

22nd June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing today to highlight the fantastic progress our students have made this year. We started the academic year with the main purpose of engaging our students in a wide programme of extra-curricular activities so that we could help rebuild any sense of belonging, self-worth and engagement that was potentially lost over the Covid years. We have a long way to go but I would like to share some of those successes with you. Please also feel free to check out our Facebook page, where many of our students can be seen participating in the full range of activities we offer. This month we have been celebrating Pride Month as well as promoting a new Spanish Exchange, the summer 'Performing Arts Showcase', and our Ten Tours awards; and currently we are receiving applicants for Head Students and Sports Captains for the new school year ahead.

Sports Day

We are fresh from the field with the news that Attenborough School has triumphed during Sports Day. Congratulations to all of the participants. It was a closely fought encounter, and it was the high numbers who volunteered for the Attenborough team that made the key difference in the end. Participation was at its highest level ever, with over 400 children taking part in events, ably supported by their classmates. This year Mr De La Haye introduced new events called 'Alternative Sports', for example a Blind Obstacle Race and Tug and War, and these have appealed to those not motivated by traditional track and field competition. My thanks go to Mr De La Haye and the PE staff for organising this great event and to the student helpers in the Sixth Form who supported them.

Junior Prize Giving

Last Thursday we celebrated the success of our lower school students at Junior Prize-Giving. It was great to see a full house with families coming from as far afield as Ambelside in Cumbria to see students pick up awards for Outstanding Achievement, Effort and Contributions to the Academy and Community. Next year we will also incorporate awards for 'Leadership' and the 'Edge', a participation programme that has seen hundreds of our students graduate at Apprentice, Pioneer and Graduate Level. Recognising the achievements of students in their lives outside of the classroom is just as important to us as curriculum success at Budmouth.

Every week parents write to me about the success of students at clubs, events and programmes outside of school and we like nothing more than congratulating and recognising these achievements at Budmouth. Therefore, **Sports Prize Giving** will take place on the evening of the 7th of July and communication regarding this event will be made directly to the parents of those nominated.

Reward/Achievement Points

Sports Day plays a key role in the award of the much-coveted **School Cup**. Another key factor is the amount of Achievement Points that are awarded throughout the school year and this year we have been particularly keen to ensure that students are rewarded for their hard work. This means we have celebrated more 'Students of the Week' than ever before. Turing School currently leads the race for Achievement Points with **91,280**, but the other Schools are only a handful of points behind and we have plenty of time to go before the end of term.

6th Form / Trip to NASA in the USA

We are currently welcoming applications from Year 12 students for the trip of a lifetime to NASA in the United States. Every two years, two lucky Budmouth Students will be given funding to join this trip and next year our current Year 11s, who join us for Sixth Form in September will be given the same opportunity. Students can learn more about this in their AED (Advanced Employability Diploma) lessons which form a unique part of Sixth Form life here at Budmouth.

Year 13 exams are in full swing and we wish them the best of luck as they approach the end of a demanding couple of years at Budmouth. Many of them will be excited but also nervous about their next steps, in work, training or at university. In addition, our Year 13 students and their teachers will be celebrating the end of their school education at the **Sixth Form Ball** very soon. Tickets are still available for the event which takes place on the **29th June** at the Sailing Academy in Portland.

Year 11 Leavers

Tomorrow (**Thursday 23rd June**) is a **non-pupil day for every student except our Year 11 and some Year 13s** who also have exams. This provides a unique chance for Year 11 to join staff for a special send off. Please remind your son/daughter not to leave directly after the Physics exam as we have some special in-school events and lunch planned. If possible, we ask Year 11 pupils to **donate unwanted uniform** items on the day.

The exam period is always a stressful one and this year was no exception. Luckily staff have been on hand every morning before the exams to give a final pep-talk to the students. We have also provided a programme of revision, special arrangements and exam preparation sessions to help alleviate some of the anxiety that sitting so many exams can cause. The conduct and attitude of the Year 11 has been exemplary and the invigilators have praised the students for the way they have conducted themselves. We are also reviewing the way study-leave works

As the prospect of leaving Budmouth looms, many Year 11s have been to see me to express how sorry they are to be leaving us. Moving on from school can be a daunting prospect, and I have explained to some that have chosen to go to college for example, that we always welcome students who later change their mind, even after the start of the new term in September. My advice is always to reach out to us and we will do our best to help and support.

The Year 11 Prom is on **Friday 1st July**, also at the Sailing Academy, and this is a final chance to celebrate the Budmouth journey and say a final goodbye to friends and staff for those leaving us. Parents are warmly welcomed to the 'roll-up' outside of the Sailing Academy from 6.30pm which is always a great opportunity to take photos and commemorate the evening with your son/daughter. We know that some parents are disappointed not to be joining us on 'Leavers Day', but instead we believe that Prom Night is the real finale for our students and a fitting end to their Budmouth career.

Year 11 6th Form Preparation Days - Thursday 14th and Friday 15th July 2022

We welcome back our Year 11s who are staying with us next year, on the 14th July. This event will be a great chance to meet Sixth Form staff and other students from different schools will also be joining us; it will also be a good opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with the Sixth Form at Budmouth. The plan is to give pupils a lesson in each of the subjects they have applied for, as well as taster sessions in a range of Sixth Form activities. Students do not need to wear school uniform and have been asked to confirm their attendance using the following link: <https://forms.gle/JpGZk4sCW5EGwhUF7>

Uniform

Can I please advise you that Blazers will be compulsory again on Monday 27th June, as the weather is set to return to normal. Should the heat return, blazers will again be made optional. We pride ourselves on having the smartest secondary students in the area and our students, through the School and Academy Councils have genuinely helped form the uniform policy at Budmouth and were instrumental in some of the recent changes to our policy regarding for example the wearing of jumpers and shorts. In addition, we again remind students of the rules regarding jewellery; specifically, the requirement that earrings are restricted to two single studs and that facial piercings are never allowed. In particular, nose studs are banned in the vast majority of schools, not just here at Budmouth, and we ask kindly that parents and students wait until 6th Form for these to be fitted.

Attendance and Health and Safety

Attendance at Budmouth has been above the national average this year, although many students are still missing out on both the educational and social benefits of school through low attendance. Research shows that attendance has a huge impact on success. As summer enters full swing we remind all members of the community that children's attendance at school is our number one priority.

The safety of our students is also paramount and as such, helmets are a prerequisite for bringing a bike or scooter to school as there have been some near misses that are increasingly worrying both school staff and members of the public. Students have been reminded that scooters and bikes can be retained at school, when we believe that students are not wearing helmets or using vehicles dangerously. We also remind students frequently that the conduct of students on the way to and from school is our responsibility. We are proud of the students here and we are keen to ensure they represent us with that same level of pride and maintain the best conduct possible. Staff regularly patrol the streets around the Chickerell area and some students' awareness of road safety is of a particular concern to us.

More generally we advise students and parents to get in touch with us if they have concerns for the safeguarding of any Budmouth student. Our PSLs (Pastoral Support Leaders) Mrs Kirby, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Taylor and Mr Roberts are the first port of call for any safeguarding concern. They work round the clock to help our students and are ably supported by the Student Support Centre team. We also have an anonymous reporting system called 'Whisper' to encourage students to come forward who may be afraid to reveal their names in the first instance. This can be accessed through this link: <https://swgfl.org.uk/whisper/baw1/>

FAB

A huge thanks goes to parents that have attended '**Friends at Budmouth**' meetings this year. FAB is our parent forum and this year your fellow parents have helped shape aspects of our policy on rewards, the Edge, uniform and reports. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite more parents to join us from September, as we genuinely enjoy listening to your views on how we can improve things here at Budmouth. We certainly do not get it right 100% of the time but we work tirelessly in trying to do so. We certainly aim to ensure that parents play a key role as genuine leaders of our school community going forward. If you would like to get more involved with aspects of Budmouth life, please email Vice Principal, Mark Cavill on mcavill@budmouth-aspirations.org and we will send you all the information you will need and add you to our FAB invitation list.

Finally, I would like to wish the students all the best for the long weekend ahead. **Thursday and Friday are non-pupil days** and an opportunity for them to relax and take a break from the exertions of school-life. I hope that you too also have a chance to take some time out and enjoy the weekend.

Your Sincerely



Michael Hoffmann
Principal