



Bushey St James Trust Newsletter

December 2018

Exciting Collaborations Continue across the Bushey St James Trust

This term has been another busy but exciting time within the life of our innovative Multi Academy Trust. In November Hartsbourne Primary School hosted another very useful Teacher Toolkit – the fourth one arranged since this time last year when they officially joined the MAT.

We also held our first annual conference for all staff across the three schools. With the theme of *Creating a Culture of Stretch and Challenge*, we were delighted to welcome Sue Mordecai (former Chair of the National Association for Able Children in Education – NACE) as our key note speaker to launch the theme of the conference and underpin the core aim supporting this year's continuing professional development programme across our three schools. With Leading Practitioners from across our institutions delivering interactive workshops for delegates (including more than 30 from visiting schools across the South East of England) it was a moment to be proud of, reminding us of the power of collaboration as we seek to improve teaching and learning and raise the achievement of all the learners in our daily care. Creating a really strong culture of aspiration, always teaching to the top, but differentiating the learning for pupils in our classrooms across our three

schools, scaffolds the journey of achievement for all. As a Multi Academy Trust we have started to forge links with other innovative MATs across the South East region – most notably the Greenshaw Learning Trust and Wren Academy in Barnet (one of the top 50 schools in the country). Our annual conference was also showcased through the national network 'By Leaders, for Leaders' and attracted interest from senior leaders and practitioners from as far afield as Norfolk and Bournemouth.

Just last week the Director of Education for Herts for Learning Rachel Macfarlane visited the Bushey St James Trust and met with the three BSJT Headteachers to hear about our innovative collaborative approach to learning and achievements across the 5 phases of education represented in our unique setting.

Our practice and reputation is growing and our outcomes for all



pupils are rising demonstrating the real power of working together – long may this continue! I would like to thank all staff who contributed to making the conference such a success but especially our teaching and learning leaders – Greg Harper, Deputy Headteacher at Hartsbourne Primary School, Natalie Lewis, Middle Leader at Little Reddings and Graeme Searle, Assistant Headteacher at Bushey Meads School.

Jeremy Turner
Executive Principal

"The conference was a wonderful opportunity for all staff across the three schools in our MAT to get together and share best practice. It opened my eyes to see more clearly the learning journey across the primary and secondary phases. I have taken so much away to implement in my classroom for the benefit of the learners in my care. It was a great day!"

Newly Qualified Teacher at BMS

Director of Herts for Learning Visits the Bushey St James Trust

It was a real privilege to welcome Rachel Macfarlane to the Bushey St James Trust earlier this month. Rachel is the Director of Education for Herts for Learning and is a very experienced Headteacher and National Leader in Education. She found her visit to Bushey Meads School and our wonderful Trust a really uplifting experience and so enjoyed meeting our many articulate and confident student leaders across all subject areas in the school.



She was very impressed with the inspirational staff and the enthusiastic students in our STEM subjects (Maths, Technology and Science at BMS) and saw them participating in high level UKMaths and Mathletics challenges and hearing about their innovative, award winning work in STEM Club - using CAD software and the school's 3D printer to design their latest racing cars (soon to be entered into regional and national competitions).

Her tour continued through textiles, food and nutrition and electronics lessons. Student success and inclusive engagement in PE & Health lessons were showcased in Mrs Wright's and Mr Piper's lessons with Student Learning Consultants and Sports Leaders explaining the learning taking place. A superb jazz band performed to her in our new Music Block, providing a taste of the popular Christmas Soirée. Head Boy Rikhil then chaired a powerful meeting with some of our outstanding student leaders - taking time to explain about their varied roles and responsibilities and the impact they are having in improving the school and leaving a legacy for future generations across the BSJT.



After meeting Lead Practitioner Ms Bowe, drama students and BMS' resident magician Devan (who treated her to a magic trick!) she spent time with myself as the Executive Principal and the Headteachers of our two primary schools. She left after writing a hugely complimentary message in our visitors' book and was clearly inspired by what she saw and heard about taking place across the Bushey St James Trust; really impressed with the hard work and dedication of our amazing BSJT staff and all the articulate and confident students she met on her visit. It was a moment to be very proud of what we have all achieved across our innovative Multi Academy Trust.

BSJT Reading Group

It is with great pleasure that I am able to continue leading the BSJT Reading Group into its second year. With its continued focus on developing current and relevant pedagogical knowledge, the half termly sessions offer an opportunity for staff to find out about recent developments in education, discuss the validity of each and identify new strategies to trial within their own classrooms.

This academic year, our long-standing members of the reading group have been joined by new attendees to the after-school Monday sessions, widening the impact current research is having within classrooms across various faculties, departments and key stages across the Trust.

We have had two sessions so far: Autumn 1 focused on Barak Rosenshine's *Principles of Instruction* research which identified 10 classroom strategies for developing student knowledge effectively and efficiently. Angel Walters (Head of RE) and Marian Lewis (Acting Head of Business and Economics) focused on incorporating these strategies



within their own teaching and found them to have a high impact: they will be delivering a Monday Magic Moment in staff briefing later this half term to share their findings with the whole staff body. (Each term, the Reading Group has been allocated a 3 minute slot in staff briefing to keep staff up-to-date with how research can impact the classroom.)

Our Autumn 2 get-together was a focused, independent reading session where 10 articles from the Chartered College of Teaching's research journal *Impact* were shared with staff. The selection of articles included:

- strengthening secondary

teaching of various subjects, e.g. Mathematics, English, RE, MFL, etc.

- developing subject-specific knowledge within the primary curriculum
 - new research focusing on working with children with SEND needs
 - insights into the current national focus on knowledge versus skills-based curricula.
- Liam Lester and Jey Atchuthan have been attending the BSJT Reading Group since its inception last year and explain how attending it supports their own classroom teaching:

"The BSJT Reading Group is a great opportunity to sample - and discuss - some of the current educational research and thinking. Our recent session was focused on subject curriculum, and we undertook our own independent reading of the material provided. The two articles that I read discussed the value of a knowledge-orientated English curriculum versus a skills-orientated curriculum. As a Faculty, we are looking at upgrading our KS3 map, so this was fantastic material to absorb."

Liam Lester
Teacher of English
Head of Beech House

If you are interested in attending the BSJT Reading Group, please contact Fazana Farook for further details

farookf@busheymeads.org.uk

The sessions are half-termly on the second Monday of each half term from 3:20-4:20pm (Room F3, Bushey Meads School).



BSJT Reading Group.....

"Our last session was brilliant as we all got to select an article of choice with particular references to our own subject areas. My article was about "Applying the science in the classroom" which focused on the Science of Learning (i.e. considering classroom practices using modern scientific terms). Science of Learning does not promote a single model of classroom learning, but instead refers to a range of insights about learning that have been derived using scientific method. This broadly looks at everyday classroom teaching and categorizes the learning process into 3 broad areas: Engagement, Building and Consolidation. It was an amazing and interesting article, and I would not have read it if not for the BSJT Reading Group."

Jey Atchuthan
Deputy Head of Science Faculty

Leadership Training

One of the real benefits of being in a Multi Academy Trust is the access it gives you to work with so many excellent leaders across not just one school but three – all with their different skill sets, superb strengths and areas to develop. As a MAT we are committed to continuing professional development at all levels of our organisations and provide a rich tapestry of training for all staff – constantly seeing the benefits of this with staff often taking on new responsibilities within and beyond

their individual settings – many of them gaining promotions to new positions of responsibility as they progress in their careers. Each term, at the senior leadership level of our organisation, we ensure a joint leadership training session is provided; this gives the senior leaders in our MAT the chance to reflect at a strategic level and share best practice across the team. This term the session was led by Valerie Hudson and focussed on important aspects of



our own leadership but also the impact it can have across our unique setting. She encouraged us to think about the snowball effects that we can create as leaders and the importance of accountability (for ourselves and for others) and how a culture of good and appropriate accountability can breed great responsibility – all for the benefit of the young learners in our daily care. All the leaders I spoke to really enjoyed the stimulating session and the chance to further build on those important relationships as senior leaders within the Bushey St James Trust.

Year 7 Students from across the BSJT Settling into Bushey Meads School

The first term for students from Hartsbourne and Little Reddings Year 7 students at Bushey Meads School has now come to the end and it's been a very busy and successful one. We gathered them all together to hear how they think their first term at secondary school has gone and what they have enjoyed most. Here are some of their responses: Students from Little Reddings said: 'It has been great coming to Bushey Meads as I have made lots of new friends and all the teachers are nice.'

Zack

'I really like Bushey Meads because you meet really great and kind friends. Also the teachers are welcoming to you.'

Senay

'The lessons are a lot of fun and very educating.'

Jayden

'I like it how we are treated like young adults and how we have to move for every lesson.'

Bethany

'I have enjoyed coming to Bushey Meads because I have met new friends and I have seen new teachers and the lessons are really fun and exciting, especially in science because we do practicals.'

Leilani



Year 7 students from Little Reddings Primary School (Blackman class)



Year 7 students from Little Reddings Primary School (Rowling class)



Students from Hartsbourne commented:

'I have enjoyed learning different subjects that I haven't learnt before.'

Nadine

'The best thing about Bushey Meads is that it is big and you have many friends.'

David

'I've enjoyed the facilities and how we are more independent.'

Matthew

'I like Bushey Meads because there are good facilities here.'

Finn

We look forward to following all these students throughout their journey to Year 13 and beyond.

Bushey St James Trust Staff Conference

On Monday 5th November 2018, BMS hosted the Bushey St James Trust Staff Conference based on the theme of 'Establishing a Culture of Stretch and Challenge'. As the reformed GCSE, A-Level and vocational qualifications now being studied at Key Stages 4 and 5 require more from the students, it is vital that we stretch and challenge our learners as often as possible to provide them with the relevant skills to obtain the Level 9s, A* grades and Distinction levels in their future examinations.

As the same is true of Key Stage 2 SATs, the staff from Little Reddings Primary School and Hartsbourne Primary School joined us for the day to attend the training and gather ideas to improve practice in the classroom. In addition to this, the BSJT Conference was advertised on the national 'By Leaders, for Leaders' website and thirty external delegates from schools across the country (ranging from Leicester to Bournemouth) also attended. After registration and



refreshments in the restaurant, the day began with Jeremy Turner, Executive Principal of the Bushey St James Trust, recapping the journey of our Trust from inception to present day. This allowed staff to reflect on the ground we have covered thus far as we rarely have the opportunity to do this during our busy daily schedules.

Our keynote speaker, Sue Mordecai, then took to the stage to speak to us all about why we should establish a culture of

'An invaluable experience for building links across the trust. It was a pleasure to meet colleagues across our Trust schools and begin building on a project to further enrich student learning'.

Mr Lyley
Head of History, BMS



stretch and challenge and offered us a plethora of ways in which to achieve this.

Having started her career as a history teacher, Sue Mordecai has worked in both primary and secondary schools, moving on to roles as head of school improvement in a local authority, associate tutor at Oxford Brookes University and as an adviser to the International Charles Darwin Trust. Sue has contributed to national materials commissioned by both Welsh and English governments, represented the National Association for Able Children in education (NACE) on

Bushey St James Trust Staff Conference continued.....

government advisory bodies and written many articles and resources related to more able learners, as well as contributing to the editorial board of the journal Gifted Education International. She is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

For the rest of the day, staff attended a series of workshops that they had previously signed up to, all of which were based on the theme of the day. These included:

- Developing Brain Power - presented by Mr Searle (Assistant Headteacher)
- The Power of Display for Learning - presented by Miss Lindau (Advanced Lead Teacher for psychology)
- Rip It Up! Using the work of peers to extend learning - presented by Mrs Hoskins (Advanced Lead Teacher for art and media)
- Reinforcement, Retention and Retrieval - presented by Mrs Davey (Advanced Lead Teacher for science)
- The Language of Enquiry in Collaborative Learning - presented by Ms Bowe (Lead Practitioner for English)
- Establishing a Culture of Challenge within the Classroom - presented by Ms Farook (Lead Practitioner for English)
- Maximising the Use of Teaching Assistants - presented by Ms Ahluwalia (SENDCo)
- Challenge Anneka: Education



‘Although I delivered the same workshop on a carousel, all three of my sessions felt very different. I liked how the varying group dynamics and subjects that were represented, naturally shifted the focus and outcomes of our discussions/activities. It was especially good to benefit from the perspective of our visiting delegates from other schools.’

Ms Bowe
Lead Practitioner for English, BMS

Special! - presented by Mr Lester and Mr Johnson (both teachers of English)

- Physical Resources to Challenge Students - presented by Miss Walters (Head of religious studies) and Mr Symeou (teacher of PE and science)
- Deepening Learning through Mastery - presented by Mrs



Bushey St James Trust Staff Conference continued....

Hassett (primary school teacher) and Mr Wells (primary school lead for maths)

The feedback from all attendees was extremely positive and I am already thinking about next year's event. Teaching is a complex and busy profession (although extremely rewarding), our staff work very hard to support the students in fulfilling their potential, so the more practical advice and tips on stretching and challenging the students offered the better. I have already witnessed many of the points discussed during the day feature in the classrooms across BMS.



'Working together as a larger Maths team across the Trust was a real breath of fresh air. It was exciting to explore ideas that would bring greater opportunities for students from across the Trust to have joint experiences.

Another exciting element was sowing the seeds for cross phase teaching experiences. We even managed to schedule a cross phase pizza party! Looking forward to working together in the future!

Mr Varsani
Advanced Skills Leader BMS

As parents and carers, I thought you would like to know that the majority of Sue Mordecai's presentation was about having a good grasp of literacy - being able to read and write confidently and having an extensive vocabulary - is the key to success, in terms of a person's future occupation and social life. The more a young person reads, the better their literacy will be and the more success they will experience. The more books, magazines and newspapers there are within a household, the more children see their parents reading, the greater the chance of our young people following suit.



Bushey St James Trust Staff Conference continued....

With this in mind and Christmas on the horizon, an annual subscription to a magazine or a highly recommended book would make a great present for your child. This could be a surprise or perhaps you could discuss this with them beforehand to ensure you purchase a suitable title. Failing this, books in charity shops are extremely cheap, there are book swap shelves located in many places nowadays, there are audiobooks available and there is an extensive range of reading

material in the Learning Resource Centre at BMS and in libraries in our Trust Schools and of course across the local area.

**Graeme Searle
Assistant Headteacher, BMS**



‘Sue Mordecai led a really engaging and informative session that provided top tips and practical strategies for developing stretch and challenge within the classroom. It was great to have the names of websites that can be used as resources for lesson planning. I also really enjoyed working with...



.....colleagues from other schools and discussing the ways they implement stretch and challenge in their contexts
- it was a powerful reminder of how schools across the country have the potential to collaborate and work alongside each other to support all children across the UK to achieve their potential.’

**Ms Farook
Lead Practitioner for English, BMS**

Bushey St James Trust Basketball Festival

It was fantastic on Friday 30th November to welcome 66 Year 5 students from Hartsbourne and Little Reddings Primary Schools for the first of our BSJT Sports Festivals.

The event was led by 13 Bushey Meads Year 11 Level 1 Sports Leaders who were tasked with planning a series of basketball coaching sessions to introduce the game to the primary students.



This included sessions in dribbling, passing, shooting, pivoting and attack v defence situations. Students from LRS and HPS showed great enthusiasm and it was great to see their skill level improve as the morning progressed. After 45 minutes of coaching the 6 teams then played some matches which were coached and

officiated by the BMS leaders. The event proved a great success and it was really pleasing to see students so actively engaged in a new sport. This is a brilliant new development and we look forward to more festivals in handball, gymnastics, tag rugby and quik cricket coming up next year.



I really enjoyed the Basketball Festival at Bushey Meads. I loved learning new skills and then putting them into practice in the games at the end of the festival.

Year 5 Pupil from HPS

The BMS Sports Leaders were great and really helped us develop our basketball skills. They were really encouraging and I enjoyed the whole event.

Year 5 Pupil from LRS



Outstanding Practitioner working across the Trust

Last year we were extremely fortunate to appoint Mr Johnson as an outstanding Key Stage 2 – 3 English Practitioner. He now works within two schools within our Multi Academy Trust – Little Reddings Primary School and Bushey Meads School.

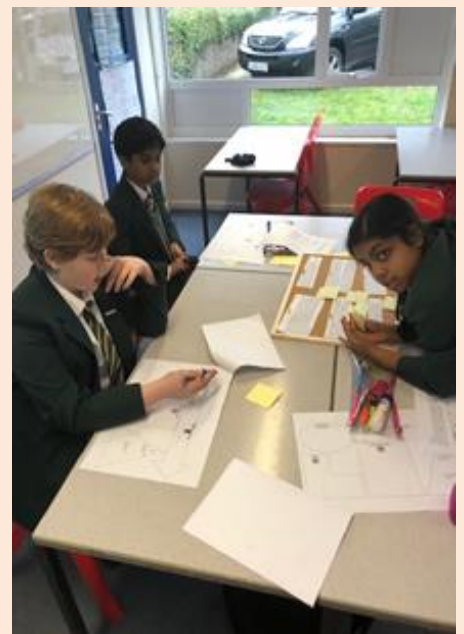
Many students comment that they are very lucky to have him as their teacher and in this article he explains his innovative role.....

My role within the Bushey St James Trust is multifaceted: it is my ultimate aim to provide every student with a firm foundation in their first year at secondary school whilst implementing the core principles of outstanding primary practice.

I am predominantly based at Bushey Meads School, teaching Key Stage 3; however, I teach English at Little Reddings Primary School two mornings every week. Thus, I work collaboratively with the staff, students and parents across the Trust to ensure that the visions, expectations and ethos of the Trust are pertinent in all lessons and across both key stages.

I am passionate about adopting a student-centred vision that encompasses all aspects of creativity with the aim of providing learning opportunities that meet the needs of all abilities and learning styles. I have been given the unique opportunity of working with students in preparation for the upcoming SATs examinations whilst supporting them with their forthcoming transition and future endeavours at secondary school. Reflecting upon Year 7 students'

prior levels of learning and experiences is fundamental to my role in terms of planning and delivering personalised learning opportunities that will ensure accelerated progress.



BSJT Teacher Toolkit

On Wednesday 21st November 2018, all teaching staff across the Bushey St James Trust convened at Hartsbourne Primary School. The BSJT in its current form - consisting of three schools - started in December 2017 and immediately the leaders across the BSJT were adamant that we were a 'multi academy trust' in more than just name only. We wanted staff from all schools to meet regularly, speak to each other, share good practice and learn from each other and most importantly, plan collaboratively so that the students benefitted. During the 2017 - 2018 academic year, teaching staff across the BSJT met once per term for a training session and whilst these events were very beneficial, this year we wanted to have more regular collaboration at a subject level. Therefore, on Wednesday 21st November 2018 each subject teacher met with their counterparts in the other schools to collaboratively plan a 'Cross Phase Project' that would benefit students across the BSJT. You can see these planning sessions taking place in the photographs.

On Wednesday 3rd July 2019, all of us will convene again at Little Reddings Primary School and each subject area will give a 5 minute presentation on the Cross Phase Project - including details about the rationale behind the project, the impact it has had, photographs and videos of the students participating and key next steps for the future.



'There was a really positive buzz around the school and the various rooms where the collaborative sessions were taking place.'

Teacher at HPS

This is a really exciting prospect for our students and in July I will publish another newsletter article on the Cross Phase Projects so you are aware of what has taken place.

Mr Searle
Assistant Headteacher



BSJT Teacher Toolkit continued



'The BSJT Teacher Toolkit was a great chance to discuss future ideas with colleagues from across the Trust. Some great plans have been put forward that will enhance the collegiate relationships and create a buzz about fundamental skills in English. Watch this space for the BSJT SPaG Bee Contest.'

Mr Lester
Teacher of English at BMS

'A very collaborative atmosphere - it really felt like we were one Trust as opposed to three separate schools.'

Teacher at HPS



'It was great to have the opportunity to meet some of the Maths team at Hartsbourne and Little Reddings and explore ideas which would help enrich students' Maths education across the Trust. In particular, I think observations and teaching at different schools will give all schools an awareness of the strategies needed to embed learning at different levels and help ensure a seamless and successful transition for students into Bushey Meads.'

Mr Donovan
Deputy Head of Maths at BMS



BSJT Teacher Toolkit continued

Every subject group seemed to have selected very achievable aims that can be implemented during this academic year for the benefit of all pupils across the Bushey St James Trust.'

Teacher at HPS



'A welcome opportunity to plan collaboratively and work together towards our short and long-term goals.'

**Mrs Charles
Head of MFL at BMS**

'English colleagues were provided with a forum to discuss and formulate a plan designed to engage students, parents and colleagues; we aim to promote a reading culture and endeavour to develop the functional skills of English across the Trust.'

**Mr Johnson
Teacher of English at LRS and BMS**



'It was really nice to meet counter-parts across the other schools within our Multi Academy Trust.'

Teacher at HPS



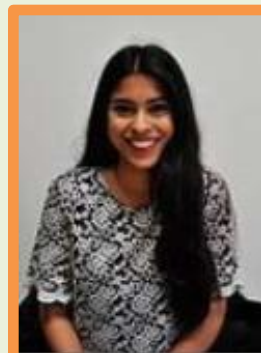
The Journey Through the Trust from Early Years to World renowned Universities

With GCSE and A Level exam results from the summer not far behind us it is great to see so many students from the Bushey St James Trust primary schools being so successful. Here are a few success stories to showcase: Amira (Head Girl at Bushey Meads School from 2017-2018) and pictured here on the right, is an ex student of Little Reddings Primary School. She is now attending Oxford University where she is reading English.



Joey (also from Little Reddings Primary School) is reading Computer Games Design and Development at the University of Worcester.

Myah is another ex-student from Little Reddings Primary School and she is studying Psychology at Brunel University.



Ryan who is another ex-student from Little Reddings Primary School is reading Law at Liverpool John Moores University.



Jordan (also from Little Reddings Primary School) is reading Computing Science at the University of East Anglia.

We are also extremely pleased to welcome the following students into Bushey Meads Sixth Form following their success at GCSE.

From Little Reddings Primary School: Zoe Davies, Michelene Esteban, Marie Hofer Tilyer, Rafi Izhar, Ben Karakaya, Holly Kemp, Tameeca Naidoo and Sam Raymond.

From Hartsbourne Primary School: Ethan Fiordelisi and Lana Mulford-Lawler.



Hartsbourn News

On December the 1st we had officially been part of the Trust for a year and it was a good time for the senior leadership team to take a moment and reflect on our achievements since joining and some of the many benefits we have enjoyed.

Our achievements include the stimulating programme of professional development that has been set up for the staff across the three schools. We hosted our second Teacher Toolkit in the autumn term which mainly focused on improving links between subject specialists and planning for opportunities for visiting each other's schools and sharing good practice between colleagues. The BSJT Stretch and Challenge Conference was a piece of first-class training and you can read about all the positive outcomes from that event in this newsletter. Suffice it to say it was a motivating and stimulating day that provided a real 'buzz' of enthusiasm for teaching and learning. We enjoyed a very tasty cooked lunch from Caterlink too!

Top of the list for benefits for Hartsbourn must be the mini-bus. This has been an invaluable resource, making it possible for us to participate in local events such as the Y2 Archery Contest, Y5 Basketball Festival and the Y6 visit to the (senior) residents of Heath House as well as staff collecting free resources from other schools! The mini-bus helps us to implement our enrichment programme by making learning fun and interactive for our pupils.

We are also benefitting from the support of the BSJT Facilities Team whilst Mr Nash is on sick leave and they are doing a great job keeping us clean and safe.

Mr Sam Russell, Chair of the Bushey



KS1: Three wise men and one wise Santa!

St James Trust, visited us this half term for a tour of the school and to see us in action. It made me very proud to show him round the school and see the children enjoying their lessons, working hard and engaging in challenges. Year 4 for instance were doing an investigation into time that involved calculating some tricky multiplication sums, but they weren't thrown at all!

In fact, I think that the Learning Gems programme, that we introduced this term, has really helped to develop the children's readiness for learning and we are seeing more resilience, improved have-a-go attitudes and willingness to learn from mistakes this term.

The Executive Principal, Mr Turner, was a welcome visitor to our Christmas shows this term and the children did us proud with their acting and singing.

The shows are successful because of all the hard work the staff and children put in to learning the lines and routines and of course we are lucky to have the support of our parents when it comes to costumes and props!

Finally, this half term we hosted and led leadership training for the senior leaders across the Trust titled 'The Snowball of Accountability'. This gave senior leaders a chance to share their insights into leadership, how to hold staff to account with professional rigour and how to use our internal sense of accountability to provide children with the very best role models we can be.

This term it has really felt as if the team are all pulling in the same direction and harnessing this high level of commitment and energy will really help to ensure that we continue to provide all the children in our care with a relevant, challenging and exciting curriculum; one that is fit for the 21st century. On behalf of the Head and all the staff at Hartsbourn, we wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year!

Valerie Hudson
Headteacher



Y6 visit Heath House (thanks to the mini-bus)

Maths across the BSJT

Utilising a fantastic online learning resource called Mathletics, students from Years 5 and 6 at Hartsbourne and Little Reddings, along with students from Years 7 and 8 at Bushey Meads, will compete against each other, to achieve the most points they can in a fun filled week of Maths. Students will play on a live game against other students online - within the schools and across the world, in an attempt to climb up individual, class, school, UK and worldwide leaderboards. Very quickly, students will realise the best strategy for gaining points quickly is actually to complete the curriculum activities and tests. What a fun and engaging way to help raise Maths attainment as well as providing an opportunity for students and staff across the Trust to work together. Once the final points' totals have been calculated, a Mathletics Final will take place requiring the best performers from across the three schools in the Trust to come together, team up and compete against other teams. The BSJT Mathletics Competition is the first of many exciting collaborative projects the Maths teachers across the Trust are planning for the year. Watch this space!

New BSJT Minibus

This term the BSJT mini-bus has been a great asset at Little Reddings. It has opened up many more opportunities for the children to access learning and sports activities outside the school grounds. In the past week the bus has been used to take our Year 1 class to the local fire station where they were given an insight into the life



Years 5,6,7 and 8 Competition 🏆

Mon 10th Dec - Sun 16th Dec!

There's no time to waste!

- Get practicing at home
- Play as much as you can during the competition week!
- Help your class and yourself climb up the leaderboards!
- See your Maths teacher for your login!

Certificates, trophies and more to be won!



of a fire fighter. The children had a wonderful time as you can see in the picture below. It was also great to receive some really positive messages from parents whose children attended the trip.

The new BSJT minibus was also able to take the year 5 and 6 football team to Highwood for a football match. Again this would have been really difficult without our new BSJT transport.



Instilling a Love of Languages

Why is it important for children to teach children? I believe that it is empowering for all pupils involved. Children have a unique way of supporting one another in their learning, which can really positively impact upon pupil attainment. Therefore, when the opportunity arose for Bushey Meads Language Leaders to support Year 5 French, I embraced it. I knew that it would inspire my Year 5 language learners, help to improve attainment, teach the Language Leaders about being good leaders and role models for younger pupils and allow them to share their knowledge.

We started the first afternoon by reviewing basic vocabulary relating to space (eg. stars, the moon and an alien). Then we moved onto forming simple sentences with 'je vois,' which means I see. It was great to see Language Leaders supporting pupils to write and say these sentences. After this, we looked at adjectives relating to describing height and personality. Pupils were shown how to put this vocabulary into sentences using 'je suis.' The objective was to create a very simple description of an alien. Pupils were also required to call up previous knowledge about how to say your name, age and where you live in French. Finally, they were able to create an image of their alien.

The Language Leaders were fantastic at getting involved and supporting Year 5 pupils throughout the afternoon. As this connection develops, I would like to get Language Leaders leading games with the children, devising tasks for pupils and sharing what it's like to learn French at secondary school. It would even

be great to have Language Leaders come to Little Reddings to do speaking practice with Year 5 and 6 pupils.

I am excited to see this link develop between Year 5 pupils and Bushey Meads' pupils because it is going to be a mutually enriching connection that will inspire all pupils to continue their language journeys. I see learning a language like the Olympic torch relay. We need to keep that torch alight and moving, in order to ensure that more and more pupils choose to continue learning languages throughout their school careers and beyond. This is why I am so excited about the start of this relationship with Language Leaders. Quite simply, I feel honoured to be part of pupils' language journeys across the Trust.

Laura Moses
MFL Teacher across the Trust

Christmas Magic at LRS

Bushey Meads Sixth Formers bring some Christmas Creative Magic to Little Reddings Primary School!

On Wednesday Ms Budd asked us to go down to Little Reddings to set up the Christmas Grotto. We were all happy to do this because we like any chance to be creative! Setting up the Grotto involved hanging up backdrops, hanging fairy lights, positioning the fireplace and other props, like Christmas presents and baubles. They also had a projector showing snowflakes that we used as well. It was really rewarding seeing it come together especially when we turned all the lights off and put the fairy lights on for the first time. We hope the children at Little Reddings really enjoy meeting Santa in the Grotto this Christmas.

By Megan Dowden, Emily Wood
Jessica Bone and Sophie Melsome



Music across the BSJT

The music team at Bushey Meads School is delighted to be working with some key members of staff across the Trust (Mr Harper at Hartsbourne and Miss Cantwell at Little Reddings) to strengthen the provision of the music curriculum in Key Stages 1 and 2.

We are particularly interested in how we can nurture creativity and confidence in our students as they progress through their music education within the Trust. As a collaborative of teachers, we hope to develop an improved curriculum and approach to teaching music that is tailor-made for the students we teach. To launch the new curriculum model, the Music Department at Bushey Meads will host a training session early in the Spring term for all primary staff.

We are also very excited to launch the beginnings of the Bushey St James Trust Orchestra. We have selected a group of able musicians at Hartsbourne Primary School to take part in some special orchestral workshops over the Spring term. We look forward to working with the aspiring musicians at Little Reddings School at Bushey Meads in the Summer term.

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



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

As we move into the Christmas period and the end of the calendar year, we can reflect on another busy and exciting twelve months that have just passed, marked significantly this time last year with the exciting and very welcome expansion of our Multi Academy Trust to include Hartsbourne Primary School. In all three schools key performance indicators continue to rise, as do the even more important value added measures for many groups of pupils. Under the leadership of the Executive Principal Mr Turner and the wider leadership teams across the BSJT we see an outstanding culture of collaboration and celebration become embedded across all three schools. The result is a dedicated and focussed

learning community making a huge difference for the students across the BSJT. Part of the attraction of working within the Bushey St James Trust is the opportunity to share best practice between our three schools and this year, we have built even stronger links between all key stages 1 to 5, ensuring that there is good coordination between primary and secondary learning.

I'm very proud of what our staff in all three schools achieve for all of the children within the Bushey St James Trust and 2019 looks like being another exciting year for everyone involved.

From all of the Trustees and Governors, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



***On behalf of all the Members,
Trustees, Governors and staff
across the Bushey St James Trust
we would like to wish you all a
very Merry Christmas
and a peaceful and Happy New
Year.***



Sam Russell
Chair of the Bushey St James Trust