BUDMOUTH ACADEMY
WEYMOUTH

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of this half term, I am incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved and the fantastic progress made across our school community over the past weeks. Alongside these successes, it has been wonderful to see such strong participation in our extra-curricular programme, with nearly half of our students actively participating in regular enrichment activities. With 42 separate clubs on offer - excluding our Raising Achievement sessions - there is truly something for everyone. To build on this momentum, our sign-up fortnight reopens on Monday 2nd November. A Google Form will be sent out again upon our return, and I strongly encourage you to talk to your children about joining a club so as many students as possible can make the most of our excellent extra-curricular offer.

I would also like to highlight our recent week of fundraising for Meningitis Now, brilliantly led by Freddy and Jack. Thanks to their incredible dedication, alongside the fantastic support of our school community through a tuck shop, raffle, and non-uniform day, the week was a resounding success. We are all immensely proud of Freddy and Jack's achievements and leadership for such a worthy cause.

Our Academy Improvement Priorities 2026–2027
We are committed to continually improving the quality of education and opportunities we provide for every student. Each year, we develop an Academy Improvement Plan which sets out our key priorities and the actions we will take to make our academy even better.

This year, our plan focuses on eight important areas: Safeguarding, Inclusion, Curriculum and Teaching, Achievement, Attendance and Behaviour, Personal Development and Wellbeing, Sixth Form Provision, and Leadership and Governance.

At the heart of these priorities is a shared ambition to ensure that every student feels safe, valued and supported, benefits from consistently high-quality teaching, achieves their full potential and is well prepared for their next steps in education, employment and life.

Our improvement plan is already shaping the work taking place across the academy, from strengthening classroom teaching and developing our curriculum to improving attendance, providing additional support for students and expanding opportunities beyond the classroom.

Parents and carers can explore our eight improvement priorities and the specific objectives we have set for this academic year on our academy website. We encourage families to take a look and learn more about how we are working to make Budmouth Academy even better.

We look forward to sharing updates on our progress throughout the year as we continue working together to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Teaching and Learning – A Positive Start to the Year
This half term, we have continued to strengthen the quality and consistency of teaching and learning across Budmouth Academy through our Teaching and Learning Playbook. This provides all teachers with a shared approach to delivering effective lessons, ensuring students experience clear routines, high expectations and the support they need to succeed.

We are already seeing the positive impact in classrooms. Lessons are increasingly calm, purposeful and focused, with students benefiting from clear teacher explanations, step-by-step modelling and regular opportunities to practise and improve their work. Teachers are using questioning, feedback and targeted support to check understanding, address misconceptions and ensure that learning is accessible and challenging for all.

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Importantly, students are demonstrating greater confidence in explaining what they have learnt, responding to feedback and taking pride in their work. These improvements were also recognised during recent Trust quality assurance checks, providing encouraging external validation of the progress being made.

Evening with the Principal – Parent and Carer Feedback
Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our Evening with the Principal in the summer term. As noted in my letter at the end of the summer term, it was a valuable opportunity to reflect on the progress we are making as an academy, celebrate our successes and listen to your views on how we can continue to improve. Your feedback is greatly valued and continues to inform our academy improvement priorities and the development of our Parental Engagement Strategy.

We were particularly pleased to receive positive feedback across several key areas, which we will continue to build upon as we strive for excellence across our school community:

- **Safeguarding and Pastoral Care:** Our improved anti-bullying culture, positive relationships and effective pastoral support ensure students feel safe, valued and supported.
- **Behaviour and Expectations:** Clear expectations, consistent routines, improved uniform standards and mobile phone procedures are contributing to a calm, purposeful learning environment.
- **Teaching, Learning and Curriculum:** Our Teaching and Learning Playbook is strengthening classroom consistency, while half-termly curriculum overviews help families understand what their children are learning.
- **Enrichment and Personal Development:** Our extensive sporting, performing arts and enrichment opportunities, alongside homework club provision, promote confidence, creativity and wider participation.
- **Communication, Recognition and Celebration:** Half-termly Principal updates, regular communication and the celebration of student achievements are valued by parents and carers.

Alongside this positive feedback, parents and carers shared a number of constructive suggestions. Many of these align closely with our existing Academy Improvement Plan and the work is already underway.

The '**You Said, We Are Doing / Planning'** summary below highlights the key areas where parents and carers feel we could further improve, alongside the actions we are already taking or planning in response.

You Said	**What We Are Doing / Planning**
Effective Revision and Teaching: Parents/carers would welcome clearer guidance on effective revision strategies, greater consistency in teaching approaches and appropriate challenge for higher-attaining students. Families would also value more opportunities to understand and support their child's learning.	We are developing a whole-academy revision strategy, which will be accessible through our website to support students and families. Our Teaching and Learning Playbook, adaptive teaching CPD and 'Do Next' activities continue to strengthen classroom consistency, support and challenge. Half-termly curriculum overviews for every subject and year group are also available on our website, helping families understand and support their child's learning.
SEND and Inclusion: Parents/carers highlighted the importance of ensuring individual learning needs are accurately understood and consistently supported.	We are reviewing Pupil Passports to ensure individual needs are accurately identified and supported. Our TA Playbook, targeted interventions and ongoing staff CPD continue to strengthen inclusive classroom practice.

Safeguarding, Wellbeing and Attendance: Parents/carers would welcome further support with bullying concerns, including incidents occurring outside academy hours, alongside continued development of student wellbeing provision. Families also highlighted the challenges some experience in supporting their children to attend school regularly.	We are continuing to strengthen anti-bullying approaches, pastoral support and Personal Development provision. Targeted attendance initiatives and incentives, welfare support and early intervention from newly appointed members of staff are helping families overcome barriers to attendance.
Communication and Supporting Learning at Home: Parents/carers suggested more regular communication directly from tutors and classroom teachers, including weekly updates and opportunities to see examples of their child's work. Greater explanation of the rationale behind academy decisions was also welcomed.	We are exploring channels for more direct teacher–parent communication, such as reviewing how we use the contacts page on our website. Our Parental Engagement Strategy builds on what we already have in place, and includes opportunities for families to see student work and the academy in action - further information to come.
Improving Current Opportunities and Policies: Parents/carers suggested a need for more inter-school competitions to further develop a sense of belonging. Feedback also highlighted, that parents/carers are keen to see improved facilities for students particularly for sports. A small number provided feedback on the academy uniform policy regarding individual needs.	We are committed to strengthening students' sense of belonging through increased inter-school competitions. A year-round calendar is now in place, coordinated by a designated member of staff. Our academy rebuild project is progressing, and we hope to share an exciting update before the end of next term. We remain proud of our high uniform standards while recognising that reasonable adjustments may be necessary to meet individual needs, agreed in consultation with key staff.

Curriculum - Autumn Term 2
As we look ahead to Autumn Term 2, we encourage parents and carers to explore our Curriculum Overviews, available on the Budmouth Academy website. These provide a clear outline of what students will be learning in each subject, including the key topics, knowledge and skills they will develop throughout the half term. Our curriculum is carefully planned and sequenced to build on prior learning, deepen understanding and prepare students for future success. We hope these overviews will help families engage in conversations about learning at home and support their children throughout the term.

Term Dates and Dates for your Diary
To help families plan ahead, all term dates and key events for the academic year are available on our academy website. We encourage parents and carers to check these regularly to stay informed about important dates, upcoming events and opportunities to get involved in academy life. A reminder also that tomorrow, Friday 23rd October, is an INSET day so we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 2nd November (Week 1 Timetable) - please note that as per our Uniform Policy students will be required to wear a Budmouth branded or plain non-branded black V-neck jumper under their blazer from next half term.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support, and I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sara Mashike
Principal