

July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Here at Budmouth we have had a great year and are excited to be offering more clubs, trips, visits and sports fixtures than ever before. Our aim this year was to encourage students to contribute to the school as a wider community, as it has been a tough time for pupils and staff alike, and we worked incredibly hard to refocus our students on securing their own future through academic success. In 2023, Budmouth was also awarded two national awards, recognition of just how hard our pupils and staff work - these were the Gold Sportsmark and the National Nurture UK awards.

News from Dorset Council School Admissions team is that there are unlikely to be any major changes to the timeline for the admissions process. In light of that, I would like to share some information that you may find helpful.

**Should you require an electronic version of this letter so that you can explore the web links enclosed, please access our website <https://www.budmouth-aspirations.org> and click on Admissions to locate the letter.**

### **Choosing a Secondary School**

Last year, we were heavily oversubscribed for the new Year 7 cohort, who started at Budmouth in September 2022. Our maximum admission number is 260 and, once again in 2023, we received many more applications than there were places. There was also a record number of appeals. It is a very exciting time to be joining Budmouth. We are welcoming in the new academic year with the news that the Department of Education have agreed to rebuild significant parts of the school, including the Sports Centre and Clare Tower, which for some, has become a familiar and memorable landmark.

### **Open Day Tours and Open Evening Information (Wednesday 27th September and Thursday 28th September)**

We intend to follow the same format as last year and hold two different opportunities for our prospective students and parents.

#### **Open Day Tours**

During the day, we would like to offer parents the chance to see us 'in action' during a tour that will last approximately 55 minutes. Senior members of staff will conduct the tours and if you would like to take part, please meet at Clare Hall via the Academy reception at 8.40am. Please be aware that the tours are for parents and carers, although we understand if some parents wish to bring their children. If you would like to join one of our Open Day Tours, please email Mark Cavill on [MCavill@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:MCavill@budmouth-aspirations.org) to let us know how many people will be coming and on which day. Due to the large number of applicants, we would ask that parents from these schools visit us for Open Day tours on the following dates:

#### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September:**

Bincombe Valley, Chickerell, Portesham, Southill, St. Andrew's, St. John's and St. Nicholas & St. Laurence.

#### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September:**

Holy Trinity, St. Augustine's, Conifers, St. George's, Atlantic Academy, Wyke Regis, Radipole and Beechcroft.

Some of our students will accompany the Open Day tours and we hope that you might enjoy this experience and take the opportunity to ask questions. Please note; children would need permission from their primary school if they were to accompany you. We started the day tours last year as we thought it was a nice chance to see us in a completely 'normal' setting. The feedback from those who joined us was very positive, so we have retained this.

## Open Evening

Our 'traditional' Open Evenings will start at 6pm with a short presentation from me in Clare Hall. After that you are free to visit all areas of Budmouth and our staff and students will be on hand to talk to you and your children. There will also be the chance to try some 'hands on' activities in some areas. We hope that parents and children may want to take the opportunity to join both the daytime and evening events. The more information you have, the better!

Due to the large numbers that attend these events we respectfully ask that you try (if possible) to attend on the day/evening that has been allocated for your child's current school.

## Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September

Bincombe Valley, Chickerell, Portesham, Southill, St. Andrew's, St. John's and St. Nicholas & St. Laurence.

## Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September

Holy Trinity, St. Augustine's, Conifers, St. George's, Atlantic Academy, Wyke Regis, Radipole and Beechcroft.

If you are unable to visit on your designated day or evening, please feel free to attend on the alternative date.

## Ability Test Information

Some students are selected for entry to Budmouth on the basis of their academic ability. Please see our website for more information on the Ability Tests, together with the online application form. Students who are successful in the Ability Tests will be able to take up a place in our special interest/high ability group: 'STEM Futures' (additional Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths opportunities). Alternatively, students who join us via the Ability Test can choose to follow the normal curriculum pathway. The options will be discussed with you during transition meetings that will take place in the summer term of 2024.

Should you wish your child to be considered for entry based on ability, you can apply online by following the link on our website (see below). Please note that the Ability Test Application Form should only be completed if you wish your child to sit the Ability Tests which take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2023. There are no alternative dates. Your Ability Test Application Form must be received by the deadline of noon on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2023. **Please only complete one Ability Test Application Form per child.** Here is the link to the Ability Test application form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1REqjGJDfSV68oTvrguUnHTyg\\_NTBfh1JOHp4R0whLSM/viewform?ts=629f59bc&edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1REqjGJDfSV68oTvrguUnHTyg_NTBfh1JOHp4R0whLSM/viewform?ts=629f59bc&edit_requested=true)

In late-October 2023, a letter will be sent to the address you have provided advising you of the outcome of your child's tests. Achieving a qualifying score does not guarantee that your child will be offered a place. Please note that no information is provided about an individual student score.

The Ability Test Application Form is not a replacement for the Dorset Council Application Form that you must complete to apply for a secondary school place. Here is the link to the Dorset Council Application Form to apply for a secondary school place:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-or-upper-school>.

This information will be available on their website, and applications can be made between **1<sup>st</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**.

Places will be allocated by Dorset Council to the top thirty students who achieve a qualifying score in accordance with the published admissions criteria. Dorset Council will then send notification via email to parents/carers informing them of their child's allocated school on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2024.

Students who do not gain a place via the Ability Test will still be considered for entrance by criteria outlined in our Admissions Policy. Here is a link to our Admissions Policy:

<https://budmouth.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/09/Admissions-Policy.pdf>

Finally, at Budmouth we pride ourselves on being pupil-centred, with the aim of providing more opportunities and awards for our students than ever before. Please join or browse our Facebook page to see how we successfully foster a sense of belonging in our pupils. To us, there is nothing more important than seeing that every child is given the opportunity to participate in BOTH extracurricular and leadership programmes (please click on the link below to see for yourself).

<HTTPS://M.FACEBOOK.COM/BUDMOUTHACADEMY/>

If you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to look on our website for more information or contact our Main Office on 01305 830500 who will put you in touch with the most relevant colleague for your enquiry e.g. Music, Arts, Sport, SEND, Ability Test, STEM Futures etc.

I look forward to meeting you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Hoffmann', written in a cursive style.

Michael Hoffmann  
Principal