

HEADMASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT TO TRUSTEES – OCTOBER 2015

PROGRESS AGAINST STRATEGIC PLAN

The past academic year represented the final year of the School's Strategic Development Plan (2010-2015). In anticipation of the requirement for a new plan for 2015-2020, a lot of the School's strategic thinking has been directed towards reviewing and reflecting the substantial progress which the School has made over the past five years, but also considering the main strategic priorities as we move forward. We were delighted to receive the extremely positive and complimentary feedback from Mungo Dunnett's parent and feeder school surveys: Mungo also supported the Leadership Team and School Committee in framing the new Strategic Plan.

Academically, we consolidated our strong performances over previous years; in fact, at A Level our results improved on all descriptors with the percentage of A* grades the best in the School's history. The GCSE results were mixed: in places exceptional, elsewhere disappointing, with continuing loss of confidence in the marking of public examinations. Given our previous year's celebration of ten years of co-education, I am pleased to report there are 38% girls in the School with this proportion still rising in favour of girls. With this in mind, considerable attention was focussed this year on girls' sport, with a view to developing and enhancing our provision in all respects.

During this year, we rolled out two new strategies under the External Relations umbrella: a Marketing Strategy and a Fundraising and Alumni Relations Strategy – in both we are already making outstanding progress. Perhaps most significantly, following the Trustees approval, work began at the end of the year on the new Science Building: a major project for BMS, an extremely busy period of building activity lies ahead with completion aimed at spring 2017.

FUTURE EXPECTATIONS

The new Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 was launched in the Autumn Term 2015. Substantial changes and improvements have been made to the content, structure and reporting mechanisms of the plan. The 'Vision' of the School, however, remains the same: *To be the co-educational school of choice for the East of England, with a national reputation for exemplary standards.*

The original ten strategic objectives for the School have been refined and replaced with five Strategic Aims which are:

- **Individual**
The individual is at the very heart of who we are and what we do. By developing their skills and character we will support everyone to be the best they can be.
- **Well-being**
Every interaction with us builds a lifelong sense of mutual fulfilment and engagement.
- **Modern**
Our innovative forward-thinking approach to excellence in education allows us all to flourish in a rapidly changing world.
- **Environment**
Market-leading and inspiring environments are created through sustainable investment in our facilities.
- **Community**
We work together as a caring, unpretentious community to develop tolerance and respect for ourselves and the wider world.

These five aims provide the central focus for our strategy and are supported by a series of key priorities and activities to support them.

RESULTS 2015

GCSE	
Overall pass rate	
% A* - A	63%
% A* - B	88%
% A* - C	98%
AS Level	
Overall pass rate	
% A	40%
% A - B	69%
% A - C	87%
A Level	
Overall pass rate	
% A* - A	53%
% A* - B	83%
% A* - C	96%
IB Equivalent	
Higher Level Subjects	
% of grades at 5-7	N/A
Standard Level Subjects	
% of grades at 5-7	N/A
% of grades at 36 and above	N/A

DESTINATIONS

No. of students leaving Year 11	No. of new students starting Year 12
25	26

Year 13 Leavers	
Oxbridge/Med/Vet-Med	16 students
Other Russell Groups	59%
Other Universities	41%
British Students to International Universities	N/A
Students gaining 1 st choice	80%
Colleges of Higher Education	2 students
Gap Year	11 students
Other (Employment)	8 students

Value-added – CEM Data Summary

GCSE (based on YELLIS baseline data collected at the end of Year 9) +0.76.

Significant value added by Latin Language and Literature, Drama, RS, Geography and German with all Subjects (except Dual Science) contributing positive Value Added. Looking at three year trend figures, Latin Language and Literature, Drama and RS have contributed consistently high Value Added. All Subjects (except Dual Science) have provided positive Value Added for each of the past three years.

AS +0.14

The Value Added metric of 0.14 is a small improvement on last year's figure. There were eight subjects with a Value Added metric of 0.5 or better, though some of these had a small number of students. There were seven subjects with negative Value Added.

A2 +0.18

The Value Added metric of 0.18 is an improvement on last year's figure. Significant value added by DT Product Design, Music and Drama/TS, with the worst performers Art, PE and Economics. Looking at three year trend figures, DT Product Design and Drama/TS contributed consistently high Value Added, whilst the worst performing subjects were again Art, PE and Economics.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

Before referring to the internal successes at the School, some highlighting is warranted of the altruistic efforts of the school community over the past year. We were delighted to host the Harpur Trust INSET in January with the theme 'Emotional Resilience'; welcoming colleagues from other Trust schools as well as those from organisations outside the Trust. We embarked on our inaugural year of our Science Academy – offering science outreach to children from local lower schools on Saturday mornings – this was a huge success. Year on year, over 50 Sixth Form students regularly support local outreach and charity projects as part of their weekly schedules: the School also raised record totals for charities this year.

The performance arts remain incredibly strong: performances during the year of Woyzeck, Guys and Dolls and Oliver! were all a real triumph. The School Choir had the honour and privilege of performing as part of 'The Armed Man' at the Royal Albert Hall. Both Junior School choirs (again) won their classes in the Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama which for the individual or small ensemble group, was our most successful year ever!

In sport, there was a range of success. The girls had a strong year, especially our Year 11 girls who were County Indoor and Outdoor Hockey champions, the Year 11 rowers were double finalists at the National Schools' Regatta achieving bronze in the coxed four boat. Our U13 girls were crowned National Fives Champions at doubles. On the boys' side, our senior rugby squad had their best season in recent years with all teams achieving a win rate in excess of 80%. Finally, an incredible cricketing achievement: Year 9 student Robert Bassin took an astonishing ten wickets for just nine runs in a county cup semi-final – the last time ten wickets were taken by a student of BMS was in the 1960s.

Michael Hall
Headmaster
October 2015