

‘Be the best that we can be.’

Brent Knoll School Newsletter Summer 2018

School Improvement

The Senior Leadership Team, in conjunction with Governors, have created a school improvement plan for the coming school year with Teaching and Learning being top of the priority list. We are increasingly using our Middle Leaders to help monitor the quality of Teaching and Learning and develop our provision to suit the needs of all of our learners both now and in the future. Curriculum development plans will start considering how they help inform the strategic school vision and there will be an emphasis on curriculum leads working across departments to strengthen continuity and curriculum delivery between key stages. I am looking forward to implementing the plan and feeding back during the course of the coming year.

We had a very positive Local Authority Review which was followed up with an equally positive visit from the School Improvement Team who commented upon the work that has taken place since Christmas and were very positive about progress being made to move the school from good to our ambition of being outstanding. We have engaged with a peer review network called ‘Challenge Partners’ which will allow us the opportunity to visit other settings and to welcome other schools here to Network and share good practice. This is in addition to our continuing involvement with The Specialist Learning Partnership and the Lewisham Special Schools Network.

Hello – Goodbye

As always the end of the year brings changes for our staff and pupils. We have been holding transition events for all pupils to ensure that they are familiar with the changes that are to come. Two days to support transition where pupils meet their new class teams and get a taste of the changes that inevitably occur as they transition to the school or within the school. We have welcomed new pupils to the school and look forward to them joining us in September

- Jeannette Coyle, our EYFS, coordinator has been with us for 14 years and has been valued as our Early Years lead resulting in outstanding judgments and outcomes for our pupils. She will also be missed for the great work she has done to support Parents and the Makaton choir.
- Faith Matts has been with us for 2 years and is relocating and will be taking up a role in a Special School. She has been a really key team player and we wish her well in her new post.
- Liz Douglas is retiring having moved to part time over the last year and we thank her for her service over the years and for the work that she has done this year in lessening the impact of barriers to learning.
- John McClean from a year 10 class team is moving on to teacher training and I know that he will be a credit to the profession when he completes his training.
- We welcome Danny Davis to our staff team as a Newly Qualified Teacher Danny joined us as a LSA and went on to teacher training through Teach Direct, completing his placements within Brent Knoll and at a local Primary mainstream school.

- Sam Waring has been appointed to a Lead Practitioner role with responsibility for KS2-3 curriculum and to develop strategies to support emotional regulation.
- Eve Ranson who worked at the school previously has returned as our Art coordinator in Primary.
- Greg Marsden is also coming back to the school as English coordinator in Primary following a two year post in Mumbai where he was responsible for whole school inclusion and development of autism provision.
- Jenny Jones has taken up the coordination role for EYFS and I know that she will provide excellent support for our youngest learners.
- Jasmine Wharmby will be joining the primary department on a part time basis. She has been working in an SEN setting in Cambridge and we look forward to welcoming her to our team.

We will be saying goodbye to our year 11 learners who have had a bespoke package of events and activities since completing coursework requirements at half term and they have had many opportunities to take part in transition visits to their destinations next year. They have been an absolute pleasure and we look forward to welcoming them back at Christmas Achievements assembly.

We will also be saying farewell to Tommy Covington (Y1) and Julian Miller (Y2) who will be going to Athelney and Torridon Resource Bases respectively. We have really enjoyed having these bubbly youngsters with us but I am pleased that they have made progress to enable them to move on to mainstream placements. We know that they will transition well and we wish them all the very best of luck for the future.

Safeguarding

'See it, hear it, report it'.

The school has continued to monitor safeguarding and have established robust systems to identify any safeguarding concerns and putting support in place where necessary. All staff receive annual training to ensure that they have current knowledge and understanding of safeguarding issues and in addition small updates are shared throughout the year in briefing sessions and through our internal 'Newsfeed'. There are many helpful sources of information for parents and the [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk) is a good place to start if you need further information. We are hoping to provide a workshop for parents early in the new academic year to give information on how to keep young people safe online as part of our Parent Forum.

Parent Forum

Parent Forum continues to grow and we have had a number of events and workshops including presentations from our Governors and the BK and Watergate Trust. We will be bringing Parent workshops under the umbrella of Parent Forum in the coming year and will publish a full timetable of events on our return in September. For further information contact:

brentknollparents@gmail.com

London Youth Games



This year Brent Knoll represented Lewisham again in all the Para competitions which included Athletics, Boccia, Football & Swimming. For many of our students competing for Lewisham is the highlight of their school year because they get their special hoodie and t-shirt and quite a few got medals of all colours too! All of the students



from Years 5 through to Y11 who took part were amazing and gave it their all, both on and off the field of play. It was particularly lovely seeing them practise their social skills with students from other Lewisham schools. The results were much better than last year and saw Lewisham awarded the most improved borough at finals weekend in July. They had climbed 6 places in the rankings, much of those points were from the success of our students. These competitions do not happen or would not be as successful without the hard work and dedication of the fantastic staff who support them at their events. The PE department thank all those staff who have helped make this year so successful.

Recent Activities

There has been much activity from our pupils and a few of the highlights from this term have been:

- BeniceBus – Anti-bullying sessions
- Year 11 continued to work with Lewisham Youth Theatre
- Primary and early Secondary students continued to work with Movement Works and Speech Bubbles
- TfL visited the school to talk about safe travelling and we had a visit from our Local Police Community Support Officer to talk about road safety
- We have had many curriculum trips including IKEA, Dulwich Picture Gallery, Kew Gardens, Christmas Tree Farm, The Young Vic, Greenwich, Battersea and other local Parks as well as our traditional summer trips to the Seaside.
- Year 10 students saw 'Wicked' in a West End Theatre and attended workshops in school as well sponsored by the 'Mousetrap' charity.
- Forest School has been attended by Primary with our Trust Partners 'Widehorizons'
- Our usual trip to Chessington Fun Day is sponsored by The Lady Taverners and is always enjoyed by pupils who have achieved well and worked hard
- 8B had a visit to the Abbey at Battle
- 'Young at Heart' have worked at the school offering opportunities for our young people to work with older members of the community
- Some of our KS4 learners visited Greenvale School where they saw a very funny performance by 'Lost Voice Guy' who was a Britain's Got Talent winner and well worth looking up on You Tube
- Primary Sports Day was a huge success with many parents attending and thanks go to Deirdre McCarron for its smooth execution
- Arts week is always looked forward to by our students and Year 6 pupils were involved for the first time this year and thoroughly enjoyed the cooking, dancing, drama, Art and Craft activities



culminating in a showcase event last Friday. A big thanks to all staff who go the extra mile for this event and thanks to Lucy Govan for organizing everything so effectively.

- Residential school journeys have taken place to Arundel for a cricket festival. Year 10k and 11 were taken down to Macaroni Woods for a weeklong visit and our Year 8 classes enjoyed a stay in Tyn Y Berth in Wales.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for all the support that has been shown to me this year, it has been greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to working to achieve the very best outcomes for the pupils at the school so that they can

'Be the best that they can be'

Have a lovely summer, stay safe and enjoy!! – Andy Taylor – Acting Head

And finally - Summer Term News from Brent Knoll Governing Board

This term the Governors have been busy visiting the school observing teaching & learning in the classrooms, attending assemblies to celebrate all the hard work and achievements of the pupils and joining parent forum and support groups to talk with and hear what you have to say. We have been very impressed on many levels and have really enjoyed meeting some of our most important people; the pupils.

We have also been going through some changes; two of our long serving Governors are standing down. Tom Livingstone who has been with the Board for 31 years and Gill Stephenson, who has served for the last 5 years as well as working with Brent Knoll as a Speech and Language Therapist in the past. We are extremely thankful for all their hard work, support and dedication to the school and wish them all the best in their retirement.

Meanwhile, we welcome two new members; Geoff Paul as a parent Governor and Laura Deitz, (also a parent of a pupil) as a Trust Governor. We are very pleased that Geoff and Laura are joining the governing board; who between them have lots of knowledge and experience and we look forward to working alongside them supporting the Head Teacher; Andy Taylor and all the staff at the school.

Recently information has been uploaded to the schools website about the Governing Board so please take a look; we hope to inform you of who we are, what we do and to welcome any communication from you all. While we set up a governor email address, please contact the school office or any of the parent governors if you wish to speak with any of us.

We would like to thank Andy, the Senior Leadership Team, Teachers, LSA's, Administrative Team and all staff for all their hard work and dedication this last year; they continue to offer a well-supported, respectful and happy environment for all of our students to learn, achieve and succeed.

We hope you all have a great summer and we look forward to seeing everyone back in September.

Regards

Brent Knoll Governors