

12th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are well and looking forward to a break over the summer period.

What a wonderful year it has been and this one seems to have sped by in a flash. One reason it seemed to go so quickly is because of how much we manage to fit into one single day here at Budmouth Academy. This year we have hosted over 100 clubs or activities and taken part in over 180 sports fixtures. This term has been no exception, with Sports Day, our Summer Performance Showcase, Sports Presentation Evening, Junior Prizegiving, Work Experience Week, Year 11 Prom and Year 13 Leavers Dinner dominating our busy calendar. Sports Day was won once again by Attenborough School, although all of the students deserve credit for the fantastic levels of support and participation on show.

Extra-curricular activities really help students develop their sense of **self-worth**, and being part of a team event is really good for our young people's mental health, which is why we try to encourage students to take part in something bigger than themselves. It also helps keep students **engaged** in the school community. Currently our Year 10 students are out on Work Experience duties and it is great to see them challenging themselves. Some students are working as far afield as London or working for giant multinational firms, and working like this, outside of their comfort zone is a challenge that enables students to experience a different perspective and it can potentially open doors for their future. Work Experience and activities like the Edge and Duke of Edinburgh make a huge impact on our students' sense of pride and **purpose**, and what more could we ask of our students than that they give things a go?

To see more of our students receiving the accolades for their efforts, inside and outside of school, please click on and subscribe to our Facebook page on:

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

Last Day of Term

The school day will finish at 12.40pm on the last day, which is Friday July the 21st. There will be slightly shorter lunch but food will be available at both break and lunchtime as usual. Please let us know if this early finish is problematic from a childcare perspective, as we can offer after-school care if required.

Start of Term in September

For the majority of our students **Tuesday the 5th of September** is the return date. **Year 7 and Year 12 students** will start back **on Monday 4th of September** with all other students joining us the day after on Tuesday. Please can I remind you that our school day will now finish at **3pm** from September 4th onwards. The start time remains the same at **8.30am**.

Changes to our policies

In September, students visiting the toilet during lessons will have to hand their phone to their teacher. Teachers will continue to use their discretion when allowing students to use the toilet, but at least we can be assured that students will not be using the toilets to contact friends or take video/pictures as is sometimes the case. Learning time lost as a result of toilet visits is growing and this is something we will keep an eye on in September. We thank you for your continued support with this and we remain committed to keeping our toilets open all day, not just during lunchtimes and breaks like some other schools have done.

Punctuality and attendance

Punctuality for lessons has also improved immeasurably since the new rules and warning bells have been put in place. This trial has also improved the promptness by which students engage in learning at the start of lessons and so we will be adopting this as a long-term policy in September. The four-minute rule will not apply to Year 7 in the first half term if

they become genuinely lost as we are a big site compared to all primary schools and we know this can happen in the early days.

A recent [Children's Commissioner report](#) showed that children who miss one day of the first week of term for unauthorised reasons had a predicted overall absence of almost 45%, or 31 days across the term. It is so important that we welcome **all** students back after the Summer Holidays and any concerns regarding issues, for example anxiety about attending school, can be dealt with immediately by our pastoral teams.

Duke of Edinburgh and CCF

As many of you will be aware, Mrs Temple will be leaving in September. Hundreds, if not thousands of students have benefited from Mrs Temple's commitment to DofE and the CCF over the years, and her steadfast and inspirational leadership has given so many students both opportunity and self-confidence in equal measure. We all wish Mrs Temple all the luck in her new job as a Geography teacher, and welcome to Budmouth Mr Phipps, who has extensive experience leading CCF, Sports programmes and DofE in schools here in the UK and all around the world.

Gold Award for the PE Department

We are proud to announce that we were notified by Sport England that we had met the criteria for the School Games Gold Award. The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success. It has been a difficult time for the sports department due to the closure of the sports centre, but they have adapted superbly and continue to offer a huge range of sporting activities across all of the age ranges.

Parent Surveys

We would like to hear more about your view on your child's experience of our extra-curricular activities and our provision more generally and in that respect, please feel free to complete the following survey. Gathering your view is important to us. Please click on the link and below and enter the access codes when prompted: This survey will close on Monday 24th July.

<http://surveys.quaglinstitute.org/survey>

Access Code:494364

ACES and Achievement Points

ACES are awarded to students who deserve recognition for their conduct, kindness effort and helpfulness **outside** of lessons and specific activities We use a token scheme for this and the individual count also contributes to the tally for the winners of overall 'School Cup'. When the School Cup is awarded, ACES and Achievement Points will no doubt play a significant role in deciding the winners. These results are combined with events like Sports Day, Arts Cups, Inter-School Competitions and Extra-Curricular Awards to decide who the winning school is overall. The overall winners will be announced on Monday and a separate rewards letter will be sent home next week. The hard-work and participation of our students this year has been amazing and as a result, the number of achievement points being handed out by teachers has been staggering.

Safeguarding

If you need support over the Summer regarding concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, please read the information enclosed in this link:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/worried-about-a-child>

If you need further information or advice, Mr Midworth (our Designated Safeguarding Lead) will check his emails during the Summer holidays: pmidworth@budmouth-aspirations.org In addition Whisper, our online reporting app. will also allow students to report any concerns anonymously over the summer period. <https://swgfl.org.uk/whisper/baw1/>

Finally, I would like to wish all parents, students and members of our community a lovely summer holiday, and for those students in Years 11 and 13, we wish you the very best of luck with the forthcoming exam results in August.

Yours Sincerely,



Michael Hoffmann
Principal