

25th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the sunshine; it certainly makes a difference to have great weather at this time of year. It must seem like a long time since I wrote to you without mentioning any form of global crisis. I am afraid that this is no exception.

The crisis in Ukraine is having an impact upon our young people, particularly those that are anxious about the effect it may have upon them either in terms of the cost of living increases we are experiencing or their wider concerns about their security. Teachers have been keen to answer the questions delicately and to talk openly, and non-politically when asked about the conflict. Ms Coughtrey, our Head of Spanish, organised the school's shoebox appeal, which was launched to help provide aid for Ukrainian refugees fleeing the violence which started on February 24th, a full month ago now. Please see the link below if you would like to know more about this:

<https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/19995082.budmouth-academys-donation-appeal-heart-warming-spanish-teacher-family-ukrainian/>

Budmouth Primary Cross-Country

The first ever Budmouth Cross Country event for primary schools took place this week and schools from all around Weymouth took part. For many of the primary schools this was their first outing in years and the students in years 3-6 were able to visit the Academy, meet our pupils and compete against their peers from other schools. The sunshine helped make this event special and Mr David and Mr Morris' efforts paid off on what was a fabulous sporting occasion with some close competition and remarkable stand-out performances. It was lovely to meet the younger children and their teachers, often for the first time in most cases. Please see our Facebook page for more information on the competition:

<https://www.facebook.com/BudmouthAcademy/>

Covid-19

Covid continues to impact upon staff and pupil attendance. In some ways perhaps more than previously. As you know we have been keen to remain open, and remain dedicated to providing a face-to face education for everyone. However, like those other schools in the area that have already closed, I need to make you aware that this **may become our only option** if absence worsens amongst our teaching population. One thing however is for certain: We will remain open for students in every exam year-group. If closure becomes inevitable for one or two year-groups for example, we will send communication via In-touch and Facebook, and give you as much warning as we can under the circumstances. I know you will join me in thanking the tireless efforts of our staff who have covered for colleagues with Covid 19 over the last two years; it is thanks to them that we have remained open to all year groups whenever possible.

Year 6 Transition

A warm welcome to parents of our new Year 7 cohort in September. I will be writing to you shortly, via the primary schools, to welcome you to the Budmouth Academy community. In my letter you will find contact information on who to speak to at the school if you have any concerns or worries about your child as they approach the end of year 6. Below is a timeline for our transition and induction process.

Date	Event
W/b 4th April	Welcome letter from myself sent to year 6 parents
W/b 4th April	Ms Guppy, our transition lead, will email year 6 teachers with our transition plans and request updated contact information
W/b 2nd May	Letter regarding the virtual meetings sent to year 6 parents. This will include a welcome pack and link to some Google forms.
Weds 18th/Thurs 19th May	Year 6 virtual meeting evenings
W/b 6th June/13th June/20th June	We will visit each child's primary school, followed by meetings with the year 6 teachers
W/b 13th June	Letters sent to parents including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tutor and school allocation - Dates and details of the information evenings - Details of the transition day
To be confirmed	Year 6 Information evening + Uniform fitting
Tues July 5th	Transition Day
Friday Sept 2nd	Year 7 Induction Day

Uniform and Free Uniform Service

I can also confirm that our uniform policy has been reviewed and is in the process of being updated for September 2022. Along with other Principals in the Trust I took part in conversations at our most recent Regional Board meeting which looked at how we could try and improve the affordability of our uniform and make it more inclusive. One of the key things we are trying to do is reduce the number of branded items that are compulsory.

We are proud of how smart our students look, but we are also keen to support parents during this difficult period, where the cost of living is increasing so rapidly. Our policy has not been finalised, so if in doubt we recommend waiting for the full details and guidance to be released before purchasing new items.

I am also pleased to inform you that from January 2023, Budmouth Academy school-uniform will be available to purchase via dual supply, with an additional choice of a local supplier. From this date you will have the choice of purchasing your uniform online from Brigade, or purchasing it from local supplier DEP (Dorset Embroidery & Printwear Ltd on Lynch Lane).

Whilst the policy is being amended for September 2022 I can confirm that key changes will include:

- For PE there will be one multi-purpose reinforced seamed t-shirt. This will replace the need for both a polo top and rugby shirt from September. Students will still be able to wear current sports tops, hoodies and rugby shirts etc and can carry on wearing these until they have outgrown them.
- The black jumper with the Budmouth logo will remain available to buy. However, from September 2022 a plain black V necked jumper, without logo, pattern, branding or wording can be worn in its place. The material will need to match our current jumper in terms of its appearance.
- One change that is taking place ahead of next year is with regards to the wearing of shorts. From April 25th 2022 (the start of the summer term) shorts can be worn. These will need to be smart black, tailored, classic style and knee length (reaching no less than 5cm above the knee). This change has been introduced following student and parental feedback during last summer's very hot spell. I hope this decision does not tempt fate with the British weather. If shorts are to be worn they must NOT be jean like, corduroy or overly tight. A reminder please, that black socks are a compulsory part of any uniform here at Budmouth.

We have also recently set up our very own free uniform service here at Budmouth. If you have any spare Budmouth Academy uniform that is clean and in good condition and you are willing to donate to the school, please could you or your child bring it into the main school office? We have set up a free second-hand uniform service so any spare uniform can be reused within the school; for example, for students who may be new to the school, have forgotten certain items on a day to day basis, have misplaced uniform items and for those who cannot afford to replace it. We are also pleased to announce that in partnership with parents there is now a Facebook page called "Budmouth Academy Used Uniform". We have already received feedback that this page is working well for parents who wish to buy/sell second hand uniform items from one another. Here is a link to that page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2195826463902586/>

For further information please contact Mrs Reed at creed@budmouth-aspirations.org

Exam Season

Years 11 and 13 are working incredibly hard toward their final GCSE, A level and BTEC exams. This is a stressful time for students and we offer the support of our pastoral teams and Student Support Centre should your child be suffering from stress or anxiety about the exams. All we ask is that students do their best, that is enough for us.

- The main bulk of GCSE and A level exams start on the 16th of May.
- Year 11 students will be on study leave from the 27th of May.
- A full programme of revision programmes and exam preparation sessions will be in place until the 24th of June, the date of the final exam. All students will be expected to attend those sessions that are relevant to them.
- Wednesday 29th June is the year 13 leaving date and Sixth Form Ball.
- Year 11 Prom will take place on the 1st July.
- Easter Revision School will begin on Monday 11th April. All students in years 11 and 13 are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Sessions over Easter will include advice on how to reduce exam stress, and to help students prepare for the exam period.
- Year 11 have been offered private study spaces at lunch time, in both the Resources Centre and G22, should they wish to take up the offer.
- To accommodate the rebuild of the Sixth Form Centre (commencing after Easter) classes will be re-timetabled for the summer term. Private and quiet study is offered in the Resources Centre (RC) CEIL Centre and in the Hub Cafe during lessons.

Mr Hudson (Y11) and Mr Henman (Y13) will be in touch with further details and to send home a timetable of the sessions we have on offer over the Easter holidays.

Wessex Roundabout Pedestrian Crossing

We are keen to support any campaign in the local area that makes our roads safer for children to use. It is clear that at one such location, the Wessex Roundabout, there is a need for a Controlled Crossing that will help students safely cross a busy intersection. Should you wish to put your weight behind this campaign, as I know many parents already have, please click on the link below:

https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/wessex-roundabout-crossing-campaign?source=facebook-share-button&time=1647119599&utm_medium=socialshare&utm_source=facebook&share=255a48f1-d67b-446b-97ab-b3281ca45bc6

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the school field will be in use from Monday. Should the weather change we will review this decision.

Yours sincerely



Michael Hoffmann
Principal