Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Autumn Term Newsletter October 2026

Mr Yeates, Acting Headteacher



This has been another term that our school community can be most proud of. We had a buoyant return following another year of improved GCSE results. Our students have made an impressive start to this academic year and they have adopted the new Yondr phone pouches very well.

We said goodbye to a Buckler's Mead legend, Mr Povey, who retired after nearly 40 years of service as our site manager. We look forward to seeing Mr Povey back for awards evening so that he can present the new 'Povey Cup' to the student who embodies the 'spirit of the school'. We wish him all the best in his deserved retirement.

I am glad that we honoured the rescheduling of our Sports Day earlier this term. We witnessed age-old records being smashed as well as individual athletic feats that I fear would have otherwise gone unrecognised.

My personal highlight was attending the unveiling of the Buckler's Mead mural at Yeovil Pen Mill train station. Our students were commissioned to create artwork that chronicles the people and places throughout the proud history of our community. Thank you to Miss Wybrew for organising this. As a frequent user of that line, I will forever look at their work with pride.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with so many prospective parents and carers during our open morning, school tours, open evening and through my visits to our primary schools. Our rich diversity is what makes Buckler's Mead unique. Our annual multicultural day celebrated the diverse range of cultures that enriches 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 our Act of Remembrance and Carol service.

Facebook and Instagram

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.

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

Friday 6th November - Act of Remembrance services

Tuesday 10th November - Year 7 Trip to "We the Curious" and Year 8 Trip to Wells Cathedral

Tuesday 10th November - *Careers Fair: parents welcome from 3:00pm in Sports Hall*

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

Thursday 26th November - *Awards Evening (Last year's leavers)*

Monday 14th December - *Christmas Carol service at St Michael's Church*

Wednesday 16th December - Christmas Dinner Day!

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Year 11 update

Year 11 have made a productive start to their last year at Buckler's Mead. They have had numerous assemblies introducing them to the possibilities after Buckler's Mead with visits from Yeovil College, The Gryphon Sixth Form and Coastland College. We've launched daily interventions and have been impressed with the number of students investing in voluntary 'Period 6' sessions. After the holiday we will start our 'Period 6 For All' programme where all students will have access to revision and exam preparation time with subject specialist teachers.

To help students shine and give them the extra edge in their upcoming November exams here is an example of revision timetables, and some 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.

The return of the 100 Club and Sky High, PLUS weekly year attendance champions

At Buckler's Mead, we have always believed that every moment matters and that attendance is key to both academic and social success.

We know that the vast majority of our students attend every day, and we want to ensure this resilience is recognised and rewarded. I am delighted to announce that both our **100 Club** and **Sky High** initiatives are returning for the new school year

The **100 Club** is a monthly competition focusing on 100% attendance in the previous month. Everyone in the club is entered into a draw for one of four Amazon vouchers (one £15, two £20, and a grand prize of £50).

Sky High Builds on the 100 Club by rewarding both perfect attendance and perfect behaviour. This opens a second draw for any student with 100% attendance and zero negative points in the previous month.

Building on these individual rewards, this term we are also launching our **Year Group Attendance Champions** awards. Each week, forms will compete against others in their year group to win a coveted sweet jar and local bragging rights. This award recognises not only outstanding attendance as a form, but also forms showing sustained improvement.

Iceland Trip

Students in Year 8, 9, 10 are looking forward to and are excited about their trip to Iceland the first week back after half term. They are getting ready to see and experience some amazing geographical landscapes and see how it links to their learning in the classroom.

Careers

We have hit the ground running here in Careers as the new academic year began! Year 11 are busy making Post 16+ decisions and so far they have had the opportunity to attend a 1:1 Careers Meeting and Fair, listen to external providers and what they have to offer in bespoke assemblies, and visit provisions for their Open Events. Year 10 are working hard to confirm Work Experience placements for March 2027 after learning about the process in September through presentations. Thank you for supporting your child with this fantastic scheme. The competition for confirmed placements is fierce between the tutor groups!

We would also like to remind you about our upcoming In-House Careers Fair on Tuesday 10th November in the Sports Hall. A wonderful range of employers, training providers and support services will be here to engage with our students during the day, then the event continues until 4:30pm to allow parents, guardians, families and the wider community to join in and network with our visitors. We are really looking forward to welcoming the exhibitors to Buckler's Mead Academy and that our students can begin building a vision for their post-school journey, whether they are just starting in Year 7 or they are nearing the end in Year 11.

Year 7 author visit



Year 7 students were treated to a fantastic literary experience on Tuesday 22nd September when bestselling children's author **Lauren St John** visited Buckler's Mead Academy.

Lauren captivated students with fascinating stories about her life, her journey to becoming a successful author and the inspiration behind her many popular books, including her latest novel, *Wild Horse Summer*.

Growing up on a farm and game reserve in Zimbabwe, surrounded by giraffes, warthogs and horses, Lauren has certainly led an extraordinary life! Her childhood experiences have inspired much of her writing, including her award-winning *White Giraffe* series. Students also discovered more about her passion for animals and conservation, as well as the adventures and mysteries that feature in her novels.

The visit was a wonderful opportunity for our Year 7 students to hear directly from a successful author, discover how real-life experiences can inspire imaginative storytelling and develop their own enthusiasm for reading and writing.

A particular highlight was the opportunity for students to have their books personally signed by Lauren, providing a lovely memento of the occasion.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Lauren St John for such an inspiring visit. Events like these are a fantastic way to bring reading to life, encourage a love of literature and show our students the exciting possibilities that books can offer.

We hope that many of our Year 7 students have been inspired to pick up a new book — or perhaps even begin writing a story of their own!

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Service children update

I am thrilled to say that our Deployment Club is now in its third very successful year, and together we have built a thriving armed forces community at Buckler's Mead Academy!



Last academic year, we were lucky enough to be able to welcome a team from RNAS Yeovilton, who spoke to our students in Year 7-10 about Royal Navy life. We celebrated Month of the Military Child in April. Weekly Deployment Club sessions continue to thrive and cadets are currently preparing for our annual Remembrance Day Service, which will take place on Friday 6th November. We are continuing to carve out a space for our Service Families and are thoroughly looking forward to what this academic year brings.

Deployment Club continues to take place in MM4 every Thursday break time.



Remembrance Day



Multicultural Day

On Friday 16th October, our school came together to celebrate Multicultural Day, a fantastic opportunity to recognise the rich diversity of our school community and explore the many languages, traditions and cultures that make us unique.





The day was filled with exciting activities, creativity and celebration, giving students the chance to learn about different cultures while sharing their own experiences and heritage.

One of the highlights was the Multicultural Showcase for Years 7 and 8 period 5, which celebrated the talents, traditions and cultural backgrounds of our students. We were treated to an incredible display of colourful costumes, lively dancing and cultural expression, creating a wonderful atmosphere of pride and togetherness.

Throughout the day, students took part in a range of engaging activities, including a Continents Fact Hunt and a Multicultural Quiz, which challenged them to discover fascinating facts about countries and cultures around the world. The Head Student Team also organised games that brought everyone together in a spirit of fun and friendly competition.

Multicultural learning extended across the curriculum, with teachers throughout the school incorporating activities that explored culture, identity, language, history, traditions and global achievements. Across a range of subjects, students explored different languages, customs, traditions and perspectives, helping them develop a deeper understanding of the world around them and appreciate the diversity within our school community.

From the amazing costumes and energetic dancing to the creative artwork, poetry, quizzes, games and classroom activities, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The enthusiasm and participation of our students made the day a truly memorable occasion.

A huge thank you to all the staff and students who helped organise and take part in the celebrations. Multicultural Day was a wonderful reminder that our differences enrich our school and that, by learning from one another, we can build a more welcoming, respectful and inclusive community.

Together, we celebrate our cultures, share our stories and embrace what makes us unique!

Photography Trip



Our Year 10 Photography students recently enjoyed a fantastic visit to Hauser & Wirth, an internationally renowned Somerset contemporary art gallery, for a day filled with creativity, exploration and inspiration.

Students were given the wonderful opportunity to experience a private viewing of *Agua Salada*, an exhibition by acclaimed artist Angel Otero. Through paintings, drawings, photographs and film, students explored how Otero uses art to communicate personal memories, experiences and emotions. The exhibition provided an exciting insight into the many ways artists can express ideas through different creative media.

Throughout the day, students explored the gallery's impressive architectural spaces, beautiful botanical gardens and outdoor sculptures, developing their photographic skills as they went. They captured a fantastic range of images inspired by nature, texture, architecture and sculpture, experimenting with composition, and viewpoints.

A particular highlight was the opportunity to work with the gallery's dedicated art education team, who encouraged students to observe their surroundings in new and imaginative ways. Our students approached the entire experience with enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity,

demonstrating a wonderful willingness to experiment, ask questions and explore new artistic possibilities.

Year 10 Bronze DofE expedition

In July our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award students embarked on their expedition, walking from Buckler's Mead to Montacute over two days, developing their navigation, teamwork and resilience skills. However, due to the extreme heat, the decision was made to postpone the second day to prioritise everyone's safety.

A few weeks later, the students returned to complete the second day and camped at The Reindeer Ranch overnight. They demonstrated great determination, adaptability and teamwork, despite the change of plans. They rose to the challenge, gaining valuable experience in problem- solving and independence.

Well done to our students for their perseverance and positive attitude throughout this memorable experience!



Sunset at The Reindeer Ranch, (some students woke up at 3am to watch the equally beautiful sun rise!).

Paris Trip 2026

The summer 2026 Paris trip provided our MFL students with a vibrant, fast-paced immersion into French culture, language, and history. Navigating the city during the beautiful summer months allowed the group to experience Paris's most iconic landmarks bathed in sunshine, offering an unforgettable blend of education and adventure.

Day 1 Left school at midnight for ferry crossing to arrive in Paris on the 14th July on France's biggest celebration.



Day 2 Parc Astérix offered students a Gallic Adventure

The Park focuses on French's beloved comic book Astérix and Obélix which is brought to life through combining exhilarating rides with a fantastic look into French popular culture, language immersion, and ancient history.

Our students and staff spent a thrilling, action-packed day at Park Asterix, France's premier culturally themed amusement park. We navigated through the park's distinct historical worlds, experiencing immersive storytelling alongside world-class attractions.

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Day 3- Paris Quest trail

The group walked approximately 2.7 miles through many Iconic Landmarks of Paris. The route included Musée du Louvre, Jardin des Tuileries, Esplanade/Hôtels des Invalides. A quick waterbreak in the shady area of the park of the Petit Palais Art Museum.

The Eiffel Tower was the backdrop to our typical French picnic, including ice-cream, was very much enjoyed by all. Our afternoon boat trip on the River Seine provided a well earned relaxing, scenic perspective of the city's architecture right from the water.The day ended with the last super at the restaurant Cadet de Gascogne.





The interactive stadium tour provided access to areas usually restricted to the public. The students clearly enjoyed the experence.



Day 4

The Final day:

One of the major highlights of our Paris summer trip, in my opinion, was an exclusive, behind-the-scenes tour of the **Parc des Princes**.

The iconic home stadium of Paris Saint-Germain (PSG). This excursion offered students an exciting look into the world of elite European football, combining sports history, stadium architecture, and modern sports management.