



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Autumn Term 2 2024 Newsletter.

I started January 2024 with an assembly slide which read- 'Let's make 2024 a year to be proud of!' If you look through this newsletter and the others that have been published through the year, I think you will agree we have certainly achieved that. There has been a huge amount to be proud of this year and once again the children, young people and staff that make up the Buckler's Mead Community have been amazing. In the last few weeks alone we have received a positive letter from the Department for Education congratulating us on our high attendance rates, we had such an abundance of talent on display at our Christmas Concert that we overran by over an hour (and even then we had to cut it short), and we have held our first ever Christmas Carol Concert in St John's Church. We are fast gaining a reputation as 'the place to be' and this has seen a big jump in the number of students attending Buckler's Mead and applying for places. This has allowed us to recruit some fantastic new members of staff recently, unfortunately, however we do sometimes see staff move on, and we wish Mr Smith the very best as he continues his career in a new school. He will be missed by all at Buckler's Mead. Best wishes to you all for a wonderful break over the next few weeks. I hope you have the chance to enjoy some quality family time.



Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day - Wednesday 18th December

We all enjoyed getting in the festive spirit this week on our Christmas Dinner Day. We supported Save the Children's Christmas Jumper appeal and raised £118 as well as collecting donations for the local Lord's Larder. Thank you to everyone for their donations.

Here are some pictures of staff getting in the festive spirit!



Facebook and Instagram



To keep up to date with news from the Academy please follow us on social media.



Remembrance Day 2024

Buckler's Mead Academy commemorated Remembrance Day this year with a Service of Remembrance led by Mr Yeates. This included readings by students who are members of the uniformed services and a performance of the hymn "Jerusalem". On Monday 11th November the whole school gathered on the school field at 11 o'clock to mark the two minutes silence. As part of this Harry Cooper played The Last Post.





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Buckler's Mead 100 Club

Celebrating the Success of the 100 Club!

We are delighted to celebrate the success of our *100 Club*, which has been running for the past three months and is already a fantastic hit! The *100 Club* is a special initiative designed to reward students who demonstrate outstanding commitment by achieving **100% attendance** in a calendar month. Over 1,300 students have been automatically entered into the monthly prize draws with a chance to win exciting rewards!

Since its launch, the *100 Club* has motivated students across all year groups to show up every single day, and the results have been truly impressive. Over the last three months, more and more students are striving to maintain perfect attendance in order to join the club!

A huge congratulations to our winners so far, who have each received their well-deserved prizes for their dedication and perseverance. More importantly, we want to celebrate every single student who has worked hard to achieve 100% attendance – your efforts do not go unnoticed, and you should all be incredibly proud!

The *100 Club* continues to encourage a positive school culture by promoting consistency, responsibility, and resilience. Let's keep up the momentum, aim for perfect attendance, and make the next prize draw even bigger and better!

Keep showing up, keep shining, and remember – *Moments Matter, Attendance Counts!*



Theatre Trips

This term the English Department have taken two year groups to the theatre. Year 7 enjoyed a production of 'Robin Hood' and Year 10 recently saw 'A Christmas Carol'.

MET Reports – The MNSP Mathematics Enhancement Tower

Current MET: 57 KS4 Target MET: 56		Top third in 11R2 [RA]		What does this report mean?
Number & Ratio	Algebra & Graphs	Geometry & Measure	Probability & Statistics	
34 MET skills secure above 52				
52 Putting fractions, decimals and percentages in order	Expand and simplify pairs of brackets	Reflect a shape on a coordinate axis and describe a reflection stating the equation of the mirror	Identify outliers from a set of data and avoid them in calculating ranges	
51 Increase or decrease an amount by a percentage and calculate simple interest	Expand and simplify expressions with multiple single brackets	Use Pythagoras' theorem to find hypotenuse or short side or check if a triangle is right-angled	Draw a scatter graph, comment on correlation and use a line of best fit to make estimates	
50 Divide Fractions	Use graphs of direct or inverse proportion or solve inverse proportion problems	Calculate the area or circumference of a circle giving answers approximately or in terms of π	Solve mentally percentage and calculate the probability of either event happening	
49 Add or Subtract Fractions	Write algebraic formulae from a written description	Calculate the volume of a prism or the surface area of a cuboid	Draw and read from tables and line graphs for three variables	

The Maths Team have once again been sending out MET reports this week to parents and students. If you have not received a report, please firstly check your spam folder and your child's Bucklers Mead Academy email account before contacting your child's Maths teacher. The reports are generated by collecting information from recent assessments and are a great resource showing your child's strengths (highlighted in green) and weaknesses (highlighted in red). The red links will take you to a webpage specifically designed to help your child develop their Mathematics by working on the topic they have found challenging. All pages have notes about the topic and links to CorbettMaths Videos and worksheets (scroll down to the bottom of the page), most have a video from the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership. If your child's report has a grey coloured tile that signifies a topic that has not been assessed recently.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Maths Team.



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Year 9 Leonardo Visit

Myself and a group of my class mates enjoyed a great day at Leonardo's IAero Centre. We had a brilliant day learning how to buy and invest in a business while being able to calculate bills and loans.

I think my friends and I could all agree that we had a great day, especially after we got to see all the new inventions and gadgets being created in the 3D printing room.

I learnt a lot of tips for my future and how to get into an apprenticeship, which was something I had never really thought about till then.



Olivia, Year 9

Carol Service

Last week, for the first time, Buckler's Mead held a Carol Service at St John's Church in Yeovil. It felt very special having a service in the Church being that it was Christmas. There was a cosy atmosphere with the Christmas Tree lit up, it felt very Christmassy. We had carols that everybody joined in, the choir sang some songs and I was lucky enough to sing a solo called 'Mary, Did You Know.' Although I was extremely terrified beforehand, I was very proud to sing the song, and I think everybody who attended the Carol Service enjoyed the evening.

Alice, Year 8

Christmas Concert 2024

This week we were treated to a musical spectacular at the Christmas Concert. There were musical numbers from bands in Year 7, 8 and Key Stage 4 as well as seasonal songs by the choir. We also had individual performances on the piano and a number of students sang solos. It was a fantastic festive evening enjoyed by all!



We Will Rock You

Rehearsals are well under way for the next Buckler's Mead production of 'We Will Rock You'. The cast presented an impressive medley of songs in the Christmas Concert which whetted everyone's appetite for the full show to come. 'We Will Rock You' will take place on Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 February 2025.

MotionHouse Dance Workshop

We were pleased to welcome back MotionHouse Dance to run a follow up workshop with our students last week. The students were given a three hour workshop with two dancers from the company. They were taught techniques of contemporary dance and a choreographed dance to eventually showcase at a later date at Westlands Entertainment Venue.





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Frantic Assembly Physical Theatre Workshop

I really enjoyed our workshop with Marc from the company Frantic Assembly. He brought lots of energy to the workshop and created a relaxed environment which made us all feel comfortable with the physicality of the exercises. I also really appreciated how he treated us like professionals, which allowed us to experience what working within the performing arts sector would be like. Throughout the workshop, we explored a variety of different physical theatre activities that helped us deepen our knowledge of the genre. The activities included group lift and contact work, working as an ensemble and devising physical theatre as a group. My favourite exercise was devising as a group; we started with really simple movements and gestures, which we then had to build on to create a scene; this included adding props and complexity of movements. The workshop has been really helpful for my future Drama lessons. It taught us how to develop physical theatre scenes effectively. It also taught us how to build scenes starting from the simplest idea. The workshop has also deepened my understanding of the work we have been studying in Drama this term; we have been exploring Frantic Assembly's version of the play 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime'. The workshop gave us a deeper insight into how the production was created and devised.

Lacey, Year 10



Year 7 BAE Systems Electricity Assembly

The electricity assembly was absolutely an amazing experience, but if you weren't there let me tell you everything it contained! First off, we were introduced to our hosts who then went into an epic lightsaber fight which I thought was pretty amazing. Then a few students throughout the whole show were invited on stage to take part in whatever practical or experience was presented. Finally at the end of the assembly Mr Tomlinson took part in a bike experience. In conclusion, this assembly was a great way to teach us about electricity by using amusing experiences and performances.

Blake, Year 7

Languages Spelling Bee Competitions

My name is Afia. I took part in the Year 7 German Spelling Bee 2024. In the competition, I had to go against other people who were learning German. To gain a point, we had to spell all the words we were given, using the German phonetics we had learnt. There were three rounds to the competition. There was a consolation round for the people who lost earlier rounds. In the last round, I went against Sarah. We had to spell "Schweinefleisch". I remembered that it was "e" followed by "i" and I gained victory. I won a packet of sweets and a certificate which was for the 2024 German Spelling Bee winner. I was ecstatic when I was crowned champion.

There was also a French spelling Bee 2024 and Caiden and Nozipho were joint winners. They both received sweets and a certificate.

Afia, Year 7



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Languages Week Event - GCHQ Challenge

Earlier this month, staff and students were challenged to see if they could decipher some codes. There were two different tribes who had to communicate with each other. One tribe spoke a European-based language and the other tribe spoke a symbol-based language. This was a very challenging task but the winning staff member was Mrs Forsey and the winning tutor group was 9JBY who worked out what they were saying.

Thank you for everyone's support with this year's language events!

The MFL Team

Year 11 Careers Week

Ms Kitchen, the Careers Coordinator, organised for Year 11 to have a series of talks from employers and trainers as part Careers Week. This was an opportunity to learn more about different careers and think about the next step after Buckler's Mead. The talks included a presentation from an ex-student about their career at the BBC in the Natural History Unit, a visit from the Army Careers Officer, and more information about apprenticeships. The students found these talks very informative and they have widened their view of the options available to them at the end of Year 11.

National Nigerian Liberation Day.

Larry, Samantha, Emmanuel, Emmanuella, Ivie, Destiny, Josh and Tola delivered a brilliant assembly for National Nigerian Liberation Day which explored the rich heritage, cuisine, languages, culture, dance and dress of Nigeria. It was most poignant and enlightening. The students spoke with such confidence and passion.

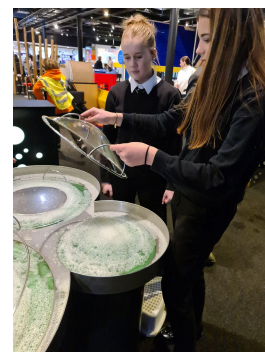


Public Reading Competition

Congratulations to all the students who have made it to the FINALS evening of our prestigious Public Reading Competition. **This will be held on 21st January at 5.30pm.** All parents, friends and family are welcome to attend. We will also have many other students performing. The standard was incredibly high and it was a pleasure to see every student take part. We really do take reading seriously!

Year 9 Visit to We The Curious

The Humanities Team have taken Year 9 to visit *We The Curious* Science Centre in Bristol. The students took part in a Climate Change Workshop where they had to work in groups and pretend to be countries and make decisions about how to run their country and then look at the impact of their choices on the planet's pollution levels and



biodiversity levels. Students also had the opportunity to go into the planetarium and watch a 3D show about the Solar System, which was pretty epic.



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PE NEWS

It has been another busy half term of fixtures for our sports team. Thanks goes to Mr Crisp and the PE Team for their regular match reports - some of which are included below. All match reports are posted regularly on our Social Media channels - follow us to keep up to date with our sporting achievements.

Under 13 Rugby v King Arthur's

A very well fought match away at King Arthur's. KA struck first with a strong run through the middle of the field but we quickly hit back with a great solo effort by Ropheka. We soon scored again through Riley which gave us a well deserved lead. Ropheka and Michael both helped us to regain the lead when KA scored two tries. We showed some resilient defending with many players making big tackles late into the game. KA managed to score one more try which meant entering the last minute of the game both teams were tied. Cometh the hour cometh the man. Up stepped Riley with blistering run through two tackles and then down the outside of their defensive line to score the winning try in the last seconds of the game.

Particular credit should be given to Kaison, Hafeez, Tommy and Michael who all volunteered to play a half for the other team as their team were short of players. This showed a lot of character and demonstrated the outstanding sportsmanship we pride ourselves on here at Buckler's Mead Academy.

Under 16 Girls Football v Millfield

The Under 16 girls football team played last year's county champions in the first round of the county cup. With a reduced squad the girls were outstanding holding the champions to a draw at half time. Unfortunately due to the large squad Millfield rotated their players giving them that

extra energy towards the end of the match which proved too much for the girls in the end.

An outstanding team performance showing some superb resilience from all the players

Well done girls!

Under 12 Girls Hockey v Ansford

The Year 7 hockey team played against Ansford on Tuesday 5th November. The team were certainly very determined and showed great enthusiasm from the first whistle. Some great play by the midfield and forwards meant Buckler's scored first. However, Ansford came back strong and scored an equaliser just before half time.

The second half was hard fought and despite Ansford putting our defence under lots of pressure, the girls effort never wavered. Although the final score was disappointing with Ansford winning 3-1 the spirit in which they all played was fantastic.

Special mention to Afia for scoring our goal, Greta who despite injuring herself whilst making a great save in goal carried on for the whole match and Laura who was chosen by Ansford as player of the match for Buckler's.

Under 16 Football - County Cup

The Under 16 football team played Wells Blue in the county cup. Wells Blue were finalists last year so the team knew it was going to be a tough game. Buckler's Mead went 1-0 up after a well worked move down the left side by Brooklyn which allowed Leon to score the opening goal. It was end to end football but with no more goals scored in the first half. Wells came out strongly and some individual skill from their left winger led to the equaliser. After some end to end football again the game was decided on a freekick from just by the halfway line where the Wells keeper accurately struck the ball just under the bar for Lewis to parry on to the bar and the Wells skipper



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placed it in the back of the net. It was a great game for the neutrals due to the attacking football played by both teams. Very unlucky result for the Under 16 squad but an outstanding performance.

Step into Sport

The leadership team were involved in a step into sport initiative which was held at Westfield. The team were educated in how to become effective leaders working with a number of different levels of ability. They were given problem solving tasks as well as opportunities to lead games they had invented. The leadership team as usual excelled in all the activities and were excellent role models for all our pupils.

Area Cross Country Championships

The annual cross country championships were held on Friday 13th December. Buckler's Mead had a very successful meet with nine of the athletes qualifying for the county championships representing the Yeovil area.

Congratulations to all athletes who took part in this event they were a credit to the school.



The Citizenship Foundation Mock Trial Competition - The Case of the Broken Bottle

Mr. Hemsley recently started the Mock Trial Team. This is a club where we are given a fictional case, we have to examine and investigate the case, and then argue it against other schools in a court of law.

We have a fascinating case. Skye Davidson is accused of possession of an offensive weapon. The crime is alleged to have taken place in a football stadium and involved Skye carrying a broken beer bottle, intending to use it as a weapon against a player from the opposite team.

There are lots of interesting aspects of the case, including whether there is premeditation (which means Skye planned to bring the bottle in), and how a bottle breaks if you drop it from your hand to the floor!

I've learned so much during this case, including the role of the magistrate - they decide whether someone is guilty or not guilty, and give out the sentence. We've also learned why a legal adviser is needed in magistrates' court.

We've got a great team, taking on roles including prosecution lawyer (my role), defence lawyer, magistrate, witness, defendant and legal adviser. Our team is bursting with ideas.

We've investigated the case at length, and so after Christmas we will move on to building our arguments and practising the trial. This is in preparation for our trip to Winchester in March to argue against other schools!

I'm so glad I signed up - it's a great club.

Molly, Year 10



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MN
SP Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership

Become a School Governor



Are you passionate about education? Do you want to help shape the future of young minds?

Becoming a school governor is an incredible opportunity to use your skills, time, and passion to ensure students receive the best education and support. Whether you're a parent, professional, or community member, your voice can make a real impact in the direction and success of our schools.

Make a Lasting Impact in Five Key Ways:

- Attend termly Governing Body meetings, reviewing data and ensuring the best outcomes for students.
- Get tailored, ongoing training to build your skills and understand your role (induction, safeguarding, and more).
- Act as a link governor, focusing on an area of your interest or expertise, and reporting on school progress.
- Represent the school positively in the community – become a proud ambassador!
- Take part in important panels (interviews, exclusions, and more), shaping the school's future.

Who Can Be a School Governor?

No prior experience is needed! All that's required is a commitment to the role and a willingness to learn. We need governors from all walks of life:

- Parent Governors: Provide insights from the parent community.
- Community Governors: Bring your skills and experience, even without a direct connection to the school.
- Foundation Governors: Preserve the school's religious character.
- Staff Governors: Offer the unique perspective of school staff.

What Do You Get Out of It?

Being a school governor is incredibly rewarding! You'll develop valuable skills, make a positive impact in your community, and help prepare students for success in further education and beyond. It's a role that's challenging but never dull, giving you the chance to contribute to something truly meaningful.



For more information, contact Emily Walker (Governance Professional): ewalker@msnpartnership.com

Find a list of local governing bodies on the MNSP website.