

June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a fantastic year for us here at Budmouth, and we are proud to be able to provide a high-quality education, alongside an incredibly impressive offering of clubs, trips, visits and sports fixtures. Our aim this year was to encourage students to contribute to the school as a wider community, as we see participation in clubs, trips and visits as essential in ensuring students feel a strong sense of belonging here at Budmouth. This year we have worked extremely hard to refocus our students on securing their own future through academic success, and are incredibly proud of how hard they have worked to ensure they are well prepared for the next step, after year 11 or 13. We view students as being on a five- or seven-year journey; from school to work, college or university, and we will do everything to ensure that journey is a success for all. To help ensure that students are happy in secondary school, we also make many specific arrangements for all of our new year 7s, and we improve upon these every year. Helping children to be happy and thrive in school is our number one priority.

Last year, we were heavily oversubscribed for the new Year 7 cohort, who started at Budmouth in September 2024. Our maximum admission number is 260 and, once again in 2025, we received many more applications than there are places. There was also a record number of appeals. It is a very exciting time to be joining Budmouth, as we are in the initial stages of a new school building. For those who may not know, the Department of Education has agreed to rebuild significant parts of the school, including the Sports Centre, the Technology Block, Everdene, the Sixth Form Centre and Clare Tower, which for some, has become a familiar and memorable landmark.

Open Evening, Thursday 25th September

Choosing a secondary school is a major decision for both students and parents/carers, so it is important that you are able to make an informed choice. With this in mind, we are offering you the opportunity to come and see the academy for yourselves.

Our Open Evening will start at 6.00pm, with a presentation from me in Clare Hall at both 6.00pm and 6.45pm. Due to the large numbers that attend these events we ask that you try to attend the presentations allocated to your child's school, as outlined below. After the presentation 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. Likewise, you will also be free to explore the site before the 6.45pm presentation if you prefer. There will also be the chance to try some 'hands on' activities in some areas.

Presentation 1 (6.00pm)

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

Presentation 2 (6.45pm)

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

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 high ability group. 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 2025.

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 4th October, 2025. There are no alternative dates. Your Ability Test Application Form must be received by the deadline of noon on Monday 29th September 2025. **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/1ljbeMcY5HaEIsYcV2ero8ilykyrdDPblb_nJNIZnTKs/edit

In late October 2025, 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 **1st September and 31st October 2025.**

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 in March 2026.

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/4/2024/01/Admissions-Policy-2025-26.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/](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. I look forward to meeting you in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sara Mashike
Principal