

BMS Open Evening 2016



The annual Open Evening for prospective parents was hugely successful and a real showcase evening for the school. Attended by over 1000 parents, carers and primary school children, the evening highlighted the superb teaching and learning culture that has been established and strengthened here at Bushey Meads in recent years.

With so many outstanding teachers, hugely committed and talented associate staff and a real ethos of everyone *Aspiring to Achieve* their potential each and every day, the evening reinforced the fact that Bushey Meads School is a really valued 'school of choice' in the area.

Throughout the evening BMS students, as always, were amazing ambassadors for their school and we were very proud of their significant contribution.

Dates for the Diary

Mon 3rd – 6th October
Y7-Y12 National Junior Games,
Stoke Mandeville

Wed 5th October
House Talent Show

Fri 7th October
Year 9 Trenches Trip

Tues 11th October
Student Group photo day

Wed 19th October
Year 11 Revision Techniques evening

Thurs 20th October
Transition Curriculum Show
Year 7 – Arts Extravaganza – 7 – 9pm

Sun 23rd October
Antiques Fair



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

KEY STAGE 3



Jhanavi – 7Oak

This week's student of the week is Jhanavi in Year 7. As a new year 7, Jhanavi has been very enthusiastic and eager to represent Bushey Meads School. Jhanavi wrote about her experiences as a new student here at Bushey Meads and stood on the stage to speak in front of large numbers of parents at the Open Evening last week. Well done Jhanavi - you remained calm, were very clear and spoke passionately about Bushey Meads School. An excellent achievement and start to year 7.

KEY STAGE 4



Safoon – 10 Sycamore

This week's student of the week has been nominated by the Pastoral Manager, Miss Dhanecha. Safoon is receiving this accolade because of the excellent start he has made to his GCSE courses. Safoon is a relatively new student to the school and has approached life at Bushey Meads with positivity and enthusiasm. We wish Safoon all the very best for the year ahead and are pleased that he joined the Bushey Meads School community!

KEY STAGE 5



Juliana – 12Beech

Juliana has made a great start to the community service program in Sixth Form. She is quickly becoming a key member of the support group which the younger students rely on. Juliana is able to be supportive of the students whilst pushing them on to achieve more.



Olivia – 13Willow

Olivia has worked this week raising the profile of Bushey Meads in the local community. She has helped at both the Open Evening and leading a tour of the school with prospective Year 7 students and parents. Olivia has represented the school fantastically, sharing stories of her own pathway through Bushey Meads from KS3 to KS5.

Word of the Week (WOW) at Bushey Meads

Danielle Bowe - Lead Practitioner for English and Whole School Literacy

Language is empowering

Word of the Week 26.9.16

Pronounce it: *Zel-ow-s* Adjective

Early 16th century: from a medieval Latin derivative of Latin *zelus* 'zeal, jealousy'.

JEALOUS OR ZEALOUS

JEALOUS OR ZEALOUS

EXPLAINED!

Just Remember: Relate Zealous to Zeal, strong passion and eagerness to do something.

Definition

- Full of zeal; exhibiting enthusiasm or strong passion
- Motivated, devoted or diligent

Zealous

We use the adjective *zealous* as a way to describe eagerness or enthusiastic behaviour. Sometimes if you are too *zealous* in your efforts you might be a little off putting to others, especially if your enthusiasm leads you to be single-minded and not listen to other opinions. However, generally we view someone's *zealousness* as a real positive and evidence of their eagerness and passion for something.

Zealous rhymes with *jealous* (and in fact they're from the same Greek word), but don't confuse them: a *jealous* person might be resentful of someone who makes *zealous* efforts to achieve success.

Sentence example:

- She was *zealous* in her commitment to pursuing a career as a racing driver.
- It was unfair of her to have mocked his *zealousness*; she was obviously *jealous* of his passion and commitment.

Use it instead of: enthusiastic, eager, intense, fiery, passionate, warm

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

This week we have been discussing the word *Zealous* and the positive qualities someone might display if they are 'zealous' in their attitude or behaviour.

VACANCIES

We are currently advertising for the following position at the school:

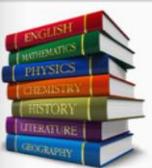
HR Manager
Teaching Assistants
Senior IT Technician
IT Audio Visual Technician
Science Technician
RS / Humanities Teacher
English Teacher

Further information about the post can be found on the school website under 'Vacancies'. Alternatively, please contact the HR Office on 020 8955 8833 or vacancies@busheymeads.org.uk

More able at BMS



Supercurricular club has restarted at BMS. We have several regular members who attend every week to work on various projects of their own choosing. We have students completing forensic science *moocs*, electronics and design projects to name a few examples. What students appreciate most is that they have a time and place to study fields that interest them most.



Completing independent study and projects has excellent benefits for you. You get to learn more about an area that you are interested in, develop new skills and it looks excellent on your CV.

So why not come along and give it a try? If you have an idea for a project – great! If not we can help you decide on one.

We meet every Thursday in F6 from 3:05 – 4:15pm. I hope to see you there.





Theme of the week: COMMUNITY

Mrs Ash – Assistant Headteacher KS4



House assemblies focused this week on the theme of community. Form groups looked at what the word community meant to them and created a House slogan that reflected the theme.

Two of the best were from 8Willow and 11 Ash:

WILLOW: *'In our community staff and pupils should be considerate and supportive to one another. When we work together as a team we can make all our futures more successful.'*

ASH: *'The Ash house family is a caring and supportive community. As a house we welcome visitors, staff and students to our school. Together we are competitive, cooperative and respectful to others. We continue to aspire to achieve in everything we do.'*

Anti-Bullying at BMS

We are encouraging all our students to “**THINK**” carefully before saying things to other students either in person or via social media. With **THINK** in mind we will have a community which is considerate, respectful and calm.

Students can report any issues or concerns to the pastoral team, the anti-bullying co-ordinators, anti-bullying ambassadors or via the Confide or Student Watch online facilities.

THINK!



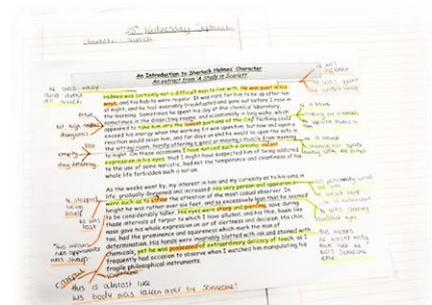
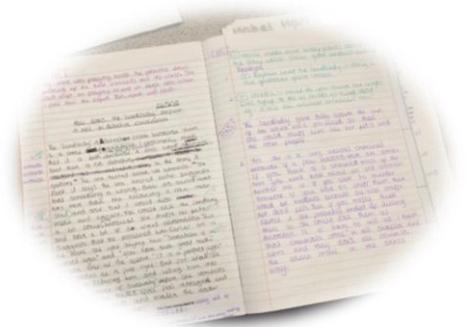
Year 8 English Lessons

Jeremy Turner – Executive Principal

It was a real delight to observe Mrs Connell’s Year 8 English lesson this week and see such high expectations for learning being met by all the students in the class. The engagement and attitudes to learning were superb.

Students had been studying a range of detective fiction, analysing and identifying different writing conventions in preparation to them starting to write their own short detective stories.

Students had completed some high quality classwork which had been marked in detail by Mrs Connell in green pen. Stretch targets had been set for all students to enable them to really *aspire to achieve* and move to the next level.



Work in exercise books was very neat and tidy and demonstrated a real commitment to achieving at the highest level.

Students had responded effectively to the teachers’ green pen with purple pen responses – correcting spellings three times and re-drafting work where necessary to ensure that it reaches the highest standard possible.

It was all very impressive!

State of the Art BMS Art Sixth Form Centre

Jeremy Turner – Executive Principal



With the light oak doors and stunning glass walls, the new entrance from the H Block Corridor sets a very professional business style tone to the newly refurbished Sixth Form Study Centre at BMS.

The superbly renovated Silent Study Room now boasts a large conference style table and is fully kitted out with the latest smart chrome books.



The Sixth Form Student Leadership Team now have their very own leadership team meeting room which they can use to plan the next round of Student Parliament meetings and student events.

In the main quiet Study Room, a business style reception desk has been provided for the Sixth Form Learning Mentor, who supervises the learning environment and assists students with their post 16 studies.



I can't believe the difference! With the free hot drinks and smart environment it has made us all feel special and we want to do well.
Year 12 Student

I am really pleased with the new smart business-style environment. It has definitely helped to focus me this year to work hard and achieve some great results. I am making really good use of the superb silent Study Room.
Year 13 Student

A suite of smart offices has been provided for the new Assistant Headteacher i/c Post 16 Mr Spary, our hard working Head of Sixth Mr O'Kelly, our newly appointed Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Timotheou and Ms Crane, the Sixth Form Administrator.

There are many more comfortable business style chairs provided and, along with the outside seating area which is also available for Sixth Form students, the environment is one of the most appealing for Sixth Form students in the local area.

SLCs at BMS

Jeremy Turner – Executive Principal



It was great to see so many of our top Student Learning Consultants (SLCs) speaking in House Assemblies this week about their hugely important roles in the school.

They collectively contribute so much to our teaching and learning culture and the ongoing school improvement journey.

Through their own observations in lessons throughout the week, regular surveys, discussions and presentations to staff, students and governors, they help to shape our continued professional development programme at the school which helps to develop our expertise in the classroom and maximise achievement for all students.

They also act as Visitor Ambassadors and serve to welcome any visitors to our learning community in classrooms across the school, explaining what learning is taking place and answering any questions the visitors may have.



If you want to join the Student Learning Consultants' team, do write a letter of application to Assistant Headteacher Mr Searle, explaining why you would be an ideal candidate for this important role in our school.



Student Poems based on the Theme of the Week: New Beginnings

Jeremy Turner – Executive Principal

It was super to receive so many poems written by students in the first week of term based on the Theme of the Week 'New Beginnings' and I would particularly like to congratulate the students in 7Oak who entered so many well written ones. The students all received a well-deserved R2 reward and three below were specially chosen for publication in the Weekly BMS Newsletter:

New Beginnings by Luke Ogilvie-Herald

An exciting day for everyone,
that brings joy and lots of fun.
Meeting new friends and having a laugh,
while getting taught by our new school staff.

This is a chance for a new beginning,
there's no room for failure just winning.
This is a new year, with great purpose to achieve.
If we accept the challenge, all we need to do is believe.

Believe, Motivation, Success

New Beginnings by Dylan Cross

Now's the time
Excited to start
Welcomed by strangers

Being brave
Expecting new experiences
Getting to know people
It's all changing
New friends
Nervous
Ignite relationships
New challenges
Getting help
Scared for the future ahead

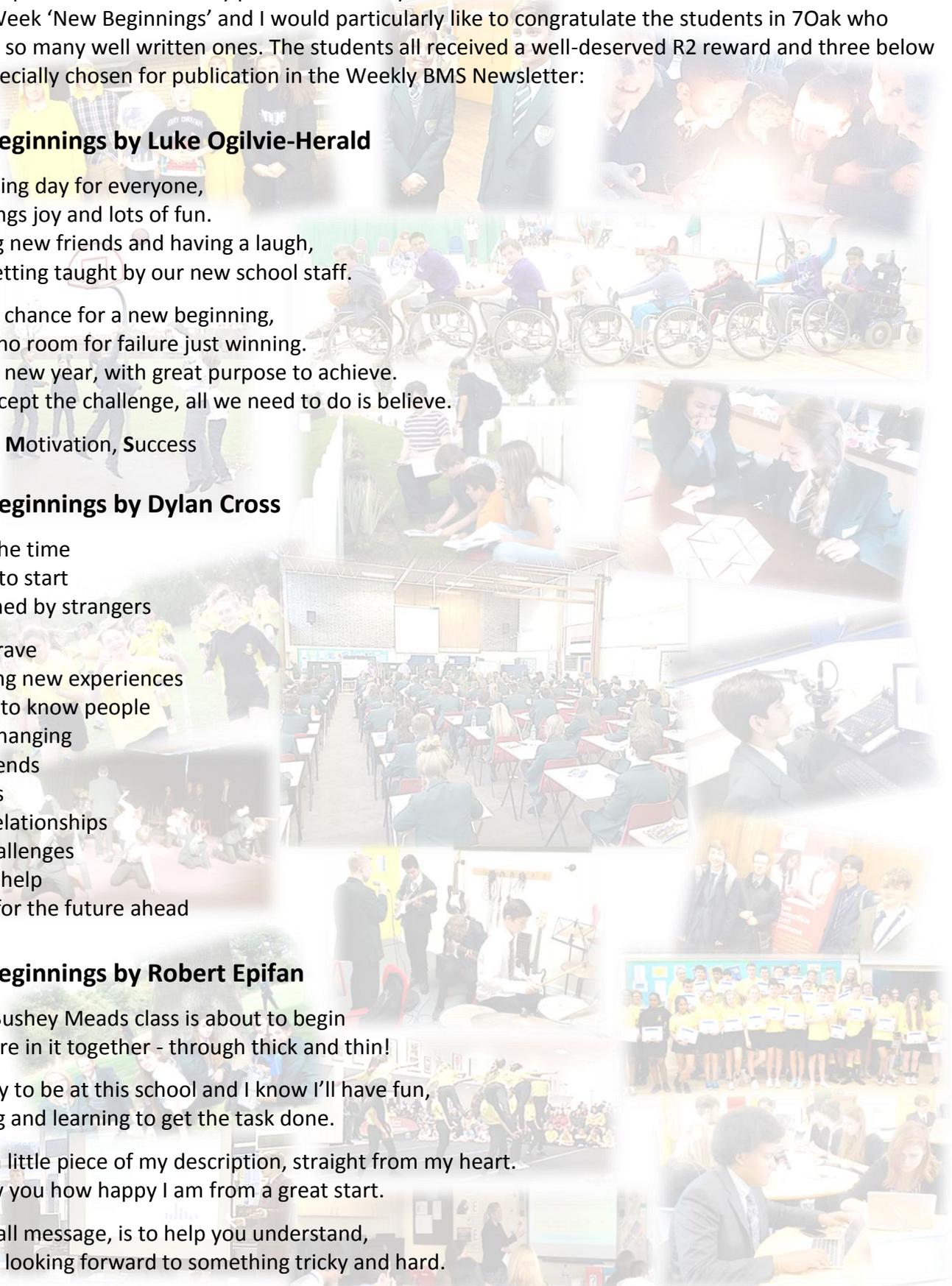
New Beginnings by Robert Epifan

A new Bushey Meads class is about to begin
and we're in it together - through thick and thin!

I'm lucky to be at this school and I know I'll have fun,
laughing and learning to get the task done.

Here's a little piece of my description, straight from my heart.
To show you how happy I am from a great start.

This small message, is to help you understand,
that I'm looking forward to something tricky and hard.



Brand New BMS Staff Car Park

Jeremy Turner – Executive Principal



With spaces for up to 55 cars, the brand new staff car park which opened on Monday of this week is already easing the pressure for local residents' parking and parents and carers who need to pull into the drop off bays on Coldharbour Lane.

As part of the £4.5 million building programme which will be completed over the next 18 months, the opening of the car park signified a big milestone in the journey. All the staff involved in overseeing the project should be congratulated for its successful on-time completion.

All staff should now be able to park on the school site which is a real benefit to all stakeholders. As parents and carers do continue to be very considerate to our local neighbours and remember to:

- park away from the school and encourage your children to walk the last few hundred metres
- avoid stopping on the yellow zig zag lines new the school entrance
- where absolutely necessary drive slowly in and out of the drop off bays on Coldharbour Lane



Maximising Space and Creating Inspiring Classrooms

Jeremy Turner – Executive Principal



It seems hard to imagine that a once disused garden in the middle of F Block has now been turned into a state of the art classroom for Mr Lester and all the students who study English with him each and every week.



With its light and airy glass frontage and floor to ceiling walls, the inspiring classroom doubles up as the daily tutor base for form 7 Beech who have all made a very positive start to their time at Bushey Meads School under the expert leadership of Mr Lester.

Online Seat Booking for Hall events

Mr Fisher – Senior Assistant Headteacher

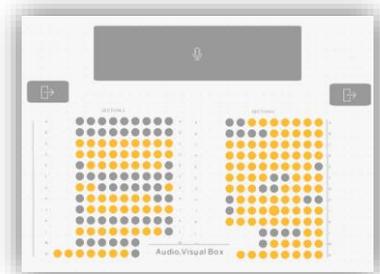


Benefiting, as we do, from a high level of parental engagement, we need to explore ways to accommodate comfortably, in our theatre-style hall, all the parents and carers who wish to attend.

That's why, on the recent year 7 settling-in evening, we trialled a new on-line booking system. Eighty parents took part in the trial and chose to book their preferred seats online so that they could be reserved for them.

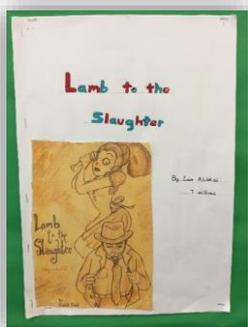
We are very grateful to those parents and carers for helping us test the system, and now we know that it works we will be using it more and more to provide you with the best possible, professional booking experience.

The evening was a great success for its main purpose too. Parents met their children's tutors; first in a relaxed atmosphere with refreshments in the restaurant and later in a more formal classroom setting where tutors hosted an informative presentation. The hall session itself was a useful opportunity for parents to see how we communicate; as part of which two of our students, Izzy and Charlie, showed how the Parents' Gateway works.



Outstanding Year 7 Student Homework!

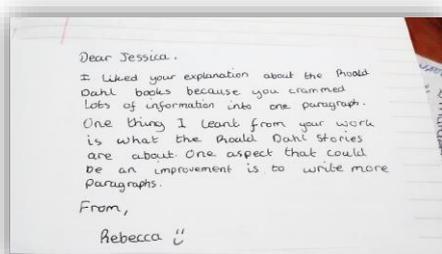
Ms Farook – English teacher



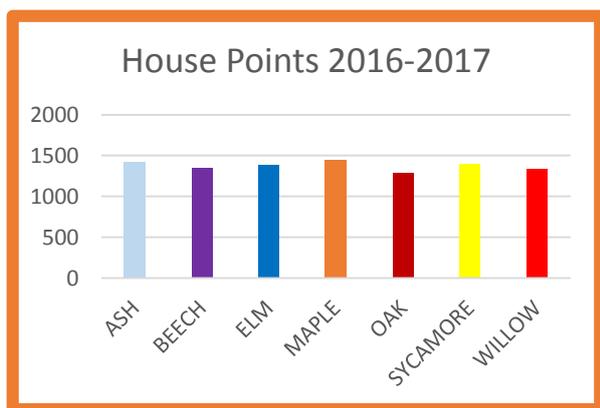
The English Faculty are proud to showcase some fantastic pieces of homework that were recently created by our new Year 7 students. Miss Levitan (KS3 Coordinator for English) has recently introduced *Homework Projects* to our KS3 schemes of work. Students are provided with a range of tasks and activities from which to choose; each task has been designed to enhance their understanding of the English text, whilst encouraging them to be as creative as possible.

The English Faculty has been very impressed with the amount of effort and hard work the Year 7 students applied to the tasks, which were all linked to Roald Dahl's murder mystery *Lamb to the Slaughter*; we've included a few examples that we're sure you will be delighted with, too!

Well done, Year 7!



House Points update



MAPLE	1443
ASH	1429
SYCAMORE	1405
ELM	1388
BEECH	1348
WILLOW	1341
OAK	1292

PE and Health Faculty news

Mr Cartledge – Head of PE faculty

Football news

The new Year 7 students played their first matches of the new season recently with some really pleasing performances from boys and girls.

Year 7 Boys Football v Immanuel (District League)

Date : Weds 21st September

Result : Won 4-3

Scorers : Max Machen 2, og, Tyler Pearce

Squad : Frankie Pierson, Max Machen, Taylor Bates, Ellis Anthony, Tyler Pearce, Alfie Hiron, Stanley Booth, Cian Lynch, Lewis Lacey, Leo Feeley, Bo Kabucho, Calum O'Shea

Commended performances : Whole team !

Comment : The boys produced a pleasing performance to win their first League match of the season in a tightly contested match with Immanuel. The boys led 2-0 at half time after an impressive display of passing football. The boys then showed great character to win the game after Immanuel pulled it back to 2-2. An enjoyable match and an excellent effort by all the boys.



Year 7/8 Girls - SJC

Date:26/9/16

Opposition: Reach Free (League)

Result: Won 6-1

Scorers: S.Parkhouse (4), L.Kirby (1), OG (1)

Team: A.Elman, E.Sinfield, V.Fordham, B.Brindley, K.Brannigan, S.Plummer, F.Bosselli, B.Coste, E.Cannon, Z.Rathod, S.Parkhouse, L.Kirby.

Comment: A fantastic start to the league campaign for the junior girls' team. Dominating from the start they worked hard in all areas to win the ball, showed control in defence and but for some fine saves by the opposition GK would have had more.

Players of the Match: Vicky Fordham: commanding in defence and Sophie Parkhouse: deadly in attack.

Thanks to Euan Enright and Chris King (Yr 11) for doing a fantastic job officiating the match.



GIRLS NETBALL

Year 9 - SW

Date: 26/9/16

Opposition: Reach Free

Result: Lost 4-3

Team: N. Redmond, A, Wells-Harbin, A. Finley, K. Williams, C. Lightfoot, A. Andrews, E. Henson

Comment: An unlucky result for the girls on their first match although they didn't concede a goal in the second or third quarter! The defence got stronger throughout the game as did the shooting we just need to work on getting the ball into the circle before next weeks match against FCA.

Player of the Match : N Redmond

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF THIS TERM...

FOCUS THIS WEEK: MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES & GEOGRAPHY

By Mrs Armitage

SARAH TOMALIN – Head of Modern Foreign Languages



Mrs Tomalin joins us from Alperton Community School in Wembley to head up our team of modern foreign language teachers who deliver French and Spanish to our students. Mrs Tomalin's main language is Spanish and she has been working as a language teacher for nine years. She was attracted to Bushey Meads as she had heard about its reputation of being a very good school, and so far her experiences here have proved this to be true. In her spare time Mrs Tomalin enjoys travelling – and presumably uses her Spanish where she can! At home one of her hobbies/interests is cooking. We wish Mrs Tomalin every success at BMS.

NICOLA PADDICK – Teacher of French

Mrs Paddick previously worked at Sandringham School. She chose Bushey Meads as she feels it is a school that aims to get the best out of every individual, and says that she is really excited about the potential of the students we have here. During her spare time Mrs Paddick enjoys visiting art exhibitions, playing the piano, involving herself in arts and crafts, as well as running an allotment!



CARMEN LOVE – Teacher of French and Spanish



Mrs Love has been teaching in the UK for 15+ years, originating from the Malaga area on the Costa del Sol in Spain. Her native language is therefore of course Spanish but she is also fluent in French and so is teaching both languages here at Bushey Meads. At her interview she was very impressed with our modern foreign languages department. In the school holidays Mrs Love enjoys travelling in order to learn other cultures and in her spare time enjoys the theatre/cinema.

MARK EDWARDS – PGCE Teacher of MFL

Mr Edwards studied French, Spanish and Portuguese at Southampton University, and during that time spent a year living in Lisbon as part of his course. He then took a year out, during which time he worked for the fraud department at Amazon – an experience I am sure! He then applied for and was successful in attaining a place on the PGCE teacher training course and we are of course very pleased to be able to take Mr Edwards on board with us for one of his placements. He is thoroughly enjoying his time with us so far and mentioned how he has noted the inclusive ethos and the positive relationships between teachers and pupils. His hobbies include supporting Watford FC and listening to South American music. He also mentioned quite modestly that he played Football Tennis for England in the European Championships which took place in Slovakia!



OLIVIA SKEVINGTON – Teacher of Geography



This is Miss Skevington's first year as a qualified teacher, having successfully completed her PGCE training year at Bristol University in July – in fact one of her placements was at the secondary school I attended in Bristol (many years ago)! Miss Skevington chose Bushey Meads because the students she taught here on her interview day were so engaged; she stated *'the students are the reason I chose BMS'*. And now Miss Skevington has been here for a month she told me how pleased she is with her decision to join us. In her spare time she enjoys artsy activities, particularly drawing, and is attending a ceramics course.

Last year she volunteered with Raleigh International and the government funded International Citizenship Program. She explained how incredible it was to work with volunteers from all over the UK and all over India to educate people of all ages about water, sanitation and hygiene. The experience taught her a great deal about educating through language barriers and particularly enhanced her communication, team work skills and love of South Karnatakans foods.

I am sure you would like to join me in wishing all the above staff every success at Bushey Meads School!

Exploring the Human Geography of Bushey

Miss Skevington – Geography teacher



Some of the most memorable and significant learning a student can do is out in the field. With the new Geography A-Level exam specification, we are lucky in that we are required to undertake four days of field work. Three of these days will come later in the school year as Year 12s will travel to Blencathra, in the Lake District, to investigate the changing glacial landscape. The fourth day of field work provided an opportunity for our enthusiastic Geography students to involve themselves in planning and executing an investigation.

The human geography topic of 'Changing Places' is one aspect of Geography that has previously only been taught at University level. The 9 year 12s have taken to the specialised concept of 'place' with fascination and a keenness to investigate. This is our research:

To investigate the relationship between representations of and people's perceptions of the Bushey area of Watford

Alicia Bysh, 12 Oak, explains our investigation:



"For our geography fieldwork on Thursday 28th September, we walked around the local area surveying the perceptions of the people of Bushey and looking at the characteristics it had to offer. This vital research will aid us in our first unit studying 'Changing Places'. This morning we were split into groups, looking at two different locations within Bushey and how they differ in terms of the people there, their social grade & age. We also looked at the place itself, its level of cleanliness and things to do there."



Students documented their own perceptions of the surrounding area at Bushey High Street and Harcourt Road. This included choosing adjectives to describe the area and taking photos for evidence, rating the cleanliness and degree to which the area felt safe from crime and taking observational notes about the people they could see. To strengthen our research students also briefly interviewed members of the public to hear their perceptions of the area. This primary data will be compared to secondary data showing representations of Bushey by the Office of National Statistics, Newspapers, Trip Advisor and Police websites.

Alicia said "I think our research today was successful, it will help us a lot" and I completely agree. The students represented the school fantastically with confidence, politeness and professionalism when approaching pedestrians. As we walked between our sites I found a £20 note on the side of the road - as there was no one around it could belong t, I bought a party-pack of Maltesers to thank each student for their excellent investigation work.

Well done Year 12 Geographers.

Year 12 Information Evening

Mr Spary – Assistant Headteacher KS4



On Thursday 27th September, Year 12 parents and students attended an information evening as part of the transition process into sixth form.

After a general talk in the main hall from the sixth form team, Heads of Faculty and sixth form teachers led subject specialist sessions.

Many parents commented that it was a great opportunity to meet new teachers and find out how they can support their son or daughter now they are in the sixth form.



Thank you to all the staff who delivered subject sessions. A special thank you to Jack Smith (13E), Natalya Smart (13E), Heather Thomas (13M), Max Kingston (13W) and Emily Hofer-Tillyer (13W) for their support during the event.