

November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that our students and staff were able to enjoy a relaxing half term holiday. This is a very long term (15 weeks in total) and there are still seven weeks to go until the Christmas holidays! Our students do have one extra day off on **Friday 22nd November** when there is a staff training day. This day will be spent at Magna Academy with colleagues from other AAT schools in the South Coast District and we will be looking at curriculum planning together.

### **Trips Abroad**

If you were following our social media accounts over the holiday you will be aware that we had two trips taking place. I would like to thank all the staff involved in ensuring that the football tour to Holland (PSV Eindhoven) and the trip to Iceland were enjoyed by everyone who took part. Experiences like these provide lifelong memories that will be cherished I am sure. If you have not had a chance to see some of the Iceland photos they are well worth a look, Northern Lights and glacial lagoons included!

### **Freya Stanger World Champion!!**

One Year 13 student who was busy over half term was Freya Stanger. Freya competed in the World Biathlon Championships (running and swimming combined event) in St Petersburg Florida. After a huge effort Freya overcame all challengers and finished in first place. To represent Great Britain in the first place is an incredible achievement. To become World Champion is quite simply the stuff of dreams. I know we would all like to congratulate Freya on this remarkable achievement and her hard work and dedication deserve this success.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening**

A reminder to Year 11 students and parents that our 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening is taking place on 14<sup>th</sup> November. The presentation for external students is at 6pm and for Budmouth students it is 7pm. I hope this evening provides you with the information you need to make effective choices for 2020/2021. These are exciting times for Year 11 students who are making plans for courses and careers after their GCSE exams are completed next summer! In the meantime, we wish them well for their mock exams which start on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

### **Student Safety**

We have been contacted by some concerned members of the public about incidents of unsafe behaviour by some of our students when walking to and from school. It is clear that some students are placing themselves and others at great risk in the manner they walk, ride or even 'scoot' to school. We are educating the students about the need for safe behaviour when travelling to and from school and would greatly appreciate your support in reinforcing this message at home. We have also shared the concerns raised with the Police in the hope that working together we can help prevent an unnecessary accident. Thank you for your support with this serious matter.

### **Parking**

We are still experiencing some issues in relation to picking up students at the end of the day. In particular, the Land Registry has reported an ongoing issue with cars parking and blocking the entrance to their site which is creating significant issues for their staff. Can I please request again that courtesy is shown to our neighbours when students are dropped off and collected and that we do not block entrances to houses or local businesses. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Parents Forum**

We have had a pleasing response to the invitation for parents to join a new Parents' Forum. The first meeting is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November and one of the key objectives of this first meeting is to agree how the group will run and share the work it does. I look forward to feeding back following this first meeting. Thank you in advance to staff Pete Lydford and Marcel Ciantar for leading this important development and thank you to those parents who have confirmed they want to be involved.

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### **Big Budmouth Christmas Fair**

Please do come and support this event on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November from 6.30pm – 9.30pm. It promises to be a lovely event and the large Christmas market will be full of gifts, food, decorations, beauty and bespoke crafts. There will be a grotto, children's choir and much more besides! We would love to hear from any individuals or businesses who could make a donation to the raffle.

### **'Made in Dagenham'**

I am pleased to report Mrs Sheppard is making a steady recovery from her broken foot, but this does mean that our production is going to be postponed and new dates will be shared in due course. It is likely to be at the end of January/start of February.

### **The show must go on...**

In light of the postponement to the school production, the Performing Arts Department will be holding a Christmas Celebration Evening on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in Clare Hall. Tickets are £4.50 for adults and £2.50 for children/senior citizens and students.

### **Email**

During the last half term, staff have been using two different email accounts while our new 'Google Suite' installation has been rolled out. As this process is now nearing its completion, please make sure you use the new email addresses that have @budmouth-aspirations.org in the title and no longer use ....@budmouth.dorset.sch.uk. Our students will also move over to new Gmail accounts in the coming weeks and this will also mean that work saved on computers in school will also be accessible from home and vice versa. The students will be given instruction on how to use their new accounts and get the best value from them.

Staff email addresses are published on the website and also attached to this letter is a reminder of who to contact for the most commonly requested queries. We always do our best to respond to urgent issues within 24 hours and non-urgent within three days. I also have a duty of care to my staff and whilst you may often receive replies from them during 'non-school' hours I should point out that they are not expected to monitor their accounts in the evenings, weekends or during holidays.

### **Non-uniform/Charity Days**

The following dates are confirmed as non-uniform days which will help our students support charities close to their hearts. The first non-uniform day will be on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November where the whole school will support Children in Need!

The remaining four days are listed below and the relevant School will also be using these days to raise money in other ways for their chosen charity for 2019-20. The four Schools will be making their charity selections in the coming weeks. The students will also be raising money for their chosen charities at other points during the year.

- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December (Shelley)
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (Hawking)
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April (Turing)
- **Thursday** 25<sup>th</sup> June (Attenborough)

### **Christmas Hamper Appeal**

I am really pleased that we are able to support a local Christmas hamper appeal that is looking to offer vital anonymous support to people in need due to disability, poverty or old age. If you are able to donate any items of food that are tinned, packaged or boxed (just not fresh) then the deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> December. Any donations can be made to our Main Office and we will arrange for them to be forwarded. If you would like to make a nomination for the recipient of a hamper then you can do this via [Nominateforhampers@gmail.com](mailto:Nominateforhampers@gmail.com).

### **New Vice Principal Appointment**

Finally, I am pleased to be able to share some good news regarding an appointment that was made on the final day of last half term after a very busy programme of interviews. Mike Hoffmann will be joining Budmouth at the start of the Spring Term in January 2020. Mike is a very experienced school leader who is currently Deputy Head at The Sir John Colfox Academy in Bridport. The reason for the new appointment is because Jen Warr, Vice Principal is going to become Principal of a brand new Aspirations Academy that will be opening in Bournemouth in September 2021 (Livingstone Academy). Jen will remain at Budmouth during this interim period of time, but I was very keen to ensure that we have continuity during the next 12-18 months and I was pleased that trust leaders supported my request to add some additional capacity.

I hope that all of our students enjoy a very successful second half to the autumn term. Schools are optimistic places that only ever have autumn, spring and summer terms, but never winter! With the clocks going back it really does feel like winter now.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Herbert', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Herbert

### **Who to contact at Budmouth Academy**

If you want to speak with a member of staff and are unsure who the right person would be, please do contact our Main Office by telephone (01305 830500) or email ([office@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:office@budmouth-aspirations.org)) and they will be happy to help you. We always aim to respond to urgent enquiries within 24 hours and non-urgent within 72 hours.

If you want to discuss a general query about your child, their Form Tutor should be the main point of contact.

If you have a more serious concern about any aspect of your child's welfare, then you should contact the relevant Head of School:

Attenborough: Jayne Guppy ([jguppy@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:jguppy@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Shelley: Lesley Carter ([lacarter@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:lacarter@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Turing: Andy Clark ([aclark@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:aclark@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Hawking: Pete Lydford ([plydford@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:plydford@budmouth-aspirations.org))

The Heads of School work closely with our Pastoral Support Leaders who are attached to Year Groups:

Year 7: Deb Roberts ([droberts@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:droberts@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Year 8: Jane Taylor ([jtaylor@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:jtaylor@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Year 9: Dawn Kirby ([dkirby@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:dkirby@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Year 10: Ali Lawrence ([alawrence@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:alawrence@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Year 11: Luke Bartlett ([lbartlett@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:lbartlett@budmouth-aspirations.org))

With any aspect of Special Educational Needs support then please contact Nita Dooley our SENDCO ([ndooley@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:ndooley@budmouth-aspirations.org)) or Pete McCarthy, Director of Inclusion ([pmccarthy@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:pmccarthy@budmouth-aspirations.org)).

Questions or queries in relation to any aspect of the 6<sup>th</sup> Form should be directed, in the first instance, to Mark Henman our Director of 6<sup>th</sup> Form ([mhenman@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:mhenman@budmouth-aspirations.org)).

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Zillah Rainback ([zrainback@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:zrainback@budmouth-aspirations.org)).

Should you wish to make contact with one of your child's subject teachers, you are very welcome to do so. To request a call back or arrange an appointment, please contact the Main Office.

You are also welcome to contact the Subject Co-ordinators:

English: Lorraine Graves ([lgraves@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:lgraves@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Maths: James Bryant-Harries ([jbryant-harries@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:jbryant-harries@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Science: Matt Williamson ([mwilliamson@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:mwilliamson@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Humanities: Martin Pick ([mpick@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:mpick@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Sport: Sam Morris ([smorris@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:smorris@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Technology: Tony Walker ([awalker@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:awalker@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Expressive Arts: Shelley Trott ([strott@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:strott@budmouth-aspirations.org))

Languages: Simon Lewis ([slewis@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:slewis@budmouth-aspirations.org))

If you want to discuss a medical need or provision for your child, then please contact Justin Abbott, First Aid & Health & Safety Co-ordinator ([jabbott@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:jabbott@budmouth-aspirations.org)).

The list above covers the main enquires that we receive, but if in doubt, please contact the Main Office.