

September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. What an unusual time it has been for everyone, and as COVID restrictions ease, we all wish you the best as things return to a 'new' normal for you and your family. Certainly here at Budmouth we are excited to be offering more clubs, trips, visits and sports fixtures than ever. Our aim is to bring the fun back into school, as it has been a tough time for pupils and staff alike.

I know it might seem strange to be writing about choosing a secondary school at a time when some children have missed so much primary school! However, the early feedback from the Dorset Council School Admissions team is that there are unlikely to be any changes to the timeline for the admissions process. In light of that, I would like to share some information that you may find helpful.

Should you require an electronic version of the letter so that you can explore the web links enclosed, please access our website <https://www.budmouth-aspirations.org> and click on Admissions to locate the letter.

Choosing a Secondary School

This year we were heavily oversubscribed for the new Year 7 cohort, who started Budmouth in September 2021. Our maximum admission number is 260 and, once again, we received many more applications than there were places. It is a very exciting time to be joining Budmouth. We are welcoming in the new academic year with superb results at GCSE and Post 16 behind us. We have made real progress despite the impact of Covid over the last two years.

Open Day Tours and Open Evening Information (Wednesday 29th September and Thursday 30th September)

We intend to follow the same format as last year and hold two different opportunities for our prospective students and parents.

Open Day Tours

During the day, we would like to offer parents the chance to see us 'in action' during a tour that will last approximately 55 minutes. Senior members of staff will conduct the tours and if you would like to take part, please meet at Clare Hall via the Academy reception at 8.40am. Please be aware that the tours are for the parents, although we understand if some parents wish to bring their children.

If you would like to join one of our Open Day Tours, please would you complete the brief Google Form available here by 4pm Monday 20th September. This letter will be available on our website and the link to the Google Form will be accessible there.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19IDmLAIMQFbyc_pdTvLICMrj5sSj90Wg_ACb-6rifFs/edit

We would ask that parents from these schools attend the Open Day tours on these days if at all possible:

Wednesday 29th September

Bincombe Valley; Chickerell; Portesham; Southill; St. Andrew's; St. John's and St. Nicholas and St. Laurence.

Thursday 30th September

Holy Trinity; St. Augustine's; Conifers; St. George's; Atlantic Academy; Wyke Regis, Radipole and Beechcroft.

Some of our students will accompany the Open Day tours and we hope that you might enjoy this experience and take the opportunity to ask questions. Please note; children would need permission from their primary school if they were to accompany you. We started the day tours last year as we thought it was a nice chance to see us in a more 'normal' setting. The feedback from those who joined us was very positive, so we have retained this.

Open Evening

Our 'traditional' Open Evenings will start at 6pm with a short presentation from me in Clare Hall. After that you are free to visit all areas of Budmouth and our staff and students will be on hand to talk to you and your children. There will also be the chance to try some 'hands on' activities in some areas. We hope that parents and children may want to take the opportunity to join both the daytime and evening events. The more information you have, the better!

Due to the large numbers that attend these events we respectfully ask that you try (if possible) to attend on the day/evening that has been allocated for your child's current school.

Wednesday 29th September

Bincombe Valley; Chickerell; Portesham; Southill; St. Andrew's; St. John's and St. Nicholas & St. Laurence.

Thursday 30th September

Holy Trinity; St. Augustine's; Conifers; St. George's; Atlantic Academy; Wyke Regis, Radipole and Beechcroft.

If you are unable to visit on your designated day or evening, please feel free to attend on the alternative date.

Ability Test Information

Some students are selected for entry to Budmouth on the basis of their academic ability. Please see our website for more information on the Ability Tests, together with the online application form. Students who are successful in the Ability Tests will be able to take up a place in our special interest/high ability group: 'STEM Futures' (additional Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths opportunities). Alternatively students who join us via the Ability Test can choose to follow the normal curriculum pathway. The options will be discussed with you during transition meetings that will take place in the summer term of 2022.

Many of you have already applied but should you wish your child to be considered for entry based on ability, you can either apply online by following the link on our website (see below) or by requesting a hard copy from Michelle Ashmore by ringing 01305 830581. Please note that the Ability Test Application Form should only be completed if you wish your child to sit the Ability Tests which take place on Saturday 9th October, 2021. There are no alternative dates. Your Ability Test Application Form must be received by the deadline of noon on Monday 4th October, 2021. **Please only complete one Ability Test Application Form per child, either online or a paper copy.** Here is the link to the Ability Test application form:

[Ability Tests](#)

In late-October 2021, a letter will be sent to the address you have provided advising you of the outcome of your child's tests. Achieving a qualifying score does not guarantee that your child will be offered a place. Please note that no information is provided about an individual student score or place.

The Ability Test Application Form is not a replacement for the Dorset Council Application Form that you must complete to apply for a secondary school place. Here is the link to the Dorset Council Application Form to apply for a secondary school place: [Apply for a secondary school place](#). This link will be available on their website between **1st September and 31st October 2021**.

Places will be allocated by Dorset Council to the top thirty students who achieve a qualifying score in accordance with the published admissions criteria. Dorset Council will then send notification via email to parents/carers informing them of their child's allocated school on 1st March, 2022.

Students who do not gain a place via the Ability Test will still be considered for entrance by criteria outlined in our Admissions Policy. Here is a link to our Admissions Policy: [Admissions Policy](#)

If you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to look on our website for more information or contact our Main Office on 01305 830500 who will put you in touch with the most relevant colleague for your enquiry e.g. Music, Arts, Sport, SEND, Ability Test, STEM Futures etc.

I look forward to meeting you in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Hoffmann
Principal