



A Watford Radio Station

- To promote local, community driven radio;
- To give children a dynamic and social learning experience;
- Allow them to participate in their local community;
- To raise money for local charities.

Dear Headteacher or Principal

Silver FM is a radio station for Watford and we are looking for young people in the area to be part of our on-air team.

We are going back on-air, over the Easter Weekend (Thursday 2nd - Monday 6th April 2015) and will be heard across Watford and South Hertfordshire. You will hear the station online and on 87.9FM, broadcasting from our studio at Bushey Sports Club on Aldenham Road.

The station first went on-air back in 1996, when parents and friends of Bushey Hall School (now Bushey Academy) put together Silver FM and gave students at the school a unique and dynamic learning experience. Pupils produced and presented the programmes between 6am and 8pm, with adults presenting specialist shows in the evening and overnight.

Students had lots of fun, learnt about the radio industry and went on to work in it professionally. Now the station's back and wants to offer the same learning opportunity to students at your school.

We are after just 7 teams, of 3 to 5 students, Years 9 to 12, who can attend a training day on **Saturday 21st March 2015, at Bushey Sports Club**. We will teach them all they need to know to make a live radio show. How to:

- Operate a radio studio
- Plan the music
- Create the features
- Gather a news bulletin
- Edit audio for jingles and features

Then, over the Easter broadcast weekend, they will present a daily, 2 hour, live show. We will need at least 3 of the team to be at the station every day. We also need them to raise money for the station and for members of the school's staff to support them in the run up to, and during, the broadcast.

To get a team, or teams, from your school onto the station then please email me - jon.moonie@silverfm.co.uk - and I will be in touch with details of the training.

The voluntary staff at Silver FM will take the safety of the young people involved very seriously. They will be DBS checked and we will work with your school on all risk assessments.

Silver FM will be a special experience for your students which will, as it did for the original team, bring out new personal, team and presentation skills that they can take into their future.

Regards

Jon Moonie
Silver FM, Head of Training

Meet the Team

Jon Moonie:

Jon was a student at Bushey Hall School when Silver FM was first set up. He went on to do student radio at Loughborough University, it on the national Student Radio Association board, before working on BBC Radio 4 and 5, talkSPORT and Beacon Radio in Shropshire, where he won Gold Station of the Year at the Sony Radio Awards.

He is now a primary school teacher, teaching Year 6 at Beechfield School in Watford, and produces several podcasts such as "Telegraph Cycling Podcast" and local Watford FC podcast "From The Rookery End"

Mike Tearle:

Mike has had a career full of music and broadcasting. He was one of the original members of Watford Hospital Radio and also went on to broadcast with Radio Cracker.

Mike was also Chair of the PTA at Bushey Hall School for 5 years - raising money for school extras, putting time and effort into raising the profile of the school. Then, between 1996 and 1998, Mike was the project manager for the school radio station Silver FM. The station raised money for children's charities including the new outpatients department at Watford General Hospital. Once his children had left he then became a Governor for 7 years; in the last year overseeing the change from school to academy.

As a professional disc jockey Mike has played to thousands at weddings, parties and functions as well as comparing events such as the Bushey Festival.

Mike is very much looking forward to seeing all of the past Silver FM team and welcome new faces to this special station.

Paul Simmonds:

Originally part of the bidding for the Cornwall commercial franchise, Paul went on to run Radio Cracker Harrow and also the national Radio Cracker broadcast network. From there he was instrumental in setting up Silver FM as well as 3BC FM, utilising key team members and experience from Radio Cracker.

He has a degree in Electronic Engineering and a City & Guilds in Radio Communication and these days is involved with Information Security and Digital Identity.

David Rees:

By the time David got involved with Silver FM in 1998 he had already joined college, but he was still made welcome! Following several further radio projects on a local level including Watford Hospital Radio & Centre FM. David spent 18 years working in commercial radio as a Presenter, Head of Music, Programme Controller and finally Group Brand Director for a national radio group.

After years, and a very accomplished career in radio, David chose to move back home to Watford, and now runs a successful events company locally, plus having launched a community radio station in the town in 2011 he is keen to create an environment where youngsters get similar opportunities to those he was given in his teens!