



Bushey St James Trust Newsletter

April 2019

Taking the BSJT to the Next Level

Every week the three Headteachers across the Bushey St James Trust meet to share best practice and discuss the latest strategic initiatives to strengthen our strong culture of raising achievement and embed further the collaborative approach we take to developing teaching and learning across our three unique, but strongly linked institutions.

Following a visit to an all-through school in St Albans we were inspired to advertise for a music teacher to teach across Key Stage 2 and 3 and were delighted to recruit an outstanding candidate who will be joining us in September.

We have also supported the hugely exciting initiative to create a BSJT Dance Academy for our more able dancers, pictured here working with BMS's inspirational Head of Dance Mrs



New BSJT Dance Academy Launched

Rosa; we look forward to seeing them perform in the near future. We now have no less than seven different teachers teaching across the three schools in the Trust, all of whom are having a big impact in securing even greater cohesion between our KS2 -3 curriculum and strengthening the learning journey across this important transition.

The recent Ofsted inspection at Bushey Meads which took place in

early March has certainly placed the school and the wider Trust on a higher level and could not have gone better. We all know that Bushey Meads is a fantastic school full of amazing staff and students and, within the wider context of our innovative and hugely successful Trust it makes me genuinely proud to be able to work together with Mrs Rissen and Mrs Hudson and be the Executive Principal of the BSJT.



BSJT at National Conference

It was a real privilege to represent The Bushey St James Trust at the 'By Leaders for Leaders' national conference in London in January. Soundbites of best practice related to our embedded culture of learning and achievement and ideas to create strong networks across our Multi Academy Trust highlighted the work of so many excellent practitioners and leaders and certainly put our MAT on the national map.

Jeremy Turner
Executive Principal

Mini Conference at BMS

It was a privilege to welcome over twenty school leaders to Bushey Meads School last month for a mini conference focussed on sharing some of the best practice on offer here within our Trust. Delegates from as far afield as the East Midlands and Weston-Super-Mare joined us for the day to hear from some of our top leaders about the brilliant work we have done, working together to create such a positive learning culture at Bushey Meads School and across the BSJT.



“An outstanding day, great atmosphere around the school where achievement is really celebrated.”

Conference Delegate

Pictured above, Assistant Headteacher Mr Searle outlined all the superb strategies employed at the school to share best practice in the area of teaching and learning and the many fun collaborative approaches we take to strengthen all teachers' pedagogy within the MAT. With sessions focussed on creating a positive culture, key aspects of our strong teaching and learning programme, our high profile more able agenda and the embedded student leadership initiatives at Bushey Meads, delegates had much to consider and take back to their own learning communities across the country. Our outstanding students also played their part, leading an inspirational session in which they explained how so many of them contribute to the life of the school and outlining all the different leadership positions that are available to them throughout their time at the school.



A fabulous day! Lovely school, brilliant students and professionals who really care. Thank you.

Conference Delegate

A Day in the Life ...

I'm not sure I ever really understood what a school office did until I stepped into the Hartsbourne Primary School just over a year ago. Despite being a parent, I'd not really had any contact with my son's school office. They were just the name on the end of a letter asking me for money for school trips and the like, or so I thought....

Life in a primary school office is like nothing I've ever experienced before and has turned out to be better than I ever could have imagined! Of course, there are the regular daily, weekly, monthly and termly tasks, and I do love the consistency and routine of this part of my job, however the part I enjoy most is what I describe as being; 'the smiling face of Hartsbourne.'

As the first person you see when you come to Reception office, and the first person you speak to when you call, a cheery disposition goes a long way in making the job easy to manage. Natasha Woods and I also love to participate in all the different events at Hartsbourne, as you can see from the photo taken on World Book Day. Can you guess who we are?!

Behind the scenes I may have a million and one jobs I still need to do but taking the time to give a caller your full attention and to actively listen to what they have to say, goes a long way to fostering strong relationships with our families. It's easy to be distracted and be preoccupied with your own task list, but to that parent in that moment, what they must tell you is incredibly important. It's also critical to put yourself in their shoes. Often worry and concern can present



Natasha Woods (L) and Katy Allen (R) as Cruella de Vil and Alice in Wonderland on World Book Day

itself as anxiety or even anger, but by truly focusing on the caller or visitor you can diffuse a potentially upsetting situation, by letting them know you understand and will act on the information given.

Fortunately, (or unfortunately - I'm never quite sure) I'm prone to my own neuroses when it comes to my parenting, so often I do honestly relate to their worries and concerns; parenting is one of the hardest jobs we will ever do.

"Life in a primary school office is like nothing I've ever experienced before and has turned out to be better than I ever could have imagined!"

I'm always happy to share a part of my own life with parents in order to build rapport and share experiences and I have been rewarded time and time again by someone coming back to share how things have improved or a problem has been solved. I did not come in to this role

"...the part I enjoy most is what I describe as being; the smiling face of Hartsbourne."

thinking about the relationships I'd build with our parents and children, but it's without question the most rewarding part of my job. I love to hear their stories and what's going on in their lives, and



so not only is it rewarding but genuinely enjoyable. I could not be happier in my role and as the year rolls on, I look forward to meeting and greeting our new cohort in September.

Katy Allen
Office Administrator
and Receptionist



Over the last four years Bushey Meads School has benefitted from nearly £7 million of investment in the school's infrastructure with many extensions being built around the school site and also all the buildings being clad and insulated and old windows replaced with smart double glazed units. All in all the school has had a major face lift!

Coming to the end of the major development has seen the creation of a superb new art gallery – available, not just for students of Bushey Meads, but for all students across the Bushey St James Trust.

Recently we have enjoyed an exhibition of art work created by staff at the school and combined their pieces with some stunning student work.

The gallery space is light and airy and a peaceful place to go and be inspired so, next time you are at the school, do drop by and see the quality, imaginative work on display.

Watch this space for more information of the next exhibition at our Trust Art Gallery.



Herts Hot Lists

Last month all parents of children currently in Year 6 received information about their child's secondary school allocation for September. This year again there were nearly 1000 applications for the 200 sought after places at Bushey Meads School for Year 7 students. In terms of popularity this places Bushey Meads firmly in the top 10 of secondary schools across the whole county of Hertfordshire.

The popular parents' website Schools Guru describes Bushey Meads School as **'one of Hertfordshire's hottest secondary schools, attracting more applicants than any others in the county in 2019!'**

As one of the 'most wanted' secondary schools in 2019 we attracted nearly 5 applicants per available place. In addition our first preferences are now up 20% and our second preferences are up 15% from 2014.

We have also noted a big increase in applications from our BSJT feeder primary schools, reflecting the continuing great work across the three schools within our innovative Multi Academy Trust. This will inevitably ensure an even better and smoother transition process as we continue to work together to ensure that all students achieve their true potential at every level of their educational journey through the Bushey St James Trust.

Nearly 90 siblings have been allocated places – a strong indication that families are very happy with the educational provision at Bushey Meads and, if their older children are already at

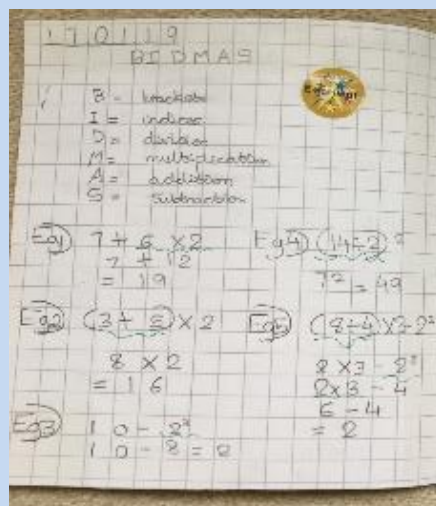
the school, they want their younger children to join them. An increasing number of children of staff are also gaining places at the school which shows their belief and faith in the strong and inclusive culture and family atmosphere established at Bushey Meads.

Finally our catchment area is now less than 1.9 kilometres, again reflecting our continued outstanding success and genuine desire to be a real school of choice for our local community. Exciting times!

Maths across the Trust

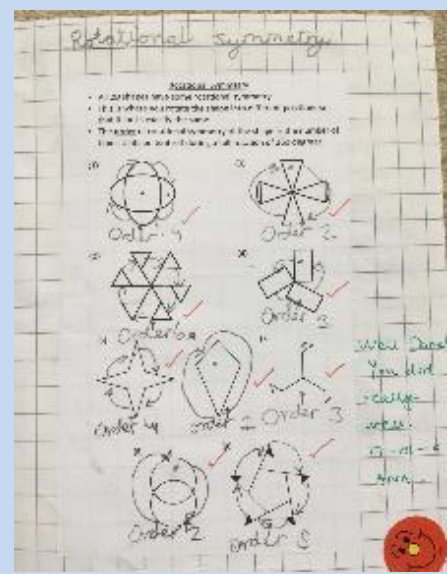
I work as a Key Stage 2 and 3 Mathematics teacher across the BSJT and work at Bushey Meads and Hartsbourne Primary School. It is a privilege to work across the Trust and I thoroughly enjoy teaching Mathematics to young minds!

At Bushey Meads, I teach an enriched curriculum to Year 7s and 8s; delivering mathematics to students in an exciting and engaging manner, helping to encourage them to reach their full potential. I impart my knowledge



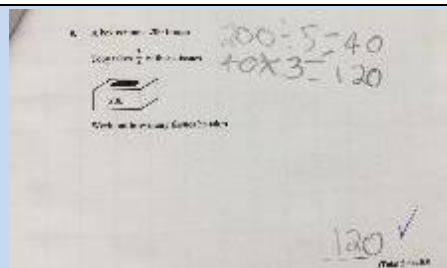
and passion of Mathematics to young minds, linking the subject to their world and other subjects across Bushey Meads. Every Tuesday and Wednesday I embark on my journey to Hartsbourne where I teach their most able students. I work in small groups of four from:

Year 2: Alex, Ruben, Olly and Emma, Year 4: Robbie, Henry, Jessica and Thasanmee and Year 5: Adam, Jheel, Fin and Druv. These young Mathematicians have both passion and curiosity; they



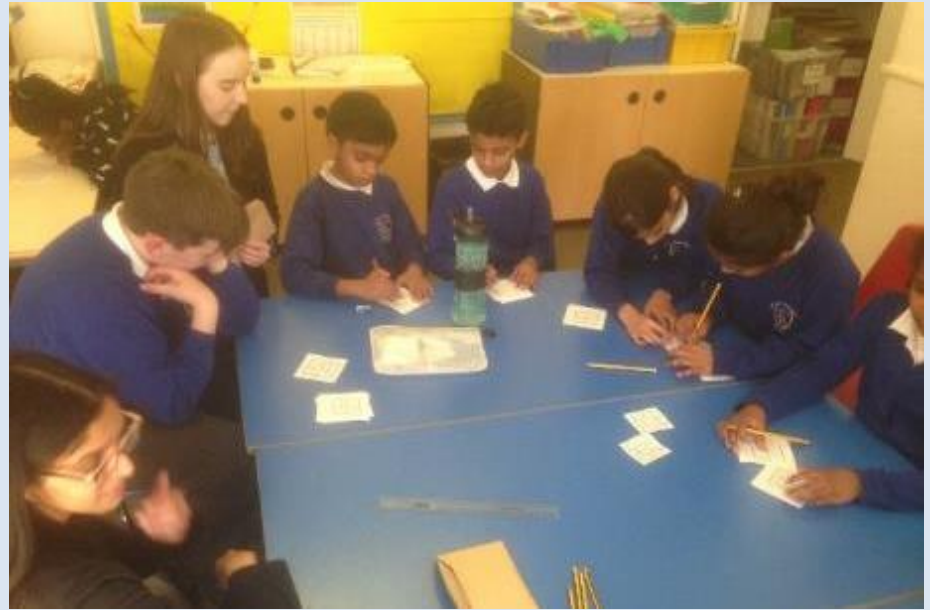
love to explore the subject and really enjoy learning new topics. Every week I work alongside their curriculum and extend their understanding by getting the Year 2's to do more complex problems and even attempt KS3 material. The Year 4 & 5's work on the K33 curriculum but are often pushed to their boundaries and attempt GCSE questions. We also play Maths games related to their topics, which they thoroughly enjoy.

Aneeka Ahmed
KS2-3 Maths Teacher



A Fun Maths Club at Little Reddings Primary School

As part of a 'Cross Phase Project', our Maths departments have been working closely to provide exciting and engaging Maths opportunities for many of our KS2 pupils at Little Reddings. The fundamental aim; to inspire and enthuse pupils with a wider range of problem solving activities including: Logo coding, spiral creations, tower of Hanoi, Ken Ken, Sudoku and shape creations using polydron sets. The sessions have been organised and overseen by Mr Wells and Mr Kazsa, but have been delivered and facilitated by two of our



"I really enjoy attending our Puzzle club because we get to solve problems in a really fun way."

committed and highly valued Bushey Meads Students, Emma and Riya every Tuesday afternoon.

We have seen a positive shift in children's attitude towards mathematics, through the activities that they are taking part in. All of the children who have attended are developing their problem solving skills, persevering with challenging tasks, in turn increasing their

confidence and self-belief in mathematics.

When asked, one of our LRS students commented, "I really enjoy attending our Puzzle club because we get to solve problems in a really fun way – I realise now that Maths isn't just about sums and getting answers right. Sometimes we compete against each other when playing games like Tower of Hanoi and Logo coding, It's great fun!", Erika, Year 4

Andy Wells
Maths Leader at LRS



"I realise now that Maths isn't just about sums and getting answers right!"



Key Stage 2 -3 Maths Links

Over the past term, I have been working across the BSJT teaching mathematics to Years 6 – 11. At Bushey Meads School, I have enjoyed teaching across Key Stages 3 and 4, adapting my teaching style to suit different year groups. I feel one of my key strengths has been applying my knowledge and experience of Year 6 maths to help students in Year 7 build on their prior knowledge. Having a sound understanding of the curriculum content of Key Stage 2 has helped me scaffold work for my Year 7 class and use the Key Stage 2 mastery approach to provide stretch and challenge activities for the students. I recently attended a course with the Head of Maths from Little Reddings Primary School, Mr Wells, at Sandringham School on supportive transition from Year 6 to Year 7, where we discussed using misconceptions effectively and teaching towards gaps in knowledge. Mr Wells and I discussed what we could do as a Trust to further support transition and minimise repetition of taught maths knowledge and skills between Year 6 and Year 7. It has also been a pleasure to have allocated teaching hours at one of our partner primary schools – Little Reddings. I have been teaching groups of Year 6 children in order to help prepare them for their upcoming SATs tests. The school use a fantastic resource called PiXL, which has aided communication between myself and the school. I have set up therapy groups for the children with whom I am working, which allows me to; identify gaps from previous assessments: update the progress tracker following lessons so the school can monitor the



children's progress: return to objectives following ongoing assessments. I also use pupil voice to inform teaching objectives, for example, one group of children said they were unsure how pie charts worked, so the following week we linked pie charts to

they are motivated to achieve the given objective. I am looking forward to supporting both schools through upcoming summative assessments and wish all my students the best of luck!

Hannah Wells
KS2-3 Maths Teacher



fractions, analysed and compared pie charts and even created some of our own. Giving the children ownership over what objectives are covered means that their learning is more purposeful and

"It has been a pleasure to have allocated teaching hours at one of our partner primary schools - Little Reddings."

IT Update across the BSJT

Many exciting developments in IT have been taking place over the past few months with a focus on teaching and learning as well as providing tools to staff to increase engagement in the classroom and efficiency in day to day tasks. On-site security improvements have been made in abundance with many new CCTV cameras being installed, improving student and staff safety. Brand new computer and internet monitoring tools have also come in to effect to ensure that students can access



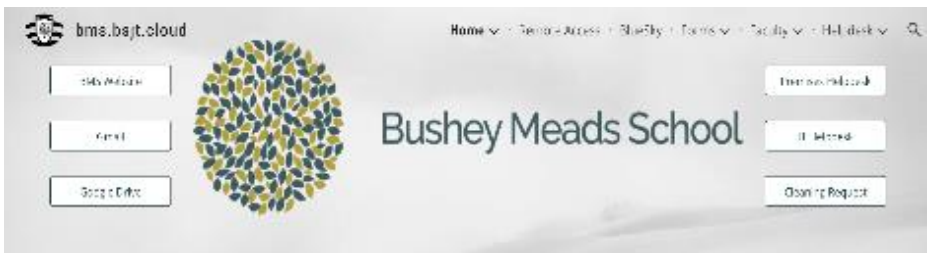
available in classrooms. Extensive work has been taking place ready to migrate BMS, LRS and HPS to Windows 10. This transition will give staff access to more modern resources and a faster user

experience, as well as future proofing the IT systems with background updates occurring once this switch has been made. The BSJT IT Support Team welcomed a new member to our ranks in September, Unami Tenga. In the short time he has been with us he has already proved himself to be a highly capable individual and a valuable addition to the team. Not only has he made his mark on the world of IT, but he has also recently become a Head of House, a very impressive step considering his short tenure at Bushey Meads so far!



BSJT IT Team

the resources they need whilst ensuring their safety remains our top priority. Modern staff intranet pages have been launched to provide easier access to frequently used tools for staff across the trust. These pages share a common design and are accessible from any of the three schools for BSJT staff, providing a seamless experience and access to the resources they need no matter where they are. A plethora of state of the art interactive smart displays have been installed across the site with many classrooms seeing a noticeable improvement in clarity and engagement. These rooms have been fitted with brand new teacher PC workstations to fully utilise the new IT potential



IT Update across the BSJT...

The Bushey Meads website continues to improve with greater ease of access and faster load times across all pages. An entire overhaul of the content available has occurred over the past few months. Many new pages have been added, layout improvements have been made to existing pages, and a focus has been made on showcasing the very best of Bushey Meads. One such area is our highly successful student leadership programme, with many students taking part in a series of videos explaining their role within the school as a student leader.



In addition to this, a bank of new Chromebooks have been purchased for use by students in Years 5 and 6, providing a new style of accessible learning. This further smooths the transition from primary to secondary with Bushey Meads frequently using

Hartsbourne Primary gained a bank of Windows 10 laptops for students to use in lessons. These provide greater mobility in class, allowing students to work in groups of different sizes and learning styles not accessible with traditional static PC's.



High Tech Mac Suites in Art and Media at Bushey Meads School



Further improvements have been made with the creation of a Mac suite in our recently extended art block, this provides the students with an industry standard space for photo and video editing, with a similar spec to what they will experience in the world of work. This addition means there is now two specifically designed Mac suites in the Performing and Visual Arts department. Little Reddings have recently had the last of their old interactive boards replaced with state of the art modern touch displays, now every class has access to the full range of interactive utilities that come as standard on these style of boards.

Chromebooks as a learning resource in lessons, a tool the students will now already be fully familiarised with by the time they move to Year 7.

In addition to this, an entire rewiring of all the network cables took place to a much more current standard. These new cables provide a faster internet speed and have a longer lifespan than the cables in place before.



Joint Governor Training

One of the clear benefits of working within the setting of a Multi Academy Trust is that of being able to share training opportunities across our three schools. One such opportunity took place in March of this year when we gathered together as staff and Governors to learn about the important subject of handling complaints in line with Department for Education policy and practice. It was a chance for us to check our clear systems and procedures and ensure that we were following all appropriate guidelines across our three institutions. It was also another opportunity for Governors to get to know each other and share best practice.



work in the run-up to the production was led by students. One of our talented design students took on the role of set designer. Aaron Robinson not only designed the set but also led the construction and decoration of the set. It was fantastic to see his designs move from concept to

final product with such flair. Many productions may have faltered when your lead choreographer sadly has to leave school when offered a fantastic employment opportunity elsewhere. Not at Bushey Meads. T-Ala Marsh, one of our post-16 student leaders, stepped in to continue the

The Addams Family

We have a proud tradition at Bushey Meads School of producing exceptional musical productions. This year was no exception. The Addams Family has truly been a whole school project and the resulting production received rapturous applause and standing ovations throughout its run. As part of our 'Everyone's a Leader' initiative, much of the



choreography process and leave our performers full of confidence leading up to opening night. Behind the scenes our stage management and technical teams were led expertly through the operation of the show by Sam Raymond and Yama Qarib (both year 12). Yama has taken on the role of head technician after working in the school's student technical team for the last 5 years. The last student mention should go to Nathaniel Haley. Nathaniel has never conducted an orchestra before this year so taking on the

Showcase Theatre Production at BMS

role of musical director was a daunting challenge. He played piano, ran singing and orchestra rehearsals and rewrote the musical scores so that every musician could play successfully at the level required of them in addition to conducting the orchestra throughout. An amazing achievement for any professional music teacher, let alone a year 13 student!!

A huge congratulations to everyone who took part and



primary school audience. After enthraling the audience on the opening night, our cast and crew had to find the energy to perform to our feeder schools at 9.30 the following morning. The performance was fantastic. Staff and students were quick to praise the quality of the performers and how slick the show was. The performance was followed by a question and answer session with

the cast and crew. Questions were aimed towards our set designer about how the set worked. Students at Hartsbourne were shocked to realise that staging platforms from their school had been used within the set - just one way in which our Trust is working together. The actors were asked about the process leading up to the performance. One student asked which role each actor really

supported the production including all the year 8s who helped to create the props during their enrichment day. The Next Generation Inspired! This year's school production has been put together for the future. Led by students, performed by students, supported by student backstage teams and performed to a wonderfully appreciative



A fantastic performance - one of the best BMS musicals ever!

wanted before the audition! Hopefully we will see many of our young audience members progress in the arts and take part in productions for years to come in their time at Bushey Meads School.

**Greg Knowles
Head of Faculty Performing & Visual Arts**

KS2/KS3 Design and Technology Links across the BSJT

Miss Hewitt (one of our six recently appointed KS2 -3 specialists teachers) has been working effectively across two of our Trust schools this term – Bushey Meads and Little Reddings Primary School. She has been having a big impact in providing our students with some superb opportunities to extend their learning in a key curriculum area – Design and Technology. In Year 3, the children have been learning about the Romans and how their history has impacted our lives today. As part of this topic, the children designed and made their own Roman chariots. They started by creating a design brief to help them understand what the purpose of a chariot was. Year 3 then looked at a range of moving vehicles to try and work out how the given examples moved using different language with Ms Moses. Recently, they have been learning new vocabulary to describe the mechanisms, they then used diagrams and pictures to explain how they worked. Using what they had learnt about other moving vehicles, the

children then began to construct their own. They worked safely to use the junior hacksaws, glue guns and hand drill. When they had finished, they raced their chariots in the hall to decide who their champion was. In Year 5, the children have been developing their knowledge of the French language with Ms Moses. Recently, they have been learning new vocabulary to describe the rooms in a house. As part of this topic they have started to make a



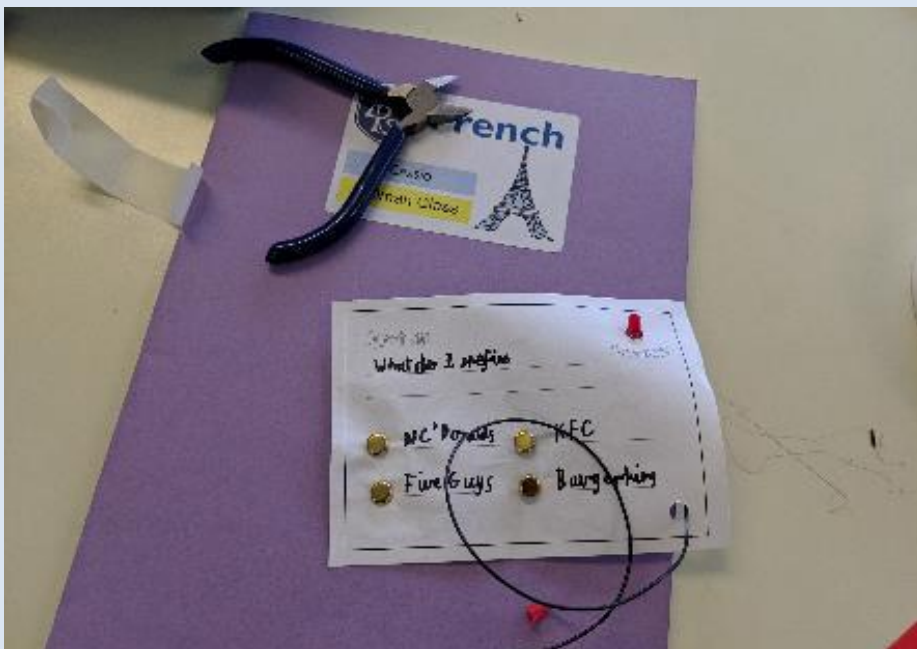
model house which they will then label with the appropriate vocabulary. In addition to this, they have started to create an electronic quiz which will be used as a resource to revise the vocabulary about rooms in a house.

At the beginning of the project, they worked well in pairs to decide between insulators and conductors to help them with creating an electronic circuit. After, they made their own multiple choice question cards. When the correct answer is selected, the light in the circuit would then flash red.

Design and Technology brought Alive at Little Reddings....



Year 9 Students at the Imperial War Museum



Charlotte Hewitt
KS2-3 Design & Technology Teacher

interest as soon as they enter the classroom. In order to promote opportunities for creative writing, I gathered from students what inspired them to write and incorporated their responses into my lessons. Year 9 recently studied the play 'Kindertransport' by Diane Samuels, combining this with an inspiring and thought provoking visit to the Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum. They also articulated that they were interested in studying the Titanic. Thus, I planned a short unit of work based on their ideas as it was interlinked with the theme of

Creative Writing at LRS

One of the most unique aspects of my exciting role within the Bushey St James' Trust is having the opportunity to establish relationships with practitioners and students in both the primary and secondary sectors. I regularly deploy active learning strategies and 'Imagineering' opportunities to enhance the delivery of my lessons and to stimulate students' engagement: creating a 'hook' for every lesson captures students'



Creative Writing at LRS.....

journeys.

Creative writing and the skills of English have been my area of focus at Little Reddings. Contextualising learning is essential as it allows students to adopt a variety of learning styles and approaches to each lesson. Prior to shared reading, students explored props from Neil Gaiman's 'Instructions' to support them in making predictions and enabled them to generate pertinent questions relating to the origins and purpose of these objects. Subsequently, students wrote their own instructional journeys through a magical realm. Establishing links between the students across the trust is a priority; thus, Year 8 students at Bushey Meads School have written letters to Year 6 students at Hartsbourne and Little Reddings to help them prepare for their impending SATs. By extension, preparations are underway for the upcoming spelling and grammar competition that will include students from all three schools.

Gary Johnson
KS2-3 English Teacher

music making from a young age by giving them an experience of playing in an advanced orchestral ensemble. The older students from Bushey Meads School will gain experience of conducting and arranging for a young ensemble. They will also be on hand to coach the younger students through the music as they will be part of the orchestra themselves.



Many of the instrumentalists at Bushey Meads School were part of orchestras from a young age themselves and I'm sure that they will very much enjoy the experience of mentoring a young ensemble.

We look forward to our debut performance for parents and friends towards the end of the summer term.

Sarah Brown
Head of Music and Music Coordinator
across the Bushey St James Trust

of the year. These children are the future and before anything, we want to develop a sense of pride in their work and an open mindset for learning.

The weekly maths challenge is just one of the ways we at Hartsbourne are striving to remove maths anxiety in children and increase their chances of reaching their full potential. This year Hartsbourne invested in new maths planning (Essential Maths from HFL) which has been well received by staff and children. Our lesson plans allow pupils to self-differentiate and our Learning Gems programme allows them to be comfortable with mistakes and encourages resilience in the face of adversity.

"When I first came here from Belgium, I found maths really difficult, so it feels really good when I complete challenge 3 questions"

Chloe Year 5

And why shouldn't they love maths?

In addition to this we have worked hard this year to change the perception some people have, of maths being either something you are good at or not. At some time, many of us have heard comments such as "I was never any good at maths" or "you don't need it in real life anyway, I have a calculator on my phone." However, through initiatives with Bushey Meads, Hartsbourne has been able to give children opportunities to challenge their perceptions, such as Athletics competitions; lessons with a secondary teacher (for high attaining pupils) and representing the school in the Y5 maths team, Maths Monday events and

Music across the BSJT

As collaboration continues to grow and thrive across our partnership of schools, we are excited to implement a small part of our vision for music across the Trust. We will shortly be launching a brand new ensemble, The Trust Orchestra, for students across all three schools.

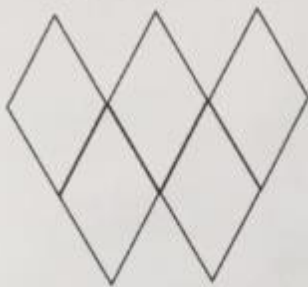
The Trust Orchestra will span across KS2 to KS5, ages 7 to 18, and be open to all instrumentalists who play an orchestral instrument. For the younger students, we hope to inspire students to cherish their

Maths across the BSJT

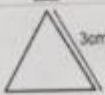
It could be argued that some of the greatest scientific and mathematical discoveries to grace the Earth have already been achieved; however, looking out onto the Hartsbourne dining room on an average lunch time I would question that belief. Sat around an innocuous looking white board, children of all abilities are contemplating this week's maths challenge; building on their love of maths to better themselves and take pride in solving a problem that they may not have felt they could achieve at the start

Maths across the BSJT.....

What is the perimeter of this compound shape?



Key



Triangle

$$\text{area} = 6\text{cm}^2$$

Challenge 2

Can you find the area of the compound shape?

interactive displays. We want children to feel proud of the skills they do have, as Adam in Y5 said "It was the first time I've been asked to represent the school and had a lot of fun." Maths is a magical subject which can be seen in all aspects of our lives; art and crafts, nature, technology, music, geography and science. Just the other day I came across this quote: 'Maths can be related to our lives; it teaches us to always be careful with the signs...'

Richard Parnell
Maths Subject Leader



Bushey St James Trust - Little Gems Day Care Nursery

8.00 am and 6.00 pm to suit individual parents and carers' needs. The excellent provision has already had a big impact with increasing our reputation in the local and indeed national arena for being an organisation that

very much puts staff and their families first and we have been recognised as an innovative Trust who are doing all we can to ease the burden of financial costs related to childcare. All our recruitment adverts to the BSJT highlight this huge benefit and

BSJT Day Care Nursery

One of the most innovative and exciting ventures initiated this last academic year has been the creation of a superb day care nursery, specifically for children of staff who work across the Bushey St James Trust. Fully registered with Ofsted and staffed with an experienced Nursery Manager and very well qualified Nursery Assistants, the outstanding provision offers cost price day care for children of all staff within the MAT. The location of the nursery enables flexibility of care between the hours of





Little Gems Day Care Nursery

and develop. The children learn through play and self-exploration and adult guided activities. There are specific learning areas for children from 6 months to 3 years of age supporting the prime areas of learning following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. The provision has already generated much interest with other Headteachers and CEOs of MATs in the local region including those in London, Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Some have even visited to see the Day Care Nursery in action and taken away ideas for how they might replicate what we have done.

this has already had a big impact in increasing, both the quantity and quality of staff applying to work across our Multi Academy Trust. This can only be a really good thing for all our students across our three schools as we seek to provide the very best education for all. Situated in a well-designed new and secure building on the grounds of Little Reddings Primary School, the Little Gems Nursery offers a modern setting that is a safe and welcoming learning environment for the children to grow, learn



We are proud to be an organisation that puts wellbeing at the heart of what we do and love the genuine, family ethos across our MAT. I would particularly like to thank the parents of our first cohort of children using our Little Gems Day Care Nursery for being so supportive in helping to shape what I believe will be something that, not only benefits our own staff, but also shows what can be done when schools and MATs put their staff first.

Jeremy Turner
Executive Principal



Languages across the BSJT

Building houses and building sentences in French by Laura Moses

Recently, I came across an article on Teach Wire (written in 2007). It spoke about The UK's First National Writing Day (June 2017) and the importance of increasing pupils' motivation for writing. They went on to explain the following:

'Around a third (30.3%) of KS2 students, half (52.6%) of KS3 students and two-thirds (63.1%) of KS4 students could be missing out on these benefits as they say they do not enjoy writing outside school.'

The situation above got me thinking about how KS2 and KS3 MFL learners feel about writing in a Modern Foreign Language. Would the results be similar to the results I read in the article? I would not be surprised if many pupils found this area of MFL hard, challenging and perhaps quite daunting. This got me thinking about how I could go about increasing writing motivation and enjoyment in MFL. This led to me to think about Big Write sessions in primary schools.



Big Write sessions are long writing sessions, which allow children time to write at length. These sessions are known to support writer motivation. I wondered if there was a way to draw upon this idea in MFL, as a way of increasing writing motivation. I am a firm believer that we must explore creativity in languages, so with this in mind I came up with the idea of building sentences and houses!

When I got to the part of the syllabus that looked at learning about rooms in a house, I had an idea about how I could put my

theory about creativity to the test. Once I had looked at the key vocabulary and structures, I asked Year 7 pupils to design a house out of junk materials. The only brief they were given was to label the rooms in French and research the names for the different things they put in each room. I am not sure what I expected the results to be. When the hand in date arrived, I was amazed by what I saw. Houses in all shapes and sizes. One house even has working lights and doorbell! It was very clear that a huge amount of time had gone into each house. Houses on desks, we were ready to write. We went through a model paragraph and completed a shared write. After this, it was time for pupils to have a go. With a scaffold on the board, they set out to write about the house that they had created. They began by saying what was on each level of the house, and they ended by describing what was in a particular room.

The differentiation happened automatically because some pupils just listed the rooms on a floor or each floor, but some pupils went into a lot more detail.



Languages across the BSJT...

It depended on how much detail they had added to their house. In addition to this there was chance to review previous learning. For example, say where you live (using à) and using adjectives to describe size and colour. There was a real buzz in the classroom that day. All pupils were motivated to try to write their descriptions. Whether pupils wrote a couple of sentences or a whole paragraph,



primary pupils.

My hope for my Year 7 language learners is that they can reflect of their Year 7 language journey in July 2019 and feel like a new world has been opened up for them. It is a true gift to be able to write in a different language, and I will continue to provide my students with French Big Write opportunities (always with a twist!) because I want them to continually develop their MFL writing motivation. This in turn will impact positively upon their writing attainment. I feel that for the next writing opportunity, I could gather ideas from pupils regarding what the twist should be.

it was about the motivation they had towards the writing task. A few weeks after creating these houses, I took the creations down to Little Reddings School because some of our pupils will be giving this task a go. They were very intrigued and taken with what the Bushey Meads pupils had done. The example houses that Bushey Meads pupils created have helped to generate some 'initial motivation' amongst my primary language learners, because they served as a point of entry for some work that I am going to be doing with them. I am excited to use the work of my Year 7 pupils to inspire my



Languages across the BSJT...

It is like Louis L'Amour says, 'Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on.'

Cross Phase MFL Project

Our Three Little Pigs project led by Nicola Paddick is well under way at Little Reddings. Students in all year groups are currently learning the story and the song 'Whose afraid of the big bad wolf?' in French. They will soon be learning the rooms of a house and have started creating their own labelled houses (see Laura Moses's house and sentence building article on the previous two pages) as well as designing their own puppets which will enable them to act out the story in French.

The project is due to be launched at Hartsbourne School at the beginning of the summer term.



Bonjour Little Reddings!

Bushey Meads Language Leaders Every Friday afternoon are continuing to go down to Little Reddings in groups of four to support a Year 5 French class. We have a rota so that every language leader is able to participate.

It is a pleasure seeing Year 5 and Bushey Meads' students work collaboratively and it is hoped that this connection will continue to inspire their language learning

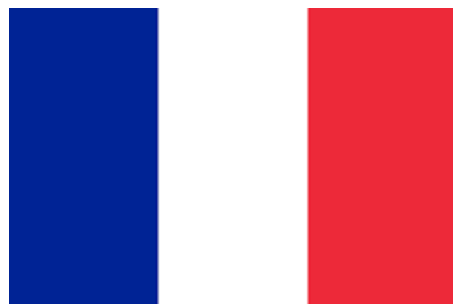


journey. Below are some of their reflections about the experience: We began with a simple pronunciation activity that challenged the students and started off the lesson well as everyone was joining in. After that, we played a lip reading game and we had lots of fun. It was an amazing experience and I am really pleased to have opportunity to improve my leadership and communication skills."

Yaashri Pandya

The trip was a new experience for me and provided me with a new perspective of younger students and how they learn. It was exciting to help them improve their learning process and extend their French vocabulary. All in all I found it very productive.

Venisa Dhameliya



Going to Little Reddings and working with the younger children really opened our eyes and it was an experience we won't forget; the joy on their faces when they understood the vocabulary was

something to remember. They were able to form sentences and have a good time and I'm glad that we were able to be part of their learning.

Sobiha Veluppillai

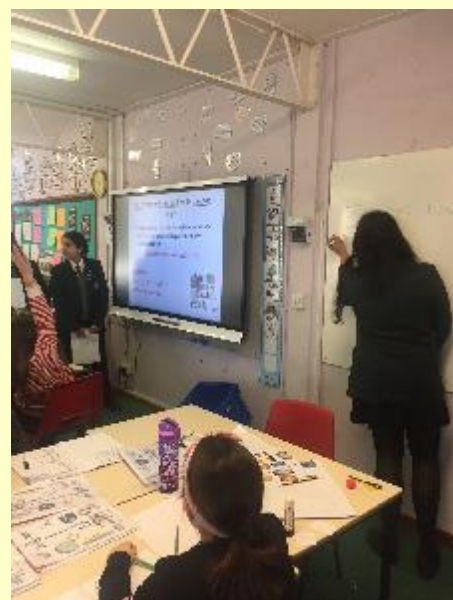
It was a great experience. I got to meet lots of Year 5s and find out what it's like to teach. It was fun to see how the way you teach can have an impact on how much the children learn and how they learn best. I really enjoyed it and can't wait until it's my turn on the rota to go again!

Nehal Pabari



"It was an amazing experience and I am really pleased to have an opportunity to improve my leadership and communication skills."

BMS MFL Language Leader



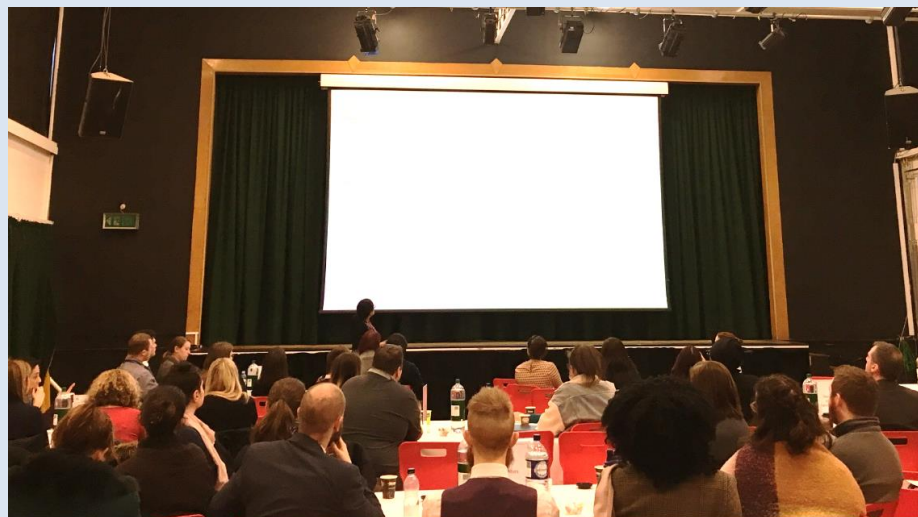
<p>Primary School to University</p>	<p>BSJT Teacher Toolkit No 2</p>	<p>in the Main hall at Bushey Meads for a mini conference on the theme of Stretch and Challenge. Coordinated by Lead Practitioner for KS2 – 3 English Fazana Farook, the event was also offered to all</p>
<p>With the A level examinations looming for our Year 13 students at Bushey Meads School, many students have been receiving university offers following their applications in January. Each student can apply for up to 5 university courses and then, if they are lucky enough to secure an offer of a place, they decide which their firm choice is and which their insurance choice is. It is particularly nice to track the students who started their school journey at our Trust primary schools. The following Year 13 students attended Little Reddings Primary School and are now preparing to embark on the next stage of their exciting learning journey:</p>	<p>In January we held our second highly successful Teacher Toolkit of the academic year and all staff from across the MAT gathered</p>	
	<p>Sophie has received offers from the universities of Nottingham Trent, City University London and Royal Holloway London to study psychology and criminology and Portsmouth to study forensic Psychology.</p>	<p>Newly Qualified Teachers from across Hertfordshire as part of their annual training programme. The session started with all delegates watching a powerful film produced across the Trust, highlighting what BSJT teachers considered stretch and challenge</p>
<p>Militsa is looking to study Law when she leaves Bushey Meads School and has received offers from the University of Surrey, City University London and the University of East Anglia.</p>		
	<p>Ella is a budding photographer and is looking to read photography or fashion photography at University. She has received offers from Roehampton University, Leeds Art University and the University of the Arts London.</p>	<p>to be and how important a part of pedagogy it is. Workshops offered by top practitioners across the Trust were then attended as part of a personalised approach to providing bespoke training to meet the needs of all delegates present. The very successful conference ended with some key 'soundbites of best practice' being shared as strategies to take away.</p>
<p>We would like to wish all Year 13 students the best of luck in their upcoming examinations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sara Ash Deputy Headteacher, Bushey Meads</p>		

BSJT Teacher Toolkit.....



The event was attended by over fifty NQTs from across Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, placing the Bushey St James Trust in the spotlight for not only the best practice that occurs on a day-to-day basis in classrooms, but also as a provider of relevant and current CPD for the local area. We would like to thank all the workshop presenters and members of the Bushey Meads School Teaching and Learning team (Graeme Searle, Danielle Bowe, Fazana Farook, Sarah Davey, Kate Hoskins and Natalie Lindau) and the four excellent teachers: Gary Johnson, Liam Lester, Andrew Symeou and Angel Walters who shared at the end of the conference in the Main Hall.

"I loved the film at the start of the event - it placed the training into a very real context".



HPS at Hertsmeire Youth Conference

On Wednesday 27th March the Year 6 school councillors and house captains from Hartsbourne Primary School were fortunate enough to attend the 12th Annual Hertsmeire Youth Conference. Sat in the plush surroundings of the central council chamber, the children were welcomed by Councillor Caroline Clapper and Olly, a member of the Arc Theatre Group and our host for the day. We started off with a presentation from the theatre group who attempted to persuade us to back one of three charity causes, before moving on to learn a bit more about the role of Hertsmeire Borough Council and the challenges they face. After lunch there was an opportunity to question the charity candidates again before finally the children were able to cast their votes in a mock election. Councillor Clapper thanked us all for attending and stated her hope that the children would all pursue lives as elected representatives in some shape or form. The whole day was an excellent opportunity to learn about the work of local councils and their



responsibilities to the community in which the children live. The class asked some insightful questions and made some well-judged arguments during the debate, and a flame of inspiration for contributing towards their community was lit. We would like to thank everyone at Hertsmeire Borough Council and Arc Theatre for a thought-provoking and well-organised day.

Greg Harper
Deputy Head, Hartsbourne



"A flame of inspiration for contributing towards their community was lit."

HPS Headteacher's Message

The spring term has flown by and I can't believe the clocks go forward this weekend! The school year always had an ebb and flow and we are now getting used to the new rhythm that comes with being part of a successful multi academy trust. One thing we tried to improve this year was our Enrichment Programme and being part of the Trust allows us to plan for more opportunities for our children to experience high quality enrichment.

This has included sporting activities at Bushey Meads, maths lessons from one of their secondary teachers and a visit for Year 5 pupils to see a performance of The Addams Family by the BMS Drama Group. Staff development has included the Teacher Toolkit to improve teaching and learning, Leadership Training (for middle and senior leaders) and individual meetings between subject leaders to develop subject knowledge. On the 18th of March our teachers headed to Little Reddings to take part in some writing moderation across all year groups. It was an invaluable opportunity for our staff, who can sometimes feel trapped in a 'one-form entry bubble' to meet and work with their year group counter-parts and ensure consistency in our assessment of writing. We would like to thank Little Reddings for being very gracious hosts, especially Michael McMahon who facilitated the finer details!

Just like our counterparts in the other schools, we are all looking forward to the Easter break and a well-earned rest before we take on the summer-term and



Collaborative Writing Moderation Session at Little Reddings Primary School

implement all the exciting things we have on offer at Hartsbourne.

Valerie Hudson
Headteacher
Hartsbourne Primary School

"An invaluable opportunity to work with year group counter-parts to ensure consistency in assessment of writing."

Chair of the Bushey St James Trust writes.....

It has been another very exciting term in the life of the Bushey St James Trust and I would like to thank all the very hard working staff from across our three vibrant learning communities for their innovative and collaborative approach to securing the very best outcomes for children across all phases of our Multi Academy Trust.

Through our now embedded Teacher Toolkits which take place every term, staff are continuing to build those very important professional relationships and curriculum connections that enable all the young people within our care to transition effectively from one key stage to the next. Moderation, for example, is taking place across our two primary schools and this has been another example of how the Trust 'helps itself'. At Bushey Meads, during the recent very successful Section

8 Ofsted inspection, this was something the inspectors specifically commented on – the way that we improve by sharing best practice across the school and indeed the Trust – never settling for the status quo but always striving to get better. This ethos and culture has inevitably created a powerful strategic energy for change which is undoubtedly benefitting more and more young people in our local community; something to be really proud of!



Sam Russell
Chair of the Bushey St James Trust