

1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and enjoying the run up to the festive season. We have been extremely busy here at Budmouth, having enjoyed a brilliant start to the academic year. A full programme of clubs, sports fixtures and the work of our CCF, DofE and Ten Tors teams, means that there is so much more to life here at Budmouth than just the hard work going on in lessons. We are particularly proud of the Year 11 and Year 13 students, who have been attending daily after-school intervention classes, as they seek to invest in improving their chances of success in their GCSEs and Level 3 qualifications next year.

Christmas will soon be upon us all and we will dismiss students on the 15th December at 12.40pm, following a morning of festivities, including the traditional panto run every year by Mrs Roberts and the team. School lunches will be provided during an extended morning break on the day. It was great to see so many parents at the Christmas Fayre last Wednesday evening, and we raised a huge amount of money for both our Year 11 and 13 Prom fund and for our chosen local charity 'STEPS'. STEPS is a club that provides a wide range of recreational, social and educational opportunities for young people (ages 13-19) and their youth work comprises a programme of varied activities, educational projects, accredited awards and support for individuals. For more details, click on the link below.

[www.helpandkindness.co.uk/organisations/1325/steps-club-for-young-people](http://www.helpandkindness.co.uk/organisations/1325/steps-club-for-young-people)

Here at Budmouth we have recently reviewed our procedures for allowing students to leave class, for visits to the toilet for example. We believe that every child should have the right to visit the toilet in an emergency, even during lessons where many other schools have banned such visits. In addition, however, we think that we should add a layer of privacy, for example, for girls who do not always feel comfortable explaining their reasons in front of the class. As such, from January, requests for emergency toilet use will take place just outside the threshold of the classroom, and students will be issued the same yellow lanyard, which will enable pupils to visit the toilet, regardless of the reason for the request. This will be exchanged for a phone or personal item. In order to support those students who are in genuine need of a toilet visit, we ask that students fill up their water bottles at lunch and break only. Free drinking water is also available in the canteen on request at these times for those that do not bring a clear water bottle to school.

We have recently completed a superb round of mock career interviews with all students in Year 10. It is important for schools to provide clear guidance on future careers and it was good to have so many members of the local business community in to help deliver authentic employer-style interviews with our students. With work experience week due to start on the 10th July, it is important that Year 10 students plan ahead for this week in the work-place. We have a fantastic, highly qualified and dedicated careers team here at Budmouth, including Baron Miles ([bmiles@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:bmiles@budmouth-aspirations.org)) and Clair Oetegen ([coetegen@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:coetegen@budmouth-aspirations.org)), and they are more than happy to field emails from parents and carers regarding how this week will work.

Staff here have asked me to pass on thanks for the support that you as parents and carers provide for them in their everyday work here at the academy.

Budmouth Academy is now entering a new exciting stage on its journey, as alongside the Department for Education who are funding some new school buildings, we enter the planning stage of the approved new build. As yet we are unaware of the full scope of the project, that information has yet to be finalised. Your views as parents are important though, and Friends at Budmouth (FAB), our parental forum, will also be involved in putting their views and ideas across to the team. If you wish to know more about FAB, and want to get involved, please email Charlotte Reed [creed@budmouth-aspirations.org](mailto:creed@budmouth-aspirations.org). A new building is one exciting aspect of the school's future, another is the OFSTED visit that we are now expecting. With this visit we have the perfect chance to demonstrate the amazing progress we have made since the previous school's inspection in 2018. I am optimistic that these two developments will reflect the transformation we have already seen in recent times, and demonstrate a strong sense that together, parents, students and staff can provide a hub of educational excellence here for the Weymouth community.

Students have worked extremely hard this term and like all of our incredibly hard-working teachers and support staff, they all deserve a period of rest and relaxation. Finally, therefore, I would like to wish you all the best for the rest of the term and the Christmas holidays.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Michael Hoffmann', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Hoffmann  
Principal