

December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are enjoying the run up to the Christmas holidays, it is certainly a busy time and here at school it has been even more jam-packed than usual. As with tradition, at this time of year, school will finish one hour early on Friday the 16th December. Food will only be available in the 4 canteens and cafes over an extended break time and students will enjoy the traditional tutor celebration, music and pantomime before **leaving school at 1.50pm**.

Events and activities

Last week Budmouth Academy's fabulous production of We Will Rock You was enjoyed by nearly 1000 visitors. The whole production was superb. Students from across the school were absolutely brilliant on all three nights, with the singers, dancers, musicians and production team all excelling in their roles. Staff and students worked around the clock to put this event on, with Mrs Trott, Miss Marsh, Mrs Shepherd and Mrs Shuttleworth shouldering much of the responsibility for what was a great show of brilliant talent. A special thanks goes to the Weymouth Pavilion team, Phil Saye and Louise Dominy for their much-needed production expertise and support. They have been amazing. The show was attended by 500 primary school children from St Augustine's, Conifers, Holy Trinity and Chickerell Primary schools. They had a great time and it was wonderful to see so many people enjoy the show.

We also held our annual Christmas Fair and it was great to see a busy and industrious Hub backed by the sound of carols from Chickerell Primary School. The fair raised almost £1000 which will be shared between the Year 11 Prom Fund and the Young Minds Charity.

On Tuesday (6-7.30pm), we hold our annual Senior Prizegiving presentation for the current Year 11-13s. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the successes of our senior students over the last academic year with a focus on progress and attainment alongside their contribution to school life and achievements. Students have received their invitations and we look forward to seeing some Budmouth students return from university, colleges and work-places to pick up their awards. Sophia Bell, who left us last year to study medicine at university will be returning to present the main address.

Supporting our students

This time of year can be difficult for some families, especially with the rising cost of fuel, bills and food. Over the holidays, parents in receipt of free school meals are entitled to supermarket vouchers that enable meals to be purchased to the value of £30. We have sent details of this scheme through inTouch. If you think you are entitled to free school meals and have not seen an email regarding holiday vouchers, please contact Kirsty Harris on kharris@budmouth-aspirations.org. Please remember that all students are entitled to a free breakfast in school (toast and porridge/cereal) and we love seeing our students in the canteen early in morning for a positive start to the day. In addition, a full breakfast menu is on offer for students to purchase. The canteen is open from 7.15am every day.

Sports Hall

Please be advised that due to Health and Safety concerns following external professional advice, the Sports Centre is closed with immediate effect until further notice. Please accept our sincerest apologies for any inconvenience and disappointment that this may cause. This means that there will be no fitness suite sessions in the mornings and Trampoline Club/Badminton will be cancelled. We will try and minimise the impact of this in PE lessons but your help will be greatly appreciated in making sure students still bring the correct PE kit. Navy blue jumpers/hoodies are allowed but not black ones or those with zips.

After school detentions

In the new year we are considering changing our sanction system so that it is more in-line with other secondary schools. This includes the use of same day after school detentions. Same day detentions work on the basis that when a pupil breaks school rules the detention takes place on that day rather than on a Thursday, which is the system that exists at the moment. We find that students often forget the reason they are in after school detention, once they have had to wait up to five days to serve the sanction. We believe same day detentions will support students in improving their behaviour more quickly. Our plan is to consider informing parents and carers of same-day detentions via Email **and** text phone message. In some circumstances we are aware that same day detentions won't always work for families, so rescheduling is always something we would consider. If you would like to communicate your view on, or have any questions regarding this potential change, please email me on mhoffmann@budmouth-aspirations.org or Mr Midworth on pmidworth@budmouth-aspirations.org.

Reading and Literacy at Budmouth

Reading has been at the forefront of the work we have been doing in school this year. Congratulations to 7B, the English group that won this term's Word Count Competition. They read over a million words between them, and they were invited to the Resources Centre to celebrate, receive their reward, trophy and certificates. Being a successful reader is so important to young people and we use a variety of strategies in school to help students improve or catch-up on their reading. In Year 8 we use a specific intervention called the 'LIFT Programme' for example. It is fabulous to see the progress that students make on this scheme and every year the children enjoy positive attention when this is awarded and celebrated on-line. We are also a member of the Chesil Reading Project which includes membership cards for all Year 7s for those who have signed up giving full access to the Weymouth Library. All year 7s will have online access but they too are able to convert this easily into a full membership by going into a library with a parent or carer.

It is also great to see our Sixth Form students engaged in helping our younger students to improve their reading as part of their enrichment periods on Wednesdays period 5. It is wonderful to see them giving something back to those who are most in need. We also have a new Literacy Section on our website if you would like to know more about what we do at school to support reading across the curriculum. Please click below for more information, including information on our recommended reads for different years groups; Students can also complete a review for the books we recommend, as we would love to know more about what they think about our suggested books.

<https://www.budmouth-aspirations.org/our-curriculum/literacy/>

Mr Williams is our Literacy Coordinator (mwilliams@budmouth-aspirations.org) who would also be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding literacy and reading.

The School Day - September 2023

We have been informed by the Department for Education that our school day will need to be extended by 10 minutes in 2023/24. We like our school day ending at 2.50pm, but new guidance has been sent to schools this year on how long days will need to be. As a result, School will finish at 3pm from September 2023. Lessons will remain the same length (1 hour) but more time will be built into tutor time and/or movement time between lessons. Please feel free to contact me regarding this should you have any questions or views on this change.

Yours sincerely



Michael Hoffmann
Principal