helps make studying more than just a mind exercise. ExamTime brings revision to life! All Year 11 students should check out www.examtime.com and download the app at <https://www.examtime.com/about/productivity-apps/>

Junior Debating Society: Wednesday 18 March 2015

Mrs Pinkus - Business Studies

THIS HOUSE WOULD BAN THE COMPULSORY TEACHING OF PE LESSONS IN SCHOOLS

Admirably chaired by year 7 Ryan, last week's junior debating society argued the above motion. Would those who were denied PE in their timetable lose the opportunity to excel in sports or live a balanced lifestyle? Would those who were weak at sport feel a loss of self-esteem if they had to follow this subject? Both teams argued their cases and were highly supported by sixth form mentor Zara (Year 12) and students from across the year teams who had come to engage in this lively topic.



Well done to those who had put themselves forward for this debate and thank you to those who attended. This House voted against the topic with a large majority wishing to retain PE as a compulsory subject on the school timetable.

Hertsmere Youth Conference

Darsh - Year 8



On Tuesday 17th of March, Year 7 and 8 form representatives attended Hertsmere's 8th Annual Youth Conference at the Civic Offices in Borehamwood. We arrived approximately at 9:30am and were welcomed by Fiona Pow (the event organiser).

Firstly, there was an interactive show and quiz by FLIP Theatre. We all participated by giving our opinions on voting and elections via the interactive voting pads. After that, we were given an opportunity to have a short conversation, in groups, with the local councillors. Various schools asked challenging questions to the councillors. In the end, we had a mock vote where we had to vote for the best councillor we'd met. Councillor Richard Butler won this "election" and gave us a few words of inspiration along with other councillors.

In the afternoon, we were involved in two workshops. The first workshop was debating on issues about voting including lowering the voting age to 16. In the second workshop, we learnt about the how our local council spends our tax. We discussed how we thought the council could spend this more effectively and efficiently. These ideas will be passed on to the council and they may even amend their plans and policies!



I believe this was an enjoyable experience. Everyone loved the delicious food offered at lunch and break and the opportunity to do something different for a day.

LOST PROPERTY

Just a reminder that all lost property will be displayed in the restaurant during break on Wednesday of this week, ie the last Wednesday of the half term period. If your child has lost any article please do encourage him/her to come and check whether it is being held, awaiting collection.

For your information, any named lost property is always returned to the child. Our collection of lost property only consists of unnamed articles and this tends to be predominately coats through the winter period. Please do ensure that all your child's uniform items, especially coats, are clearly named so that we can return the article to its rightful owner.

Please note, unclaimed lost property is given to the local Mencap charity shop in Bushey High Street, providing a second-hand uniform option for parents. NB – we are not yet passing on any of the new uniform items to Mencap.

Karting

Mr Chalkley – Head of Design and Technology



This year's British Schools Karting Championship was to be a tense, nail biting experience for all.

A trip to Formula Fast kart track on Tuesday night showed the skill and determination of our drivers with some notable driving performances. In year 10, Danny and Aaron battled hard at the back of the grid to maintain their position in the field and Louis took opportunities when they came to take advantage of others mistakes to climb through the pack to record some impressive results. The experienced heads of 6th formers Jack, Alex and Jamie showed in their style of driving with some great defensive strategies. At the end of the nights racing, they just missed out on qualifying by 4 points, with 104 out of 120. A great effort from them all.

On Wednesday night we returned to a familiar track at Heathrow F1 Karting to attempt qualification with some equally skilled drivers. The competition was of the highest order and great driving from Jaedon and Taarik secured some 1st place and top 3 finishes. Max, Alan and Sahil went through some very tough and at times rule breaking races to record some best lap times. That left Louis Cozens to finish the last race of the night, needing a 1st place finish for us to qualify. There were many twists and turns in the 10 minute race and Louis drove better than I'd ever seen, but he crossed the line in 2nd, so we missed out by 1 point with the team achieving 109 out of 120. All were understandably very disappointed, but they should all be very proud of their sporting attitude and skill. So no trophies this year, but a truly memorable experience.



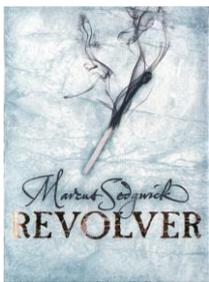
Your Imagination in the Hands of Expert Story Tellers: Great Reads for the Easter Break

Ms Morawska – Deputy Headteacher

Young adult writing today contains everything.

The best could thrill any readers willing to put themselves in the hands of expert storytellers and great writers. Readers, that is, of any age. Hundreds of superb novels have been published for young adult readers. Here are just eight of them and I challenge our Bushey Meads readers to fill their Easter break and beyond, by reading these and similar wonderful stories. If you had a thoroughly good read, why not write a review, share it with your form group and let me know. I would be delighted to publish your appraisal of your read!

Revolver: Marcus Sedgwick (Orion)



In *Revolver*, all Sedgwick's skill is compacted into something small and potent, controlled and devastating. As it begins, 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle, in 1910, 15-year-old Sig discovers his father's corpse; but how did he die? The arrival of a threatening stranger forces Sig to investigate his parents' past and confronts him with big questions about his own future. Set over just a couple of days, Sedgwick's spare, crisply written narrative flips between the past and recent present, but the tension never disappears, and as he creates this most hostile of environments, it's impossible not to be drawn in.

The White Darkness: Geraldine McCaughrean (Oxford)

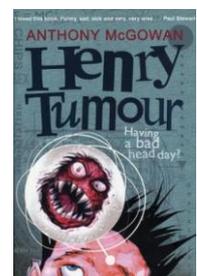
From the Arctic to the Antarctic, with the incomparable McCaughrean. Her books are always a thrilling read, with intricate plotting, characters you instantly feel you know personally and utterly beautiful writing; *The White Darkness* is no exception. It's the story of awkward teenager Sym (who is in love with the very-long-dead Captain Oates) and her "uncle" and their lunatic mission to the Antarctic. Things surely can't end well ... The book is dark, clever, and menacing, and, if you've never read McCaughrean before, you're about to make a glorious discovery.

Kit's Wilderness: David Almond (Hachette Kids Hodder)

Kit's Wilderness is one of those rare works that changes how we see the world. Kit Watson moves to the Northumberland town where his grandfather lives, and there he befriends new classmate Allie Keenan, and meets a strange, wild boy called John Askew, who plays a game called Death. With the delicate, dark beauty that characterises so much of Almond's work, *Kit's Wilderness* explores things beneath the surface, suffused with death and menace, and the spirits of the past, but this is a wilderness that is full of beauty and things that are precious, too.

Henry Tumour: Anthony McGowan (Random House)

This is one teen cancer book among many, but truly it's not like any other you may have come across. For one thing, it's funny – grimly, hilariously so. For another, in this book the eponymous brain tumour talks. The schoolboy afflicted with this unusual predicament is nerdy Hector, who has to decide whether or not to take the outspoken, anarchic tumour's advice as he finds his feet in the world, and has a lot of decisions to make before the surgeons get to work on them both. Original, smart and gripping, *Henry Tumour* breaks all kinds of rules, and does it with irresistible brio.

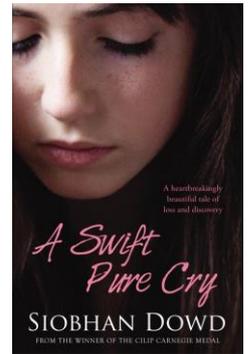


[The Graveyard Book: Neil Gaiman \(Bloomsbury\)](#)

It is one of those books that gives you a whole world – small and wonderful – which is entrancing for eight chapters, and which you feel very sorry to leave. It is set, as the title suggests, in a graveyard, where young Bod (short for “Nobody”) makes his home after his parents are murdered. Bod finds himself a new family and new friends – most of them long dead – a set-up that allows Gaiman’s macabre imagination to run wild. Along with the great characters and friendships, there is a gripping story – some delightful humour, and, as a bonus, superb black-and-white illustrations.

[Chaos Walking trilogy: Patrick Ness \(Walker\)](#)

For ambition and scale, this highly accomplished trilogy is hard to beat. The opening volume, *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, introduces us to Todd Hewitt, who lives in a place where there are no women, and where the thoughts of every man can be heard all the time (this is called Noise). Todd meets a girl, Viola, and they go on the run. Tensions build as a great battle breaks out between two factions, with Todd and Viola forced into involvement on opposing sides. The war explodes in scale and complexity, and stakes rise before a thrilling and satisfying conclusion to the series. The story is excitingly paced and has a cast of engaging characters, but taken together, the trilogy is also a complex study of responsibility, difference, maturity and power.



[A Swift Pure Cry: Siobhan Dowd \(Random House\)](#)

This debut introduces the small-town community of Coolbar in mid-80s Ireland, where we meet Shell and her young siblings. Dowd was a writer of immense sympathy and insight, and in *A Swift Pure Cry* she takes Shell, and her reader, on a journey. Many people assume young adult fiction will always be heavy on issues, and there are some big ones in this book, which tackles faith and death, but the questions are born out of, and always in the service of, the story and characterisation. *A Swift Pure Cry* is never wilfully bleak, never heavy-handed, never moralistic. A fine piece of writing.

[Life: An Exploded Diagram: Mal Peet \(Walker\)](#)

Life: An Exploded Diagram is a great novel of growing up and the delicious immediacy of teenage experience, but with a broad historical sweep and nostalgia, too. Partly autobiographical, it captures the experiences of Norfolk lad Clem Ackroyd against the backdrop of the Cuban missile crisis and imminent Armageddon. It is a sophisticated coming-of-age story, full of intelligence and compassion. It displays profound affection, pin-sharp humour and acrobatic leaps in chronology and scale – there’s even a religious cult.

Highly Able Evening at BMS



I was immensely proud to be the Executive Principal of Bushey Meads School, sitting in the audience last Tuesday at the **Highly Able Evening**, which was led so superbly by Assistant Headteacher Mr Fisher.

Arranged as an Information Evening for Highly Able students across the Bushey St James Trust, it was great to welcome so many students from Little Reddings Primary School and, speaking to their parents after the evening, they were all clearly inspired by the presentations that they heard.



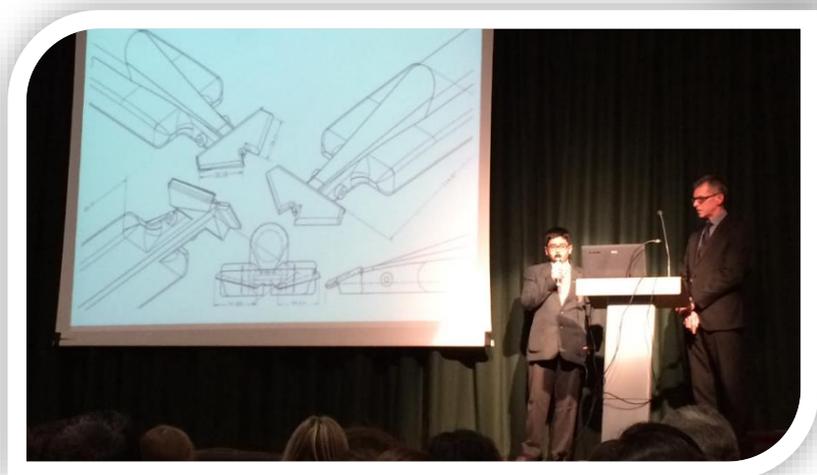
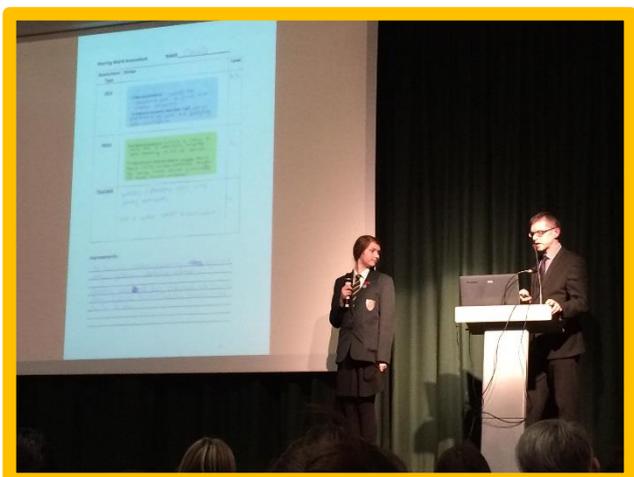
It was also fabulous to see so many students presenting about the numerous opportunities on offer at the school to take **up leadership positions** and participate in the **wider life** of the school





Students from all year groups in the school showcased learning of the highest quality across a whole range of subjects as a way of informing all the students and parents what is possible when you adopt a **'growth mindset'**, aim for the very top and truly *Aspire to Achieve*.





The idea of **Super Curricular work** was also promoted and BMS students demonstrated learning that they had committed to do outside of school that had not even been set as home learning by their teachers. Learning an instrument (or two or even three, as in Kajal's case), taking part in sporting events and activities and doing A level Maths questions just for fun (even if you are only in Year 9) were just a few inspiring examples.

I would like to thank all the students involved in the superb evening and obviously Mr Fisher for arranging the excellent event, which I am sure will serve to inspire many of our students to real success over the coming years.

As a fitting way to end our second term of the academic year we are planning to repeat the presentations from the evening in special assemblies for students in Years 7 and 8 at 9.00 am and for students in Years 9 and 10 at 11.30 am on the last day of term, **Thursday 2 April**.

Entitled '**The Best of BMS**' the assemblies will provide an opportunity for all students to reflect on their achievements to date and consider how they can make the most of every opportunity they have (both in and out of school) to aim high, maximise their learning and truly **Aspire to Achieve**.

Whilst we recognise that many of you will have work and caring commitments during the day, we would like to invite you as parents and carers to join us at the assemblies.

Refreshments will be served in the School Restaurant from 8.30 am for parents of Year 7 and 8 students and 11.15 am for parents of Year 9 and 10 students. The assemblies will last just under the hour. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mr Turner
Executive Principal

Health Week 2015

By Mr Cartledge, Head of PE

The annual Bushey Meads Health Week took place in the week on Monday 16th-20th March. The week included the annual fitness tests, Masterchef, a series of clubs and fixtures as well as the annual Fun Run where the school raised money for the British Heart Foundation.

Fitness Tests :

During the week all students were fitness tested using the Multistage Stage fitness test which is a test of students' cardiovascular fitness levels. The results can be compared to the normative national standards to give an indication of the efficiency of each students' hearts and lungs. This information will be tracked as the students go up through the school. Parents will be able to access the information shortly on the Learning Gateway where details can be found of the fitness results throughout each student's time in the school. Students worked extremely hard to achieve their maximum performance and we are hoping the results will raise awareness amongst the student population about their own levels of fitness and whether they are fulfilling the recommended number of hours of physical activity a week.

NHS Guidance : [Guidelines for 5 to 18 year-olds](#)

To maintain a basic level of health, children and young people aged 5-18 need to do:

- At least 60 minutes (1 hour) of physical activity every day, which should range between [moderate-intensity activity](#), such as cycling and playground activities and [vigorous-intensity activity](#), such as fast running and tennis.
- On three days a week, these activities should involve [muscle-strengthening activities](#), such as push-ups, and [bone-strengthening activities](#), such as running

Masterchef :

On Tuesday 17th March nearly 40 KS3 students participated in the Healthy Eating Masterchef competition. The catering suite was extremely busy as a range of starters, mains and desserts were cooked and served to the judges. The standard of the competition was very high with some real cooking talent on show. All the students really got into the spirit of the competition and the judges were very impressed with the quality and presentation of the food. After long discussions the final results were:

1st place Akshay Bathia and Bella Parker YEAR 8

2nd place; Christian Okeke YEAR 7

3rd place : Jarrishan Rajendrrah and Brayan Francis YEAR 8

Well done to all the students that took part and we are already looking forward to next year's competition.

Clubs and fixtures :

During the week there was the usual mix of clubs, fixtures and activities taking place. It has been an extremely busy 2 terms in PE with over 450 clubs and practices taking place and over 150 competitive sports fixtures. A reminder that the full list of weekly clubs and activities in PE can be found on the school website. In the summer term this will feature clubs and fixtures in athletics, cricket, rounders, softball and tennis as well as further inter house sports competitions.

A reminder also that the BMS PE and Health Faculty Twitter account is also an excellent source of information for what is going on regarding PE events in the school. We will be using this more and more over the next few months to communicate with students and parents so the more students and parents we have following us the easier it will be give out information.

FUN RUN 2015



This year the school's annual fun run was raising money for the British Heart Foundation. Special mention to the Year 10 Sports Leaders who visited form rooms throughout the week with their buckets collecting the money for the charity. The sun shone for the day itself and lots of the students really got into the spirit of the event



with fancy dress costumes and running as many laps as they could for the 30 minutes. Each lap was half a mile long with some students running over 8 laps which was a great effort. It was also fantastic to see so many staff out running with the health theme running through the whole school for the day. Well done to all students in the school for making it such a successful whole school event



and raising over £1000 for a very deserving charity.

A full series of photographs of the event can be found on the extranet in the PE area and in the PE and Health section of the website..



Music Clubs at Bushey Meads School



<i>Monday lunch</i>	Barber Shop	<i>Monday After School</i>	
<i>Tuesday lunch</i>	Strings Group	<i>Tuesday After School</i>	Senior Choir (Yr9 and above)
<i>Wednesday lunch</i>	Instrumental Development Programme	<i>Wednesday After School</i>	
<i>Thursday lunch</i>	Orchestra	<i>Thursday After School</i>	Junior Choir (Yr 7/8)



Debating Society: Wednesday 25 March 2015

Mrs Pinkus: Business Studies

This house would support torture in the name of national security

The room was packed, emotions were running high. Would this motion be passed or rejected? Chair, year 12 Sam, ran a straw poll and it appeared that the majority of students would support this contentious topic. Would the speakers convince the audience on their line of argument?

To begin, year 11 student Deborah (speaking for the motion) challenged the moral high ground and demanded that the audience face the reality of the threat of terrorism. Her co-defence, year 12 Zara, re-enforced the right of the UK public to be protected.



Arguing against the motion were year 12 students Ashni and Kevin, who drew attention to Article 5 of the Human Rights Declaration and emphasised our responsibility as guardians of democracy. Should we deem guilty those who are arrested purely on the grounds of association; would the confessions be genuine? They reasoned that there is no justification for torture.

The audience too were vociferous. Does torture simply ignite anger and encourage retaliation? How would we guarantee that confessions under torture are not falsified? If an arduous trial for murder results in imprisonment, why is torture given on the grounds of suggestion?

In their summing up both teams appealed to the audience to consider carefully. So, now the vote was taken. Such was the strength of the arguments today that the vote was evenly spread with 50% of the gathering voting for each side. This was a swing away from the original straw poll. Congratulations to our speakers who did a grand job today and well done to our audience for their challenging questions.

This was the final debate for our senior team as they are now preparing for their AS exams. We look forward to further senior debates in June. In the meantime we wish them all good fortune and look forward to their success.



The Junior Debating team will now pick up the gauntlet and continue the tradition of debates for the next half term. We hope to see many of our students there. A chance to be involved. Look out for our next meeting and news.



**Do you have a child with Special Educational
Needs?**

Then we would like to hear your views!

DSPL AREA 9

(Watford, Three Rivers, Bushey & Radlett)

are hosting a

PARENT/CARER INVOLVEMENT EVENT

On

22nd April 2015

At

The Niland Centre

**93 Elstree Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire WD23
4EE**

Sessions will run from 10-12am, 1-3pm or 6-8pm
(you need only attend one session)

**Please come along and have your say - let us
know what is working well and what could be
better. Help us to reshape and develop services.**

**Local Support Agencies and Organisations in Market Place
& Refreshments**

We look forward to seeing you there