

At Budmouth Academy, Weymouth, nurture is at the heart of Our Student Support Centre and a core value of the school. This ethos is based around the Six Principles of Nurture:

- Children's learning is understood developmentally;
- The classroom offers a safe base;
- Nurture is important for the development of wellbeing;
- Language is a vital means of communication;
- All behaviour is communication;
- Transitions are important in children's lives.

Attachment Theory underpins the approach and the teaching staff have received training about the importance of nurture.

Our Student Support is open to all young people in the school who need a 'listening ear' and wish to self-refer. There are drop in sessions for this purpose every break and lunch. Many students join us for break and lunchtime to access this safe space. The emphasis of all interventions is to remove barriers to learning and support young people in achieving their full potential.

The team of Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Leigh, Mrs Wellaway, Mr Cheeseman and Otis (our support dog) are able to offer a range of interventions including ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant), Resilience, Anxiety and Self-Esteem Support, Social Skills and Transition Groups from Y6 to 7 as well as timetabled personalised sessions.

These are accessible to students following a referral by the relevant Head of School/pastoral Team. Young people may also be timetabled in student Support for a short or longer time and it is an essential stepping stone for young people re-integrating into school life. We provided a community within a community, enabling our students to have a sense of belonging.

Our Student Support Centre has confidential intervention spaces, as well as rooms for group activities and private study, and a comfortable lounge and kitchen area. We offer a Breakfast Club, held before the start of school, allowing students a calm and sociable start to the day and the opportunity to talk to members of the team.

We are a wholly inclusive centre and operate with an open door policy.