

Hello BELMONT

What is school life like after Belmont?

LAST SUMMER, HELLO BELMONT INTERVIEWED FORMER BELMONT CHILDREN TO FIND OUT. THEY HAD JUST FINISHED YEAR 6 AND WERE GOING INTO YEAR 7.



ELLA PETERS

Which school do you go to?
I go to Ibstock Place School, near Richmond Park.

What have been the biggest changes between primary and secondary school?
I think the biggest changes between primary and secondary school are having to make new friends, dealing with the different layout of the school, longer lessons, longer school days and lots more homework. It's difficult to juggle with everything and being relaxed.

Has Belmont prepared you well? If so, can you give examples of what specifically has helped you?
Belmont has prepared me very well I thought. The school was particularly good with making different sets for different abilities and being able to help individually as well.

Is there anything that you didn't learn that you wished you had?
I don't think there is anything else I wish I had learnt. I was taught everything I needed to know at Belmont. The only thing is we could have done a few more 11+ mock exams.

Which recommendations do you have for secondary school for Belmont children?
Try and make friends as quickly as possible and don't shy away and stay in the corner. During the lessons, you need to concentrate more because you have many more tests.



JOHN COLLING

Which school do you go to?
I go to West London Free School

What have been the biggest changes between primary and secondary school?
The biggest changes have been the amount of homework and the amount of work per day. Science is exciting.

EDITOR Raphaël Wreford CONTRIBUTORS Manon Wreford
We welcome all contributions (photos, articles, stories, drawings..) to Hello Belmont. Please email Raphaël at hellobelmont@outlook.com.



KATIE BENSON

What school do you go to?
I go to Godolphin and Latymer.

What have been the biggest changes between primary and secondary school?
Well, the homework is quite different, and you have more of it, you get more subjects. Your teachers are more strict, they change all the time and so do your classrooms. You also have to make new friends and just settle in. It is easy to get in trouble but overall, they have been positive changes.

Has Belmont prepared you well, if so could you give examples of what specifically has helped you?
Belmont has helped me to believe in myself, to always keep a steady head and not give up.

Is there anything that you didn't learn that you wished you had?
Belmont has taught me very well and I was happy with the level I got to, but we could have done more in-depth, practical science, less of the same thing.

Which recommendations do you have for secondary school for Belmont kids?
Never give up and appreciate being at Belmont because it's a good school and fun and when you leave it, you really miss it.

Has Belmont prepared you well? If so can you give any examples of what specifically has helped you?
Yes it has. As I was doing well in maths, the teachers used to give me extra challenges which really helped.

Is there anything that you didn't learn that you wish you had?
Not really.

Which recommendations do you have for secondary school for Belmont kids?
Work hard then you will get good GCSE results and into a good 6th Form and then get a good job.

WIKTOR WIEJAK



What school do you go to?
I go to Kew House School in Brentford.

What have been the biggest changes between primary and secondary school?
Well, the biggest changes to me are the number of teachers at school and the plethora of subjects. We get separate homework from each teacher every week.

Has Belmont prepared you well, if so could you give examples of what specifically has helped you?
I think Belmont has helped me to think outside the box and prepare me for real life situations I find myself to be in.

Is there anything that you didn't learn that you wished you had?
There's a lot I have learned in Belmont but there is a whole lot more to be learned. I wish Belmont had taught me to answer tricky questions like this one :)

What recommendations do you have for secondary school for Belmont kids?
I recommend to always stay positive. Top tip: the best way out of trouble is to joke yourself out of it (but don't overdo it).

FINLO COWLEY



Which school do you go to?
I go to Hampton School.

What have been the biggest changes between primary and secondary school?
The size of the school, Hampton is just so much bigger. There is much more homework which was difficult at first but it's easier now. There are so many more opportunities than there were at Belmont like sports and clubs.

Has Belmont prepared you well? If so can you give any examples of what specifically has helped you?
I think Belmont has prepared me well, it has helped me settle in Hampton because of the great community. All the clubs at Belmont that I participated in helped me in sports and other subjects like drama .

Is there anything that you didn't learn that you wish you had?
I wish I had learnt more about the different sciences individually like biology, physics, chemistry, instead of one overall thing.

What recommendations do you have for secondary school for Belmont kids?
Make most of the fun at Belmont. Secondary school is tough.

Hello Belmont interviewed Miss Townsend to discover more about her



What is your role?
My official title is Sports and Extended School Coordinator.

What sports do you teach?
I teach every sport, but my main ones are netball and athletics. I also teach football, rugby, multi skills and dodgeball.

What was your dream job when you were younger?
I really wanted to be an athlete myself and take part in the Olympics.

Where did you grow up?
I grew up on the other side of the borough, in Feltham.

What was your favourite subject at school?
PE, obviously. I always loved PE and sport.

Why did you want to become a sports teacher?
Since I liked PE, when I grew up, I always wanted to work in sports. So when I was at school, I did some coaching courses that let me coach in schools. For the last few years, I have been organising events for Hounslow

and now I get to work with you!

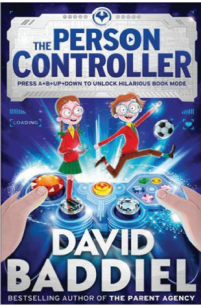
Did you work somewhere else before?
I used to organise the London Youth Games for the Hounslow teams and the Mini Marathon. I worked for a company called Fusion that runs the leisure centres.

What are your hobbies?
I like to run in an athletics club, play netball, go to the gym and meet up with friends and watch TV.

Why did people call you Becky before and Miss Townsend now?
I have been coaching at Belmont for nearly four years now. I started with dodgeball, then netball. But now, I am here all the time and have become a teacher.

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Book Reviews

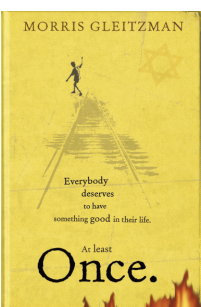


The Person Controller

This is a book about a pair of twins, Fred and Ellie. One day, their dad breaks a gaming console. The next day, Fred and Ellie look for a console on the internet. Suddenly, a mystery man appears on the screen. He tells the twins that they can have a console for free. When it arrives, it comes with a bracelet and, instead of buttons, there are gems. What fun will they get up to?

I really recommend this book to kids who love action.

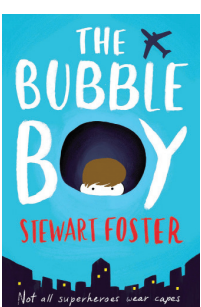
by David Baddiel
Published by Harper Collins



Once

This is the first of a series of five books about how Felix, a Polish Jewish boy, experiences the Second World War. Even when family and close friends survive or perish, the brave boy continues to fight till the war is over! Read the book and experience the war with Felix. I enjoyed this book because it enriched my knowledge of the Second World War and the characters became my friends after some intense reading.

by Morris Gleitzman (all these books are in the junior library)
Published by Puffin Books

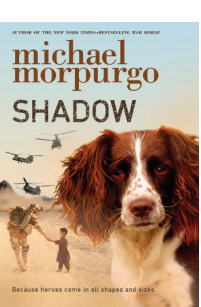


The Bubble Boy

Can you imagine a life inside a hospital room? Due to a rare genetic condition, eleven year old Joe can't survive living outside his bubble (his hospital room). One day, he gets a new nurse called Amir. He builds a suit for Joe to go outside. Does it work?

I love this book because it is both happy and sad.

by Stewart Foster
Published by Simon & Schuster



Shadow

During the summer term, Aman and his mum get taken away to an immigration removal centre. Aman's best friend, Matt, visits him with his granddad. Aman tells them his story of his journey all the way from Pakistan, of fleeing the Taliban and meeting a dog he calls Shadow. I find that this book is very moving because it is really happening to people living in England right now.

by Michael Morpurgo
Published by Harper Collins



Why are you leaving?
I have a new job in a new primary school called Aldrington in Brighton and Hove, near the sea. Brighton and Hove are two towns that are joined together. There is a promenade and pier. George IV used to go on holiday there. The country side is easier to get to. The school is next door to large playing fields and allotments. It isn't as big as Belmont but is going to be. At the moment, there are two classes as far as Y3. Next year, there will be two Y4 classes and new classes will be added every year. I want to move to that part of the country to be closer to family and friends and live in a different setting to that of London's busy roads where I can relax. I will be moving house because it is too far to go every day just to get to work.

In how many schools have you worked?
Well, I started teaching at a school in Petersham between Richmond and Kingston. It is very close to Richmond Park, and I taught there for four years. Then, I moved to Kenya in Africa and taught there for three years. It was near Lake Nakuru, which is in the Rift Valley. After that, I had one year when I was working in two schools, one

in Richmond again and another one in Purley. Finally, I came to Belmont where I have been for twenty-one years. First, I was a class teacher in Y5, Y4, Y3 and Y2, then I was Deputy Head Teacher.

How do you feel about leaving?
I have mixed feelings about leaving Belmont. I feel sad to be leaving after twenty-one years. It's been a big part of my life. Some of the kids then are now teachers such as Miss Kay, who I taught in Y2 or parents of current pupils. I will be very sad to say goodbye to all the children. But I'm excited about my new job.

What is your favourite memory in Belmont?
I have so many memories, many funny ones. A favourite memory is when we have our big Christmas celebrations in the church, especially last year when we were in the big church with the parents around the outside. It is really special to see everyone together. There are also little things at Belmont that I have enjoyed such as conversations with the children and the school council. One of my favourite funny memories was when the Y6s were rehearsing their end of year play. The Minotaur was ill so I had to replace him for a day. There was one part where I had to roar. The children were all coming in a line pretending to be in the Minotaur's maze. I roared really loudly, which made the children behind me jump because they weren't expecting me to do it. It was brilliant to see their frightened faces. There are more memories which I'll have to remember when I come to say goodbye to you all.