



Welcome to the second edition of this newsletter for the staff of Brooklands, Gilbert Inglefield and Vandyke. The aim is to share information as we build and extend the links between our schools. Each edition has articles about the development of the MAT and updates on the work we are carrying out together. Please send any questions or comments to me at Vandyke.
kelbys@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk.

Sara Kelby

Joint Training Day: 3rd January

Thanks to all for your proactive and thoughtful participation in our first joint training day. Feedback on **Tim Carroll** and **John West Burnham's** input has been overwhelmingly positive and many staff commented on how much they enjoyed having time to talk to colleagues from our partner schools over coffee and lunch. Here are a selection of comments from staff in our schools:

"The Inset day at Vandyke was really useful, and was lovely meeting other staff from Vandyke and Brooklands. The whole day was positive and we all agreed that the MAT is a good idea. We must be sure we have the time to sit down with our departments regularly and share planning resources and ideas and to reinforce good practice."

"I thought it was a very worthwhile exercise. It was good to talk to the staff of the other

schools and hear their points of view. I also enjoyed the Q&A session in the theatre, I thought it was informative and reassuring.

"The more people that work together the better"

"It was very helpful to work with colleagues from middle schools and hear their ideas on the MAT and their different/similar experiences cross phase."

"I am about to start teacher training. For someone like me this will give me really good training and career opportunities"

"It was useful to spend time meeting and discussing the key points with middle school staff and it was really valuable that it was whole school not just teachers. We could have done with more time to explore all



tasks fully although the tasks were well designed and fed into the morning session well. Everyone I was with felt that more time to meet/get to know each other/work on projects together would really enhance the collaboration and there was a genuine will to do this."

"Excited about sharing ideas and seeing the benefits of this"

"Great way to gain more experience, learning from more experienced teachers and those with different experiences from my own"

"The proposed MAT has already opened up a gateway between us and Gilbert Inglefield. As we are both middle schools and often in 'competition' with one another, this can only be a good thing"

Pastoral Continuity Group

The second meeting of the Pastoral Continuity Group took place in November with **Jodie Woodburn**, (Brooklands), **Valerie Hitchman** (Gilbert Inglefield), **Vickie Ruston** and **Ruth Samet** (Vandyke). The focus of the meeting was sharing good practice on

attendance and punctuality procedures. The schools had much in common and discussed a clear way forward in coding certain absences in particular for medical reasons.

In December **Kay Webb** (Gilbert Inglefield) and **Kim**



Bailey (Brooklands) spent a day at Vandyke shadowing staff. Return shadow visits will take place in 2017. The third meeting of the group in 2017 will focus on effective behaviour strategies.

Good Practice Visits

The subject good practice visits are well underway and staff are finding watching colleagues in the other schools a valuable learning experience.

The overwhelming feeling from all the schools is the positive and welcoming environment offered in each school.

Whilst each school is unique



and has its own very clear identity, the three schools share a common bond of being welcoming, friendly and characterised by very

supportive atmospheres.

Colette Goring Farrow
Brooklands

Maths

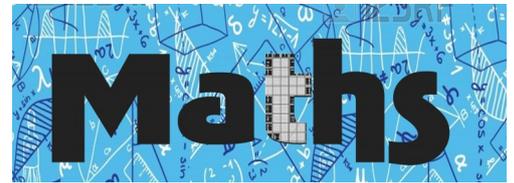
On the 20th November **Joanne Sizeland** and I had the opportunity to see the maths department at Gilbert Inglefield Academy in action.

We visited 3 different classrooms, covering high, middle and low prior attainment groups and it was clear that the students are very much switched on to maths.

The use of past GCSE exam questions, seating plans that allow

challenge and text books that not only linked to the ICT (MyMaths) but are also challenge based, with different difficulties, keeps the students switched on and working hard.

Overall, we witnessed very positive teaching practices which allow students to learn, stretch themselves and develop good mathematical grounding that is preparing them well for the trials



the new GCSE has in store for them.

We thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and look forward to further visits which will allow us to share good practice and reflect on our own teaching.

**Amba Pears
Vandyke**

English

The English departments of Gilbert Inglefield, Brooklands and Vandyke have recently undertaken a series of good practice-visits, in order to observe the fantastic teaching and learning going on in our schools; all involved have found it a very useful exercise.

We have benefited from planning Year 8 transition tasks together, as well as adapting middle school units of work to fit with GCSE requirements, in order to provide the best foundation for our pupils to achieve in upper school.

It has been particularly pleasing to see how pupils have made the transition from middle to upper and

to see how they have blossomed in confidence at Vandyke.

There is now much more regular communication between all three schools and staff are supporting each other with resources, ideas and advice.

**Hanneke Boemer
Gilbert Inglefield**



Future Good Practice Visits

In the Spring term 2017 good practice visits will be extended to Humanities and to Science. It is clear that staff value the opportunity to work more closely together and this can only benefit the children and families in our communities.



Youth Speaks Competition

In November 2016 Brooklands, Gilbert Inglefield and Vandyke took part in the Rotary Club of Leighton-Linslade RIBI Youth Speaks Competition 2016-17.

There were intermediate and senior competitions and all the teams performed well speaking confidently and enjoying the experience and opportunity.



One team each from Brooklands and Vandyke have progressed to the semi-final in 2017.

We will keep you informed of their progress.

Good luck to all!



**Rotary Club of
Leighton Linslade**