



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Autumn Term Newsletter October 2025

Mr Yeates, Acting Headteacher



This has been another term that our school community can be most proud of. Our students have made an impressive start to this academic year and excelled themselves. I have personally enjoyed watching our rugby teams triumph this Autumn,

especially in their local derbies! Our Performing Arts faculties continue to propagate a new generation of musicians, singers, dancers, actors and actresses, and Buckler's Mead staff continue to go above and beyond to offer enriching educational opportunities including Corfe Castle, Globe Theatre, WW1 Battlefields and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

One of the recent highlights was our multicultural day which celebrated the diverse range of cultures that enrich our community. I was blown away by the pride, passion and confidence in which our students shared the music, dance, history and literature of their family heritages.

Our school community has much to look forward to next term. We welcome parents, students and families to join us for the school production of *Treasure Island* which will take place the first week of next term. We also hope you can join us for our Act of Remembrance and Carol service.

Facebook and Instagram



Coming Soon... Events to look forward to in the Autumn Term

Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th November

- Year 9 'We the Curious Trip

Tuesday 4th - Thursday 6th November -

Treasure Island Production (tickets available on Arbor)



Friday 7th November - Act of Remembrance services

Tuesday 11th November - Last Post: parents welcome from 10:45 on the front field



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Thursday 27th November - *Awards Evening*
(Last years leavers)

Monday 2nd December - *Christmas Carol service*

Year 11 update

It's been a pleasure to see Year 11's dedication and hard work this term, reflected in an incredible 10,761 positives being awarded!

We've introduced Read 2 Succeed interventions, welcomed Yeovil and Strode College and Gryphon Sixth, and taken the entire year group to the Westlands Careers Fair— all to inspire their next steps post 16.

To help students shine and give them the extra edge in their upcoming November exams, we've launched Period 6, shared intervention plans, created [revision timetables](#), and delivered practical [revision skills sessions](#).

We've also produced a parent '[Subject exam guide](#)' to make sure every student feels supported at home as well as in school.

Year 11, keep up the fantastic momentum—your hard work now builds your future success.

Mr Gold

A reflection from our Head Girl - Mya Strick

"I feel like the start of year 11, and of the new term, has been very productive. We've had many open events, sponsored non-uniform days and school trips already. As a year 11 student, I already feel very supported on my journey through my upcoming GCSEs and I'm thankful to the teachers for that. Fingers crossed the rest of the year goes well for myself and everyone else around me"

This newsletter is a snapshot of some of the amazing things we get up to at Buckler's Mead Academy. To keep up to date with news from the Academy please follow us on social media.

Year 7 Corfe Castle trip

Year 7 undertook their Humanities field trip this term, travelling to Purbeck to visit Corfe Castle. Here they undertook an historical site visit so that they could understand the features of a motte-and-bailey castle and develop their knowledge of the Norman Conquest. They also looked at the geography of the area, looking at the social, economic and environmental factors that affect the area and developed their map skills.





Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All



Students who went to Corfe Castle on Thursday had an added adventure - their coach broke down! Despite the almost two hour delay the Year 7 students calmly waited in the National Trust Visitors' Centre until the replacement coach arrived. I am very proud of how they conducted themselves and they showed Buckler's Mead at its best.

"On the Corfe Castle trip, we had such a great time! We did loads of activities like drawing our landscape of what we could see in the distance. I loved taking a video of the amazing steam train that went by every so often. I think the best bit was taking photos of the view from the top of Corfe Castle. At about 1.30pm we went down to the coach but we couldn't get on because the bus broke down! We were sadly delayed a few hours but it was a lovely time with friends and we even got a choc-ice. All in all it was a lovely time"

Leo Sheard

The Social Importance of Good Attendance

While we at Buckler's Mead Academy often link good attendance with academic achievement, it is equally important to recognise the vital role it plays in a young person's social development and wellbeing.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Each day in school provides students with valuable opportunities to build friendships, develop communication skills, and strengthen their sense of belonging. These everyday moments — chatting with friends, taking part in group activities, or collaborating in lessons — all contribute to a child's confidence and ability to form positive relationships.

When students miss school, even for short periods, they can find it harder to keep up not just with the work, but with their peer group too. Regular attendance helps students to feel settled and part of the school community, supporting both their emotional health and their capacity to learn effectively.

As parents and carers, promoting consistent attendance is one of the most effective ways to support your child's social, emotional, and academic success. Every day in school is an important step towards developing the friendships, resilience, and life skills that will serve them well beyond their school years.



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Globe theatre trip

On Friday 26th September a group of Year 11 historians visited the Globe Theatre and the Golden Hinde in London to support their GCSE History studies of Elizabethan England. The students were bright eyed and bushy tailed at 6am for departure and were looking forward to visiting sites we had been discussing in class. Our first stop was the Globe Theatre where we had a tour of the theatre followed by a bespoke lecture on the history of the theatre linked to the GCSE course. The students enjoyed seeing how the theatre worked and they especially enjoyed sitting in the seats designated for the richest in society. In the afternoon, we walked along the Thames to Sir Francis Drake's flagship The Golden Hinde for a tour and workshop on the Spanish Armada. The students were able to get hands on with some of the weapons of the time and even had a go at raising the anchor. The Year 11 students were a real credit to the school and were praised by staff at both venues for their manners and good behaviour.



"I am a year 11 student at Buckler's Mead Academy. Last week we experienced a trip to the Globe Theatre in London. It was an early start but so worth it, I had a wonderful day. Firstly, we had a tour round the theatre and our tour guide was very

lovely and taught us all lots of interesting information. Overall this trip was very helpful due to the Globe Theatre being a question in our GCSE paper. I am very grateful I got this opportunity."

My experiences with Somerset Youth Dance Company (SYDC) by Demi

Hello, my name is Demi and I am in year 9 and am 13 years old. In school we had a workshop from SYDC who came in to explain and show the sort of dance techniques that happen and are shown during shows. This was a very interesting experience and I enjoyed it a lot so I decided to go to the actual dance company and audition. This was quite a scary experience because I had never done an audition before. When I walked in it was very welcoming and I did my best and I managed to get in. This was an experience I never thought I would get. So, I now go every Thursday to Westland's Entertainment Venue to develop, improve and change the way I dance. This opportunity from school has given me a new ambition and I hope to pursue dance as a career.

Maths matters

Why? Because mathematics develops our ability to think and problem solve and because problem solving is embedded in all aspects of life – it is part of all that we do. The brilliant mathematicians at Buckler's Mead Academy have started the year well. Students from Years 7, 9 and 10 delivered an amazing Escape Room during our annual Open Evening and delighted our visitors, young and old, with opportunities to think mathematically in order to escape MA3! A week later, eight of our very brightest Year 11 students attempted the UK Mathematics Trust Senior Maths Challenge, an incredibly difficult task designed for students studying A Level Mathematics, which was met with enthusiasm and resilience. Some students even enjoyed it!





Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

SPARX Maths is a great resource in securing maths understanding and is used as a tool for securing proficiency through repeated practice at BMA. SPARX tasks are set weekly for students in Years 7 - 10, and all have a week in which to complete them. Check your emails regularly for updates and shout-outs.

United Kingdom Mathematics Trust's (UKMT) Senior Maths Challenge

In early October a group of year 11 students took part in the highly prestigious United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Senior Maths Challenge. The UKMT Senior Maths Challenge is a 90-minute multiple-choice maths competition, challenging the best and brightest. It is usually taken by students aged 16-18 in the UK and around the world. It involves problem solving which requires the participants to think about rather than just know maths. This year over 100,000 students took part world wide. All of the BMA participants received participation certificates: well done to Rumaisa C, Hollie G, Elspeth H, Oliver L, David R and in particular, Lewis W and Ben K who were awarded Bronze certificates, and Hugo L who achieved the best BMA score and was awarded a silver certificate.

The next UKMT event is the Intermediate Challenge and this will take place at the end of January.

Here is an example of a question:

A 'complete' football kit consists of a shirt, a pair of shorts and a pair of socks. Three pairs of shorts and one pair of socks together cost the same as two shirts. Seven pairs of shorts and four pairs of socks together cost the same as five shirts. Eden has exactly the right amount of money to buy nine shirts. How many 'complete' football kits could be bought for the same amount of money?

A) 3 B) 4 C) 5 D) 6 E) 7

Service children update

Last year, shortly after joining Buckler's Mead Academy, I decided to create a space for our Service Children. As a military spouse, I have an insight into what our Service Children go through: uncertainty and separation, but also the excitement of homecomings and the immense feeling of pride in their families and their community

Deployment Club
A space for students with family in the Armed Forces

With Mrs Pennington in MM4 (English)
Every Thursday break time

ARMY BE THE BEST
ROYAL AIR FORCE
ROYAL NAVY

Together we have built a thriving armed forces community at Buckler's Mead Academy, celebrating Month of the Military Child in April, having weekly sessions in Deployment Club and we even had some very brave speakers deliver an assembly about their own experiences. We are continuing to carve out a space for our Service Families and are thoroughly looking forward to raising more awareness over the coming year.

Deployment Club takes place in MM4 every Thursday break time.

Mrs Pennington



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Remembrance



Cathedral, while Year 7s are preparing for visits to Exeter's Synagogue and Mosque later in the year.



Student quote

"Beliefs and Values is a fascinating subject. This term, we've been learning about Buddhism. I loved colouring in the mandalas, which represents one of the four main strands of meditation. I also found the koans really difficult to work out!"

Lucas Apps, 8WMC

Multicultural day

On Friday 17th October 2025, Buckler's Mead celebrated their very first multicultural day. At first this was just an idea but with the help of MrsHares, other members of staff and the students of the multicultural club, we have been able to transform this small idea into reality. The initial planning for this day began way back in the summer of the last academic year.

We, the members of the club, have dedicated lots of our free time and effort into planning and rehearsing for these assemblies and ensuring that everything went according to plan. The day consisted of speeches, poems, dances and other presentations from both students and teachers, who are part of the club.

Spotlight on Beliefs and Values

Beliefs and Values is an inspiring exploration of the six major world religions and other influential worldviews. Our goal is to open students' minds to new perspectives on the world and sharpen their critical thinking skills along the way.

This term, our Year 7 students have begun their journey by discovering the fascinating traditions of the Abrahamic and Dharmic Faiths. Year 8 has been delving into the rich teachings of Buddhism, culminating in an engaging study of its diverse forms of meditation. Meanwhile, our Year 9s have been critically examining how religion is portrayed in today's media - a topic that has sparked lively discussions and thoughtful debate.

Excitement is growing as we look ahead to some enriching off-site experiences: Year 8 will visit Wells



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

The Year 10 band performed the song "Bright Side of Life" by Rebelution on that day and they were fabulous and Tjev sang a breath-taking rendition of "Amazing Grace"! The Cheerleaders, African dancers and all of the performers (whether this was a speech or a poem) were brilliant! Also some students and teachers, both members and non-members of the multicultural club, who were representing their cultures, came into school that day wearing their native attire. This was a beautiful and interesting sight to see!



In order to ensure that every single student was able to witness the beauty of multiculturalism, we had to perform five different assemblies. As a result of all our hard work and dedication, every single one of these assemblies were amazing and captivating to watch.

In conclusion, the multicultural group is grateful for all those who contributed to make this day a great success. We would love to celebrate this day again next year with more participants! If you are interested in becoming a member of the club, please talk to Mrs Hares, Ms Bordas or Mrs Goorun and you will earn our iconic badge!

Ivie and Noémie Year 10.

Sports update

The U.15 squad took on a very strong Huish team. The U.15s were under no illusions that this was going to be a tough game. Huish piled the pressure on but Bucklers defended like trojans saving numerous close attempts to cross the try line. Eventually the relentless pressure paid off and after spreading the ball out wide Huish broke through the defence and scored. Bucklers responded positively with some competent rucking creating many phases but found that charging through their forwards defence was like running into a wall. Huish again put pressure back on Bucklers and scored another few tries before half time.



In the second half Bucklers managed to break through and scored 2 tries which lifted the spirits of the team. Huish again showed their strength in depth and realised that hitting the channels with their quick wingers was the best route to success. Huish scored another couple of tries eventually winning 32-12. A superb effort from the team and some excellent resilience was shown by all the players.

Congratulations

Harry Cooper 10SSC was selected for the National Cadet Band for the third time. For the first time in many years the cadets decided to decline support from adult volunteers and put forward a 77 strong band of purely cadets. The cadets came from across the country to meet Friday evening and had one days training before marching the streets of London on Sunday.



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All



Year 11 Bronze DofE expedition



Earlier this term students undertaking their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award undertook their expedition. Over two days they walked from Buckler's Mead to finish at Ham Hill. As always it was a challenge but I am proud of the resilience, teamwork and positive attitude they showed.



On top of that they have been completing their Skills, Physical Activity and Service sections. We have students helping in charity shops, improving their local environment, football and swimming coaches, cooks, making soft toys... The achievements of the students taking part are fantastic!



"During my Duke of Edinburgh expedition, my group worked well as a team. Me and Sealtiel were the group's navigators, following the directions on the map and taking bearings. Even though we had a few setbacks, overall it was an amazing experience that I will never forget. The group, the people, the skills. Even at the very end we were there for each other as a group. We saw amazing views, and saw many different animals.



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Even the place we stayed at had cats that were friendly. If I had the chance, I would do it again."

Gwenhyvar Potts, Year 11



Poppy Kemp describes her experience of the expedition:

"I arrived at school, all ready and prepared to start my journey! I was nervous but at the same time excited. We embarked after making sure we had all the required equipment necessary for our group such as the cooker, first aid and tents! The first couple miles were fine, I'd been to places I hadn't before and to be honest it was quite refreshing, you get the scent of grass and the breeze was nice, my group was keen on getting through this. We made conversations and the atmosphere was nice as we navigated through the fields. Another couple miles came around (by this time we were about 3-4 hours in) and my feet really started to hurt, the ache wasn't too bad but it didn't go unnoticed. We reached an area with a fence we had to climb over and it was into an open field of horses! That was really the experience of a lifetime. We pursued the path making our way to the campsite and by then my feet were on fire. Of course not in a literal sense but they really hurt. My group made it there first and we set up our tents ready for the night! We cooked food and had a hot drink. I was away from my phone and socialising with others. Everyone making food together, talking and having fun, it was a really nice experience!

The campsite also had cats!! I'm actually allergic to cats (it's not too bad to the point where it's a hindrance to continue the expedition) but when I sat down and the cat came over and led on my lap my heart literally melted, I adored them! Well, as it was nightfall I got nervous, well in other words you could say I was discouraged to the point where I asked to go home. I felt like giving up, however, my teachers reassured me and helped me build up my courage to continue, I'm so grateful they did. I sat up cuddling the cat for a while longer before returning to my tent to sleep (the sleep wasn't the best and in all honesty it hurt!).

In the morning I woke up with the worst possible case of puffy eyes in the world, we were all getting ready to pack up and head out for our last 10 of the 20 miles!! My group made our way along the route and during our journey we encountered a snake!! How cool is that?

We made it to Montacute where we took, I'd say a 20-40 minute break, we were about 3 hours in so we arrived much earlier than anticipated! My group then made our way to Ham Hill, however, this is when I started to feel really worried. My group said it's okay and they'd wait for me, this really calmed me down allowing me to continue. I did feel like giving up, but giving up after committing to 18-19 miles seemed like a waste so I persevered! I continued on and made it! We were walking down when I noticed this group of people at the top, as we were walking to the finish they started clapping and cheering for us, the feeling of relief and pride I felt in that moment outweighed all the pain I experienced. I'm glad I didn't give up and I'm glad I had such an encouraging group along with the teachers!"