

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Normally at this time of year many of you would be looking forward to a glorious bank holiday weekend under blue skies. This year however, the sun seems to have abandoned us as winter extends into the fifth month of 2024. Nonetheless, I hope you get some free time to enjoy the extended weekend.

At this time of year our focus as a school turns to the Year 11 and 13 exams. We are working round the clock to ensure that no stone is left unturned in the pursuit of success for our students. Year 10 have started their end of year exams this week, and they have conducted themselves extremely well throughout.

During exam periods it is essential that students have a quiet place to revise, receive good nutrition and access regular sleep patterns. A level and Level 3 exams have essentially already started, the full GCSE exam timetable starts here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May and we have been providing in school, after school and holiday revision to help prepare our students. We also hosted the Mental Health School Team last week and their presentation was designed to help students who may experience stress over this period.

In addition, from the 10<sup>th</sup> May before every GCSE exam we will be providing a **free healthy exam breakfast** from 7.45am in the Hub, where staff are available to answer questions and where last-minute tips are shared. Every pupil has been sent their individual exam timetable, but please do contact us if you would like a copy or have any concerns about the exam period.

A reminder that our Year 11 students are expected to attend school until their final exam and this will not be before 14<sup>th</sup> June when every student has their GCSE Physics exam, although this is not the last exam for some. This leaves thirteen days of school after half term, and they will be extremely beneficial for our students. We have been creating an in-school timetable that will facilitate revision for each exam just before it takes place. At all times when any student is not in an exam there will be a revision session provided for their next exam. These supportive sessions will be devised using the knowledge of the first exam papers and any predictive papers that are often used to hone students' knowledge and skills in certain topics that are expected to appear in future papers. We also have a revision school planned which will take place over half term, and Mr Hudson will send the details of this home shortly.

Please find enclosed the Ofsted report which follows our inspection back in March. I am obviously pleased that Budmouth has been judged to have improved in all areas since its last inspection in 2018 and in some cases, aspects have been moved up by two grades. Having Behaviour and Attitudes, the Sixth Form and our Personal Development and Well Being all confirmed as 'Good' is recognition of the hard work that our students and staff have put in during recent years (including during the pandemic) and also reflective of the excellent support we have received from the wider community. Our students could not have worked harder to make an amazing impression during the inspection.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all. The positive views expressed by our parents, students and staff during the inspection were a strong indication of why Budmouth continues to be oversubscribed. We now look forward to building on our examination results, which are improving year on year, and very excitingly we have a new school building programme to look forward to which will be of great benefit to our students and wider community.

Uniform-wise, I would like to remind members of the school community that we changed our policy in recent years to make a jumper more affordable and flexible by allowing a non-Budmouth branded plain black school V neck to be worn. We still aim to stick with this policy but will review this if students continue to wear round-neck and sports-branded jumpers or sweatshirts to school. Leggings, trainers and white socks must not be worn to school.

Finally, I would like to offer my congratulations to our Associate Principal, Phil Midworth, who has been appointed as the new Principal at Magna Academy in Poole, starting in September 2024. He has been a very important part of our rapid improvement in recent years and I know he will be a great success as he now gets the chance to lead his own secondary school in the next academic year. This exciting opportunity is very well deserved, and I will keep you informed with regards to his replacement over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

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

Michael Hoffmann  
Principal