Message from the Principal

It is an honour and a privilege to be Principal of a school where so many good things happen. Students and staff alike are working very hard to be the best they can be and I am very grateful for all the effort and determination shown by all involved with our school. We have had another successful term and this newsletter highlights just some of the great things that regularly happen at The Bushey Academy.

We have continued to welcome a record amount of parents into the academy. As of writing, 75% of parents have attended at least one positive event (not including academic parents’ evenings). We have continued with our popular and successful celebratory teas and recently we held our first sports celebration for students and parents. We are committed to recognising and rewarding students who work hard and who are fully committed to their studies and wider school life. It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you at these events and I look forward to sharing in your son/daughter’s successes in the future.

Developing all our students’ employability skills and raising aspirations are very important parts of what we do at the school. Our fantastic Year 10s recently completed their work experience and the feedback from the employers was superb (as you can see inside). The students learnt a lot from their experience and the employers appreciated how respectful and mature our students are. We continue to work with the University of Hertfordshire through the ‘Brilliant Club’ which allows our students to work with academics at a very high level. As the aspirations of our young people rises, so does their effort and determination at school.

Sport at The Bushey Academy continues to thrive and I am delighted that we are increasing participation and also having more success in competitions. One of the highlights for me last term was hearing that both the Year 7 and Year 10 football teams became district champions on the same day! Congratulations to all involved. As I enter and leave the building by the ‘Arena’ door, I look at the new PE ‘Hall of Fame’ on the walls, showcasing our students past and present who are excelling in their sports. This is definitely something to be ‘Proud to Belong’ for.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) is going from strength to strength. Inside, you can read about our amazing Formula 1 team who have been very successful this year. What makes this all the more impressive is that all the input has come from the students themselves. We have been involved in the ‘Big Bang’ competition, welcomed lots of Year 6s from Bushey Manor Primary School to conduct experiments in our incredible Megalab, and taken part in the Rotary Technology Tournament.

In a world where tolerance can sometimes be in short supply, we are doing more than ever as a school to make sure that our learners live up to the ‘respect’ part of our school mantra (‘Ready, Respectful, Safe’). We celebrate diversity in many ways, examples inside include our work for International Women’s Day, marking the Hindu festival of ‘Holi’ and also raising awareness though our ever expanding charity work. I am hugely proud of the Sixth Form EPQ girls who came to me a few months ago with ideas to raise money for The Ollie Foundation, a local charity for raising awareness of teenage suicide. The girls ran their own events and raised an incredible £1,629.00, a magnificent effort.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone connected to The Bushey Academy for their hard work and dedication. I am very grateful for all your work. I hope that you have a restful Easter holiday and I look forward to reporting more positive news and events in the next newsletter in July.

Jon Hebblethwaite
Principal
Year 10
Work Experience

Year 10 returned from this year’s work experience having had an amazing time. The feedback from employers has been better than ever. Here are some pictures and quotes from our employers.

Thanks also to staff for their visits to the students in their workplace.

“Amina is a credit to her school, her parents and herself. Amina conducted herself extremely well at our assessment centre today, and if actively seeking employment I would have hired her. Amina is confident, happy to challenge, takes feedback well and remarkably fearless for someone so young. I believe that with the right training and direction Amina will enjoy a handsome career in whatever she decides to undertake.”

“Grace has been really helpful with the students. She is fully engaged with them and I have been really impressed with how she has got on whilst she has been here”

“Chantelle has been really good since she has been working here. She is growing in confidence with each day, she is punctual and well-presented and has a lovely nature with the children”

“Christian is a dedicated and committed person, he arrived 15 minutes early every day. He has positive, respectful and enthusiastic attitude. Christian has a dynamic attitude, is willing to help and he took advantage of any chance to absorb information about the roles at our business”

“Ema has been fantastic since she has come here she’s been so helpful. She has done lots of cleaning and sweeping up. I have been really impressed by her. She does want to be a hairdresser and I have told her about the apprenticeship that HOBS offer.”

“Ella has been brilliant with the children at the school she has been fully involved at every stage and really engaged. Ella has taken her own initiative whilst working here”

“Ryan has been exceptional since being here, he’s been so helpful. Can he stay?”
Charity News

The academy are proud of our efforts in raising money for charity. We’ve recently presented a cheque for £660 to Alison Cox of the Purcell Music School. This money was raised from our House Music Competition to support the Hurricane Relief efforts that are ongoing in the islands of Antigua and Barbuda.

For Red Nose Day this year, the non-uniform day raised £1101.

Finally, our sixth form students have done a great job for their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) raising money for The Ollie Foundation, a local charity for teenagers raising suicide awareness. The EPQ team put together a week full of fundraising events, culminating in yes, you’ve guessed it, a non-uniform day! They raised an impressive £1,629.30. Well done to everyone.

Celebrations

This term has seen further celebrations for students who are doing well. We really appreciate those students who follow the rules, put in exceptional effort into tasks and who help others.

Celebrating our students is hugely important for us, and this term we welcomed Year 10 and 11 students and parents to The Grand Hall for a celebratory tea. It was lovely for staff to join with parents and carers in celebrating student achievement and good behaviour.

Year 7s with exemplary behaviour and effort in lessons recently enjoyed a ‘Hot Chocolate Thursday’.

Finally, students, parents and carers were invited to our first Sport Celebration. Held in the Sports Hall with the PE team, this event celebrated our sporting students. Amongst our student body, past and present we have a National Boxing Champion, National Basketball players, district football champions and professional rugby and football players playing at national and international levels. This was a very well attended event to thank everyone that contributes to the success of these students.

Year 6 Welcome Event

March is an important time for Year 6 students who find out what school they have been allocated for September 2019.

To ease the transition which can be both exciting and scary (for parents as well as students), we invited our September 2019 intake to join us at a special event. Whilst mums and dads had a coffee, heard from the Principal and chatted to staff from the Senior Leadership, Pastoral and Individual Needs teams, the children took a taster class in one of the following subjects: Sport, Food Technology, Drama, Music, Computer Science and Science.

The children had a great experience in their classes, trampolining or playing basketball, learning about magnets, how to eat well, coding, acting and trying out instruments or singing.

Feedback on the night from parents and children was terrific and we can’t wait to see the children again at the Secondary Transfer Day in July.

“I would like to pass on my thanks to Bushey Academy for holding the secondary transfer evening... we really appreciated having the time to visit your school again and have a taster session for my son”

The Brilliant Club

The Brilliant Club encourages students from non-selective schools to apply for places at prestigious Russell Group Universities.

A group of Year 10 and Year 12 students have been participating in this club and recently attended the launch of the programme.

Year 10 are learning about clinical neuroscience and when humans begin to feel pain. The Year 12 focus is on politics and voting trends.

Students are really enjoying the regular tutorials in these subjects and we’re looking forward to finding out more as the week’s progress.

“many thanks for putting on such a great event last night. I appreciate it’s the first time you have run this event and I personally felt it was a great success”
Christmas Round Up

The end of the autumn term saw some lovely events with a festive feel take place in our community. Students and staff visited the Starfish Ward at Watford General Hospital just before Christmas to entertain poorly patients. They were invited to broadcast live on BBC Three Counties Radio which was very exciting and quite nerve wracking for them all! They did really well and sang a number of carols which you can listen to via our website.

Once again our carol concert at St James Church in Bushey did not disappoint. Students performed traditional hymns and some more modern festive songs too. The professionalism of the students and quality of the music was outstanding.

Finally, students visited Beaumont Care Home to sing carols for the elderly residents. There was also a performance of a Christmas themed story by our drama club students. A good time was had by all.

A huge thank you to the students and staff for putting together these lovely events for the benefit of others.

Formula 1 in Schools – STEM Challenge

In January 2019, 4 students from Year 10 and Year 11 took part in the Formula 1 in Schools regional competition in harlow. The aim of the competition is for students to design, construct and race the fastest Formular 1 Car of the Future, powered by compressed air cylinders. The students held various events such as doughnut sales and FIFA Tournaments to raise money towards the building of the car and competition costs, and they contacted external companies for sponsorship.

This was our teams’ first competition, up against 7 other teams with more experience. They competed in five different areas:

- Scrutineering (How well the car met the rules and regulations)
- Design and engineering
- Enterprise
- Verbal Presentation
- Racing

The academy team finished 7th overall but their car was able to beat teams who had more experience. Three of the teams ahead of ours went on to compete in the national finals and finish in the top 5 schools in the country.

The aspect of the competition that won our team the most points was the Enterprise category. This was where they shone as it showed how hard they had worked as a team, raising money and managing the project. Their efforts resulted in them winning the Sponsorship and Marketing Award.

It has been amazing to see the students engage with the competition, testing themselves and really committing to the project. They really did portray the proud to belong values of the academy and they did all of this on their own.

Our congratulations go to: Neo Moise, Spencer Jearrad, Josh Twaites and Amy Floyd-Fisher.
The Big Bang Science Competition

Davina Barrell-Macdonald, is our Head Student in Year 13, and is currently studying 4 A Levels. She has been offered a place to study medicine at Imperial College, London, for September 2019. In preparation for this she undertook a Nuffield placement last summer, conducting a research project into the reactions of particular valves in the heart with Dr Adrian Chester, a leading heart specialist. From this project she has been involved in several subsequent events, including attending the Big Bang Science Competition. Here’s what she had to say about it:

Following a Nuffield placement over the summer of 2018 I submitted my research project to the Big Bang Science Competition. I made it to the finals which entailed me travelling to the NEC in Birmingham to display my project. As part of the competition I was given a booth in which to display my project; what I did, how I did it and what I had found conducting a research project into choline acetyl transferase and its involvement in the synthesis of acetylcholine to induce relaxation of vascular tissue with Dr Adrian Chester. Over the course of two days I presented my work to the judges, science enthusiasts and school trips, answering their questions about my project and explaining its role within heart research. There was a huge variety of projects from students aged 16 - 18, in the categories of both Science and Engineering. The competition was a great opportunity for me to engage with other young scientists and engineers that are equally as passionate about science as me, as well as being inspired by many of the great work that was being showcased. This experience has provided me with confidence in my scientific abilities and has given me the courage to participate in similar events in the future. Furthermore, it has only reinforced my desire to pursue a career in medicine and continue researching in this field in the future.

Davina, Year 13

Bushey Manor Year 6 Science Visit

Sixty Year 6 students from Bushey Manor School came to enjoy a fun science session run in the Megalab as part of National Science Week. All of the students enjoyed the experience and took part in activities such as making a golden penny and the methane bubble experiment. Our own science sixth form students led the activities with the children.

International Women’s Day 2019

The 8th of March was International Women’s Day and academy staff and sixth form students came together to respect and celebrate the event. Led by the Sixth Form we have been able to engage with the #balanceforbetter campaign which is to help men and women across the world to become equal and express their individuality. As a collective we have also been able to find out why it is important to different people and what International Women’s day means to them. This campaign doesn’t finish on International Women’s day, it runs all year and continues to help a lot of people across the world.

You can visit https://www.internationalwomensday.com/ to find out more about the campaigns that are on across the globe, to look at important events in women’s history, to watch videos on how other people are celebrating International Women’s Day and much more!

Reading for Pleasure

Well done to all the students in Year 7 and 8 who continue to work hard on reading for pleasure. The top ten readers in each year group according to the number of words they have read this term are:

Year 7
Grace Buckingham
Isabel Oberwarth
Sophia Carrie
Louis Gee
Pranav Srinivasan
James Shepherd
Anna Carlsen
Kaeleigh Bickerdike
Dylan Kennedy
Graziella Csiszar

Year 8
Megan Boatwright
Janvi Shah
Sofia Lomakhtina
Dylan Naylor
Filip Kolasny
Gideon Adjei
Joe O’Leary
Katie Taylor
Tyler Squibb
Anna Rose

And a special mention to the following students who join the Millionaires Club, having read over 1,000,000 words since the beginning of the academic year:

Megan Boatwright 3,618,818 words
Isabel Oberwarth 1,277,656 words
Louis Gee 1,148,681 words
Sophia Carrie 1,121,336 words
James Shepherd 1,112,215 words
Pranav Srinivasan 1,110,126 words
Grace Buckingham 1,041,719 words

Congratulations!

“I the more you read the more things you know. The more that you learn the more places you’ll go.”
—Dr. Seuss
There is a clear link between good attendance and achievement. Research shows that for every 17 days missed from school your GCSE grades will go down by 1 grade.

How do YOU measure up?

As part of our continued drive to improve attendance we are rewarding our students who have fantastic attendance in various ways:

- In every year assembly each week we hold one draw for a £5 Amazon voucher for any student who attended 100% in the previous week
- Every form group that collectively attends 100% in one week can 'jump the lunch queue' on certain days in the following week
- During the last week of term we have 2 draws for a small prize per day for each year group from those students who are in school that day.
- There are 2 draws during the final assemblies of each half term from those students who attended 100% during the last 2 weeks – each draw is for a Kindle Fire.

Attendance during one school year

<table>
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<th>Attendance</th>
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<th>Which is approximately weeks absent</th>
<th>Which means this number of lessons missed</th>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>90%</td>
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<td>Concerns – Persistent Absentee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85%</td>
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<td>180</td>
<td>Serious concerns – Persistent Absentee</td>
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</tbody>
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Football Successes!

Well done to our Year 7 Boys Football Team who beat Bushey Meads 5-2 to become district champions. The boys were a credit to the academy, behaved impeccably and were a model of good sportsmanship. Well done to them all.

Our Year 10 Boys Football Team beat Queens 3-1 to win the District Cup. Leading 2-0 in the first half, the second half led to us giving away a penalty but then in the last thirty seconds we scored again. The boys were superb and deserve our heartfelt congratulations on winning the cup.

The Rotary Club Technology Tournament

The Bushey Academy once again hosted the annual Rotary Club Technology Tournament. Schools from the area joined us in the Grand Hall for the competition, giving students the opportunity to showcase their skills in engineering, inventing and technology.

We entered three teams this year from Years 8, 9 and 10 and whilst we didn’t win, we did have a lot of fun problem solving with winches and pulleys!

Well done to the students that took part:

- Year 8 team: Emma Godfrey, Charley Axtell, Holly Davis, Katie Taylor
- Year 9 team: Simon Marchitan, Finn McGrath, Macie Gardner, Liam Richardson
- Year 10 team: Charlie Donald, Regan Soper, Maria Milia, Chloe Hewitt

Contact Info

The Bushey Academy, London Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire WD23 3AA
Tel: 020 8950 9502
Fax: 020 8420 4038
Email: admin@thebusheyacademy.org
www.thebusheyacademy.org