

7th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to a new academic year. I hope that you have all been able to enjoy some part of the school summer holidays with your children, and that they are returning back to school feeling refreshed and ready to go! For me personally, it is a great privilege to be writing to you as Principal for the first time.

There is a greater sense of 'normality' this time around, although the school remains mindful that Covid 19 has not gone away and we remain cautious in our approach to the pandemic. We have successfully tested a large number of students in these last few days. Thanks to both the students and our medical team here at the school. It is a relief to see such low numbers of positive test results and we thank parents, carers and families for remaining vigilant and careful out there in the community. Please be aware that students who have already given prior consent need not do so this time around. Please contact Justin Abbott, First Aid & Health & Safety Co-ordinator (jabbott@budmouth-aspiration.org) if you require any additional information.

First Days

The students have arrived back looking incredibly smart. I would like to thank you for supporting the Uniform Policy and the improved appearance with aspects of the uniform that you still choose, such as shoes, skirts and trousers is absolutely fantastic; so thank you very much indeed. We are aware of some uniform supply issues; this is a national trend unfortunately and has affected some uniform purchases, especially those that were submitted after the deadline, later in the summer. Please be assured however that no students will be sanctioned for wearing the incorrect uniform when it is not their fault and out of their hands; so please just keep us informed.

The first day of starting a new school is always special and it was lovely to welcome the Year 7 students on Friday, who were so smart, keen and eager on their Induction Day. They have made a very good first impression on the staff. The students took part in an outside based inter-school competition in the afternoon, which was keenly contested and was won by Mr. Aionesei's group in Turing School. Congratulations go to all who took part.

We have also reserved the central Hub Café area exclusively for those Year 7s who prefer a quiet lunchtime. Likewise, the Student Support Centre and the Resources Centre can be accessed by any student at lunch and break should they wish to spend time away from the hustle and bustle of lunchtime and morning break.

In the upper school, and on the same day, it was great to welcome back so many of our outgoing Year 11 students and induct them as 'Sixth Formers'. It was good to see them welcoming the new students who have joined us from The Thomas Hardy School, All Saints, Atlantic and Wey Valley. We wish all the students the very best for the year ahead.

A reminder that SIMS Pay is now called Pay360 Education Payments. The link is as follows:

<https://www.pay360educationpayments.com/Home>

The link to top up directly from the Parent App is not currently working and we are waiting for our software supplier to resolve this issue. Apologies for any inconvenience this causes; please use the direct link instead for the time-being.

Celebrating Success

During the holiday we were busy with GCSE and Post 16 Results Days, which both took place in the same week. It was a pleasure to see the students being rewarded for all of their hard work and staff here took great pride in seeing so many of their students achieving their goals and moving on to their next steps successfully. It was wonderful to see those students in Year 11 and 13 achieving such wonderful results, many of whom achieved A*s or Grade 9s across the board. Equally pleasing to see, were those students that exceeded their baseline grades, regardless of their ability. As always hard-work is all that we can ask for, more often than not, it pays off.

Bringing the fun back into school

Covid 19 put paid to many of the extra-curricular activities that we hold at the school. With this in mind our big push this year is to place inter-school events, extra support, rewards, student leadership, clubs, societies and fixtures to the forefront of what we do here at Budmouth. We have therefore appointed a new member of staff, Andy David (andydavid@aspirationsacademies.org) as a new **Director for Engagement and Student Leadership**, to lead and promote student-centred activities. We have also appointed a new Behaviour and Ethos Coordinator to each of the four Schools. These are:

- Hawking – Peter Pring
- Turing - Susie Marks
- Attenborough – Lois Collins
- Shelley – Harri Potheary

We would encourage all students to sign up for at least one of our extra-curricular events or clubs. I have spoken to the students and asked them to come to us if they have any ideas regarding the organisation of a new club, trip or event. Likewise we would encourage members of the wider community, including parents, to approach the school with ideas. We believe that bringing these fun elements back into school will help students feel more involved in the day to day life and running of school life, which can only be a positive thing. This week the big event will be the Inter-School Tug of War so please ask your son or daughter to get involved. Also, last year's Year 11 prom has been rescheduled for the 3rd December 21, and the new current Y11 prom has been booked for 1st July 2022. Sophie Ives will be writing to parents shortly regarding further details.

I will write to you shortly with a link to our full extra-curricular programme, which will also be on the Academy web-site. This will also appear in the Daily Message Board for the students.

New Staff

I am delighted to welcome new colleagues who have joined us this year. We were very fortunate in the spring and summer terms to have been able to make some excellent appointments.

- Charlotte Barraclough - Lead Practitioner in English and School Literacy Coordinator
- James Phillips - Subject Co-ordinator Maths
- Jayne Miles-Simmonite - Lead Practitioner and History Teacher
- Sophie Roberts - Teacher of Languages
- Alison Taylor - Maths Teacher
- Richard James - History Teacher
- Alex Aionesei - Maths Teacher
- Mark Williams - English Teacher
- Anna Marsh - Performing Arts Teacher
- Victoria Cave - History Teacher
- Jordan Webber – Humanities and Sport Teacher

Important Contacts

As we are a large school I know it is not always easy to know who to contact if you have a question or concern. If you want to speak with a member of staff and are unsure who the right person would be, please do contact our Main Office by telephone (01305 830500) or email (office@budmouth-aspirations.org) and they will be happy to help you.

If you want to discuss a general query about your child, their Form Tutor should be the main point of contact. If you have a more serious concern about any aspect of your child's welfare, then you should contact the relevant Head of School:

- Attenborough: Jayne Guppy (jGuppy@budmouth-aspirations.org)
- Shelley: Lesley Carter (lacarter@budmouth-aspirations.org)
- Turing: Andy Clark (aclark@budmouth-aspirations.org)
- Hawking: Sophie Ives (sives@budmouth-aspirations.org)

The Heads of School work closely with our Pastoral Support Leaders who are attached to each school. They are also all trained Safeguarding leads.

- Shelley: Deb Roberts (droberts@budmouth-aspirations.org)
- Attenborough: Jane Taylor (jtaylor@budmouth-aspirations.org)
- Turing: Dawn Kirby (dkirby@budmouth-aspirations.org)
- Hawking: Gareth Roberts (groberts@budmouth-aspirations.org)

For any aspect of Special Educational Needs or Well-Being support then please contact Nita Dooley our SENDCO (ndooley@budmouth-aspirations.org) or Ali Lawrence, Student Support Lead (alawrence@budmouth-aspirations.org).

Questions or queries in relation to any aspect of the 6th Form should be directed, in the first instance, to Mark Henman our Director of 6th Form (mhenman@budmouth-aspirations.org).

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Phil Midworth (pmidworth@budmouth-aspirations.org). Should you wish to make contact with one of your child's subject teachers, you are very welcome to do so. To request a call or email back or arrange an appointment, please contact the Main Office. The list above covers the main enquiries that we receive, but if in doubt, please contact the Main Office.

Finally I would like to sign off by saying that I hope that your children enjoy a great academic year. We want them to work hard, be successful and have fun. Thank you for supporting us in achieving those aims.

Yours sincerely



Michael Hoffmann
Principal