

28th May 2021

Dear Parent and Carer

As we reach the end of this half term I do hope this letter finds you well. I hope that you and your family have been able to enjoy the easing of restrictions. I am sure the students will be looking forward to making the most of next week's holiday.

A change in leadership at Budmouth

During this academic year, I have been combining my post as Principal of Budmouth Academy with that of being Regional CEO for the South West region of the Trust. However, I have now been appointed as Regional CEO for the South Coast (Bournemouth and Poole) as well as the South West region. This will commence in September at the start of the academic year 2021/22. Ever since being asked by Dorset Council to come and support Budmouth in January 2019, it has been an absolute privilege to work alongside an amazing group of staff, students and parents. Whilst there is much still to do, I am very proud of how everyone has pulled together to set Budmouth up for a stable and very exciting future. Although I will be handing over the operational responsibility for the running of the school, it still feels very much like the beginning for me at Budmouth. I will be moving over from The Hub, into Clare Tower and Budmouth will become the regional base from which I will operate. It will be good to stay close to the ongoing developments, including overseeing our new 6th Form refurbishment.

Budmouth deserves a Principal who can focus full time on securing further improvements and helping our students to reach the very highest standards. I am pleased to announce that following an interview with the Aspirations Board earlier this week, our current Associate Principal, Mike Hoffmann has been appointed to take up the reins as Principal from the start of the next academic year in September 2021. He has been running the school during any periods of time I have been off site this year and is very well placed to ensure a smooth transition into next year. Mike is a very experienced school leader who achieved his National Professional Qualification for Headship in 2012. I have been very fortunate to have his support as Deputy Head at Colfox and, once again, as Vice Principal and Associate Principal at Budmouth. I can say with certainty that Budmouth is going to be in very safe hands and I now look forward to supporting Mike in his new role.

Moving on....farewell and best wishes

Yesterday we said goodbye to our Year 13 students. They have been a very resilient year group who have stayed focussed throughout two years of significant disruption to their education. We are really going to miss them and I would like to wish them all the best for the very exciting next part of their journey. This group of students have been extremely successful with their university and higher level apprenticeship offers and I hope the summer waiting for their results is not too stressful.

Today we said goodbye to Year 11. We are really proud of the way this group of students have tackled their final year and set about reaching the highest levels possible. I am pleased that, for the majority of them, it will be a temporary goodbye and that we will welcome so many of them back in September as new 6th Form students! Mr Henman is writing to them after half term about a programme of transition to their new subjects that will take place in June/July. This should help them make a successful step up.

Summer Proms

After last year's summer of cancellations, we are delighted that it looks as if this year's Summer Proms will be able to go ahead. In particular, we are hoping that last year's Year 11 will be able to have their long overdue celebration! We made the promise to do their event when we could and we have stuck to it. We do, however, need their commitment to ensure it is a success. This means selling a minimum number of tickets by 7th June, to enable the event to go ahead on 1st July at The Sailing Academy. A separate letter has been sent earlier today to the parents of Year 11 2020 leavers.

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The Class of 2021 Year 11 Prom is being held on the following night, 2nd July and also held at The Sailing Academy. Tickets are selling fast and the deadline for this is also 7th June.

The Year 13 Leavers' Dinner is being held on the 24th June at The Sailing Academy.

6th Form Centre Extension and Refurbishment.

Covid-19 has had so many knock on implications to all our lives in the last 16 months that it is hard to grumble about the inevitable delay to our planned building work on the 6th Form Centre. The combination of a delay in availability of our contractor and the need for our 6th Form students to have access to the building this term, have made it necessary to delay the building works until Easter 2022. At this point the contractors can have complete access to that part of the site, which will enable a completion over the summer and have the building ready for September 2022. It is frustrating, but it will be worth the wait.

New seating for Clare Hall

One piece of good news is that over the summer, we will be installing a new retractable tiered seating system in Clare Hall. Not only will this be lovely for events like assemblies, presentations and productions, it is also going to save our amazing Site Team the unenviable task of setting out and putting away over 400 chairs at least twice a day. The seating operates at the touch of a button and folds back against the wall, leaving the hall clear for other uses.

New teaching appointments

We have had a busy term of recruitment to make sure that we are fully staffed for the academic year 2021/2. It has been really great to have received a large number of applications for the posts we have advertised and, significantly, we have attracted interest from a number of talented and very experienced staff from Dorset schools.

In History, we welcome back Jayne Miles-Simmonite. Jayne was an Assistant Head at Budmouth for many years before joining Atlantic Academy. Jayne is coming back to us as a Lead Practitioner and will join a team of staff who help to deliver support and training. She will be joined in History by Richard James who has been training at Exeter University this year. They are replacing Hannah Samways who has been promoted to Head of History in a school in Somerset and Daniel Smith who is relocating.

In Maths we welcome James Phillips as our new Subject Co-ordinator. James is also a former teacher of Budmouth coming back home. In the time he has been away, James has been Head of Maths in two Dorset secondary schools. James will be joined by Alex Aionesei who is relocating from Crawley. Kieran Poole will be leaving us at the end of the year and has secured a job a bit closer to home in Lyme Regis.

Our English team will be joined by Charlotte Barraclough who currently works in Bridport. She has also been appointed as a Lead Practitioner to help develop other teachers and, alongside this, she will take on responsibility for our literacy strategy. We say farewell to Jan Raymont who is leaving Budmouth after many years of dedicated and loyal service. Our very own Joe Hooper will be taking up the role of Deputy Coordinator in English. Mark Williams will also be joining our English Department in September. Mark is currently Director of English in Nuneaton and is moving back home to Weymouth.

Summer School

As a result of Covid-19, the government asked schools to consider holding 'Summer Schools' to help support students who may have been affected by the closure of school during the first part of the Spring Term. Budmouth will be holding a Summer School to support students making the transition from Year 6 into 7. A letter inviting interest from students is being sent to our new students and Mrs Jones (Deputy Coordinator in MFL) will be leading a team of staff in this project.

And finally....

I hope that your child enjoys their short break and comes back to school ready for the final half term. With restrictions easing, staff are excited to be getting back to organising extra-curricular events and it is good to see the Duke of Edinburgh programme back up and running. The Sports Department is getting ready for Sports Day 2021.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert