

9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the halfway point in the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the students and staff at Budmouth for their fantastic engagement in both curricular and extracurricular activities this term. Many of these activities give our pupils a genuine **sense of belonging** here at Budmouth, and without parental support many of these events would not be so well attended, so thank you goes to you too.

We have over 100 clubs, leadership schemes, extra lessons and team sessions going on this year. It is wonderful to see so many students engaged in weekend, after school and lunch time activities and a huge thanks go to those students, staff and parental volunteers who dedicate themselves to providing opportunities for **engagement** outside the classroom. It is great to see so many leaders amongst our students who take a leading role in activities like our CCF, the Ten Tors, Student Council, fundraising for the Kenya Trip and last night, our Lip Sync Battle, where, amongst other celebrities, students were treated to special guest appearances by American singer, Lizzo and actor Ryan Gosling. Our Facebook (see link below) account gives a flavour of just how much goes on here outside of the classroom.

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

This year students have taken it upon themselves to recognise their teachers through their own 'above and beyond' teaching nominations with Mrs Bugler, Mr De La Haye, Mrs England, Mr Midworth, Mr Webber, Miss Evans, Mr Lea, Mrs Fabbri, Mrs Hetherington, Miss Coughtrey and Mrs Shepherd all picking up those special awards so far this year. This is a good opportunity to thank all of our fantastic hard-working staff at the academy, not just the teachers.

Next week is half term and I hope the students have a genuine opportunity to relax and take a break from their busy schedules. Year 11 and Year 13 students are invited to attend the half term revision sessions in school. These are an opportunity to focus on preparation for their GCSE and A levels. The sessions come thick and fast, starting on Monday the 12th, and I have enclosed a link to the GCSE revision timetable.

<https://budmouth.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2024/02/February-2024-Half-Term-Revision-Yr11.pdf>

It is vital that students are either attending sessions or completing their own revision, as this gives our students a real **sense of purpose** as they approach the exam season. Making revision cards from their revision guides or exercise books is a good place to start for all students preparing for end of year exams. We want to encourage all students to attend every single exam this year, so if you have any worries about your child over this period or any suggestions that could help to ensure that this happens, please contact either Mr Morris (Sixth Form) or Mr Hudson (GCSE).

Similarly, Mr Bullock and his team have been impressed by the huge uptake in extracurricular sport, and the success we have seen in Netball, Cross Country, Rugby and Football, for example, has reflected this amazing level of participation. Mr Bullock has been particularly pleased with girls' participation in sport, which is increasing all the time. It is great to see our fitness suite being used before, during and after school by so many students. Congratulations goes to the year 7 football team and to their coach, Mr De La Haye. They

have worked very hard at improving their game and are now through to the quarterfinals of the National Cup. They play Great Marlow school away on the 23rd of February. To get this far in a national competition is incredible in itself, and we wish the boys luck in their next match.

Half term breaks always represent a good opportunity for us to reflect upon the uniform and conduct of students in school. The number of students who have picked up rewards, awards and achievement points is bigger than ever, with over **233,000 points** awarded across the school since September. This demonstrates how hard working and engaged the vast majority of our students are. Unfortunately though, we have had to charge and issue suspensions to some students who have deliberately vandalised toilets in school. We have recently spent time adding hooks to toilet doors, repairing the infrastructure and employing more cleaning time to help students who need access to toilets during lessons. Despite this, there are still some students who would deny this right for others, and we will not tolerate this.

I am always struck by how smart our students look in school, but I would like to remind parents and students that skin-tight trousers or leggings, trainers and branded socks should never be worn. We are always happy to support students who may face genuine uniform/financial issues. Please contact your child's head of school if you have any concerns regarding uniform, and we will do everything we can to assist you.

Last week we took a group of year 11, 12 and 13 students to **Marjon University in Plymouth**. Our students were directly involved in training sessions for student teachers, giving them their view on what makes a good teacher and tips on how best to manage their classes. It was great to see our current generation of students helping the teachers of the future, as they embark upon their own fledgling careers. The following students all represented Budmouth superbly; Freya Cartwright, Joshua Hallett, Sabid Abrar, Riley Birch, Bethany-Mai Paice, Millie Downton, James Hall, Oliver Turnbull, Evie Prior and Amelie Forshaw. Thank you.

Finally, can I remind parents that year 9 Options Evening will take place on the **29th of February at 5pm**. It was great to see so many parents there last year, and the evening is a great opportunity to find out more about the GCSE subjects and curriculum that we offer. Have a great weekend, and we look forward to welcoming the students back after a well-deserved half-term break.

Yours sincerely

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

Michael Hoffmann
Principal