



Message from the Principal

As the first term of the new academic year draws to a close, I am pleased to report that we have had further significant successes since the publication of the Summer 2010 newsletter.

As anticipated, examination results improved again, with a record 60% of students achieving five or more GCSEs grades A*-C, an increase of 32% from the Bushey Hall results of 2008. The results were exactly in line with our predictions and the Watford Observer reported the 'remarkable turnaround' at the academy.

There is a palpable sense of excitement at the commencement of the building works in December which will bring us the Science "mega-lab", the TV, music, technology and art studios, the 300 seat theatre, the sports complex, the marketplace, the internet café and a whole host of other new learning spaces.

In the meantime we are looking forward to our temporary school buildings, which are a significant improvement on our existing buildings and will provide a comfortable and well equipped learning environment.

The academy continues to draw interest from national figures and recent visitors have included Lord Hill, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, and Rabbi Barry Marcus of the Central Synagogue in London.

I was especially pleased when it was reported back to me from one visitor that a student had commented, "'Proud to Belong' is more than just a motto – I'm genuinely proud to be part of the academy".

Andrew Hemmings
Principal



The School of Dreams

Honda's School of Dreams is welcomed to the academy

Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 were pleased to welcome The School of Dreams, involving representatives from our local Crown Honda, to The Bushey Academy, in October, with additional participation by sixth form student leaders and some members of staff.

Sponsored by Honda and in keeping with the company's core belief in The Power of Dreams, the two day programme of workshops encouraged students to tackle a range of activities by working as team members, whilst also being creative, adventurous thinkers.

From juggling, to problem solving, to forming a team campaign and presentations aimed at promoting a life dream of their choice, students enjoyed and benefitted from a diverse and engaging experience. Summed up in the words of one student when asked to evaluate what the two days had brought for him: "pursue your dreams, because they can come true".



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House Music Competition

The academy's first House Music Competition took place in November, playing to a packed house of parents and supporters. The varied programme was entertaining and exciting, showcasing the talents of a significant number of our students.

Students had spent hours rehearsing and perfecting their entries, assisted by a group of Sixth Form Music Mentors, and their efforts on the night were appreciated by the enthralled audience.

Hayley Daniels of Whittle House won Best Soloist category with her rendition of 'Hurt' by Christina Aguilera, while Otis Allen-Lloyd of Edison won the category of Best Beatboxer. Syesha Choban, Whittle, won Best Composer with her song called 'Standing Proud' and the Best House Band category was won by Edison with a group ensemble piece called 'Love Story' by Taylor Swift.

The four judges were Mr Hemmings (Principal), Mrs Nasser-Green (Vice Principal: Business Operations), Mr Townsend (Assistant Principal) and our guest judge Mr George Vass (Conductor of the Bushey Symphony Orchestra).

Whittle House won the trophy, but each house deserved recognition for the high standard of their performances. Marianne Henry received a voucher for her outstanding work as a Sixth Form Music Mentor, and certificates were also awarded to the remaining Sixth Form Music Mentors in recognition of all their hard work.



Curriculum Activity Day November 2010

With guest speakers, workshops from guests and Self Discovery of Identity classes run by the Religious Studies and History departments, an enthralling and interesting day was had by students in Years 7, 8 and 9 during Curriculum Activity Day in November.

Year 7 students took part in classes which looked into self discovery and identification within Britain today. Year 8

students were given a special treat with a visitor who has led an exceptional life and delivered an important message about making the right decisions for the future.

Year 8 students also experienced workshops about self-esteem, body image, use of language, gender and how this feeds into positive gender relationships.

Year 9 students took part in six different workshops based on drug and alcohol awareness and sex and relationships.

These topics were examined using lectures with demonstrations, games and activities to make students more aware of negative trends within today's society.

After such a positive experience, we look forward to the next activity day at the end of January.



Visit to Rabobank A Business Studies visit

A group of students had the opportunity to visit the London Headquarters of Rabobank recently, arranged for them by Mr Richard Emsley, one of the academy's governors.

The bank's Chief of Financial Markets gave the students an insight into Rabobank and how the banking industry operates, followed by a talk from their Chief Economist about the European debt crisis and the value of the US dollar against the euro. Students had an open discussion about the possible future of the euro, during which they gained more knowledge about the European Union and the debts and deficits of different countries. A tour of the trading floor and ICT control room followed, during which students learned about electronic trading.

The final talk of the day was from a member of the bank's Human Resources team, about the various careers in banking, along with the different methods of entry into the banking industry.



House Football and Netball Competitions Years 7 and 8 compete

Inter-House competitions are eagerly anticipated and well supported, and the House Football and Netball competitions were no exception.

Year 7 and 8 students competed to a very high standard, which made for some very close and exciting games. Despite torrential rain on the final day, students were very keen to carry on and finish the competition, which they did in style.

Whittle House was the overall winner in both Football and Netball. The next round of competitions will involve students in Years 9 and 10, and dates will be announced shortly.

Table Tennis

Table Tennis in association with Greenhouse

We are pleased to welcome Vidal Graham, a Table Tennis Coach from the Greenhouse charity, who will be working alongside the academy this year. Vidal was twice a British team winner with his table tennis club, and holds the new UKCC Level 3 coaching award.

The presence of a full time Greenhouse coach supports students through open participation, small group and targeted individual sessions and provides young people with a role model during critical years of their life. The coach will liaise with parents, school staff and professionals from other agencies to develop a holistic approach to a young person's personal and academic development.

Activities include

- Before, during and after school clubs
- Targeted one-to-one sessions to promote positive participation
- One-to-one and small group sessions to develop talent
- Weekend and school holiday activities
- Some PE classes to promote the program within the school
- Open-door drop-in service to all in the school

The Table Tennis Squad has already played in competitions against other local schools, with some really good performances by Year 10 students Farren Seamon and Jordan Davies. If you want to find out more please contact Mr Graham.



Bushey Rangers

Bushey Rangers are Proud to Belong

The Bushey Academy is proud to sponsor the Bushey Rangers Under 9s football team. The team - currently in the Red Division of the Watford Friendly League - is made up of boys from the local community, who attend local primary schools, and has shown that grass roots football is thriving at the heart of Bushey.



Student Services

Year 7

Year 7 students have had a fantastic start. They have settled very well in their form groups and are benefitting from the vertical tutoring system which enables them to establish good relationships with other students of all ages very quickly. It has been lovely to see them making new friends and seeing so many smiling faces. They are also taking part in extra curricular clubs with great enthusiasm.

Vivo Awards

Students have embraced the new Vivo point system and are regularly being awarded with points for any one of the following: Community; Enrichment; Exceptional Performance; Good Samaritan; Attitude to Learning Grade One in lessons and tutor time.

Assertive Mentoring

The Student Services team have started the Assertive Mentoring programme with our Year 11 students. A targeted group of students are seen regularly by their mentor and the meeting is structured around the data provided by Stars for Schools. This data clearly shows the student their current levels and predicted data, the subjects where they are on target and the areas where they are below target. This gives the mentor and the student a focus from which they mutually agree targets to help the student progress. The students feel supported through the meetings and they are directed to appropriate interventions and revision sessions. For further information on any of these areas, please contact the Head of House.



Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Assessed Expedition in September 2010

September 2010 saw the academy's first Duke of Edinburgh assessed expedition, in the Peak District. The group of 30 Year 10 students braved the coldest September night in 30 years and walked over 20 miles during the two days. Each student had to carry all of their equipment while completing six hours of walking a day, completely unaided by staff. They were armed with a compass, OS map and all the knowledge they had gained throughout their training.

The training was completed in the five months leading up to the expedition and included campcraft skills, navigation - including the use of OS maps - the countryside code, bag packing and first aid. Great skills and strength are needed to complete an expedition and our students showed they had both. They cooked for themselves for the two nights we spent camping at Barn Farm Campsite, they put up their tents and lived under the stars for two days and nights.

It was not an easy couple of days walking across the tough relief of the area, but all students were exemplary and really showed great spirit.

They were helpful and positive and were a pleasure to work with. Their behaviour and attitude was used by others in the campsite to demonstrate good practice to other Duke of Edinburgh groups. An exemplary first group for the Academy!



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