

23rd April 2021

Dear Parent and Carer

Welcome back to the Summer Term! I do hope that you were able to enjoy a break during the Easter Holiday and that your child has had a good first week back at school. As national restrictions begin to ease, I am sure that everyone is enjoying getting back to some of their more normal social activities. As far as schools are concerned, Step 3 of the government's road map outlining the easing of restrictions is set to begin on 17th May. It is anticipated that this date will see the removal of some current Covid working practices recommended by the Department for Education, including the wearing of face coverings. We will, of course, update you with any important changes.

Congratulations

I was delighted to receive a letter just before the Easter Holiday confirming that since April 2020, 51 of our students have been successful at different levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Our participation in the programme is one of the highest in the county and I would like to congratulate each and every one of them and thank all of the staff who support this participation. Mrs Temple, our 'DofE' Programme Leader, has invited Trish Walker, the DofE Manager from Dorset Council to present these awards with me on the 5th May. A full list of award winners will be shared on the website. When the sad passing of the Duke of Edinburgh was covered by the media, the spotlight was on a lot of the opportunities this programme has given to young people over many years. Students at Budmouth have certainly benefited from this for a long time.

European Settlement Scheme (EUSS)

You may already be aware that the EUSS allows eligible EU citizens resident in the UK by 31st December 2020, and their family members who apply successfully to the scheme, to continue to live, work and study in the UK after the application deadline of 30 June 2021. Here is a link to further information which can be found on our website:
<https://budmouth.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/04/EU-Settlement-Scheme.pdf>

Canteen Makeover

The site was very busy over the Easter Holiday which included a large upgrade to new LED lighting in Clare Tower and the Design and Technology block. What the students and staff have noticed most, however, is the big makeover in our main canteen, as the new provider 'Impact' has made a lot of changes in getting ready to provide food for our students. There is a great new look and menu and the catering team are very excited to have this fresh start. As the Covid restrictions begin to ease and we are able to return to more normal working practices, the students will benefit even further. Normal break times will be going back into our school day next year and this will offer much more flexibility in terms of serving food and drink.

2020/2021 School Day Timings

I advised before Easter that I would soon be able to confirm the timing of the new school day for the next academic year. We actually had over 1,000 responses from students to the survey and we have been busy comparing these responses to those of staff and parents. We are just making final checks that the preferred model (and there is a clear consensus from all groups) can be accommodated by our catering team and I will then write to let you know at the end of next week.

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School Uniform

We are pleased to see that the opening of shops has enabled the majority of our students to return to school in the correct uniform. However, we have an increasing issue with school skirts that are not of the correct length and the wearing of cropped trousers. In addition to this, an increasing number of black trainers are being worn in school. These are also not permitted. Tutors will be doing regular checks and recording issues via a Google Form and they will be making contact with parents where issues remain. I would also remind everyone that facial piercings are not, and have never been, permitted at Budmouth.

And finally...

I hope that all the students have an enjoyable and successful Summer Term.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 11 and Year 13 students all the very best as they go into their final weeks of study in the current phase of their education.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards.



Yours sincerely