

12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that your child is enjoying a successful Spring Term. It has certainly been the wettest Spring Term that I can recall and strange to think that in just over 3 weeks' time it will come to an end and it will be the Summer Term!

### **Coronavirus**

I would like to thank you for your support during this period of time when there has been much uncertainty, nationally and internationally, about the potential spread of Coronavirus. We will continue to do our best to keep parents and students updated and to share the guidance that we are given. There has been no new guidance since the letter from Justin Abbott, Medical and Health & Safety Officer on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Dorset Headteachers this morning met with Theresa Leavy, Executive Director of People – Children, and we have been assured that communication will be shared quickly if any guidance or instructions are received regarding potential school closures.

One important note in relation to this is that all students must ensure they have opened and can access their new student Gmail accounts. If there should ever be a period of time when we were unable to come into school, then this would be our mechanism for sharing work and resources with students. If any students have still not accessed their Gmail account or have lost their password, they are advised to go to the IT office in The Hub, where our staff can help.

### **Biostore**

The team from Biostore have completed the onsite set-up of the system to enable us to begin cashless catering very soon. They were very complimentary about the conduct of our students during this process and that was pleasing feedback to receive. We are going to 'trial' the system next week using some selected staff and student accounts and the plan is then to go live with all students on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**. We plan to operate one cash register for the final two weeks of this term and, after Easter, it will be entirely cashless. It is, therefore, very important that parents have registered to use SIMS Pay. There will be one 'cash loader' situated near the canteen that students will be able to use to credit their accounts if there is ever the need.

### **NASA**

Our returning students from the NASA trip now have their feet back on the ground. The trip has clearly made a real impression on them and they are looking forward to sharing this with all students in assemblies. Thank you to Henry Bell, Daniel Lane and Martha Brown in advance for leading these.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award**

I would like to congratulate the following past and present students on the successful completion of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. This really is an incredible achievement and the culmination of an awful lot of commitment. They will be collecting their awards at Buckingham Palace on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020. A huge well done to Ben Robertson, Thomas Hodges, Rudy Sawtell, Ellie Rose, Louie James, Jodie Stone, Brodie Asker and Megan Lydford. It is only right to say a big thank you to our school Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator, Sam Temple. Without her leadership and the support of her team of staff, the students would not get these opportunities.

### **County Rugby Honours**

In recent weeks a number of Budmouth students have been braving the weather and wearing the green and white colours of Dorset with pride! Many congratulations to Jasmine Abel, Kimberley Starnes and Milli Berry who have been playing for the Dorset & Wilts under 18 girls team and to George Cartwright who has been playing for the County under 18 team in both rugby and waterpolo. Good luck with the rest of your seasons. Mr Morris is busy putting together a County Honours Board for all sports, so if your children have been involved in sporting activities outside of school that we might not be aware of, please do let us know.

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### **Staffing Appointments**

This term is often a busy one for making teaching appointments for the next academic year, due to the nature of the notice period that teachers are required to give. Dan Light (Science) has left Budmouth in order to pursue a new career. Dan conveys his very best wishes for the future to all of the Budmouth community and he leaves with our thanks for his 15 years of service.

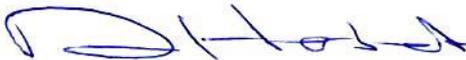
To date, I am pleased to announce the following new appointments who are completing their teacher training placements and will be joining us in September 2020: Connie Coughtrey, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages and Yasmin Jones, Science Teacher.

I am particularly pleased that Mal Lea and Nadine Turner will be able to join us immediately after Easter as Lead Practitioners for Science. These are new posts that will further strengthen our Science team. Mal is currently Head of Science at Bucklers Mead Academy (Yeovil) and Nadine is the leader for STEM at The Sir John Colfox Academy. Lead Practitioner is the new term for what the government used to call 'Advanced Skills Teachers' and alongside their own teaching they will have a role in helping to support and coach others. Our very own Amanda Williamson was also successful in being promoted to this role and I am grateful to the Trust in helping support our budgets with these appointments.

### **SIMS Student App**

Following the launch of our SIMS Parent App, we are now able to offer students the same opportunity to access helpful information about themselves including their timetable, homework set, attendance, achievement points and other useful messages. Mrs Ashmore has emailed all students and if they follow the link and instructions, they can register to use this service. It works on a normal desktop computer, laptop, or as an 'App' on a tablet/smartphone device. There is no compulsion for them to use this service, but it is there should they wish to do so.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert  
Principal