



Friday 12th September 2014

Exciting Times

By Bill Fisher, Assistant Headteacher

It was such a pleasure to welcome at the school gates our new Year 7 students this week; their pristine uniform, shiny shoes and neat hair the outwards signs of their determination to make a good impression. But it is our smartest year-group in more ways than one, with an *average* Year 6 level actually above a level 5 and swathes of students at the highest level 6.

Around the site students have quickly found their feet and easily picked up the routines and culture of our successful and friendly school. In the classrooms too, teachers have reported impressive attitudes to learning in all subjects and lessons. This year-group is very quickly taking to heart our school motto – Aspire to Achieve.

Of course many students had already taken part in school activities beyond the normal induction day. Huge numbers attended the excellent family 'fun day' and BBQ in July and nearly 80 students attended the brilliant 3-day holiday activities course run by our PE staff. Events like these really help with the familiarisation and social aspects of getting to know a new site and new people, and they build confidence too.

Those who had other commitments at those times need not worry, though, because we continue to encourage students to take part in all forms of extended curriculum activities and to step up and represent the school whenever possible. Already after only a few days at school our new students have been eagerly volunteering to act as guides at next weeks open evening.

A really promising start.



KS5 News

By Sara Ash, Assistant Headteacher

It has been lovely to see so many Bushey Meads students returning into Years 12 and 13. We have also welcomed a number of new students into the 6th form and they have already settled in well. The new dress code of smart, office wear has made a real impact on the students and has enhanced their awareness of the need for hard work! All of the students have shown that they are determined to succeed and continue to be excellent role models to the younger students.



New Look Students

By Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

Bushey Meads School has a very different feel. With the new smart school blazers, prominent badge on the pocket and colourful house ties, there have been numerous comments from parents, governors, staff at the school, local residents, even colleagues in other schools who have been driving to work and noticed the change in appearance of our wonderful students in the local community.

More importantly though, so many students have made positive comments about their new dress code. They all look superb, they feel proud and are working even more smartly than ever. Great signs for the way ahead!



Our aspirational Sixth Form students with their new business dress code have however really set the standard for the younger students in the school and I would like to congratulate them all for making such a positive start this term. You all look stunning!

Word of the Week

By Mike Dawson, Head of English Faculty

In line with the whole school focus on boosting levels of literacy for all students we always have a 'word of the week':

“resilience” (noun)

1. the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity.
2. the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.

Example: "he uses different types of vertical and cross strings in his rackets for added resilience"

Each week try to speak and write the word of the week as often as you can. Over time and after each and every week at school you will begin to build up and extend your vocabulary. Imagine the difference to your spoken and written communication by the time you leave Bushey Meads School.

At any job or college interview or during any future course of study or employment you will stand apart as a very literate individual!

Congratulations! Kajal – Year 10 Beech

Passed Grade 8 Flute Exam with Distinction,
which is equivalent to an A grade at AS Level /
75 UCAS points.

Well done Kajal – we're really proud of you!



PiXL National Celebration Event

By Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal

On Monday evening of this week it was a real privilege to be representing Bushey Meads School at the Partners in Excellence (PiXL) Celebration Event for schools in their national collaborative who had achieved superb results at GCSE level.



Held at the iconic London Guildhall it was exciting to be part of the occasion, alongside our hard working Key Stage 4 leaders Assistant Headteacher Mr Arnold and Pastoral Manager Richard Allen.



With over 65% of our Year 11 students achieving at least 5 very good GCSE grades including English and Maths in August, it made us all proud of our achievements this year and excited about what we can achieve in the future.

Sir John Rowling who hosted the event (pictured left) recognised *"all that we had done to advance the interests and promote the future of our young people, knowing that it does not just happen – but comes about through hard work, thought, commitment, wisdom, passion and dedication."*

I would like to congratulate all the hard working staff, students, parents and Governors who continue to contribute to the ongoing success of the school.

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THEME OF THE WEEK

The **Theme of the Week** this week has been **Respect** - one of our 3 core values or '**3Rs**' of **Respect, Responsibility and Relationships** that support and underpin our positive behaviour for learning culture.

During the week through assemblies and tutor time we have been encouraging students to reflect on this theme in the light of our new Strategic Commitment Purpose and Intent and School Motto at Bushey Meads School – *Aspire to Achieve.*

As parents and carers, do continue to support your children to demonstrate utmost respect in the classroom, around the school and also most importantly out in the local community where our students are all ambassadors for our wonderful school.

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STUDENT SELF ASSESSMENT

I have succeeded in
To improve my work, next time I will

VERBAL FEEDBACK

Verbal feedback given.
The advice I was given was to

PEER FEEDBACK

You have succeeded in
To improve your work you need to

Teaching and Learning

By Hilary Morawska, Deputy Headteacher

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As we all know enhancing our professional development enhances our teaching and therein the learning and progress of the students, all of which is at the heart of Bushey Meads' ethos.

A new 'Marking and Feedback Policy' has been introduced at Bushey Meads, whereby we still continue our excellent practice, but with a new twist and sharper focus on feedback. Feedback is widely heralded as one of the most important factors in improving progress and our drive is to improve how we feedback to our students and in return how they respond to this support as they improve their work.

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So, parents and carers, we very much want you to ensure that your child does respond to the written comments of teachers and always check they have read back over their work and have not made similar errors in their latest piece of learning. You will notice that staff are using coloured labels to support feedback. Different colours to denote different types of feedback – see top and bottom of page.

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You will also notice that teacher marked written work (where applicable) will contain symbols – see left side of page. These symbols are to advise your child where they need to improve within their literacy. Again, please ensure that when reviewing your child's learning you discuss these symbols and the errors within them, as an additional support to the work within the classroom. All students have been emailed these symbols, they are on display within classrooms and will be shared within the Key Stage areas of our website.

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In addition to the symbols, you may also see grades numbered from 1-7. These are known as 'Attitude to Learning' (AtL) grades. The higher the number, the more effort your child has put into his/her learning, the lower the number, the more effort your child needs to put into his/her learning.

7 Outstanding

6 Very Good

5 Good

4 Average

3 Below Average

2 Room for Improvement

1 Poor/Unacceptable

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These grades will be shown with the abbreviation 'AtL'. I am sure you will be looking closely at your child's work to ensure their AtL grades score highly. Again, your child will have these attitude to learning descriptors shared with them, they will be displayed within classrooms and will be shared within the Key Stage areas of our website.

As a parent/carers you have an exceptionally important role in ensuring the work completed at home is as well presented and completed as it is within the classroom. I hope your child has settled well into their learning, has a quiet place at home, within which they can work, away from electronic distractions and that you see for yourself, the progress they make.

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I look forward to discussing as many of our students' learning with them as I visit their lessons throughout this academic year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher should you have any concerns over their learning.

TEACHER FEEDBACK

You have succeeded in
To improve your work you need to

PRESENTATION

Presentation/Student Response

Bushey Meads Students Get Results

By Lee Arnold, Assistant Headteacher

Key Stage 5

Bushey Meads School is celebrating its excellent success at both A and AS level. Whilst the media spoke of national changes to resit regulations impacting on students' results, this year's A Level cohort achieved a fantastic set of grades. In particular, Katia Demetriou-Jones, Laura Jones, Piotr Wozniak, Jamie Stringer and Jack Jackson finished their courses with amazing grades.



All of which means that most students who studied at Bushey Meads Sixth Form will have gained places at their first or second choice university.

GCSE Results

Congratulations to all our wonderful Year 11 students for their brilliant GCSE results. Students, parents and staff attended a special Bushey Meads School GCSE Results Day gathering on 21st August. Several students achieved a clean sweep of As and A*s and many students exceeded their own personal targets. These included Farrukh Cheema, Cherry Hla, Kimberley Watson, Karina Hastie, Benjamin Shi, Kevin Tailor, Elodie Mayo and Olivia Waites.



We are all so proud of you and look forward to another two years of great success in the Sixth Form.

It is magnificent to see so many overjoyed and successful students. Every student should be proud of what they have achieved. Staff and parents have also worked very hard and I would like to thank them for all they have done to make these results possible. We are thrilled that so many have decided to return to the Sixth Form in September.



Dates for your diary...

20th September 2014
22nd September 2014
24th September 2014
1st October 2014
1st October 2014

8.00am-4.30pm, Year 6 Technology Test
10.00am-3.15pm, National Junior Games
8.40am-3.15pm, UCAS Personal Statement Day
8.30am-5.30pm, Debating Matters: First Heat
4.00-9.00pm, Year 13 BTEC Music Solo Recitals