

8th October 2020

Dear Parent and Carer

I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on some aspects relating to changes in our Leadership Team at Budmouth and what that means for the school.

AAT - A new region

There has been a recent change in the organisation of the Aspirations Academies Trust in our region. When Budmouth became part of the Aspirations Trust there were three regions: South Central, West London and South Coast. With Budmouth and Bovington Primary joining the South Coast in 2019/20 and now the new Livingstone Academy (Bournemouth) having been confirmed as opening in September 2021, it was felt that the South Coast area has become too large and had more schools than the other regions. Kate Redman was our Regional CEO and line manages the Principals in the South Coast region.

The decision was taken, therefore, to create a new region, 'South West'. As of this term Budmouth, Bovington and Atlantic (Primary and Secondary) make up this new smaller region and we hope that we will be joined by some other schools in the future. I have been asked to take up the temporary position of Regional CEO South West, alongside my work as Principal at Budmouth. This will begin after October half term. I want to reassure you that Budmouth will remain my number one priority. However, I am looking forward to the opportunity of helping to support the work of the other academies and Principals in the region. I would like to think this is good news for Budmouth as it puts us at the centre of developments in the region.

Our Post-16 Employability Programme is already being rolled out across all of the academies in the Trust and it is nice to see the vote of confidence in what we are doing here. Although the amount of time that I will be off site at Budmouth will be limited, it will fall on different days and I want to make sure that we are not disadvantaged by this. Therefore, I will be inviting internal applications from members of my Senior Leadership Team for someone to take on increased responsibility in a new role, working alongside me as an 'Associate Principal'. Not only will this offer clarity for staff, students and parents when I am not available, it will also be good experience for whoever takes on the role.

The deadline has now passed for applications from our parents to become a Parent Governor, representing the secondary phase on the South West Regional Board. I hope to be able to update you soon on a successful appointment to that vacant position.

New Vice Principal Appointment

Mrs Warr joined us on a temporary basis in April 2019 as Vice Principal. She has worked hard developing our new pastoral system and structures. Under her leadership, attendance has gone from being significantly below the national average, to above it. With the recent confirmation that Livingstone Academy will now open in September 2021, Mrs Warr will leave Budmouth at the end of the Spring Term 2021 to become Head of Secondary at Livingstone and help prepare the new and exciting 'all through' school for its first year groups in Reception and Year 7. We are determined to maintain and build on the improvements that we have been making in raising standards and securing a better learning environment for our students and so we will, therefore, be advertising nationally for a replacement Vice Principal to join us at the start of the Summer Term 2021 or in September 2021 depending on their availability and circumstances. I will keep you updated.

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Support Staff Leadership and changes

Following some colleagues leaving us last year, I would also like to take this opportunity to update you regarding some recent changes to the Support Staff team:

Mrs Charlotte Reed who has been with the school for over 8 years has recently been promoted to the role of Director of Business and Support Services. Supporting Charlotte are some other colleagues who have worked at Budmouth for a long time and who now have new roles and responsibilities.

Mrs Lucy Vincent, Human Resources and Payroll Officer.

Mrs Susanne Tewkesbury, Finance Officer.

Mrs Julia Baker, Exams Officer.

Mrs Deb Brown, Main Office Manager.

We are also currently recruiting for two Higher Level Teaching Assistants and a classroom Teaching Assistant to support our current TA team and are hopeful to appoint these vital Support Staff roles in the near future.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert
Principal