BUDMOUTH ACADEMY WEYMOUTH

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

01305 830500
EMAIL: OFFICE@BUDMOUTH-ASPIRATIONS.ORG

23rd September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Supporting Meningitis Now – World Meningitis Day, 5th October 2026

My name is Freddy Whitehead, and I am a Year 11 student at Budmouth Academy. I am organising a fundraising week in support of Meningitis Now, a charity that has become incredibly important to me and my family.

Jack Smith, who is in Year 10, will be joining me and supporting the fundraising throughout the week. This is a cause that is particularly important to Jack too, as he has also experienced meningitis.

Earlier this year, I became seriously ill with meningococcal meningitis and sepsis. My condition deteriorated extremely quickly and, without the rapid response and incredible care I received from the paramedics, doctors and staff at Dorset County Hospital, I would not be here today.

After I became ill, Jack also contracted meningitis. Having both experienced first-hand how serious this illness can be, Jack and I want to use our experiences to help raise money and awareness for Meningitis Now.

Surviving such a serious illness was only the beginning of my recovery. Afterwards, my family and I needed counselling to help us process and come to terms with what had happened. Meningitis Now funded this counselling for us, and their support has made a huge difference to my family, and we want to turn our experiences into something positive.

World Meningitis Day takes place on Monday 5th October, and to mark the occasion we will be holding a full week of fundraising activities at school.

Monday 5th October – Non-School Uniform Day

Students are invited to wear non-school uniform for a £1.00 donation.

Tuesday 6th October – Cake Sale/Raffle Tickets

We will be holding a cake sale at break time, with all proceeds going to Meningitis Now. Raffle tickets will also be available to purchase at £1.00 a strip.

Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th October – Tuck Shop/Raffle Tickets

We will be running a tuck shop at break time, selling sweets and drinks. Raffle tickets will also be available to purchase on both days.

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

Friday 9th October - Raffle Draw

I have been incredibly lucky to receive some amazing prizes for our raffle. Just a few of these include:

- 3 × two-hour driving lessons
- 2 × match-day hospitality tickets at Weymouth Football Club
- 4 tickets to see *Home Alone in Concert* at Bristol Beacon
- 2 tickets to see any show of your choice at The Forum in Bath
- Nando's voucher
- Boots voucher
- Marks & Spencer voucher
- Art set
- Sweet bouquet
- Chocolate fountain
- Boots hamper
- Plus many, many more fantastic prizes!

Raffle tickets are £1.00 per strip and can be purchased at school or paid for through ParentMail.

If paying through ParentMail, once payment has been made, your child's physical raffle tickets will be available to collect from Main Reception between 3:00pm and 4:00pm.

Raffle tickets will be available throughout the week until Friday break time.

The raffle will be drawn at lunchtime on Friday 9th October in Clare Hall.

Every penny raised throughout the week will go directly to Meningitis Now.

We would be extremely grateful for any support you are able to give. Whether it is taking part in the non-school uniform day, buying a cake or some sweets, or purchasing raffle tickets, every contribution will help us raise money and awareness for a cause that means so much to us.

Our aim is to raise as much as possible so that Meningitis Now can continue supporting other families affected by this devastating illness, just as they supported my family when we needed them.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter and for supporting our fundraising. It really does mean a great deal to both of us.

Yours sincerely,

Freddy Whitehead
Year 11

Jack Smith
Year 10