BUDMOUTH ACADEMY WEYMOUTH

Principal Sara Mashike
Budmouth Academy Weymouth
CHICKERELL ROAD, WEYMOUTH, DT4 9SY

01305 830500
EMAIL: OFFICE@BUDMOUTH-ASPIRATIONS.ORG

June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Open Evening, Thursday 24th September 2026

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. We believe that, as well as supporting students to achieve their academic potential, it is important 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.

It is a very exciting time to be joining us, as we are in the initial stages of a new school building. For those who may not know, the Department for 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.

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 5.00pm, with a presentation from me in Clare Hall at both 5.00pm and 5.45pm. 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 5.45pm presentation if you prefer. There will also be the chance to try some 'hands on' activities in some areas.

Presentation 1 (5.00pm)
Bincombe Valley, Chickerell, Portesham, Southill, St. Andrew's, St. John's and St. Nicholas & St. Laurence.

Presentation 2 (5.45pm)
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.

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 3rd October 2026. There are no alternative dates. Your Ability Test Application Form must be received by the deadline of noon on Monday 28th September 2026. **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/e/1FAIpQLSdK6pAXVftmrUS4aVnWAP66RIqFO7MVAKU6gWXqurtPcd57tg/viewform?usp=header

The Aspirations Academies Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.
Registered number: 07867577. Registered office: World Business Centre 3, Newall Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW6 2TA

In late October 2026, 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 2026.**

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 2027.

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.

Finally, at Budmouth we pride ourselves on being student-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 here to see for yourself).

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