BUDMOUTH ACADEMY WEYMOUTH

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another academic year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and partnership. It has been an incredibly busy but an immensely rewarding year, and I am very proud of everything our students and staff have achieved together.

Highlights of the Year - Celebrating Success and Community:
This year has been defined by a collective drive to elevate our students' experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Behind the scenes, our staff have undertaken significant work on our curriculum plans, focusing sharply on improving the quality of teaching and learning across all subjects. This dedication was recently validated during our Trust Quality Assurance visit. We were delighted to receive feedback stating that "There is clear evidence of the impact of leaders' actions to improve the quality of education and assessment."

Beyond the classroom, it has been an impressive year for trips and educational visits, offering our students unforgettable experiences. This journey began last summer with an incredible expedition to Borneo, and has continued through this year with hands-on Geography field trips to Lulworth Cove, gruelling but rewarding Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) expeditions, and a fantastic Combined Cadet Force (CCF) summer camp. Furthermore, we have successfully restructured our Student Leadership Team to significantly improve student voice, ensuring our young people play an active role in shaping their academy.

We have also enjoyed several major milestones this month. We were thrilled to welcome our rising stars, our new Year 7 students, during their transition days, giving them a warm taste of academy life. We also, of course, celebrated the Year 11 Prom last week, which was a fantastic evening for all involved.

KS5 Update:
It was an absolute privilege to send off Year 13 in style at their Leavers' Dinner, and to celebrate their fantastic achievements during their final Leavers' Assembly. Meanwhile, Year 12 has been actively preparing for the future. We were delighted to welcome the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service alongside the Weymouth Street Pastors, who provided vital advice on staying safe over the summer break. Alongside these safety briefs, we hosted our annual Next Step Day. With visits from universities, apprenticeship providers, and local businesses, the day gave students a fantastic launchpad as they began planning for their post-18 pathways. Finally, this term marked a milestone for our Student Union, who successfully organised their first official trip to Dorset Waterpark, before they turned their creative attention to an exciting revamp of the Sixth Form café.

Staffing Updates and Farewells:
As always, the end of the year brings some changes to our staffing structure as colleagues take on new challenges or embark on well-deserved retirements.

Internal Leadership Transitions:

- Jayne Guppy is stepping down as Head of Attenborough School. Fortunately, she is staying with us as Deputy Subject Coordinator of Maths. Joe Hooper, our current Subject Coordinator of English, will be stepping up into the Head of Attenborough School role.
- Lucy England is stepping down as Head of Sixth Form but will be staying with us as interim Subject Coordinator of English. Hannah Evans, our current Subject Lead for Sociology, will be taking over the mantle as Head of Sixth Form.

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New Appointment:
We are delighted to inform you that Natasha Sibley will be joining us in September as our new Assistant Principal - Inclusion. Natasha is a qualified SENDCO who brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our leadership team.

Retirements and Goodbyes:
We wish all of our departing staff the absolute best in their next chapters. I would like to extend a special, heartfelt thank you to Giles Richardson, Jane Golby, Holly Longland, and Mark Henman, who are all retiring this year. Together, these extraordinary educators have dedicated a collective 97 years of service to the Budmouth community. Their impact on generations of local young people cannot be overstated, and they will be dearly missed.

A Small Adjustment to the Academy Day:
Looking ahead to September, we are introducing a minor change to the structure of our academy day. Please note that this does not affect our overall start and finish times.

We are adding 5 minutes of extra time to lunch. Our rationale for this is centred entirely on student and staff wellbeing, allowing more breathing room in the middle of the day and providing expanded opportunities for enrichment activities. To accommodate this, morning tutor time will be streamlined to 20 minutes. This will ensure students have a highly focused, impactful tutor session and can move into their lessons promptly to begin the day.

Homework Rewards:
To celebrate students' commitment to learning beyond the classroom, we are delighted to have been holding our Homework Rewards Event this week for those who have shown excellent homework completion since January. In recognition of their hard work and consistency, students have enjoyed an afternoon of games, refreshments and a fun quiz with their peers. We are proud to celebrate their achievement as part of our commitment to recognising the positive habits and dedication that underpin our Homework Strategy.

Autumn Term 1 Curriculum:
Parents and carers can access our curriculum overviews on the academy website to see what their child will be learning each half term across all subjects. These overviews are organised by year group and provide a clear insight into the curriculum being taught throughout the year.

In addition, each subject area provides a detailed curriculum overview that clearly sets out the aims and purpose of the curriculum, supporting a consistent and coherent approach from long-term planning through to classroom delivery. All curriculum plans are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain relevant, responsive and adapted to the needs of our students, while also aligning with whole-school priorities.

Reminder - Early Finish on Friday 17th July at 12:30pm:
As a reminder, the final day of term is Friday 17th July, and we will be operating an early dismissal. All students will follow their normal timetable for the first part of the morning. We will hold an extended break where the canteen will be open for students to access food as usual. Following an extended tutor period, the academy day will end at 12:30pm. For any students who are unable to leave the site at 12:30pm, the Resources Centre will remain open and fully supervised until 3:00pm.

Safeguarding:
As we approach the summer holidays, we recognise that this can be a challenging time for some families within our community. If you require any safeguarding support or guidance during the break, please do not hesitate to contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Pring, by email at ppring@budmouth-aspirations.org. Alternatively, our website includes a dedicated safeguarding page with details of a range of external organisations and services that can provide additional support and advice for parents, carers and young people whenever it is needed. As many families will be spending time at the coast or near open water this summer, we also encourage parents and carers to familiarise themselves with the RNLI's 'Float to Live' water safety advice and to discuss these potentially life-saving tips with their children before they head out.

Thank you to everyone who attended our 'Evening with the Principal' this week. It was a wonderful opportunity to share an update on our Academy Improvement Plan and outline our key priorities for the upcoming academic year. We truly appreciated your positive feedback, and our leadership team is already reviewing your comments and suggestions to see how we can best implement them next year. We deeply value your input and are fully committed to strengthening our partnership between home and school, and we are looking forward to sharing more details about upcoming events designed to get parents and carers even more involved in our vibrant school community.

Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2026:
To help you plan ahead for the autumn, please take note of the opening schedule for the 2026-27 academic year:

Date	Details
Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September	INSET Days - Staff Only
Thursday 3rd September	Year 7 and Year 12 Only
Friday 4th September	All Year Groups
Friday 23rd October	INSET Day - Staff Only

Thank you once again for your incredible support throughout this year. I wish you and your families a restful, safe, and wonderful summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sara Mashike
Principal