

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The week before half-term is always a very busy one and this time round is no exception. This week students' attendance, conduct, levels of achievement and effort are being rewarded in our 'Celebration of Achievement' Assemblies. **Overall over 1000 awards and certificates have been issued.** This is in addition to the 300+ 'Students of the Week' awards already presented. Celebrating success in assemblies, at school and on our Facebook Page have really helped create a strong sense of purpose, belonging and self-worth already this half-term and many staff and visitors have commented upon the positive ethos seen and felt around the school.

For those of you reading this letter on-line, we have included some live links to help connect you to some useful resources and contacts.

### **The Aspirations Edge**

This half term students in Years 7-9 have been looking closely at our Three Guiding Principles: Self-Worth, Engagement and Purpose. Self-Worth begins when students experience a sense of belonging: They feel like they are part of the school community while being recognized and appreciated for their uniqueness. Our extra-curricular offer is extensive and we would encourage your child to get involved with as many opportunities as they can. As students build Self-Worth, they are more likely to persevere working through difficult tasks and be inspired to take the steps needed to reach their goals. Engagement means that students experience fun and excitement in their learning and they are not afraid to try new challenges, regardless of whether they might succeed or fail. A focus on Purpose ensures that every student is challenged to think about who they want to become, as well as what they want to be.

After half-term, students in Year 7 (some students in Years 8 and 9 have already started) will be introduced to the Aspirations Edge Programme. This Programme encourages every student to engage in purposeful activities that will help develop the Three Guiding Principles, **whilst recognising and rewarding everything they do both inside and outside school.** The first level involves completing ten activities that can be found in students' planners and on the sheet they will be given in Tutor Time this week. On completion of this level we will celebrate the achievement with two certificates, a badge and 50 Achievement Points. Once completed, students are promoted to the next level, rewarded and recognised in the same way but with a higher number of Achievement Points.

It has been a real pleasure to see that some students have already completed the programme. We have shared their success on Facebook and Twitter, so please do go and have a look if you have not done so already.

Unlike at primary school, there are now perhaps less opportunities for you to engage with your child in their learning. However, The Aspirations Edge is certainly one area where you could support and encourage them to complete the award. Over the half-term all students in year 7-9 will be given their login and information about how to sign up and this means that they will get off to a good start when they return from their break. If you would like to know more or need support, please do not hesitate to contact Mr David on [andydavid@aspirationsacademies.org](mailto:andydavid@aspirationsacademies.org)

### **Queen's Jubilee Date**

We had set a provisional date for staff to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, although we did stress that this date was yet to be confirmed. We will now be moving the Jubilee date to the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, a day we were already due to be closed for INSET. We will now also hold our Staff Training day on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. In short, we will now be **closed to students on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2022.**

## **GCSE Field Trip to see Macbeth**

Over 150 of our Year 10 and Year 11 students enjoyed a fantastic performance of Macbeth at Weymouth Pavilion on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of October. Mr Hooper, Deputy Subject Coordinator of English, was told by a member of staff at the Pavilion that the behaviour of our students was exemplary and they were 'a **credit to both themselves and the school**'. Congratulations to all of those involved and many thanks go to the English staff who organised and supervised our students on the night.

## **K9 drug detection dogs**

Those of you with children in Years 8-13 will remember that we had a brilliant visit from K9 last year. K9 is an organisation that educates children about the dangers of illegal drugs in school. They also perform searches with detection dogs, alongside staff and or police. All Weymouth schools remain united against the threat of illegal drug use and as such please be aware that **unannounced visits from K9** will be happening in the short and long term future. Please inform your child's Head of School if they are concerned with any issue relating to dogs being on site.

## **Sixth Form Form Open Evening**

As the only secondary school in Weymouth with a Sixth form, we are quite rightly proud of our Post-16 students, who have achieved consistently excellent results for many years. To learn more about what we have to offer, we are hosting our Sixth Form Open Evening on the **11<sup>th</sup> of November from 6-8.30pm**. Please come along if your child is in Year 11 or indeed younger. We believe our students make better progress here because they know their teachers well. Students also get to take part in the highly successful Aspirations Employability Diploma (AED) alongside local industries and employers. The AED was developed at Budmouth and is now being rolled out across the Trust nationwide, as a model of good practice. For more information about our Sixth Form, please watch our video available here:

<https://www.budmouth-aspirations.org/sixth-form/opening-evenings/>

## **Mock Exams**

GCSE and A' Level Mock exams for Year 11 and Year 13 begin on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. Students will of course be expected to revise for these exams. Without revision, teachers will be unable to identify the areas that each student genuinely finds difficult and needs to improve on. Mock exams are a great opportunity to rehearse for the real thing. As such, standards of conduct, preparation and punctuality need to be high from all of the students involved. We encourage students to take up the support on offer, such as the revision and intervention sessions that are running throughout each week. Support for KS4 courses can be found on the following link to our website:

[Key Stage 4](#)

## **Friends of Budmouth (FAB)**

Our Friends of Budmouth meetings can now resume after half term and this is an opportunity for parents and carers to visit the school to discuss ideas for improvement and our key priorities.

Members of the school's Senior Leadership Team will be in attendance and our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 6pm - 7.30pm. At this meeting we hope to discuss with parents and carers their views on school Rewards, the Aspirations Edge and our Open Evenings process. One of our Vice Principals, Mr Cavill ([mcavill@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:mcavill@budmouth-aspirations.org)) will be in contact with you soon to invite you to attend.

## **Uniform**

We are moving to our 'cold weather' uniform immediately after half term. This means that jumpers must be worn underneath blazers at all times. This will also help the students because we are keeping classrooms more ventilated than usual, due to Covid 19. Whilst wearing our uniform, students represent the Academy. We have had reports from the public about a small number of students behaving poorly or even dangerously on the way home after school. Please check with your child that they are using the roads and footpaths sensibly, and that helmets are worn on bicycles and scooters on the way to and from school.

## **And Finally....**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during this first half term. It is wonderful to see all the positive comments sent to our staff and on our social media posts. The Academy continues to take great strides forward and this is in no small part down to the fantastic support children and staff receive from parents and carers.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Hoffmann  
Principal