

20<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to a new academic year. I have been particularly impressed with the older students these last two weeks, many of whom have supported our new arrivals in Year 7. It is vitally important that our students act as role-models for younger children and it is great to see over 50 fully trained peer-mentors supporting Year 7 students in and around the site. My advice for students during their welcome assembly last week was that success at school lies with the following three qualities; **Effort, Kindness** and **Participation**. If students do their best, treat everyone with respect and kindness and become involved in the school community so that they see they are part of something bigger than themselves, then success, for example in exams, will follow. This requires good attendance of course, and those students with good attendance last year achieved the best results by far.

Our Year 11 students now have the added privilege of their own café in the Hub for their lunchtimes. The students that use it already seem more grown up and responsible, with many already planning their revision schedules, their leavers' book entries and even their Prom night. Year 11 is an exciting but challenging year. Mr Hudson, Vice Principal will be writing to you shortly to explain how we can support your child to achieve the best possible outcomes at GCSE.

As a reminder, we have also reserved the central Hub area exclusively for those Year 7s who prefer a quiet lunchtime. Likewise, the Student Support Centre and the Resources Centre can be accessed by any student at lunch and break, should they wish to spend time away from the hustle and bustle of lunchtime and morning break. Our Well-Being Club for Year 7 and 8 is also up and running, hosted by Miss Coughtrey in F10 every Thursday lunchtime. This club is a fun, calm environment and we have many success stories of students who met at the club last year, and are now friends and are spending lunch times together.

The students have arrived back looking incredibly smart and I would like to thank you for supporting the uniform policy. We have returned to wearing blazers as the unseasonably hot weather has abated. Can I please also remind you that earrings are limited to two studs (no hoops or bars) and that nose-rings/studs are not acceptable under any circumstances. Clear nose studs or the use of plasters to cover nose studs are likewise, not permitted. Parents and Carers can support the school by discouraging students from having their noses pierced. Contrary to what some students believe, piercings do not close up IF the students take them out before school and place them back in afterwards. We allow nose piercings in the sixth form and we encourage students to wait until then.

This week we have seen the return of our first inter-school competitions: So far this includes Cross Country (won by Hawking) and the much lauded 'Tug of War.' Students from all age groups took part and the event again saw Hawking School reign supreme. A great start for Hawking. Our calendar of clubs, events and fixtures has already begun, and it is great to see so many Year 11 students attending school after 3pm, for extra support in their exam subjects. This is now a normal part of the school day for Year 11, and this was instrumental in the incredible success so many achieved last year. An ongoing list of clubs, student leadership courses and events can be found on our Facebook page, a great source of information for what happens on a day to day basis here at the academy;

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

Next week we are honoured to be joined by 50 students from Germany who will be spending a week here as part of an exciting new German exchange. Our students will be welcomed back to Germany next July and Miss Roberts is looking forward to forging these links for years to come.

We will also be hosting Year 6 Open Evenings on **the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of September starting at 6pm**. Traditionally this event is for our prospective Year 6 students. I would like to take this opportunity again to invite parents in other year groups. Those of you with children in Years 8-11 may have missed the opportunity to complete a visit to the school before. Please feel free to join us on either evening, if you would like to come and meet the staff and see what we are all about.

Unfortunately, as inflation continues to bite, we will again see price rises in the canteen this year. Meal deals are still the best value, and the best way to minimise the impact of inevitable rising food costs on our students. Many more students nationally may now be eligible for free school meals and I would encourage parents to use this link if you are unsure if this applies to your child;

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/-/free-school-meals>

If you have any concerns or want to speak with a member of staff and are unsure who the right person would be, please do contact our Main Office by telephone (01305 830500) or email ([office@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:office@budmouth-aspirations.org)) and they will be happy to help you. If you want to discuss a general query about your child, their Form Tutor should be the main point of contact. If you have a more serious concern about any aspect of your child's welfare, then you should contact the relevant Head of School:

- Attenborough: Jayne Guppy: [jguppy@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:jguppy@budmouth-aspirations.org)
- Shelley: Lesley Carter: [lacarter@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:lacarter@budmouth-aspirations.org)
- Turing: Pete Pring: [ppring@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:ppring@budmouth-aspirations.org)
- Hawking: Sophie Ives: [sives@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:sives@budmouth-aspirations.org)

The Heads of School work closely with our Pastoral Support Leaders who are attached to each school. They are also all trained Safeguarding leads.

- Attenborough: Mitchell Fox: [mfox@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:mfox@budmouth-aspirations.org)
- Shelley: Deb Roberts: [droberts@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:droberts@budmouth-aspirations.org)
- Turing: Dawn Kirby: [dkirby@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:dkirby@budmouth-aspirations.org)
- Hawking: Gareth Roberts: [groberts@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:groberts@budmouth-aspirations.org)

For any aspect of Special Educational Needs or Well-Being support then please contact Sally Emms, our VP for Inclusion: [semms@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:semms@budmouth-aspirations.org) or Ali Lawrence our Student Support Lead: [alawrence@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:alawrence@budmouth-aspirations.org).

Questions or queries in relation to any aspect of the Sixth Form should be directed in the first instance to Sam Morris our Director of Sixth Form: [smorris@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:smorris@budmouth-aspirations.org). Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Phil Midworth: [pmidworth@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:pmidworth@budmouth-aspirations.org). As you can imagine in a school of nearly 1600 students we are always incredibly busy but we will do our best to respond as quickly as we can. As I always say, we may not get everything right the first time but we certainly work incredibly hard to support all of the young people in our care, and our teachers and support staff are always here to help should you have any concerns.

Finally, I would like to sign off by saying that I hope that your child enjoys the year ahead. The last few years have been an incredible journey and the academy has changed beyond recognition over that period. We are now hugely over-subscribed and offering more opportunities to more students than ever before. This success, of course, is as much down to our brilliant students and your support for the school, as it is to the fabulous group of teachers and support staff that work here at Budmouth. Thank you again.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Hoffmann  
Principal