



# Bushey St James Trust Newsletter

April 2020

## Welcome to Mrs Tregear!



We would like to formally welcome Mrs Tregear as the new Headteacher of Little Reddings Primary School. It

has been so encouraging to hear such positive comments from staff, pupils and parents and carers and see her connecting in with so many of you on a daily basis.

Mrs Tregear is a very experienced school leader and we are delighted with the start she has made both at Little Reddings and within the senior leadership team of the Bushey St James Trust.

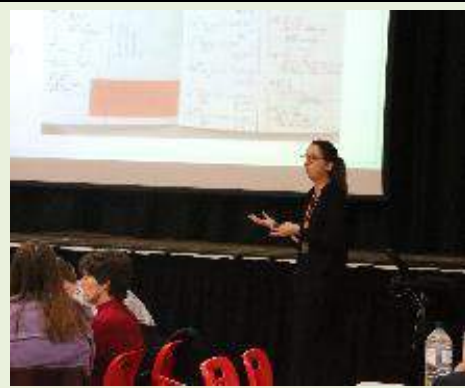
She is already making plans, along with her own leadership team and the Governing Body, and listening to the all-important views of parents and carers and pupils to build on the superb journey of school improvement over the last five years. Exciting times!

‘Marginal Gains and the Power of Working Smartly’. Teaching is such a rewarding profession as no two days are the same; we have the opportunity to work with a fantastic group of young people and we help to shape the next generation and the future of our society. However, it is also a very demanding job and a teacher’s NQT year can be the most challenging. For this reason, we thought the chosen theme would support the NQTs as well as the more experienced staff within the BSJT. Improvement doesn’t have to come from big sweeping changes.



Incremental improvement is an effective approach in which you can focus on smaller, more manageable elements. The sum of many marginal gains will be huge, will drive any organisation forward and will also tend to be more long lasting. After the introduction, the event started in style with three students explaining to the staff how they have implemented marginal gains in terms of their personalised study and revision. Over the course of the next 90 minutes, delegates were introduced to no less than 28 different tips to help improve their teaching!

**Graeme Searle**  
Senior Assistant Headteacher



## The Power of Marginal Gains

Every year in the final week of January, the BSJT hosts a Teacher Toolkit session that also doubles up as an NQT Hertfordshire training session. It is a great way for the staff within the BSJT to acquire some useful training that will support us on our journey and it also allows us to meet newly qualified teachers from across the county and for them to learn about the BSJT. The theme of the event changes each year, but on January 30<sup>th</sup> this year, the theme was



## Message from the Executive Principal

This term has been another busy but exciting time within the life of our innovative Multi Academy Trust. In January we held our second BSJT Teacher Toolkit of the year for all staff across the three schools. With the theme of *Marginal Gains* it addressed the important issue of staff wellbeing in the busy jobs that we have. With leading teachers and excellent practitioners from across our institutions delivering short sound bite nuggets of ideas to address workload it was a real moment in time to help embed some great ideas in our ongoing practice.

Success across the Trust continues to be noted in the wider arena and we were very proud of the recent letter received by Hartsbourne School from our MP the Right Honourable Oliver Dowden CBE. As you can see it was written in recognition of the high percentage of students in the school achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics; testimony to the hard work and dedication of students and staff at the school.

**Jeremy Turner**  
Executive Principal



**Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP**  
Member of Parliament for Hertsmere



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Valerie Hudson  
Headteacher  
Hartsbourne Primary School  
Hartsbourne Road  
Bushey Heath  
Herts, WD23 1SJ

Ref: OD/EW

51<sup>st</sup> January 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dear Ms Hudson,".

I am writing to you in order to congratulate you, your staff, and the students of Hartsbourne Primary School for an excellent academic year.

I was delighted when the Minister of State for School Standard, Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP, informed me that 77 % of Key Stage 2 pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics.

These results are outstanding and are clearly a testimony to the hard work and dedication of the students and staff at the school.

Please pass on my congratulations to all your students on such excellent results.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yours sincerely," followed by a large, stylized signature.

**Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP**  
Member of Parliament for Hertsmere

Telephone - 0207 219 3415  
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See  
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for  
further  
details!

## Joint Governors Training across and Beyond the Bushey St James Trust



The expertise that exists within the BSJT is not only improving the life chances for students within the three schools in our Multi Academy Trust, but is also continuing to influence many local schools in the area.

Earlier this term over 40 Governors from four different institutions, including key Governors from Falconers School in Bushey, gathered for an excellent Safeguarding Training session led by experienced Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead Mrs Ash.

Having worked in a number of schools in different settings in North London and Hertfordshire and having been involved in school leadership at a senior level for nearly 20 years, her expertise was invaluable in the room. She promoted lots of discussion around the tables and answered all the Governors' questions after giving an excellent presentation which outlined all the key and

important aspects of the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' agenda. Many of the Governors present provided much positive feedback and expressed their desire to connect in with the Bushey St James Trust MAT more in the future - working together to share best practice and support the ongoing school improvement journeys in all of our schools.



*"The training session was one of the best I have ever attended. It was informative interactive and extremely well presented by a lead practitioner actually 'doing it on the ground'."*

### Feedback across the BSJT

Starting at BMS as an Assistant Headteacher in January was a surprisingly easy thing to do. Made so by the supportive staff and positive atmosphere into which I was transferring. As a professional opportunity to develop my role of overseeing the curriculum I was fortunate enough to regularly visit Little Reddings and Hartsbourne Primary Schools. Visits that provided me with invaluable knowledge on the holistic educational experience that the BSJT provides for its students. The primaries shared with me a range of subjects from English, Science and Maths to History. The student enthusiasm for learning was impressive, as was their ability to express themselves orally and in writing. I learned how to measure gas in a Year 6 Science lesson and was pleasantly surprised at the student's ability to plan experiments and identify

the scientific skills that they were utilising in the process. In the same way, on visiting a Year 7 English lesson during which they debated symbolism, the level of formality and articulation of opinions was astonishingly refined for their age. However, it was the friendly, family-orientated atmosphere of these schools that ultimately stood out and it was this that fostered the impressive learning experiences that I witnessed over my time at both Little Reddings and Hartsbourne Primary School.

After completing this section of visits, as I hope to return, I have been able to reflect on and review the curriculum stretching from Year 1 to Year 13 and vitally, contextualise the Year 6 to Year 7 transition from primary to secondary school. An insight into the curriculum that will ensure we successfully sequence student learning and share best practices across the Trust.

**Claire Till**  
BMS Assistant Headteacher



by singing at the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall. At Bushey Meads, the Gala Concert in February was a huge success. Well done Mr Cox for organising such a superb evening which really showcased the music and dance talent we have at the school. We also currently have a number of extra-curricular groups taking place, such as string ensemble and woodwind ensemble, which are run by specialist tutors from the Hertfordshire Music Service. The

### Music across the BSJT

It has been another music-filled term here at the Bushey St James Trust. At Hartsbourne I have been spending time with Early Years and Key Stage One. Reception are exploring a range of instruments and sounds, whilst Year 1 and Year 2 are getting creative with Classical music, creating their own versions of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata and Vivaldi's Four Seasons using classroom percussion.

At Little Reddings, Year 4 are continuing to make fantastic progress on the recorder and Year 5 and 6 are enjoying playing the ukuleles we bought with our funding last term. The choir continues to grow and a group of students represented the school



music department continues to be very busy at lunch times with many groups and bands practising. It is wonderful to work with such dedicated young musicians.

**Maria Fort**  
Music Teacher across the BSJT

## News from the Bushey St James Trust Gallery



including finger and hand printing. The class from Little Reddings arrived at The Gallery with staff and parents in tow. They had made their canvas bag designs a few weeks previously in one of the Bushey Meads art rooms. Their designs ranged from superhero logos to initial letters and animal images. All students seemed excited to see their work on display, and almost as excited to see the refreshments! The work stayed on display for over two weeks which meant that many students and staff from across the BSJT could visit and appreciate the amazing artistic talent that exists across our Trust

On Friday 28th February, students, staff and parents from both Hartsbourne and Little Reddings Primary School's came to visit The BSJT Gallery at Bushey Meads School. The parents from Hartsbourne were delighted to see a varied selection of work from different year groups based around animal themes. The students had been studying poetry, *The Tyger* by William Blake and *The Eagle* by Alfred Lord Tennyson. They used a variety of colours, materials and techniques,



## BSJT Gallery News.....



*It was great to see the amazing artistic talent that exists across our Multi Academy Trust!*



*The parents from Hartsbourne were delighted to see a varied selection of work from different year groups based around animal themes.*



### Message from Mrs Tregear

I feel extremely honoured to be writing my first article in the termly BSJT Newsletter. As the new Headteacher at Little Reddings Primary School, I am very much aware of the responsibility that my staff and I have in ensuring that the highest standard of teaching and learning is achieved within the setting of our very popular and successful Multi Academy Trust. At Little Reddings we have a hugely committed team and wonderful children; there is a real family atmosphere at the school, which

is very unique, and I would like to thank you all for making me feel so welcome. The needs of the children are always paramount in the life and decision making in a school.

I strongly believe in providing the children with exciting, creative and meaningful learning experiences which build their enthusiasm for learning and help them to grow and develop positively in a variety of ways. I think it is crucial to involve the children and their families as partners in their education. I am also keen on building a whole school community which thrives

on mutual respect and values positive relationships. I know how vital working in partnership with parents really is in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience. I believe that it is important that you have a voice and that as a school we are approachable to listen to your views. In the near future, I will be inviting parents in for an informal coffee morning. This will be an opportunity to meet other parents and chat to me and some other members of staff over a cup of coffee and a slice of cake. Details of this event will follow soon. I would also like to introduce two new members of staff, Mrs Sidika Suleman and Mrs Anne Squires, who will be working in the school office. I am sure that you will make them feel welcome.

With very best wishes,

**Mrs R Tregear**  
Headteacher at LRS

## Getting to Know Mrs Tregear!



I was born in Watford and grew up always with the dream of being a teacher. This came true when I qualified and started my career and vocation in 1997. I have 23 years of experience in education having worked in several schools within Hertfordshire.

I have been a Headteacher of the primary age range for 6 years and find this job hugely rewarding. In this time, I have led the schools I have worked in in this capacity through two successful Ofsted inspections.

In my second year of headship I was approached by the local authority to also take on the Associate Headteacher role for another Primary School which had gone through some major changes and needed support.

I am an extrovert character who is always approachable. I wholeheartedly work under the belief that children only have one chance at education. I feel passionately that children need to become leaders, as well as critical thinkers, who have knowledge which they can use in the future so that they are equipped for an ever-changing world. It is essential that the children are developed holistically as a person and have

the opportunity to share their gifts and talents.

I came into the teaching profession to try to make a difference in the lives of each individual child, responding to their needs, their interests and developing their unique selves. I have an open-door policy and I am rooted in the ethos that communication is the key to the running of an excellent school where a problem shared is a problem halved. I feel privileged to tutor young minds both academically and holistically.

I place a large emphasis on building strong partnerships with all stakeholders, including pupils, staff, parents and governors. I know that I work well in a team and I am committed to developing leaders for the future through coaching and self-reflection. I encourage all staff to progress their careers by taking on new roles and offer support to them as they do so.

I am always looking for opportunities for my staff, the children and myself to improve and strongly believe in the power of collaborative working. I am very proud to share that I have supported and up skilled four outstanding practitioners and senior leaders who have gone on to be Headteachers themselves, in addition to one who has gone on to be an EYFS advisor for Herts for Learning.

I have been married for twenty-one years and I am proud to be the mother of two wonderful boys aged 10 and 11. They certainly keep me on my toes! I am the eldest of three daughters and adore my two nieces and nephew. Outside of school my interests include spending time with my family, theatre and drama, visiting historic places and travel.

## World Book Day Celebrations at LRS

On the morning of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, the adults and children of Little Reddings gathered together to celebrate this year's World Book Day.

Staff and children alike ditched their habitual attire and instead came to school dressed as an array of weird and wonderful characters from their favourite books. The day started with an assembly hosted by Cruella de Vil (Mrs Tregear) and Batman (Mr McMahon) during which the love of reading was promoted, and children were chosen from each year group to be awarded prizes for being the most creatively dressed.

The costume choices varied enormously – one child dressing as a physical book, whilst another took a more nostalgic approach and opted for a Rupert the Bear outfit.

Over the course of the morning, the children had the opportunity to attend a workshop based on a specific book title; the children were asked to choose their favourite workshop from a selection offered by the various teachers of KS2 – this meant that the pupils also had the opportunity to work with a broader range of ages than usual in a different classroom to normal.

The children engaged in a range of creative activities linked to the book titles that they had chosen. By all the accounts, the pupils enjoyed this opportunity hugely. All in all, the day was a tremendous success and yet another tribute to the willingness of the staff and children of LRS to go the extra mile in pursuit of a common cause. Roll on World Book Day 2021!

## World Book Day Celebrations at LRS



### Dance across the BSJT

Unlike most schools across the country who are cutting back their curriculum offer in arts subjects, Bushey Meads School continues to offer an eclectic curriculum offer across the arts including dance at both GCSE and A Level and runs a thriving dance department for the benefit of all students across our Trust. The subject of dance allows our students to explore a range of styles with a heavy focus on both performance and choreography.



In both the A Level and GCSE courses, students are required to choreograph solo dance works, perform set choreography and

collectively choreograph group pieces. Not only does dance help you maintain a healthy lifestyle and push your physical boundaries, it also allows you to develop future life skills including teamwork, communication, self-discipline and leadership. Students learn in a fantastic and supportive environment, focused on developing artistic excellence, intellectual curiosity and creative mindset. The BSJT Multi Trust Dance Company has now expanded from previous years; rather than one club aimed for Key Stage 3, the Dance Department have created two separate companies. A Youth Company for students in Key Stage 3 as well as Year 5 and 6 pupils from Hartsbourne and Little Reddings Primary Schools and the addition of a Senior Company which includes students from Key Stage 4 and 5. The companies have been working on creating their own choreography as well as learning challenging set pieces taught by GCSE students, Miss Noyan and Miss Dolan.





During this term the students had been preparing for a Dance Showcase Evening Performance which was due to take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. This will now be re-scheduled for a later date and will showcase the works the Multi Trust Dance Company groups have learnt and created alongside GCSE and A Level assessment pieces. The evening performance is sure to display the talent and creativity of our students here at BMS as well as at Hartsbourne and Little Reddings. We will let you know when tickets will be on sale on SCOPAY soon and look forward to seeing you there – hopefully in the near future!



**DON'T MISS THE UPCOMING DANCE SHOWCASE EVENING PERFORMANCE!**



### Sparkling Little Gems

As a staff parent of a child at Little Gems, the BSJT Day Nursery has been, and continues to be, such a wonderful benefit of working for the Trust. I cannot speak highly enough of the Little Gems' staff and for my daughter Neya they, along with the other children at the nursery, really are part of her

extended family. Neya goes to the nursery from Monday to Friday and it has been amazing to see her growth and development since she started. She absolutely loves the staff and has developed a lovely bond with the other children there. Anytime she is feeling a little upset at home, the mention of the names of the other children or staff from Little

Gems never fails to make her smile again. I am certain I echo the feelings of all the parents of the children at Little Gems when I say I feel so happy, safe and confident that my daughter is getting nothing less than the very best childcare at our sparkling Little Gems Nursery. At Little Gems, the children experience such a rich and varied

array of experiential opportunities that set apart Little Gems from other day nurseries. Toni (the Manager), and her wonderful team, Jenny, Barbara and Jenny (JB), really go the extra mile to provide these wonderful opportunities and again, on behalf of the other parents of children at Little Gems we are so thankful and grateful for the love, care and commitment they show to our children. Below, Toni summarises some of the key highlights from this term:

We began the Term with theme of 'Transport' – a real interest of the children. The children made roads by printing with toy cars' wheels, painted and glued buses - choosing their own colours and whether they wanted a single or double decker bus. We go on the bus to Bushey Library every two weeks and enjoy a music session there, so they are very familiar with buses!

Inspired from a story book we read together; another activity the children really enjoyed was making hot air balloons using lots of different textures.

After half term we have been covering Spring. We have talked



about Spring festivals - made daffodil cards for St David's Day, marble painting rainbow pictures for Holi and tasted Hamentashen for Purim.



Two families are expecting babies and with the assistance of Mrs Bowyer (the Childcare teacher at Bushey Meads) we have been supporting transitions by playing 'looking after babies'. Mrs Bowyer has a record of achieving outstanding results with our KS4 and KS5 Childcare students and, speaking of her unique dual experience, allowing her to also work with the 'little ones' at the nursery, she said the following:

Over the course of this year, it has been a pleasure to spend an afternoon each week working alongside the fantastic staff at Little Gems. During my time in the nursery, I have seen the children participating in a wide range of different activities that have supported all areas of their learning and development. These have ranged from playing bingo - developing social skills and teamwork, to dressing up - building on speech and language and imagination. I recently donated some dressing up clothes to the nursery, and we had a great afternoon watching the children act out as Batman, Mermaids and Pirates. The children got so much joy out of the activity and used their speech and language skills to interpret their characters. After this first occasion, it led into

'World Book Day'. The children all dressed up for the day as different characters from children's stories, and enjoyed a day of fun activities. It is such a privilege to be able to contribute to the great learning environment that has been created for the youngest members of our Trust. As you can see everything is truly sparkling at Little Gems!

**Suresh Varsani**  
BMS Assistant Headteacher



## BJST Design and Technology

As a Trust, we are privileged to have teachers who work across our schools. Mrs Hewitt, delivers the majority of her Design and Technology lessons at Bushey Meads but, with her wider ranging experience, she also delivers lessons and projects to primary school children in our Trust. Here are some of the highlights from this year. In the Autumn term, at Bushey Meads,



Year 9 completed their cooking and nutrition topic and learned to make a range of sweet and savoury dishes. At the end of the topic they wanted to share their own recipes and each decided to bring in a dish for the class to try

that they had made at home. They enjoyed tasting each other's dishes and swapping recipes that they could then try at home. At Hartsbourne, Year 2 learned about the different food groups and how important it is to eat 5

portions of fruits and vegetables each day. They designed and made their own fruit smoothies in pairs after lots of taste testing.



Year 3 made winter celebration decorations. They began by choosing which celebration they wanted to create a decoration for and then they tested materials to see what properties they wanted for their decorations. Their tests included folding, water resistance, abrasion and marking. This term, at Hartsbourne, we have continued to develop the design and technology curriculum in Key Stage 2. In Year 6, they have been designing recipes and making bread. The children began with a simple bread recipe and chose which flavours they would like to add to their dough. Together they created a range of different flavour combinations to try in a taste test. After completing their taste test they then picked their favourite recipe and created a bread roll with a unique shape. In Year 4, the children have been learning about electronics and



linking their science learning with technology. First they began by identifying which materials would be suitable conductors and insulators. Using this knowledge, they chose appropriate materials for making a torch. They used soldering irons and a range of components, including switches they had made themselves, to create a circuit and placed this inside the torch casing.

Thank you to Mrs Hewitt for providing these wonderful Design and Technology opportunities for our students across the Trust.

**Mr Varsani**  
**BMS Assistant Headteacher**

### MFL across the BSJT

We are delighted that our BMS Language Leaders have had the opportunity to use their language skills to support and teach Year 4 pupils at Hartsbourne School as part of a series of French lessons across the Trust. Together with Mrs Paddick and Ms Raquel Abeledo, five of our Bushey Meads Language Leaders, Scarlett Appleby, Marysa Sanchez, Derry Williams-Brown, Yashvi Hingu and Krisha Ravishanger, helped Year 4s learn the words and actions for the story of the Three Little Pigs (les trois petits cochons) in

## Voici l'histoire de trois petits cochons.



French. The students had great fun learning new vocabulary and their pronunciation was impressive! This lesson was part of a creative project, which is a collaboration between Bushey Meads, Hartsbourne and Little Reddings and will help instil a love of languages in our language learners and bring language learning alive. We all look very forward to the next stage of the project, whenever that may be! On Thursday 13th February Ms Raquel Abeledo (MFL lead at Hartsbourne) spent a day at Bushey Meads observing lessons and meeting with MFL teachers. Ms Abeledo gained an insight into many new MFL activities and said she looks forward to further collaboration with the MFL Faculty here at BMS.

**Mrs Hilarie Charles**  
**Head of MFL at BMS**



## Free Gym Membership for all Staff within the Bushey St James Trust

Further investment has been made in the infrastructure at Bushey Meads and although it has taken a little while to save up the money to purchase the state of the art equipment, we now proudly boast a multi gym at Bushey Meads.

Named the **Body, Mind and Soul** multi gym it will be available to all students under the careful supervision of their PE and Health Teachers and is another huge benefit to being a student at Bushey Meads.



In addition it is a key benefit for *any member of staff working within the Bushey St James Trust* as we are offering a full induction and free membership to all staff with *exclusive use* from 6.00 – 8.00 am and 4.30 – 6.30 pm each weekday. For more information please contact:

[reception@busheymeads.org.uk](mailto:reception@busheymeads.org.uk)



## Science Week at LRS

One of the highlights of this term at Little Reddings was their very successful Science Week; a very busy week during which the children thoroughly enjoyed celebrating British Science Week. It was absolutely fantastic to see the children developing their 'working scientifically' skills during a science carousel morning on the Thursday of Science Week. This gave the children the opportunity to work with a variety of teachers to conduct a range of different experiments. In EYFS the children were using eggs and rolling them on different surfaces, and in Nursery, the children created dancing raisins using lemonade.



**Some of the children's questions challenged the teachers to think more about how our world works!**

Across KS1 there was a sensory activity, a germs investigation and an experiment posing the hypothesis: How does water absorb colour from paper? Further up in the school, in Years 3 and 4, the children explored gravity, space, motion and electrical circuits. The children were asking excellent questions showing a depth of knowledge about different topics. The teachers noticed that the children were using scientific vocabulary in their discussions, something we are really trying to push for in the science department at LRS. Upper KS2 took on the challenge of separating oil from water, this sent a powerful message about how we need to take greater care of our oceans and look for ways to reduce oil pollution.

In Rowling class there were a range of different activities set up to explore surface tension and gravity. They found that a balloon will pop if you prick it with a needle but will often maintain its shape if you put some sticky tape on it and pass the needle through the tape. It was also interesting to find out that you can stop a

person from getting out of their chair by the simple act of placing a thumb on their forehead in a particular way. Many of the children have commented on how enjoyable science week was and some of their questions have challenged the teachers to think more about how our world works!



**It was such a fun week -  
I really enjoyed it!**

## Science Fair at LRS

Little Reddings School finished their Science Week celebrations by hosting a Science Fair on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Children across the school entered investigations and experiments which were show-cased on Friday afternoon to all the staff, children and parents. Lots of children brought in investigations they had completed at home with their families. Some children did investigations in school including using food colouring to see how a plant takes in water, as well as discovering the differences in how far a car will travel on different surfaces. During the Science Fair the children presented a variety of experiments from erupting volcanoes, the conduction of



*It was such a great way to end the week and so many children presented such superb experiments.*



electricity, exploring if moons have oceans and the spread of bacteria by looking at how mould grows on bread.

We thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and it was very exciting to hear the children talk about their learning.

*This was a day that will be well remembered by all!*



Pupils were able to follow their curiosity and interests which was fantastic to see. We had a huge number of entries and ended the afternoon by giving out lots of prizes - Miss Jalkhi & Miss Squires found it very difficult to pick the winners. This was a day that will be well remembered by all the staff and children because of all the excitement and learning it provided. Thank you to all those children who entered.



## The Journey from Primary School to University

With the A level examinations this year being cancelled it has been an anxious time for our Year 13 students at Bushey Meads School. Students applying for a place at University had to submit their application by 15<sup>th</sup> January, after which, the offers start to come through.

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. The process for students gaining their grades this year is very different with the students not sitting their terminal examinations. The Department for Education is sending out guidance to schools at some point in April so the students can still be certificated and awarded appropriate grades, enabling them to move onto their next learning journey, whether that be a university course, apprenticeship or starting employment.

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 have applied to study the following courses at a university next year:



Holly, 13 Beech, has applied to study Fine Art at Kingston University and the University of Leeds, Fine Art Mixed Media and Animation at the University of Westminster and 2D Animation and Character for Digital Media at the University of Hertfordshire.



Zoe, 13 Maple, is looking to study Fashion Design when she leaves Bushey Meads School and has applied for

Leeds Arts University, University of Southampton, Birmingham City University, Manchester Metropolitan University and Nottingham Trent University.



It is no surprise that Sam, 13 Beech, has applied for courses that demonstrate his flair for drama! He has applied to study Musical Theatre at Solent University, University of Surrey and University of Chichester and Acting at the University of Surrey and Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Ben 13 Willow, is looking to read Law and has applied to the University of Essex, Liverpool Hope University, University of Reading, University of Liverpool and the University of Law.



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Tameca, 13 Beech, has applied to study Computer Science at Goldsmiths, University of Hertfordshire, University of Westminster and City University and Cyber Security and Digital Forensics at Middlesex University.



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Rafi, 13 Elm, is also looking to read Computer Science and has applied to Loughborough University, University of Surrey, Brunel University, University of Birmingham and University of Reading.

Surrey, Brunel University, University of Birmingham and University of Reading.

Marie, 13 Oak, is looking to study Film Studies and has applied to Queen Mary University of London, Regent's University, Birkbeck University and King's College London.

We would like to wish all Year 13 students the best of luck for their next steps and will follow their progress with interest.

**Sara Ash**  
Deputy Headteacher





## Hartsbourne News

As someone once said, we live in interesting times! Nothing could be stranger than the last few weeks and yet so many people have risen to the challenge and excelled beyond all expectation. Hartsbourne staff have been amazing, helping one another, keeping the school open for key workers, and learning new IT skills. A special word for office staff who have gone above and beyond every day, our cleaners who have deep cleaned every classroom with care and attention to detail and our Caretaker who has been on site working behind the scenes to keep the wheels moving.

There's still plenty of learning going on as teachers upload work to our website and our YouTube channel Hartsbourne Reads will go live this Friday!

There's plenty of creative art, RE and science going on at home as you can see from these photos – all thanks to our wonderful parents turned teachers! At the beginning of the term we were very proud to participate in the Hertfordshire Year 5 Maths Challenge and we won our local



heat! The final had to be postponed but that does not take the shine off the initial win! Our Year 6 Class Council and House Captains participated in the Hertfordshire Youth Conference and enjoyed a morning at the Civic Centre learning about democracy, persuasive talking and free speech. Year 5 participated in the Hertfordshire Mini Police



Project and especially enjoyed using the speed gun to flag down drivers speeding up Hartsbourne Road!

We don't yet know what the immediate future for schools will be, but I am keeping my fingers crossed that we will be able to re-open before the end of the

summer term, if only for a few weeks.

The British Red Cross have a kindness project with a free calendar and that got me thinking that there comes a point in our lives when we all might need a little kindness from strangers and now is a good time to participate by delivering some random acts of kindness. Both giver and receiver benefit and this helps to build resilience in these difficult times. The Senior Leadership team at Hartsbourne are a consistent



source of support and kindness, and I thank them sincerely. I was touched by a spring poem sent to us for our weekly school Newsletter and I have included it below. I wish you all a safe and (relatively) happy holiday and look forward with hope for the time when normal service will be resumed.

**Valerie Hudson**  
Head Teacher of  
Hartsbourne Primary School

### Spring Poem from Louie (Y1)

I can see flowers, cold tulips.  
They are red.

I can hear grass crunching.  
I can feel the wind blowing in my face.

I can smell beautiful flowers.  
They smell like perfume.

I can taste chocolate; my favourite is melted white chocolate.

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



As we move into the Easter holiday period at the end of another busy term across the

Bushey St James Trust, our thoughts are very much with all our family, friends and loved ones at this unprecedented time, dominated by the global Covid19 pandemic which has consumed our thinking in the past few weeks.

I would like to pay tribute to all our staff across the MAT who have continued to provide an online education for all our learners and also keep the school settings open for the children of all our key workers who are continuing to work in this difficult period. It has been challenging, with many of our own staff displaying symptoms and having to self-isolate for periods of time, or themselves being on the vulnerable list published by NHS England and the Cabinet Office. We do sincerely hope that you all keep safe and wish you all well. This term we have welcomed Mrs Tregear as the new Headteacher of Little Reddings Primary School and know that she will build on the lasting legacy that the previous Headteacher Mrs Rissen has left, undoubtedly poised to take the school to the next level in its exciting journey of school improvement.

We have yet again seen so many wonderful projects take place across our three schools and continue to see so much best practice shared at every level, within and beyond our MAT

setting. The recent safeguarding training led by our experienced Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead Mrs Ash was just one example, with no less than four local schools involved in a superb session for over 40 Governors and Trustees.

Earlier this month it was a privilege to meet with Joe Farrell and Yvonne Neely at the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office for North West London South Central to discuss the success of the Bushey St James Trust and talk about our future plans. I was joined at the meeting by Vice Chair of the Trust Nick Smith and our CEO and Executive Principal Jeremy Turner.

The RSC Office commented favourably on our how we are



embedding common ground across the MAT through sharing schemes on phonics, operating very successful joint governance committees focussing on pupil progress and teaching and learning and through our continued commitment to bolstering skills and expertise across the Trust. They were encouraged to see that our finances are currently in a very stable position and were reassured to hear that we have been stringent with service contracts, as well as effectively sharing services where we feel this adds value across the MAT. Moving forward they encouraged us to continue to build up relationships locally to potentially

grow the Trust, at the same time ensuring a continued strong succession plan is in place to meet our needs for any future growth plans.

*"Our finances are currently in a very stable position and we have been effectively sharing services where we feel this adds value across the MAT."*



Department  
for Education

It was another 'moment in time' for me to continue to feel very proud of what our staff in all three schools have achieved for all of the children within the Bushey St James Trust. I continue to be very optimistic as we look forward in hope to continued success in the future.

**Sam Russell**  
Chair of the Bushey St James Trust



*"We look forward in hope to continued success in the future."*