

2015

Bushey Meads School at National GCSE Results Celebration Event



It was a real privilege to represent all the hard working students and staff of Bushey Meads School at a very prestigious celebration event at the London Guildhall on Tuesday Evening last week. Our school received a special mention for its stunning achievement

in improving 76% of all Key Stage 4 subjects' results at GCSE by an average of over 16%.

It was a real honour to be there and I was fortunate enough to be seated next to Brian Lightman who many staff and parents may recognise as the current General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders – a role he has held since 2010. Only that morning he had been at an important meeting at Number 10 Downing Street, working alongside government advisors to help shape latest education policy.



Having previously been a Headteacher of two comprehensive schools near Cardiff, he was very interested in hearing about the recent

journey of success at Bushey Meads School.



Other prominent figures in the world of education were also present including Sir John Rowling Director of PiXL (pictured here in the centre of the photo) who hosted the event.

Jeremy Turner – Executive Principal

Aspire to Achieve



Dates for the Diary

Tues 22nd Sept – Welcome to Year 10 Information Evening

Year 13 Student Finance Talk – 8.30am

Thurs 24th Sept – OPEN EVENING Students finish at 12.20pm

Sun 27th Sept – Antiques Fayre

Open Evening – Thursday 24th September 2015

Please note that our annual Open Evening is taking place on the evening of Thursday 24th September. In order for the school to prepare for this very important event, the school day will finish at 12.20pm (ie: at the end of P3). The school buses will be available at this time. Friday 25th September is an INSET for staff and so the school is closed to students on that following day.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

KEY STAGE 3



Kai - 8 Oak

This week's KS3 student of the week is Kai Jackman. Kai has begun the new academic year with a positive and enthusiastic attitude. Mr Besisira, Kai's ICT teacher commented that Kai has the potential to have a very successful year 8 with this attitude to his learning. Well done for embarking on the new year in such a positive way. Keep it up!

KEY STAGE 4



Kieran – 10 Maple

Kieran has made an excellent start to the year. His positive attitude towards his new Key Stage 4 timetable and new lessons is commendable. He has already accumulated 8 reward entries within the first week of school. Well done Kieran. Keep up the great work!

KEY STAGE 5



Eliot – 13 Willow

Our KS5 student of the week this week is Eliot who is currently in Year 13. He has been awarded this for his outstanding commitment to learning as he was the only student in the school who studied 5 subjects at As level. He achieved an A grade in Mathematics and B grades in Biology, Physics, Geography and Further Mathematics. Eliot has chosen to continue studying Further Mathematics, Mathematics and Physics in Year 13 this year.

Theme of the Week – Perseverance

Mr O’Kelly – Head of Sixth Form

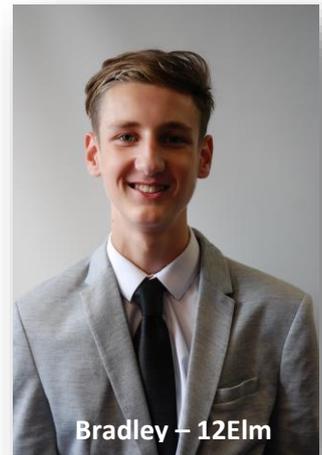


Staying on task and not giving up even in the face of adversity is the key message that Bushey Meads students have been discussing this week. Through Perseverance great achievements have been made by people who many others have written off. Having the patience to try again if you don’t achieve your goal plays an important role in our students’ education here at Bushey Meads and all of our Key Stages will be asked to comment on feedback and look at ways of improving their work.

In Sixth Form the story of Ray Bourque, an inspirational Ice Hockey player who, even though being regarded as one of the all-time greats, had never achieved his goal of being able to lift a championship cup. He played for 36 years, always being the ‘nearly man’ but through his hard work and dedication in his final game before his retirement at 41 was able to finally reach his goal.

In form our Sixth Form student discussed the poem ‘If – Rudyard Kipling’ and its relation to perseverance. ‘If’ begins ‘If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you’.

When asked Bradley 12Elm said – ‘The poem suggests that even if things are not going your way, you mustn’t give up. Keep working towards your goals every day.’



Bradley – 12Elm



Our student also worked at learning sign language. A very difficult task and one that she found difficult to begin with, they were however, soon spelling out their names. Alex 13Maple said ‘I found the sign language task challenging but through perseverance I managed to succeed. I have complete admiration for those that use sign language on a daily basis.’

Word of the Week (WOW) at Bushey Meads

Danielle Bowe - Lead Practitioner for English and Whole school Literacy

Language is empowering

“Nationally, there is often a significant gap in the range and quality of vocabulary students are able to use accurately between grades D and A (both at GCSE and A Level.)”*

This year, as part of a wider focus on increasing our students’ word and literacy power, we have re-launched the word of the week (WOW). This is delivered during a registration activity every week and reinforced in subject lessons.

In the student newsletter each week we will share with you what our key word has been. Please can we encourage you to discuss this with your children at home. Perhaps you could challenge them to use the word, or spell it.

Many thanks for your support.



Word of the Week

Pronounced: ten-a-shus

Adjective

This word comes to us from Classical Latin *tenere* meaning ‘to hold’



Tenacious

Definition

-someone or something that holds on firmly
-unwilling to give up.

If you are tenacious you don’t let go easily. You hold on tightly and don’t let things beat you- a bit like a dog with a bone!

Eg:

- ‘They succeeded because they were both **tenacious** enough to make it work.’
- ‘The ride was terrifying-she closed her eyes and clung to Fred’s right arm with such a **tenacious** grip he thought he’d be permanently scarred!’

Use it instead of:
determined, single-minded, patient, tireless.

Challenge: use this word in a conversation, or piece of writing this week.

The New View!

Jeremy Turner – Executive Principal



It was a great view from the top of the theatre style raked seating in our newly re-furbished Main Hall for all students and staff as they gathered to listen to an inspiration assembly on the Theme of the Week 'Perseverance' on Wednesday morning.

Led by our hard working Assistant Pastoral Manager

Mr Malik the assembly

encouraged all students to *Aspire to Achieve* in all they do and to try their best – even when their learning is challenging.

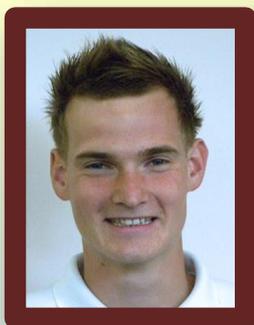
Many of the students have commented how much they have appreciated the changes that have been made to the Main Hall with the redecoration, comfortable retractable seating, the new super large cinema style screen, high resolution projector and industry standard fully sprung dance floor. They are very proud of how their school is becoming 'more professional'!

House Update

By Sara Ash, Assistant Headteacher

We are pleased to announce two new Heads of House to join the House teams this year as follows:

Sam Hawkins



Head of Oak House

Morag Waring



Head of Elm House

There will be an update of House Points so far and upcoming House activities in next week's newsletter.



Mr Jeremy Turner
Executive Principal & Headteacher

OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY
24th SEPTEMBER 2015

School site open from
6.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.
Tel: 020 8950 3000

School tours will run from week commencing Monday 28th September

Coldharbour Lane, Bushey, WD23 4PA

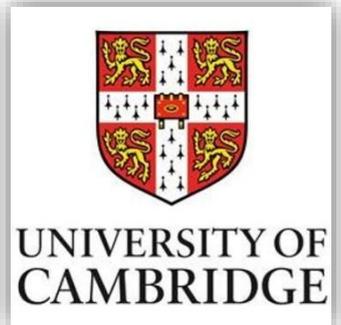
Bushey St James Trust

Aspire to Achieve!

Raising Aspirations trip to Cambridge University

By Sara Ash, Assistant Headteacher

On Thursday 16th July, 150 students from year 7 visited the city of Cambridge for the day. The purpose of the trip was to raise student aspirations and realise that gaining a place at one of the world's top universities is a possibility. The day consisted of a tour from a guide who explained the history of Cambridge University, a visit to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and a picnic lunch at Jesus Green Park.



Following a picnic lunch on the meadow outside Christchurch College, we then visited the Ashmolean Museum, a museum of Art and Archaeology for the afternoon.

Student quote:
The tour was very interesting and I learnt a lot about the city and the University.



Tour of the city

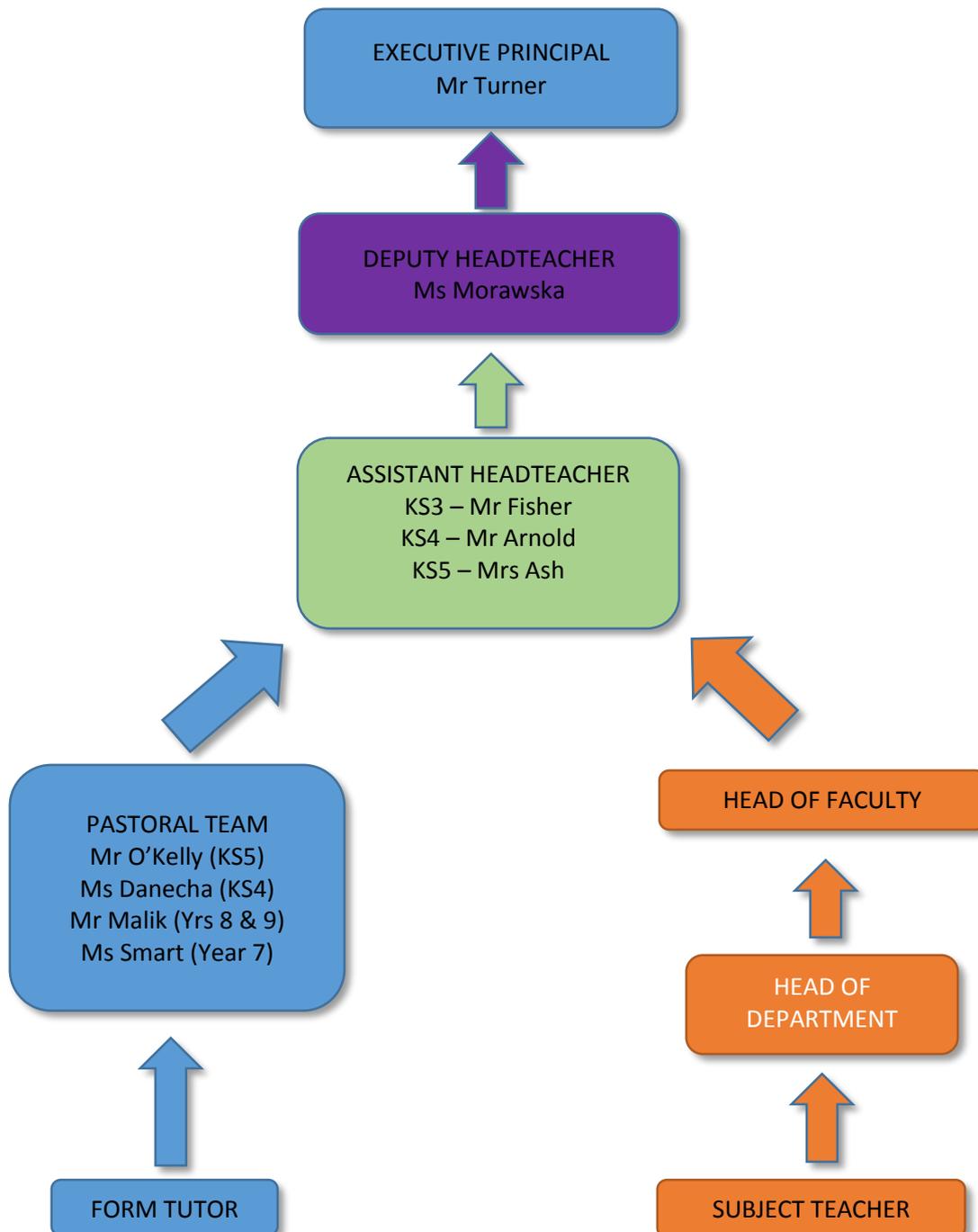
Student quote:
This trip has made me want to come and study at Cambridge University in the future. It is a really lovely place.



Exploring the Museum

Channels of Communication

In a large school it is important to know who to contact if you would like to raise a concern or provide us with information. If you have a concern you would like to share with the school regarding your son or daughter your first point of contact needs to be the subject teacher or the form tutor. They can be contacted via the school email: reception@busheymeads.org.uk, marking it for their attention, or by telephone: 020 8950 3000.



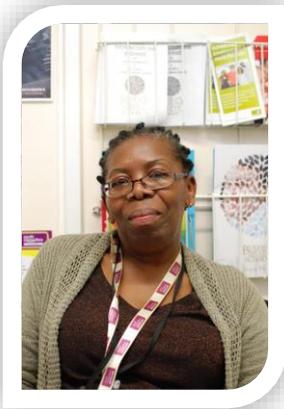
YOUTH CONNEXIONS SERVICE

Mrs D McIldowie

This academic year our Connexions service is now up and running. Our regular Connexions Personal advisers are:

- Lorna Cain – in school every Monday offering career advice and guidance
- Hannah Tuson - in school every Monday offering referred students one to one support on a regular basis
- Heidi Snowden – in school every Tuesday offering referred students one to one support on a regular basis

Lorna



Hannah



Heidi



All our Connexions Advisors will be conducting organised interviews with students and they also offer a drop in facility at lunch times for any students who wish to talk to an adviser about career or personal issues and no appointment is necessary.

The Connexions service is available to all students from year 8 to 13.

CONNEXIONS SERVICE TO SCHOOLS - DATA PROTECTION – FAIR PROCESSING NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS

Mrs D McIldowie

From years 8 to 13 we are required to pass on certain information to the Connexions services. Connexions are the government's information and advice service for all young people aged 13 to 19 in England.

Data Protection – if any parent is not happy about information being held on their son/daughter by any of the Connexions support agencies, they need to let the school know in writing as soon as possible.

Parents can ask that no information beyond name and address be passed to Connexions. Please inform the school within a week of receiving this notice if you wish to opt out of this arrangement. For more information about Connexions please contact the Local Authority.

At the initial meeting with their Personal Adviser, young people should have the Connexions privacy policy explained to them and be given a copy of the leaflet providing written details of the Connexions privacy notice and collecting their consent to the sharing of information about themselves.

Want to be a Student Learning Consultant?

KS5

Act as Senior SLCs and lead groups in SLC meetings

Set you apart from other candidates on your CV

KS4

Help at extra-curricular clubs held at school

Working closely with the Deputy Head and the Professional Learning Group to improve classroom experiences

Leading and analysing student surveys focusing on methods of teaching and learning as a presentation to students, staff and governors

Developing ideas to improve engagement and achievement across the school

Acting as Visitor Ambassadors in your classrooms

Providing excellent examples of marking and feedback for display purposes

Role models for learning in your lessons

An exemplary student and lead learner in as many subjects as possible

Taking part and leading student surveys focusing on teaching and learning

Learn new skills to improve teaching and learning to share with students

Participate in whole-school teaching and learning events
Review SLC practice and value it provides towards teaching and learning

Motivated? Willingness to express and seek opinions? Committed? What are you waiting for?

How to Apply

Interested applicants must explain, on one side of A4, how they can evidence their career at BMS to date with reference to the advert and advising what they would do to support the continual improvement of teaching and learning experiences at BMS. Year 7 students can draw on their experiences from primary school to support their application.

Applicants must provide a name of a staff member, from whom we can gain a reference within the application. Year 7 students can provide their form tutor, if preferred.

Deadline for applications, which must be handwritten, is Monday, 28th September. Please address your application to Ms Morawska and hand it into your form tutor or directly to Reception.

Please be mindful that SLC meetings will occur on a Tuesday, 3.15-4.15pm, (specific dates, not weekly) and full attendance is expected. Therefore consider any extra-curricular activities you attend before applying.

Successful applicants will be notified by Monday 5th October ready for the first SLC meeting on Tuesday, 13th October at 3.15pm.

Enhanced Facilities in the BMS Catering Suite

Jeremy Turner – Executive Principal

With the continued increasing popularity and success of the BMS Catering Courses offered at BMS, it was really great to see the already superb facilities enhanced further during the recent Summer holiday. The project was overseen by our expert Site Facilities Manager Mr Chambers and has provided further preparation and cooking installations and additional sinks to cope with the increased demand and larger Key Stage 4 classes.



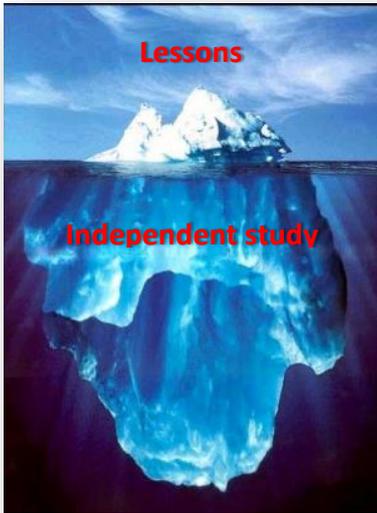
The facility now boasts a teacher demonstration area and breakout space for students to stand and view the demo from the teacher or indeed their peers.

The Year 11 class present when these photographs were taken were all very complimentary about the new layout and additional equipment and workspaces.

I'm sure they will really make the most of these enhanced facilities this year and aim for top grades in the summer!

Year 12 Information Evening

Sara Ash, Assistant Headteacher KS5



On Tuesday 15th September we held an information evening for parents and students from year 12. The evening focused on how to be successful, top tips from faculties, the leap from GCSE and A level reform.

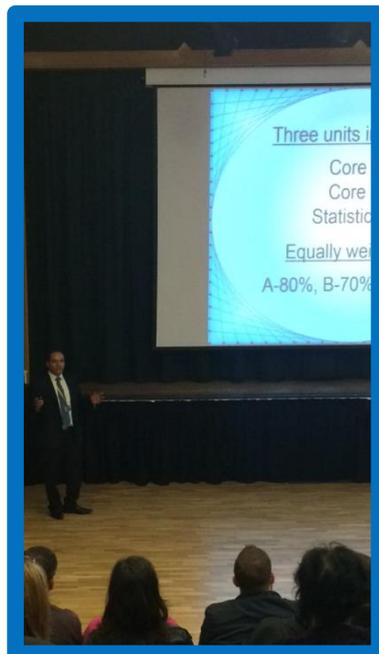
Our Head Boy and Head Girl, Ben and Emily, gave students advice on what to expect and how important it is to be organised and use study periods effectively.

A level study was compared to an iceberg with the visible portion above water the learning that takes place in lessons and the bigger portion under the water representing the hours of independent study needed in order to be successful.

Mr O'Kelly, Head of Sixth Form, then discussed the important dates for this year, who can help support the students and the overall expectations.



Mr Cartledge and Mr Varsani explaining how to succeed in PE and Maths



Mrs Ash explaining A level reform



My daughter has settled well into Year 12. Good level of information this evening and well presented. A useful session.

Parental feedback:

Evening was very interesting and informative.

Really pleased with results and very happy with transition into Sixth form.

Really helpful evening. Useful to know more about EPQ and A level reforms.

Outstanding Lead Practitioners at BMS

At Bushey Meads School, with our continued focus on developing outstanding teaching and learning and raising achievement, we are delighted to have secured no less than three outstanding Lead Practitioners in English and Maths to come and joining the existing talented and hardworking staff at the school. Lead Practitioners are recognised as outstanding classroom practitioners, capable of achieving excellent results at all levels and with the capacity to support the whole school improvement agenda.

At Bushey Meads this will be through their major contributions to the whole numeracy and literacy agendas and their exemplary leading within the well-established Professional Learning Group – our exciting teaching and learning team led by Ms Knowles, one of our Extended Senior Leaders at the school. They will also lead one of our Teaching and Learning Communities, model outstanding practice through our regular Monday Magic Moments and Friday Faculty Foci (our short, snappy soundbites of good practice shared at our twice weekly staff meetings) and assist with planning and delivering our regular Teacher Toolkits and our INSET (Continuing Professional Development) programme for all staff.

Our Lead Practitioners will also be on hand to provide day to day advice about pedagogy and practice in all classrooms and will facilitate many staff to develop their own practice as good and outstanding teachers across all curriculum areas. Many staff I'm sure will benefit greatly from watching our Lead Practitioners teach and will no doubt pick up many top tips for impacting on achievement and progress in their own classroom.

May we now introduce you to each of our Lead Practitioners who joined us at the start of this academic year:



MS DANIELLE BOWE – Lead Practitioner for English and Whole School Literacy

Ms Bowe joins us from a school in Camden where she was an Advanced Skills Teacher for Literacy and Communication. She brings with her 21 years teaching experience, during which time she has held a variety of roles including interesting curriculum and pastoral posts, assistant head of year and head of faculty. Beyond the school environment hobbies centre around a love of reading and the theatre. Ms Bowe commented that she has received a lovely welcome to our school and her general impression of the students so far is that they are friendly, keen to succeed and above all, proud of their school. She is looking forward to being a key part of our learning community and feels lucky to be working with such a talented and supportive staff.

MISS FAZANA FAROOK – Lead Practitioner of English and Key Stage 2 to 3 Transition

Miss Farook joins us from Friern Barnet School, North London, where she has been teaching for the past seven years and latterly as a Lead Practitioner of English and Literature. She is excited at the opportunity of also working at primary level at Little Reddings School and is keen to ensure the KS2 students are ready for the challenges of the new curriculum at secondary level. When asked about hobbies and interests beyond the education arena she proudly announced that she has recently taken up tennis as a new sport and is thoroughly enjoying the physical challenges that it brings! She is thoroughly enjoying Bushey Meads as she settles in and particularly mentioned the huge support she has been given by the English faculty.



MR ANDEEL AKRAM – Lead Practitioner for Mathematics

Mr Akram holds a Masters in Banking and Finance, and worked in the commercial world of finance before moving into teaching five years ago. When asked why did he made this career move into education he responded that he wanted to help change the lives of young people and be part of giving them the opportunity to succeed. He joins us from The Compton School, North London. When he has the time, Mr Akram enjoys following football and cricket. He too is finding both the staff and students very friendly here at Bushey Meads.