



Bushey St James Trust Newsletter

June 2017

The Sky is the Limit at BMS!

In September a large and lucky batch of Year 6 Little Reddings students transitioned to Bushey Meads; with a seven year, exciting learning journey still ahead of them, we wonder where they will end up?

For clues to their potential we need look no further than Emily, in Year 13. Emily, pictured against our massive university destinations wall and alongside her Year 10 sister Marie, came to Bushey Meads from Little Reddings and is now Head Girl. That places her right at the pinnacle of our student leadership system, organising younger students and speaking at governors' meetings and big school events too. Imagine the power of that on a curriculum vitae. Emily is studying for A levels in photography, psychology and Spanish. At university she wants to study psychology with a view to moving into the world of forensic psychology.



Her sibling, Marie, loves the arts, particularly drama, having appeared in all the school's major productions and sought out a multitude of other opportunities to take the stage at school. As to future pathways, Marie is keeping all options open; so we may not know the direction, but we can be sure of the aim - high.

Following closely in Emily's shoes is Amira, pictured during an A level science experiment. Having also joined Bushey Meads from Little Reddings, Amira, now in Year 12, is Deputy Head Girl, with similar responsibilities to Emily. Amira is studying for A levels in biology, English Literature, Extended

Project and History (3 facilitating subjects!), having already gained a top AS in mathematics in Year 11! Amira is considering a career in law and deciding whether to take a law degree or study one of her other subjects and then follow a law conversion. Either way, we know a top university



beckons. So our new Year 7s can look forward to the same success. They know they will have to earn it, but as Edward and Thomas are showing, pictured studying together in our after-school



homework club, they are all taking full advantage of the great teachers we have here and all the enrichment and extra curriculum opportunities. Their future achievements are without limit. Of that we can be certain!



Joint BSJT Technology Initiative

One of the benefits of being a Trust is that we can facilitate the students in both schools sharing in any major new initiatives taking place across both schools. One example of this was during the spring term when Little Reddings and Bushey Meads students were fortunate enough to enjoy a visit from the I.D.E.A.S Technology bus. This genuine American school bus, full of cutting edge technology, gave our students hands on experience with some of the most exciting technology for education.

Within the bus, our lucky students explored 3D printers, FUSE coding devices and watched a 3D simulation of the human body. In addition, our students were exposed to the latest virtual reality, exploring Google Expedition and Tilt 360 degree immersive paint package.



BSJT Staff Development Day

The professional development of staff within the Bushey St James' Trust (BSJT) plays an integral role in our ethos of 'Learning Together, Success for All' and 'Aspire to Achieve'. We fully support and believe that all staff need to continually strive to increase their subject knowledge for the benefit of the students. Therefore on Monday 20th February 2017 BSJT ran a Staff Development Day during which a variety of training sessions were completed.

The theme of the day for the teachers, teaching assistants (TAs) and teaching assistants for the physically impaired (TAPIs) was 'Collaboration, Challenge and Consistency'. A session geared towards improving consistency in terms of our expectations of students between Little Reddings Primary School and Bushey Meads School was presented by Miss Simmonds (the Headteacher from Little Reddings), Mrs Wright (Assistant Headteacher at Bushey Meads) and Miss Levitan (Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator at Bushey Meads.)

The session began with Miss Simmonds explaining to the staff at BMS the various elements relating to spelling, punctuation and grammar that all pupils at LRS



are introduced to and tested on during the Year 6 SATs and Mrs Wright then showed a few examples of previous SATs questions. The session was very interactive with staff being asked to discuss the questions with colleagues and then feedback their answers. It was a real 'eye-opener' in terms of how much the expectations placed on primary school students have increased over the past few years.

Miss Levitan finished the session by demonstrating various ways in which the staff at BMS can improve the schemes of learning in place at

BSJT Staff Development Day continued.....

at Key Stage 3 so that the students in Years 7, 8 and 9 can build upon the high level of learning acquired previously and prepare fully for their GCSEs. Teaching staff were then given time to start embedding the changes in their faculty areas. As always, the sessions were informative and fun. It is nice to witness the collaboration across BSJT and see staff focus on what really matters - the quality of service we offer to the children.



Raising Achievement at the Heart of the BSJT

One of the major benefits of working in a Multi Academy Trust (particularly one that is across all the key phases of education) is that, within the structure created, there are intrinsic ready-made opportunities for senior leaders (and indeed all staff) to meet together and share best practice; collaborating effectively across the primary and secondary sectors to ensure a seamless

journey of learning and achievement.

Other primary-only MATs do not have this major benefit and this is something that the BSJT are very proud of and want to capitalise on.

With that in mind, over the last few months, the key senior leaders overseeing the raising achievement agendas in both schools (particularly in phonics, literacy, English and maths) have met to scrutinise the pupil level

data, but more importantly, share best practice in relation to all the initiatives that are working so well in both schools within the Trust to ensure that all students reach their potential.

Pictured below shows the staff in the new state of the art classroom at LRS discussing the impact of their work; the meeting was hugely positive and continued to strengthen the ongoing framework and structure for exciting work in this key area.



BSJT Site Update

At Bushey Meads the project to replace all the old windows with modern UPVC double glazed units is nearing completion. This initiative has been complimented by the installation of extremely smart, new, grey cladding which has completely transformed the look of the school and has been overlaid across the very dated concrete panel walls. This major project has enhanced not only the look of the school, but also ensured major cost savings in terms of heating efficiencies across the site.



Funding availability has allowed for a large dining hall and Learning Resource Centre (LRC) extension along with miscellaneous works to complete the project.

In terms of the continued school expansion commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council two years ago and building on the continued success of the school, we can now report that Phase 1 of the expansion project is now completed. Phase 2 works have now started and involve extending various teaching blocks giving additional areas to art, PE, music, English and languages departments. In addition another Study and Seminar room and new entrance is being provided to our smart state of the art Sixth Form Centre. The Phase 2 project is split into two parts for practical reasons. The planned completion date for Part 1 is July 2017. Part 2 begins at that same time, creating a multi gym and associated classroom, art block extension and the building of an additional classroom above A7, with completion by late spring 2018. Consideration is now being given to enlarging the drama facilities and in doing so giving the Sixth Form area an additional room to facilitate the future growth in this key area of the school.

On behalf of Little Reddings School, our hard working and hugely experienced Facilities Manager Richard Chambers submitted a major Conditions Improvement Fund (CIF) bid to the Department for Education (DfE) in December 2016. This incorporated an additional report from an independent expert as required by the funding agency and an in-depth planning explanation citing lessons learnt from the current experience at Bushey Meads School. The bid was carefully refined, with the cost of project now £681,000. Unfortunately the bid was un-successful despite amending documents to include items recommended on previous feedback. As a Trust we are in the process of appealing the decision but outcomes will not be known until July.

At Little Reddings the school telephone system requires updating to include more incoming lines to the switch, auto attendant to distribute calls without reception assistance and additional extensions to improve building coverage. This major work should be completed this term.

Pupils and staff are aware that the BSJT Site Staff have been working hard to refurbish the pupil toilets across the site and have already completed the Year 5 ones – much to the appreciation of the pupils.



Another major project being undertaken at the school is creating a sensory room which will help support students suffering from stress related issues.

BSJT IT Improvements

IT improvements continue across the Trust, with many developments already in the pipeline for the new academic year including an upgraded learning platform site, a school wide print management solution, and updated websites for Bushey Meads School and Little Reddings.

IT Improvements continued

The Bushey St James Trust launches a newly designed microsite (<http://bsjt.org.uk>) for all trust related news and information.



Bushey Meads School continues to invest in IT equipment to improve the IT provision for all students and staff. Recent additions include a classroom set of Chromebooks which can be loaned from our Learning Resource Centre. Teaching staff are already seeing a huge benefit with having this technology available in all of their lessons. Chromebooks are easily carried in the buckets provided from classroom to classroom making transporting a breeze.



In light of the recent security breaches publicised in the media, the BSJT has secured and patched all IT systems, and continues to invest in the latest industry standards for security protection including internet filtering, firewalls and antivirus. Systems have recently been upgraded, and the latest antivirus protection installed.



The Learning Resource Centre continues to be the hub of the school for teaching and learning. Students have greatly welcomed the improved layout. Computers are now out of sight freeing up desk space for those taking part in homework club and Saturday revision sessions. The area is now a much more multifunctional space, and the addition of widescreen monitors has been received positively by all students who regularly use the facilities during breaktimes, lesson times and during after school activities.



The IT Team have been continuing to improve the IT provision at Little Reddings Primary with an additional 5 interactive flat panels installed across both the infant and junior school.



In addition staff have also welcomed the laptop docking stations which have helped to improve connectivity to the interactive screens, without the need for plugging in cables.



Guests are now greeted by messages on our display screen in visitor reception.



We have also recently installed a visitor signing in system which has greatly improved waiting times for parents and streamlining the signing in late process. Lunch choices can be recorded at the touch of the button freeing up staff to focus on priority tasks. The IT Team at Bushey Meads



have also recently begun providing IT support at Hartsbourne Primary School, giving much needed additional technical support. A recent audit has taken place of all existing IT equipment, and future developments include an upgraded CCTV system, visitor sign in system and network infrastructure upgrades are already planned for the upcoming months. The staff at Hartsbourne Primary, led by experienced Headteacher Valerie Hudson, have praised the IT team for their support and welcome being able to tap into the resources and expertise that the BSJT has to offer.

BSJT Trust Update

As the success of the Trust becomes more widely recognised and staff from both schools continue to collaborate with colleagues from a number of schools in the local area, it is hugely exciting to be able to announce that Hartsbourne Primary School in Hartsbourne Road, Bushey Heath has formally requested to join the Bushey St James Trust.

Since January 2016 it has been a privilege for Jeremy Turner our Executive Principal to become an Associate Governor at their school and work closely with Valerie Hudson (pictured below) the Headteacher of Hartsbourne, becoming involved in this way in the life of their school.



Hartsbourne are clearly a very good school on an exciting journey – providing an excellent education for young children in the local area.



Their recent very good Ofsted report published in October 2016 makes for an excellent read: <http://hartsbourne.herts.sch.uk/ofsted-2016/> and indicates that by

joining the Bushey St James Trust they will bring much expertise and best practice into our ever-improving organisation.



Next steps are for the Trust to carry out a due diligence process which looks at all aspects of the school: financial, leadership and management, teaching and learning, site and facilities, IT infrastructure and current contracts.

There is also quite a significant amount of legal work to do related to amending the Articles of Association and refining the overall Trust Structure to reflect the proposed expansion of the Trust.

At Hartsbourne Primary School:

"Pupils behave well and work hard in lessons and enjoy their learning" "Pupils behave well and are enthusiastic learners"

OFSTED 2016

We are hoping that this will be completed by September 2017 but, in the meantime, all three schools are already benefitting from significant collaborations and sharing of expertise which bodes well for an exciting future together.

One of the most important considerations in deciding whether or not to join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) is for the schools involved to ascertain whether or not their all-important vision and values align. What is encouraging is that they do; very closely indicating that all leaders,

At Hartsbourne Primary School:

"The Headteacher has established a very caring culture for pupils, and all staff fully subscribe to it"

OFSTED 2016

staff and Governors and Trustees across the MAT will have the right core values at the heart of everything that we do – for the benefit of all stakeholders across the Trust which, by the Autumn, will be three very good schools!

"At Hartsbourne we are building a strong school community; inspiring pupils to gain the confidence, resilience and independence to become life-long learners, making the best progress possible and creating happy memories."

At the heart of the Trust is the desire to collaborate effectively and enable the schools to build on their success and improve their performance, drawing on the experience of all staff across the Trust. There is a shared vision to develop first class provision between the two phases and to:

- aim for excellence in all we do
 - provide students with the best possible start for their futures
 - nurture greater integration and community cohesion
 - provide a programme of high quality continuing professional development and training for all staff to underpin and sustain improvements in teaching and learning
 - emphasise to students the traditional values of self-discipline, responsibility, respect, trust and cooperation
- The Bushey St James Trust values, underpinning the work of the Trust, aim to:
- deliver educational excellence

BSJT Values Continued

- ensure all children exceed expectations
- prepare young people for the future
- ensure that the Trust enhances the local community
- ensure that the schools within the Trust are happy, safe and inclusive
- support families to encourage aspiration
- act with responsibility, accountability and transparency
- create a seamless educational experience
- encourage independence and creativity
- inspire, nurture and empower all staff who work within the Trust

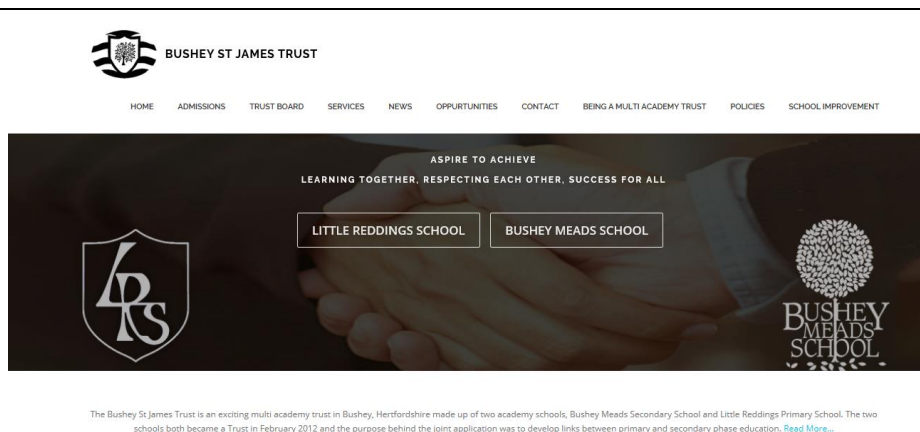
New BSJT Website

If you do want to find out more information about the Multi Academy Trust we have launched a brand new website accessed via the link below:

<http://bsjt.org.uk/>

On the website you can find out information related to:

- the vision and values of the BSJT Multi Academy Trust
- the Members and Strategic Trust Board who oversee the Multi Academy Trust
- all the Trust wide policies that ensure compliance in all statutory areas
- opportunities to join and support the BSJT Multi Academy Trust
- all the core benefits and services that the BSJT Multi Academy Trust offers
- the proven impact of school improvement initiatives across the Trust



Message From The Executive Principal

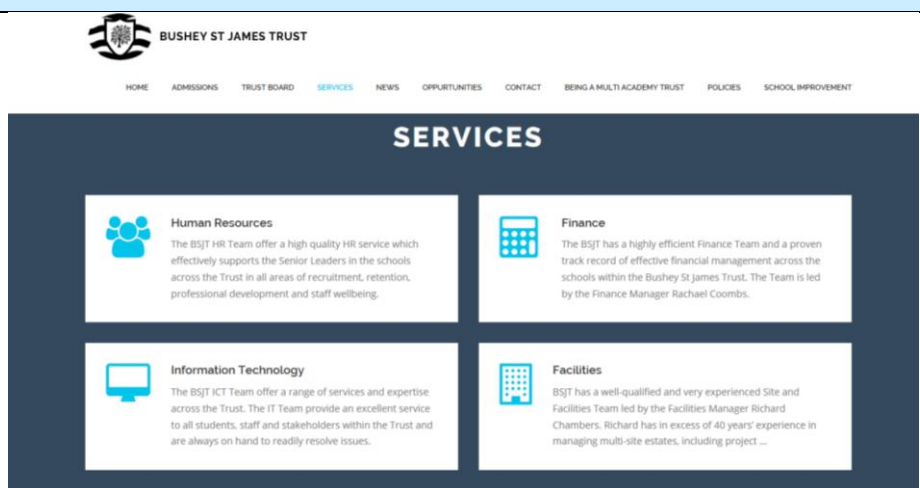


It is a real privilege to be the Executive Principal of the Bushey St James Trust (BSJT) and work alongside Carly Simmonds, the Headteacher of Little Reddings Primary School and all the hard working and highly competent Trustees and Governors.

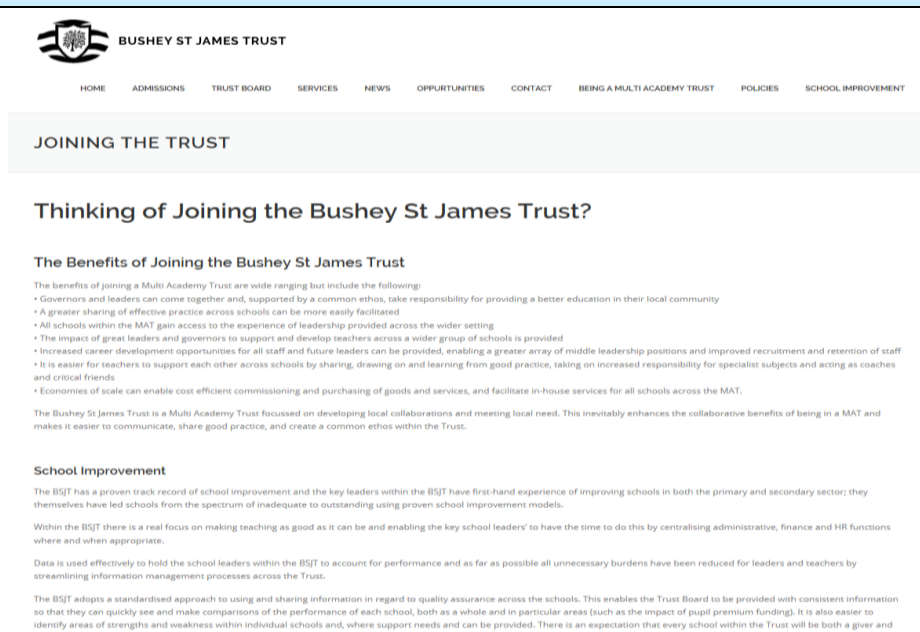
Together with the all the experienced and well qualified senior school leaders and of course the wider body of staff in both settings, it is exciting to see our innovative and forward thinking Multi Academy Trust develop and secure a promising future for the Trust in this area of South West Hertfordshire.

[\(more...\)](#)

Website snapshot pictured above: the new BSJT home page



Website snapshot pictured above: the core services offered by the MAT



Website snapshot pictured above: detailing benefits of joining the MAT

Curriculum Links Continue to be Made Across the Trust

Cross-phase curriculum projects are one of the key benefits of working within our Multi-Academy Trust. Primary and secondary phases benefit from learning what each other does and the students benefit from a seamless transition.

Earlier this month Wai Ling Wong, history coordinator at Little Reddings, came along for a visit and met up with Roger Newbold, the Bushey Meads Head of Humanities.



Their discussions on this occasion focused on ideas for a joint project with either Bushey Meads students visiting Little Reddings or Little Reddings students visiting BMS, or both. Watch this space to read how the project transpires.

Looking Forward to BMS!

Even more Year 6 pupils than ever from Little Reddings are making the transition across the Trust next year to Bushey Meads. It has been great to capture their thoughts about the new adventure. Here are just some of their reflections.....

Tiffany Marie Manzie wrote..... When I start Bushey Meads, I will be really excited as I will be wearing a smart blazer and a

house tie. I like that there are different houses, so that there can be some house competitions. I also like the school sport teams, as people can have fun whilst doing a specific sport that they want to do. I am also looking forward to GCSEs and exams, as I love tests.

I am looking forward to doing the lessons like food technology and art that we did not do in primary school very often. I will also like to see my dad working in the kitchen, Tommy Manzie (as he is an amazing cook) and also seeing my brother, Thomas Manzie, learning to use instruments and meeting new people. I will love to make many more friends at Bushey Meads; I already have about four friends there. I will enjoy Maths and English, PE and all technology lessons - especially electronics the most though.

Thileepkumar Mahadevan reflects..... I am really looking forward to learning new subjects. I am thrilled to make new friends at Bushey Meads. I'm also really excited to maybe meet old friends that may come to Bushey Meads as well. It would be a great opportunity to learn new languages. The uniform also looks very smart so I am looking forward to that too. I am just as excited to participate in sports and the many clubs on offer.

Zak Tavener lists his thoughts.....

- I am looking forward to meeting new friends
- I am looking forward to eating in the canteen at lunchtime
- I am looking forward to wearing a tie
- I am looking forward to learning Spanish
- I am looking forward to getting into the sports teams
- I am looking forward to wearing a tie and uniform
- I am looking forward to playing

a new instrument

• I am looking forward to going to maths and technology lessons
Layla Ivy Handley writes.....When I go to Bushey Meads I will be excited to:

- Have a bigger library (I am really into my library)
- Meeting new friends and teachers
- Learning Spanish and carrying on with French
- The uniform
- Trying new food in the canteen
- The House System
- Different clubs to join
- Food Technology
- Dance, drama and gymnastics
- Playing the piano
- Computers and technology
- Seeing my brother, Louie Handley, (he is in Ash House)
- Transition day
- Trampolining

Jack Dylan Seal says..... I am looking forward to year 7 all the sports and art will be fund, I'd like to join a sport (most likely basketball). I will see my brother more and I am looking forward to my new uniform, I like science and I want to learn how to cook.

Lexie Laskowski-Jeffs lists her thoughts about transition.....

- A bigger environment
- New people
- Canteen
- New uniform
- Different subjects
- Trying new things
- Having lots of friends
- Meeting new teachers
- Lots of activities
- Trampolining and gymnastics
- Fingerprint
- Transition day

Callum Leeves lists.....

- I'm looking forward to meeting new teachers and pupils
- I am also looking forward to the school uniform
- I am excited to see what books

LRS Year 6 Thoughts Continued

are in the library

- I am particularly excited to play the sports at Bushey Meads
- I am excited to see my brother at Bushey Meads as well
- I am also excited to learn different languages
- I am really excited to go on the technology at Bushey Meads
- I am also looking forward to do maths at Bushey Meads

Djani Colakovic writes.....I am looking forward to meeting new pupils, getting new lockers, learning in lessons, and learning Spanish. I am excited to be in the football team and having burgers, beef, fries and sandwiches at lunchtime. I can't wait to do clubs in year 7 in football and tennis, also going to the restaurant area at break if I feel hungry. Also getting new ties and new uniforms. Playing on the AstroTurf and on the field with a ball at break is going to be good; seeing my friends and new people.



Alek Dimitrov reflects....I am excited about meeting new and old people. Also I am very excited about the new suits and the new different ties. I am eager to taste the food and to be in teams with other people. I am looking forward to starting new lessons.

Emily Lauren Wood states..... I am extremely excited to start school at Bushey Meads School mainly

because I love meeting new people. Also, at Bushey Meads they have a variety of lessons to choose from and I am looking forward to learning new subjects as well as having drum lessons. As well as the subjects, I love the school's uniform because it is smart and a change from Little Reddings' uniform. I like the way they organise the houses and have the different coloured ties for each house. I can't wait to have new opportunities and meet new friends and staff. I am looking forward to meeting you!

Charlie Chandler writes.....I am looking forward to meeting new friends at Bushey Meads. The thing I like about Bushey Meads are the clubs and the delicious food. Once I make new friends I will meet all the year 9 and 11 students. I want to play drums at Bushey Meads because I love playing drums. I am looking forward to going there.

Goncalo Soares reflects.....I am very excited to go to Bushey Meads because I will meet new people, be in a football team, learn Spanish enjoy the restaurant area and break times. I am also excited to wear the new uniform, because we are going to wear ties. I am excited to be in clubs like football, tennis, basketball and rugby. I am also excited for the restaurant area because I love food! I love learning new things and am excited to be able to play with new friends. I would like to be in plays because I like acting.

Oliver Appa writes.....I'm looking forward to being in year 7 and study all the new subjects especially Art, because I am very good at it. Also I cannot wait to meet new staff and students; because some of my friends are going as well so I will have people

by my side. I am looking forward to having a tie and new uniform so I can represent the school well.

Manuka Girihagama states.....I am excited to meet new people, learn new subjects (Spanish, sports teams, food technology) and the house team; I am also ecstatic to wear my tie. On my transition day I am eager to wear my uniform. In addition I am looking forward to seeing the library because of the variety of books.

Aidan O'Shea writes.....I am excited to learn new subjects (Spanish, sports and music), making new friends, joining sports teams, meeting new teachers and members of staff, the scrumptious food, all the clubs including homework club and learning music instruments. I am looking forward to going to Bushey Meads.



Leyton Gregory Thorneycroft reflects....Bushey Meads: I am looking forward to meeting new friends and meeting with my friends that I already have and the new staff. I am also looking forward to sport such as: football, rugby, basketball and cricket I also love drums, singing and I want to learn piano I am also looking forward to meeting you all!



LRS Year 6 Thoughts Continued

Megan Louise O'Callaghan writes.....I am incredibly excited to come to Bushey Meads and can't wait to get involved in stage performances and yearly productions. I love the look of the canteen. I know a few friends outside of my primary school that are coming to Bushey Meads and I am really looking forward to seeing them more often. The new subjects that Bushey Meads offer also seem opportunities to learn new skills.

I am also excited for the new ties and house teams. I am looking forward to meeting all of the Bushey Meads teachers and can't wait for the start of the year!

Max Stanley Booth writes.....I am most looking forward to the Bushey Meads' rugby and football teams. What makes me the most excited is meeting new faces and sealing new friendships.

I can't wait to see what house I am in, also I really want to be in a new uniform. I also want to try as many clubs as possible like football, rugby, cooking, music, acting and basketball. Some of the lessons I am looking forward to are science and English.

Joint Hartsbourne and BMS Science INSET

The Bushey Meads science faculty are really pleased to be working with Hartsbourne school now, as well as Little Reddings. Bushey Meads were asked to run Hartsbourne's science INSET - something we were delighted to do because we can learn so much from each other. Three Bushey Meads teachers, Josh Collins-Pearson, Ellie Martindale and Jey Atchuthan discussed



Some of the wonderful students from Little Reddings coming to BMS this September – what potential!

ideas with Hartsbourne in the run-up to the day, and then prepared some sessions involving actual experiments.

During the INSET Hartsbourne staff conducted three experiments that can now be repeated with their students: a biology investigation to find the best growing conditions for seeds in a pertri dish; experimenting to decide the relative strengths of magnets (physics); a chemistry experiment to investigate the temperature reduction in a particular reaction. All these science investigations can be tailored to the age-related appropriate depth of student

understanding. Lots of on-line resources and ideas were also shared and, after the presentations, staff worked on how to incorporate these into schemes of work.

Feedback has been excellent and both schools are looking forward to working together on more science projects in the future.



Joint Hartsbourne and BMS Science INSET continued

"I just wanted to thank you for your support with our science INSET; your staff were engaging and enthusiastic and they had obviously put a lot of thought and effort into planning their sessions. My staff were extremely positive afterwards and there was a great science buzz over lunch! Thank you again, and please pass on our positive comments (and thanks again) to the group, every one of them was impressive."

Valerie Hudson
Headteacher



More Science News from BMS!

Science week at BMS was a huge success with the final activity of the week ending with a big bang on the 'Big Ideas Bus'; shared with us and Little Reddings. Science class 8Sc2 were privileged to have the opportunity to experience a host of cutting edge technologies that amazed, inspired and enthused the class. The class were so delighted that they wrote in to Mrs Wright thanking her for their experience. Here are some excerpts from the pupils.

Miss J Atchuthan
Science Teacher

8S2 also went into 'The Big Ideas Bus' which was where all their technology was held. While we were in the Ideas bus we were taught how 3D printers work and how it's used in technology today and how it could evolve in the future. Additionally, we saw a 3D visual of a biology lesson. We

were told that hopefully in the future this could be the new way of learning in schools. Lastly, we also would like to thank Mrs Wright and Rebecca Thomas and Miss Atchuthan for choosing our class and also taking us around the school to the classrooms." ~ *Crystal Haxhia and Jayden Griffith.*



"Thankyou for the brilliant experience on Friday 17th where we got to go on 'The Ideas Bus' it was so fun but also educational. The things used were called: ABS plastic, PLA polyamide (nylon), glass filled polyamide, stereolithography materials (epoxy), silver, titanium, steel, wax,

photopolymers and polycarbonate. Near the end they introduced us to a coding program that once completed would make a game where the computer would guess a number and guessed for you.

"We thoroughly enjoyed the activities that were set out in G2. This included the cardboard VR illusion; the HTC vive VR headsets; the programming of the moving robots and the soft sound boxes. All of these amazing gadgets were great to learn about and try out." ~ *Romi Mitchell and Shanaya Hirani.*



You wanted the numbers to be the same. You can increase the numbers from 1 - 10 to 1 - 1000. It was very fun and interesting!"

Year 8 BMS
Scientists

BMS Sixth Formers at LRS

In the Sixth Form at Bushey Meads School I enjoy studying a great combination of a traditional academic A level Sociology, an Extended Project Qualification worth an AS or ½ an A level and a more vocational option in the form of a Level 3 Childcare Course which is worth the equivalent of 2 A levels.

For this particular course, over the two years of sixth form study, I have to complete 750 hours of work experience with young children aged zero to five years. This is quite a challenge and is completed through a number of different placements.

My placement this year has been at Little Reddings Primary School where I am helping out in the nursery and reception classes on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings. On Tuesday my day usually starts by supporting the children in the nursery with their learning through play; this could be in encouraging them to complete water based activities, structured activities to support their phonics development (learning how to make letter sounds) and even watching and talking about the four very sweet live chicks that have come to live in the nursery! All the time one of my main roles is to support the teacher and teaching assistants in ensuring that all the children in their care are safe, happy and get on well together throughout the day. On Tuesday afternoons I work in reception and this involves, first of all, helping to lead a PE lesson; supporting the teacher by working with a small group and encouraging the pupils to participate fully in the planned sporting activity. This month a lot of the learning in reception has been based around the theme of

growing and there are a variety of indoor and outdoor activities on offer to engage all the pupils. For example they all have a plant each and they have to water it every day. In addition a kitchen area has been set up and another technology based activity has been developed that encourages them to make things out of wood using age appropriate hammers. Indoor activities in reception generally involve painting or craft activities and every day I always read with at least one pupil. At the end of day I help to make

sure they are organised and ready to go home safely with their parents.

On Thursday morning the day always starts with exercise or a singing activity and one of my main roles is to help the teaching assistant set up the classroom with activity areas that reinforce learning about their topic. Some of the activities that the pupils most enjoy to do with me include playing puzzles and board games and completing learning games on the computer. I enjoy leading some of the craft activities



Francesca and Fellow Sixth Form Student Lydia at work!

BMS Sixth Formers at LRS....

with the girls and also helping with the pupils' reading and writing. At the end of the morning I assist them getting their lunch boxes, coats on and being ready to go to lunch. The placement has certainly opened my eyes to the complexities of children's formative development and all the background work that goes into running a safe Early Years Setting and of course it supports the all-important academic written coursework that needs to be completed to ensure a worthy portfolio is submitted at the end of the 2 year course.

By Francesca Turner 12Ash

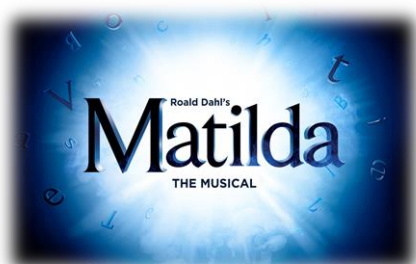
Music Across the Trust Update

This term we have launched a brand new weekly recorder club for Key Stage 1. We have 5 students studying the recorder; Summer, Isabel, Amelia, Keira and Annabel.

Only five weeks in and the students are progressing so quickly that we have already performed two songs in music assembly for the rest of Key Stage 1. Keira did a fantastic job of introducing the ensemble to the audience and spoke eloquently describing the recorder and the notes we had learned. Amelia then counted the ensemble in with a steady tempo. Annabel led the bows and curtseys and Summer thanked the audience politely for listening. The recorder choir performed 'No More Milk Today' and 'Little Fly'. I was very impressed with their professionalism and it was clearly a proud moment for all of them. This term, Year 6 at Little

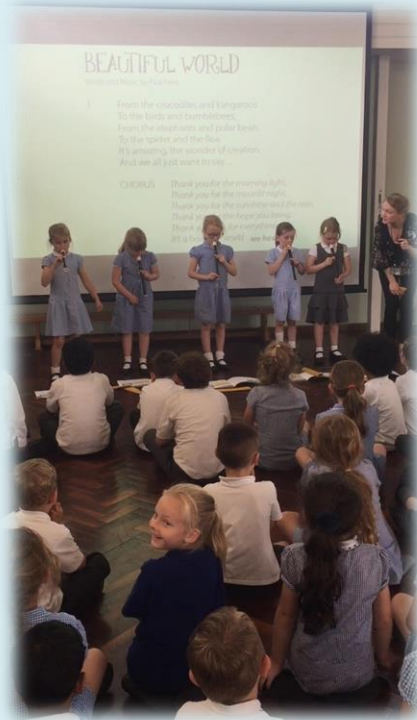


Reddings will be visiting Bushey Meads School for a special Arts day to experience secondary school in preparation for September next year. The Arts Faculty (made up of the Art, Music, Dance and Drama departments) are planning a fun and active day of rehearsals for Year 6 in preparation for a short excerpt of the musical Matilda to be performed at the end of the day.



In music assemblies for Key Stage 2 we have really enjoyed learning two songs from Matilda in preparation for the day. The first song 'When I Grow Up' is all about that impatience that young people have to grow old enough to be responsible for their own lives and features lyrics such as "When I grow up, I will eat sweets every day!" Our second song from Matilda is inspired by the tyrannical head teacher in the Roald Dahl novel, Ms Trunchbull, who can often speak of 'Revoltin' Children'. The children in the musical sing a song about revolting against this awful head teacher ending their chorus with the words "We'll have The Trunchbull bolting, we are revoltin'!" We know that moving to secondary school can sometimes be a nerve-wracking but momentous occasion for young people. At Bushey Meads, we hope to give Year 6 a taste of secondary school life filled with fun and laughter.

Sarah Brown, Head of Music at BMS and Music Coordinator Across the BSJT



BSJT Dance Club

Since September 2016 several KS3 and KS4 Bushey Meads' dance students have been running a dance club for KS2 students from Little Reddings.

This has allowed the students to collaborate with each other and learn new skills, both in teaching and learning dance. The Little Reddings students have been extremely enthusiastic and committed to the club and have shown off some of their fantastic dance skills. Bushey Meads' students have commented on how the experience has enhanced their skills and has encouraged them to want to teach more in



the future. This will hopefully be an experience that will be repeated in future years and we hope to see lots more Little Reddings students taking part from September 2017.

**Miss Rowden
Head of Dance at BMS**

We Trust in our BSJT!

Well what an eventful year in the life of the BSJT, creating enhanced collaborations and projects between Bushey Meads and Little Reddings School!

I have been privileged to have been timetabled with the year 6 team at Little Reddings, preparing the students for their recent SATS examinations. These went smoothly and we were all incredibly proud of what the year 6 students achieved both academically and in terms of their personal development. To celebrate the end of the exams we took the students to Wagamama's where they indulged in making and tasting the food! They learned about the finances of portion control and the benefits of fresh juice to the diet.

Our Human Resources assistant, Koulla Fisher drove the mini-bus for us and this is one of the many small, yet incredibly significant, benefits to our Trust, enabling us to share staffing and resources. Sebastian Gray and Sean Power from the Year 6 team have shared their experiences of Key Stage 2 with our English and Maths faculties; enabling our Key Stage 3 teams to plan effectively for the year 7 curriculum.

As part of the transition programme it was a great pleasure for me to receive the Little Reddings students at the induction interviews. I know them really well and seeing a familiar face aids their transition to the school. We will also be inviting the Year 6 students to a week-long induction where all students will experience life in a secondary school setting. TA's from Little Reddings will be



spending the week with the students, also enabling them to get a feel of what it is like to be a TA in a secondary environment. Bushey Meads' staff will benefit from their detailed knowledge and expertise on the learning styles of the students in the classroom.

Our Humanities, Design and Technology, Science, Art and MFL faculties have been connecting in with one another too. It's terrific for me to hear of exciting conversations happening across the Trust and in more and more areas of the curriculum as well. These are becoming part of our DNA now and we are excited to be timetabling staff that will teach across both sites next year. This will continue to inform great practice across the BSJT, particularly with years 6 and 7. Along with Miss Simmonds, our I.T. Team have been creating a fantastic new website for Little Reddings School that will be launched this term. Thank you to George Furr for his incredible role in this project.

Our caretaking staff continue to facilitate both sites with their day

to day operational duties. Their involvement in the building enhancement programme has been magnificent.

With the Trust working so well, I am thrilled to be welcoming a third school to our incredible collaboration and in September I look forward to sharing this exciting journey with Hartsbourne Primary School too.

Lauren Wright
Assistant Headteacher across the BSJT

Language Links across the BSJT

The Modern Foreign Languages Team at BMS are really looking forward to collaborating with Little Reddings School MFL teachers and students this summer!



We have lots of fun activities planned including: Mini MFL Olympics with Year 5, a visit from a Spanish school, learning how to play Padel, French and Spanish master classes at LRS, a visit from

Language Links across the BSJT...	Headteacher of Little Reddings Primary School writes:	Chair of the Trust Sam Russell writes:
<div><div>Laura Moses French Teacher at LRS</div></div> <p>students in China and perhaps even a Mandarin club or some French Caribbean and Latin American cookery! We hope that all LRS and BMS students involved in the activities will have fun learning about other languages and cultures, in a new and exciting way.</p> <div><div>Sarah Tomalin Head of MFL at BMS</div></div> <div></div>	<p>As the sun comes out and the academic year draws to a close, it is a great time to look back over the past year.</p> <div></div> <p>We celebrate the successes, look at how far along the journey we have come, look at what has been achieved, and plan for even bigger and better things next academic year.</p> <p>This is more exciting than ever as we look towards 2017/18 - the Trust is expanding and there are even more opportunities to work with others, share resources and have a bigger impact on the life opportunities of our pupils.</p> <p>As a Headteacher, as a school and as a Trust we are ever growing and improving.</p> <p>Bring it on!</p> <div>Carly Simmonds Headteacher</div>	<p>Reflecting back on a year which has been hugely successful for everyone involved; Little Reddings celebrated a fantastic Ofsted inspection, using it as a springboard towards further great improvements, while Bushey Meads continues to raise its positive profile in the local community, becoming even more popular than ever before for and a school of real choice for parents and their children. Hartsbourne Primary School applying to join the BSJT from September is a hugely positive step forward for the Trust, the schools within it, and most importantly the children. Another great local school joining brings opportunity for further collaboration and learning and the chance to create an even more seamless transition from primary to secondary. I must acknowledge the efforts of our Finance, HR, Premises and IT Teams to make this all happen and the work behind the scenes that is being done to reflect the new structure, which will be explained in a future newsletter.</p> <div><div>Sam Russell BSJT Chair</div></div>
Executive Principal of the Trust, Jeremy Turner, writes:		<p><i>On behalf of all the Trustees, Governors and staff across the Bushey St James Trust we would like to wish you all a very safe, happy and restful summer holiday. We look forward to celebrating with you some superb examination results in August and welcoming you back to both schools for an exciting new term in September.</i></p>
<p>As we draw to the close of another busy and hugely successful academic year, we should all be immensely proud of what we have all achieved; individually, as separate, distinctly unique great schools, but also collectively as a Multi Academy Trust with a genuine vision and collaborative, inclusive values that benefit all the children in the local area attending the schools within the Bushey St James Trust. As a MAT we are poised to expand and the future looks immensely promising. I do hope that this packed newsletter gives a glimpse of some of the wonderful things that are happening for the benefit of all our staff and students.</p> <div></div>		