

23rd July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I know that the students are very much looking forward to their summer holiday and I hope that your families will be able to enjoy any plans that you have made. Wherever you will be, I hope that you are able to enjoy some time relaxing and let's keep our fingers crossed for good weather!

Calendar 2021/22

We have already shared the term dates for next year with you, but there is one late change to make, although it still remains provisional. Due to the Queen's Jubilee taking place during a half term holiday, the Department for Education seems likely to instruct schools to identify one further 'day off' so that students attend school for 189 days next year, not the usual 190, ensuring that everyone benefits from the additional day of Public Bank Holiday. The link below will take you to our final term dates and for your information the additional day off (once officially confirmed), will be on Friday 18th February 2022 which means that the half term holiday will start one day earlier:

<https://budmouth.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/07/Term-dates-2021-22-Including-Queens-Jubilee.pdf>

Summer Proms

It was very disappointing that a significant increase in positive cases amongst our Year 11 and 6th Form students meant that we had to postpone the Proms. In addition to those testing positive, the significant number who were being required to self-isolate as a result of close contact meant that the events would have posed a real risk to the venue and our wider community. We will be making plans to rearrange celebrations when it is safe to do so. I would like to thank the vast majority of parents for their understanding of why this joint and difficult decision was taken. I think the fact that we are the only school in the Weymouth and West Dorset area planning to do something for the 'Year 11 Class of 2020' demonstrates our commitment to our students.

Testing and return to 2021/22

If you have not already seen it, I did write to parents on 13th July confirming our return to school arrangements in light of the requirement to test the students for Covid-19 on their return to school in September. We have done our best to minimise any disruption to learning time and only Year 8 and 9 students will start back one day later than had been initially planned. The letter confirming dates can be found here:

<https://budmouth.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/07/Letter-to-parents-and-carers-from-David-Herbert-13.7.21.pdf>

Mr Hoffmann has also written a separate letter to you confirming the exact timings of the first test in September:

<https://budmouth.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/07/September-return-and-testing.pdf>

Site Work

Students are reminded that they should not be coming onto the site over the summer holidays. During this time, our Site Team will be busy getting ready for the new school year. Projects include:

- Creation of a new GCSE Photography Suite in Everdene, to support growing numbers in the subject.
- Moving our SEND Department and ASD Base over to Clare Tower into new accommodation to integrate them more fully into the school.
- Installation of a new safeguarding fence at the front of the site.
- Creation of a new Student Leadership Hub which will act as a centre for supporting student aspirations.
- The new retractable seating for Clare Hall has been ordered, but supply issues means it will now be fitted in November.
- As already communicated, the work on the 6th Form Centre (extension and renovation to the current building) will commence in the Easter Holidays 2022.

Inter School Competitions

Regretfully, the restrictions have meant that it has been impossible to stage many of the cross age group 'Inter School' competitions that had been planned for this year. This was also true last year with the unexpected end to the school year in March for so many students. We have decided, therefore, to make 2021/22 the first year where we properly award the 'Inter School Cup' as we want it to be representative of different achievements and events over the whole year. It will take centre stage in our end of year celebrations.

Sports Day

One competition that did go ahead was Sports Day and we enjoyed a great day of really high participation. Congratulations to Turing for coming out on top overall! The final scores were:

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Overall	Turing 2439	Attenborough 2421	Hawking 2280	Shelley 2195
Year 7	Hawking 711	Turing 604	Attenborough 594	Shelley 560
Year 8	Turing 718	Attenborough 606	Hawking 601	Shelley 574
Year 9	Attenborough 649	Hawking 625	Shelley 562	Turing 560
Year 10	Attenborough 572	Turing 557	Shelley 499	Hawking 343

Achievement Points

When the new Cup is awarded, Achievement Points will, no doubt, play a significant role in deciding the winners. In 2020-21, the scores on the doors were as follows:

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Overall Winners	Shelley 27481	Turing 27442	Hawking 27056	Attenborough 25604
Year 7	Hawking 11408	Turing 8215	Shelley 7554	Attenborough 5916
Year 8	Shelley 8814	Turing 6699	Attenborough 6736	Hawking 5901
Year 9	Attenborough 7670	Turing 5731	Hawking 5128	Shelley 4478
Year 10	Shelley 5618	Turing 5623	Attenborough 3597	Hawking 2630
Year 11	Hawking 1989	Attenborough 1685	Turing 1174	Shelley 1017

The following students were the highest individual point winners in their respective year group:

Year 7: Ruby Dixon (385)

Year 8: Frederick Rampton (278)

Year 9: Zac Care (270)

Year 10: Connor Polley (206)

Year 11: Connor Mowlam (70)

The Aspirations Pixl Edge Award

Andy David (Director of Student Leadership and Engagement) will be joining our staff in September and you will be hearing a lot more about different Student Leadership Programmes and opportunities for our students. In recent weeks he has been visiting Budmouth and has made a head start in getting some of our students engaged with 'The Edge' Programme. I am delighted to report that the following students have achieved either 'Apprentice' or 'Pioneer' Level Awards. The next levels of 'Graduate' and 'Masters' are achieved higher up the school in Years 10-13. Andy will be holding an information event for parents next year so you can better understand the programme and how you may be able to support it from home. Congratulations to our first recipients:

Isabelle Woodfield	Year 7	Apprentice and Pioneer
Hannah Cooke	Year 8	Apprentice and Pioneer
Tegan Martin	Year 8	Apprentice
Calum Afanasiew	Year 10	Apprentice
Libby Harris	Year 8	Apprentice
Amelia Robinson	Year 8	Apprentice
William Harris	Year 8	Apprentice
Austin Morris	Year 7	Apprentice
Amelie Forshaw	Year 8	Apprentice

Extra-curricular activities 2021/2

One of the things schools have missed the most during the period of restrictions has been providing a full programme of extra-curricular activities. At the end of the first full week back in September (Friday 10th September) we will publish our clubs list for the first term. They will commence the week beginning Monday 13th September. The recent CCF Recruitment Day was a tremendous success and over 100 students applied to join the current 75 student members. I would encourage all of our students to have a think over the summer break about what they could be getting involved with next year.

Uniform

If you are anything like me, the one aspect of the summer holidays that you will not be looking forward to as a parent is the '*Back to School*' shop! During the year, we have shared many messages reinforcing the need for students to follow our Uniform Policy in full (including specific aspects linked to jewellery and haircuts) and, for your information, the link to the full policy is available below and there is also a link to a helpful visual guide. I would strongly advise everyone to check these before making purchases or allowing piercings to be made. A reminder that our pastoral team keeps a stock of clean ties, new socks, new shirts and shoes that we can loan to students when they have a short term issue.

<https://budmouth.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/06/Uniform-Policy-2019-2.pdf>

<https://www.budmouth-aspirations.org/parents-information/uniform/>

As I have driven around the local area, and further afield, I have felt increasingly proud of our students' appearance in comparison to other schools. Visitors to the school regularly comment on how smart they look. Let's work together to keep it that way and ensure that the students make a good impression, not just in school but also in the wider community. It reflects well on them all in the long run. One point that has been raised for consideration following our recent hot weather, is the potential inclusion of appropriate length tailored black shorts in the Uniform Policy. This will be considered when the policy is reviewed next term.

Staffing Update

Here are some final updates on staff leavers at the end of this academic year. Rose Hayward is retiring after 23 years of dedicated service working in our Asperger's Base. Andrea Johnson has been part of the Base staff for 13 years and is moving onto a new challenge. We wish them well. Carol Howard will be stepping up to take on a temporary role as Base Leader.

Archie Pearce (Technician) is also taking a well-earned retirement after 26 years of sterling service at Budmouth, supporting both staff and students in the Technology Department. Cathy Williams (Principal's PA) is leaving Budmouth at the end of this academic year. Cathy has worked in a number of roles since she joined Budmouth in 2004 and has been a very loyal and dedicated colleague. Kirsty Harris, our Data Manager will be taking on this role.

Oliver Whisker (History/Citizenship) is relocating to Manchester. We have appointed Victoria Cave to join our Humanities Department, having just finished her studies and training at Durham and Exeter Universities. Isobel Ross (part time MFL) is leaving us at the end of term, having secured a full time role in another school.

We are delighted that one of our trainee Exeter University PGCE student teachers, Jordan Webber (Sport and Geography) will be staying with us in September to become a permanent member of staff. Jordan has made such a good impression on us that we decided we could not let him leave.

James Bryant Harries (Subject Co-ordinator Maths) is relocating to the Exeter area. James Phillips is currently the Head of Maths at The Sir John Colfox Academy and he will be joining us to lead the Maths team in September. Carol Watson has been working in our Maths team on a part time basis for the last two years and is leaving at the end of term. Alison Taylor will be joining the Maths team and is currently based at Puddletown Middle School.

Chris Dooley (Combined Cadet Force Commander) officially joins us in September and is excited to be leading our successful unit. He has already started in a smaller capacity in recent months to help get things ready and we are grateful for that. CCF student numbers are booming!

Sian Lydford (Health and Social Care) has worked at Budmouth since 2003 and has helped many students into careers and higher education in that field. Sian is moving on to a new challenge and Kelly Andow will be moving over from Dance into Health and Social Care full time to assume responsibility for Vocational Courses in the 6th Form. Our own Holly Longland will become Subject Leader for Health and Social Care. This movement has created a new full time post in Performing Arts and we are delighted to welcome Anna Marsh who will be joining us in September, having just completed her training in Liverpool. Prior to that Anna has spent the last 10 years working as a professional dancer in the UK and abroad.

Kirsty White (Subject Leader for Personal, Social and Cultural Studies) has been appointed to be a National Lead for a charity and will be given the platform to champion and support the teaching of Citizenship across the country. In her new capacity, we hope that we will work with her again soon. Kirsty has worked at Budmouth since 1994 and has helped to inspire many students to become active in a variety of ways linked to Citizenship and Student Voice. Our own Harriet Hayter will be taking on the leadership of PSCS next year.

And finally...

This is my last letter as Principal and, in my final weeks, it has been interesting to reflect on a whirlwind three years at Budmouth. When I was first asked to come and lend some temporary support, it was a very challenging time for the then College. There was no substantive leadership team in place, the finances were in a worrying position, standards of achievement had fallen dramatically, everyone was recovering from a very challenging Ofsted inspection and the process of academisation was just getting underway. Students walking into school past banners and placards of protest was not something that I shall ever forget!

Fast forward the clock and we now find ourselves in a very different situation. Even the pandemic and two enforced closures have not been able to derail the progress that has been made. Our staff, students, parents and community supporters have been magnificent. I was told before I joined, just how passionate people were about Budmouth and I have not been disappointed. We have put together a very strong new staffing structure and interest in joining Budmouth has grown. Standards of achievement are rising all the time and with a healthy balanced budget, exciting plans for the future can now be made. Restrictions linked to the pandemic have stalled progress in some areas around student leadership and our new pastoral system, but I know that the new Principal and his team are going to relish the opportunity to watch things 'take off' next September. I would like to wish Mike Hoffmann the very best of luck as he takes up the reins at Budmouth and I look forward to watching Budmouth flourish in the years ahead.

So, for the final time, thank you for your continued support of everything that we do. I would like to wish all parents, students and community supporters a lovely summer holiday and very best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert