

## BMS – An Inspirational School!

Each and every day at BMS I never ceased to be amazed by a least one thing – and often many things inspire and amaze me at our wonderful learning community.

One small  
positive  
thought  
in the morning  
can change your  
whole day



All these things have amazed and inspired me in school in just the last 5 days:

- a Year 13 student's A level photography research work and amazing creative portfolio
- an outstanding achievement at a national event (the Stoke Mandeville Junior Games)
- the careful peer feedback provided by a student for another learner in their class that really helped their learning and achievement improve
- a courteous act of picking up a litter bin that had been accidentally knocked to the ground in the quadrangle
- a moving and thought provoking media clip shown in Year 11 assembly on Tuesday
- the attention to detail shown by members of the associate staff to welcome and host some important visitors to our school
- a friendly smile and positive comment made by a student about an outstanding teacher at the school
- a student sharing their ideas as to how we can improve one aspect of our provision
- a letter written by one of our youngest students applying for an important position of responsibility in the school

### Dates for the Diary

**15<sup>th</sup> December**  
Xmas Concert 7-9pm

**16<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Y7** Xmas House Party 3.30-5pm  
**Y10** Theatre Trip – Woman in Black

**18<sup>th</sup> December**  
Term ends **12.20 pm.**

**4<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
Term starts at **11.00 am.**

.....and these a just a small selection from so many more that I could have chosen. It is also nice to hear that parents are recognising the same culture and ethos and the email below, addressed to Assistant Headteacher Mr Fisher clearly demonstrates this.

*Dear Mr Fisher*

*We are delighted to learn that our son has been recognised as being More Able in Maths and look forward to the aspiration evening on Tuesday 8th at 6pm.*

*May we take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the wonderful support our son is getting at the school and how he looks forward each morning to come school. **It truly is an inspiring school!***

*Thank you*

*Parents of a Year 9 Student*

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

## KEY STAGE 3



### **Megan – 9Beech**

This week's student of the week is Megan - 9 Beech for making fantastic progress in English. At every stage of production she acted on targets, adding ambitious and relevant detail to her writing. Great attitude to learning and lovely to see her confidence grow. Megan has over 60 reward points which is exceptional and also has extremely high ATL scores in her Autumn assessment. Well done Megan, keep up this enthusiastic and diligent approach to you education and no doubt you will achieve your potential

## KEY STAGE 4



### **Mason – 10Willow**

This week's student of the week for Key Stage 4 has been nominated by Miss Dhanecha. Since starting in Key Stage 4, Mason has shown significant improvement in his level of maturity and his attitude towards his studies. Mason was recently awarded with a certificate for the amount of reward points he has earned so far this term and the pastoral team are very proud of his efforts. Well done Mason, keep up the fantastic work and keep earning those rewards points!

## KEY STAGE 5



### **Olivia 13Maple**

Our KS5 student of the week this week is Olivia who is currently in Year 13. She has been awarded this for her outstanding attitude to learning scores. Olivia is currently studying English, History and Psychology.

# Word of the Week (WOW) at Bushey Meads

Danielle Bowe - Lead Practitioner for English and Whole School Literacy

## Language is empowering

This week at Bushey Meads we have been thinking about the word subjective and discussing the difference between being objective or biased.



### Word of the Week

07.12.15

Late Latin *subiectivus* "of the subject, **subjective**," from *subiectus* "lying under, below, near."

**Pronounce it: sub-jec-tiv**

**adjective**

## Subjective

**Definition**

- Based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes, or opinions:
- Dependent on the mind or on an individual's perception for its existence.

Things that are subjective are open to interpretation. If you go to see a movie about an M15 spy, the topic is clear and not *subjective*. However, whether it's a good movie or not is subjective.

Subjective things depend on your own ideas and opinions. *Subjective* is the opposite of *objective*, which refers to things that are more clear-cut and based on facts. Liverpool FC is in the Premier League is a fact-it's objective. Whether they are the best football team is subjective — not everyone will agree.

**Examples in sentences:**

- 'I think my dog is the cutest Labrador in the world, but I realise my judgment is very subjective and biased.'
- 'More specific and less subjective criteria should be used for selecting employees for promotion.'

**Use it instead of:** abstract, biased, idiosyncratic, illusory, instinctive, intuitive, personal, fanciful, individual.

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



## Theme of the week

Mrs Smart – Assistant Pastoral Manager



This week's theme of the week has been 'Celebration'. In order to maintain motivation and stay focused, one must reflect not only on areas that need improvement, but to acknowledge and celebrate our successes.

We have been celebrating students' achievements and successes via rewards assemblies. Tutor time activities gave students the opportunity to reflect on their wins and understand the importance of doing so.

Students were awarded with achievement certificates for earning 30 or more achievement points this term.

# Arranging Medical Appointments for your Children?

Mr Turner, Executive Principal



All parents and carers know that there is a very strong correlation between attendance and achievement. It is a proven fact that students with 100% attendance do better in school, achieve the best results and make most progress.

With that in mind, all medical appointments should be arranged **after school hours** or **during school holidays**.

On the rare occasions where this is impossible to do so, please make every effort to arrange the appointment for *as limited time as possible* during the *morning session* of school.

Where possible, do ensure that your child **actually attends morning registration** (and is therefore marked present and not absent for that session.) In addition please ensure that they return well before the afternoon school session and again are able to **attend school in the afternoon** and therefore be marked present for that afternoon session.

Although clearly some lessons will be missed and your child will have to catch up with the work, following this guidance will help to maintain your child's 100% attendance record in school. It will also ensure that our very good school attendance figures are maintained at the highest level.

## Pre-Public Examinations for Year 11 Come to an End

Mr Arnold – Assistant Headteacher KS4



Year 11 students have been sitting their PPE exams in each of their examined subjects over the last 2 weeks and these concluded on Tuesday.

Amidst a very busy and tiring schedule, the students conducted themselves very well and learnt some very valuable lessons in the protocol for examinations and the preparation that is required.

Students now understand even more the importance of being completely prepared for their exams. It is imperative that they know exactly what exams they will be sitting in the summer and what equipment they require. Of course, rushing around trying to find some colouring pencils, or a calculator is not how you want to spend the last few minutes leading up to your exams.

Of course, thorough revision is of utmost importance and students now appreciate that revising in a methodical and well planned way from now on will be the difference between achievement and disappointment next summer.

Remember - it is better to be over-prepared than underprepared.

The exam papers are now being carefully marked and teachers will be using the students' results to carefully design programmes of intervention that will be implemented over the remaining 5 months before the start of the real exams in May.

The PPE results will be released to students at a specially convened PPE Results Afternoon on 7th January - just as if they were their actual results. Advice will also be given concerning the next steps that need to be taken in order for each and every student to achieve his or her potential.

# Drama Club

Crystal Haxhia Y7M



The Bushey Meads Drama Club is a place where everyone is welcome to come along, have fun and meet new people. Since starting I've met people from different years and have made some great friends. I know I can go to them at any time not just to talk about drama.

Not only is it a chance to make friends, we have lots of fun creating performances and practicing techniques we have learnt in class. We have been practicing all term and cannot wait to perform and show what we have achieved. We are working towards our first public Christmas performance, and are extremely excited.



If you are interested in performing and would like to see what we have to offer, come along on a Friday lunchtime to H8a. We are always open to new people.

## Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies

Amira Izhar Year 11



On the 3rd of December, the Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies devised PPE performance began at 4.30pm in the Main Drama Studio.

They spent the day rehearsing, doing dress and techs run-throughs and being given vital peer feedback from various different year groups. Students who have the opportunity to watch older students perform at these events do significantly better in their own drama exams. As A level and GCSE

options are coming up, it will be helpful to see the quality of performance at this level.



On the 10th of December, their performance exam is taking place at 6pm in H8 and we advise you to come along to watch. These plays are written and performed by extremely talented students at a very high standard. If their mock was anything to go by, the performances should be outstanding!



# Year 13 Enrichment Day – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015

Diana McIlldowie – Head of Work Related Learning



On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December, our Y13 students were provided with the opportunity of a mock interview in order to prepare themselves for either the world of work or higher education.

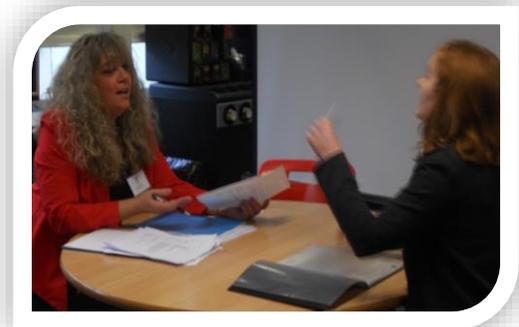
The event involved representatives from outside organisations including three of our governors, the University of Hertfordshire, West Herts and Oaklands Colleges, Youth Connexions and 3aa a local Apprenticeship provider.

The students were offered valuable feedback on their interview skills, quality of CV and personal statement and were given guidance for improvement where necessary.

Comments received from the business personnel included:-

“It was an enjoyable event and a great opportunity to meet your Year 13s who were motivated and enthusiastic about their future study/career options”.

“Please pass on to all interviewees how pleasant it was to meet them, and to wish them every success”.



One of our interviewers also remarked that she would have employed one of the students she interviewed on the spot had it be a real-life situation.

We would like to congratulate our students on their preparation, both in terms of their written documents and their smart appearance. They arrived at their appointments punctually and came with a positive attitude and were excellent ambassadors for Bushey Meads School – well done Year 13.

## Languages Focus: the Key Stage 5 Belgian Contingent!

Mrs Dawson – Head of MFL

Jonathan and Josh are new additions to the school and have something in common: both lived in Belgium! Josh moved there at the age of 14 because his dad is in the Navy.

Originally from Scotland and born in Edinburgh, Josh has made a fabulous addition to our global community. Josh understands French, having lived in the Francophone (French speaking) part of Belgium.

Jonathan is a fabulous example of how truly global our school has become. He lived in Belgium until the age of 6 and speaks fluent French. His mum, however, is Romanian and he is therefore tri-lingual! Only 13% of the world's population is tri-lingual, so Jonathan is pretty special. Both students have the honour of being in 12 Beech.



# Barcelona Trip

Mr Heywood – Head of Art



On 20<sup>th</sup> November a group of 25 year 12 Art, Graphic Design, Photography and Spanish students travelled to the Spanish city of Barcelona, the Catalan capital.

The first full day began with a visit to Park Guell, designed by Gaudi. The park contains amazing stone structures, stunning coloured mosaic tiling and fairy-tale houses. There were walkways supported by twisting rock pillars that seem to be growing out of the ground like tree trunks. The influence of natural forms on Gaudi was very evident. At the top of the park was a terraced area where students got a wonderful view of the park and of Barcelona City as the day became bright and sunny, weather that persisted for the rest of the trip. On the same day students had the privilege of visiting La Sagrada Familia, the huge cathedral started in 1882 by Antoni Gaudi, his architectural masterpiece, still being constructed to this day. The Picasso museum was also visited that day, charting his various stylistic changes throughout the years as well as housing some of his earliest works; a highly realistic water colour portrait of his father being particularly memorable, painted by Picasso aged just fourteen. Other highlights visited during the four full days of the trip included the many and varied contemporary pieces, exhibited

at the MACBA museum of modern art, the Dali museum, Gaudi's La Pedrera, the Anthony Tapies Museum and the Juan Miro museum.

Among these four packed days however, there was still time to wander the streets of Barcelona as well as the beach and the marina, taking photographs and absorbing some of the culture through the sights, sounds and cuisine of the city.

The accompanying teachers, Mr. Heywood, Mrs Waring and Mrs Hoskins found it a pleasure being in the students company and a good time was had by all.



## Some student's comments

"I enjoyed visiting all the art galleries as it opened my mind to a variety of styles of art." Megan Sadler

"I loved all of the museums and discovering all of the amazing culture and history Spain holds. I also liked the food." Natalya Smart

"I really enjoyed the trip. The walking was great, we got to explore parts of Barcelona that I didn't think we would. I enjoyed the cable car ride and the beach, would love to do it again. Also, many thanks to the teachers for making this a wonderful, memorable trip."

Tom Crippen

"Most consistency of any trip I've been on with the school. Great choice of areas and landmarks, accompanied by a wealth of photographic opportunities. Had a great time."

Joe RM

"The trip was a great way to research the gothic theme. Barcelona is full of amazing architectural designs." Jacob Lind



"I found the trip not only gave me a ton of opportunities to hang out with my friends and enjoy the culture, it also gave me a chance to make some great memories. Lots of opportunities for inspiration and material for coursework." Ross N.

# Girls Sports Results

Wednesday 2nd December- Tuesday 8th December

## Boccia

Date: 07 /12/15

Opposition: The Village school

Results: Team A- Lost 9-6 - Jack, Kai, Ross

Team B- Lost 11-8 - Grace, Meghan, Parag

Comment:

We welcomed The Village school from Kingsbury to Bushey Meads on Monday 7th December to participate in some highly competitive boccia games. The games were close in the first ends but in both matches The Village then pulled away before B.Meads made a late, but sadly in vain, attempt to overhaul their opposition. It was great to see the students from both schools developing both their skills and tactical understanding.



The boccia team then used this opportunity to pit their skills against the yr 11 GCSE girls class. Playing the sport for the first time as part of a disability module the GCSE students picked up some valuable coaching from the boccia team.



**Massive Congratulations to Eleanor Vroome 9Elm for achieving her black belt in karate.**

## Girls Football

Date: 07 /12/15

Event: Arsenal Ladies Double Club Event

Team: K.Brannigan, A.Elman, L.Roberts, F.Boselli, C.Coste, S.Plummer, Z.Rathod, B.Brindley



Comment: Bushey Meads were invited to enter the Arsenal Double Club football event. The event consists of a football tournament as well as a classroom based literacy activity. The girls participated in the tournament with four other schools; coming 3rd place overall. This was an excellent achievement for the girls considering they were the youngest team at the tournament.

A particular highlight of the day was meeting Kelly Smith. Kelly currently plays for Arsenal Ladies FC and is England's all-time top goalscorer. A fantastic role model for these young girls.

As a follow up to the event girls at Bushey Meads will have the opportunity, starting in February, to participate in football coaching led by Arsenal ladies.



# A Love poem

Mr Futerill - Drama Teacher

This is a sonnet written by Holly Sayce in her English class. Holly has worked very hard completing this excellent poem and her work deserves to be celebrated.

## LOVE

*Love, it's like a beautiful dream.  
When I'm with you I feel suffocated  
But you make me scream,  
You are desecrated.  
Love, it's like a beautiful dream  
You make me feel safe  
You keep me together like a sewing seam  
But you make me lose faith.  
Love, it's like a beautiful dream  
But I feel so numb  
I thought we'd always be a team  
But you love that bottle of rum.  
And now I just feel a fool,  
Because our tragic dream was so cruel.*

*Holly Sayce*

## CHRISTMAS IS APPROACHING....

### THE AWARD-WINNING ULTIMATE PLUM PUDDING

Due to the increasing success year on year of the 'Ultimate Plum Pudding' we are once again offering these puddings to you – and still at the price of just **£5.00**.

The Ultimate Plum Pudding Company is a small organisation based in Kendal, Cumbria, who is committed to sustainable production. The puddings are endorsed by the BBC Good Food Magazine and The Guild of Fine Food, and they have received no less than three gold awards by the Great Taste Awards. Last year they were very proud to announce that Fortnum and Mason are now also selling their puddings (at a cost of far in excess of £5 we are sure!).

All the vine fruits are soaked overnight in oodles of brandy and dry sherry. Only the finest ingredients are used and include almonds, walnuts, stem ginger, apricots, cherries, freshly grated carrots as well as the best raisins and sultanas. It's light, sweet, aromatic and tastes exquisite!

The Ultimate Plum Pudding is not available in high street supermarkets so it makes for a very special gift for family and friends, especially as it will come packaged with a Bushey Meads personalised logo and Christmas greeting from all the staff and students.

To order your 1lb (450g) Ultimate Plum Pudding (which serves 4 - 6) please email [reception@busheymeads.org.uk](mailto:reception@busheymeads.org.uk) to request an order form, or your child can collect a form from the student finance window. Once completed, the form needs to be deposited in the student finance safe, marking your envelope 'Xmas Pud order' and enclosing correct payment. We have ordered a limited supply of these puddings so the Ultimate Plum Pudding will be available on a first come, first served basis. To secure your pudding place your order as soon as possible!

Best Wishes

Mrs Armitage, PA to Executive Principal



# BMS News

The news you want - the way you want it

December 2015

## One of A Kind



Go check out the new Oak house display board, created by Mrs Bennett and Mr Hawkins. There are a number of students representing Oak house in the student parliament, as student learning consultants, house council, eco monitors and charity reps.

Our chosen house charity this year is Cancer Research. Oak house have already raised money during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Students wore pink during the Interhouse Cross Country raising over £70. More events to follow.

Students should look to get involved in all opportunities offered at Bushey Meads School. Our aim as a house is to ensure all students represent Oak in at least one event by the end of the school year.

### House events coming up

**Art and Photography Competition**  
**DEADLINE 12<sup>th</sup> of January**

Two Themes	Categories
'Light'	KS3
'Progress'	KS4
	KS5

A winner in each category and an overall winner will be announced at the exhibition on the 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Art and Photography Student Staff

All entries to Mrs Waring in Art. Photographs via email in jpeg format.

Entries must have: Name, House, Year, Theme.

### HOUSE FOOTBALL

MON 14TH DEC - YEAR 8

TUES 15TH DEC - YEAR 7

WED 16TH DEC - YEAR 9

THURS 17TH DEC - YEAR 10

3.15-5PM

SPORTS HALL

WEAR PE KIT, TRAINERS AND SHIN PADS

### Also in Today's Paper



Victor Yr 10 is named as the Oak House Captain. He is a keen sportsman who certainly has a competitive side. His aim is promote and be the voice of Oak House.

Marvin Yr 8 performed in 'BMS has talent' contest dancing to Michael Jackson. The performance was very impressive with the judges agreeing and Marvin picking up the 'Best Dance' award.



Marie in Year 9 also performed in 'BMS has talent'. Her version of James Bay - Scars was a moment to cherish. It was beautifully sang, and the judges awarded her with the runner up trophy.

# Lunchtime arrangements

Mrs Ash – Assistant Headteacher KS5

In order to facilitate a positive experience during lunch with increased numbers of students in the school we will be staggering the entry into the restaurant as from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.



❖ Students in years 10 – 13 will be allowed entry at 13:20.

❖ Students in years 7 - 9 will be allowed entry from 13:30.

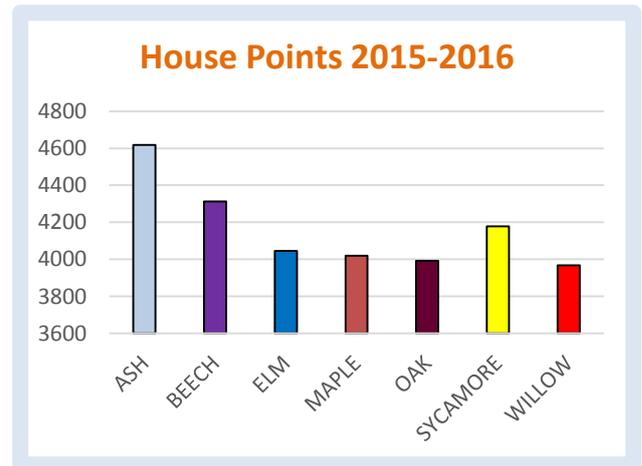
This will allow students plenty of time to sit and eat before afternoon lessons without over-crowding.

## House Points Update

Mrs Ash – Assistant Headteacher KS5

Current House Totals

ASH	4619
BEECH	4313
SYCAMORE	4178
ELM	4046
MAPLE	4020
OAK	3992
WILLOW	3967



## FREE TRAMPOLINING SESSION

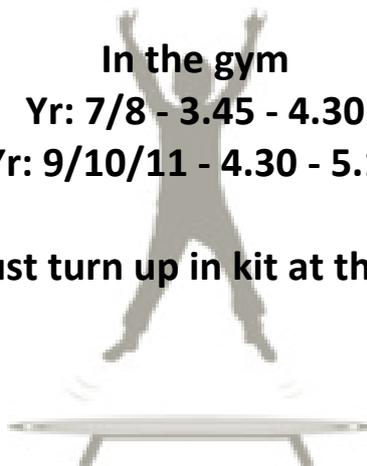
### Monday 14th December

In the gym

Yr: 7/8 - 3.45 - 4.30

Yr: 9/10/11 - 4.30 - 5.15

All welcome just turn up in kit at the allotted time.



## Calling All Student Learning Consultants



Ms Morawska – Deputy Headteacher

Our busy term is coming to a swift end, however, this does not mean that our hard working Student Learning Consultants (SLCs) are, as yet, hanging up their badges for the festive break. We are all meeting, together, on Tuesday, 15th December between 3.15pm to 4.15pm in F4.

During this important meeting, we will be looking at the marking and feedback evident in our SLCs books and we will be celebrating the marking that really informs our students and supports their improvement of either the piece marked or the next piece. We will also be looking closely at the Student Planners to check that our diligent students are logging their home learning. Parent and carers, ensure you read and sign your child's planners and do write any comments in support of your child's progress. Our form tutors and subject teachers would love to receive them.

Lastly, our SLCs will be completing a survey about Home Learning at Bushey Meads. The survey's that are completed by this informed group are very valuable to our self-evaluation and overall improvement. So, parents and carers, if your son or daughter is the proud owner of an Student Learning Consultant badge, please ensure they attend this very important meeting. I look forward to meeting with them.

## Sycamore House Assembly performance

Mr Futerill – Drama Teacher



A very well done to Katie, Tavi, Reggie-Lee and Dylan of Sycamore House who spent an entire week rehearsing spending during their lunchtime for a performance that was shown in the Sycamore House assembly.

The performance focussed on the charity Age UK, highlighting some of the issues older people face over Christmas, and was very well received by teachers and students alike.