



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Welcome to our Buckler's Mead Academy Autumn Term 1 Newsletter.



It has been a whirlwind of a first half term, with lots going on across the Academy. We started on a high with our **Class of 2023**, securing the Academy's **best ever results**. I am incredibly proud of all the staff and students who worked so hard to get those grades, which will put us

among the top performing schools in Somerset. We have welcomed new staff to the Academy, who have made a fantastic start, our new Year 7s have been amazing, and we have had two wonderful celebration trips to Crealy for Year 8 and Year 9.

In the course of the last few weeks, there has been nothing but praise for the behaviour and attitudes of our students. When Year 11 attended the Careers Fair, and when Year 8 to Year 11 took part in a BBC Bitesize Careers roadshow, the staff at both of these events talked about how our students asked the best questions, were presented the smartest, and behaved the best compared with other schools at their events. I know our students are the best, so it's great to see and hear other people saying it too.

BBC Bitesize Careers Event - Friday 13th October 2023

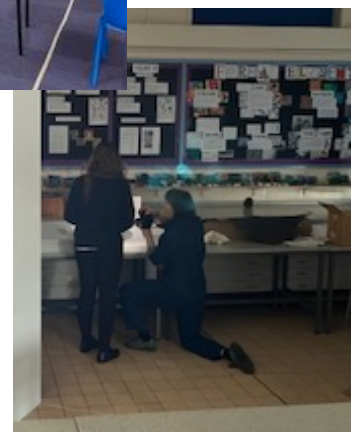
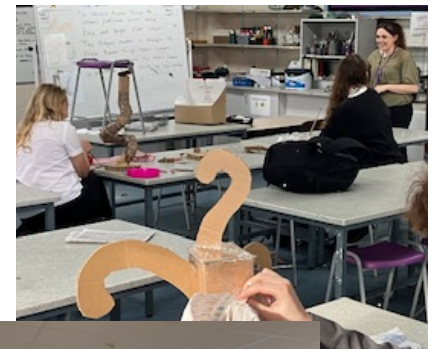
On Friday we had a talk from the BBC Bitesize team about careers at the BBC. There were three special guests from the Yeovil area. They each gave a speech about their career which was very inspirational and it gave us all great ideas about the possibilities of what we could do when we leave school.



Year 11 make a brilliant start to Period 6.

We have been extremely proud and impressed with the start Year 11 have made to their period six revision sessions. This week students have spent time finessing their Art and Photography portfolios, devising their Music compositions, revising Maths, English, Geography and Sociology, as well as completing extra Seneca tutorials.

Mr T Yeates



Jimmy Case Year 9



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PE News - from Mr Crisp

Under 12 Rugby Festivals

The Year 7s played their first festival on Tuesday 26th September. They were up against some much more experienced teams but held their own. The festival was primarily a coaching tournament to teach the players different skills such as off loading and rucking. It was notable by the end of the festival the team were improving in all those areas. Congratulations to all that were selected!



The Year 7 rugby team played in their second festival on Tuesday 10th October. They were up against some strong teams from Westfield, Preston and Wadham. They were unbeaten in all games except one where they almost scored with the last passage of play but were held up on the try line. The team showed great improvement compared to their first tournament, with some fantastic individual performances which eventually led to some excellent tries.

Congratulations to all the players who participated on the day.

Under 13 Rugby

The Under 13 Rugby Team played in a triangular tournament. They were up against some very strong opposition but competed tremendously to grind out a draw with Huish Episcopi Academy. Sexey's School were the stronger of the three schools but Buckler's Mead competed with them at all times to make it a very tight

contest. Congratulations to all the boys involved and we look forward to next month's festival on the 12th October.



Under 14 Rugby

The Under 14 squad played their first game against Stanchester. Stanchester had a very experienced team compared to Buckler's Mead and looked to run away with the game. However, with some hard fought tackles and excellent supportive teamwork the Under 14s really gave them a much closer game. Even though they were the eventual losers, much was learnt from this game which hopefully will be transferred into next week's game against Wadham.





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Year 9 Sports Leaders

The year 9 leaders started their first activity by helping the Year 5/6 and Year 3/4 age groups from over 12 local primary schools over the last 2 weeks. They were a little nervous to start but as they officiated through the games they grew more confident and have already become competent referees. They have volunteered to referee on the first Monday back after half term which is an INSET day, already showing excellent commitment. Well done to all those who have been involved so far. They have been a credit to the school.



Year 11 Football

The Under 16 Team started their season in the county cup. They were playing a very strong Courtfields team from Taunton. The game was a stalemate until Livvy Crawford Case made a breakthrough and struck the ball into the top right hand corner. However this seemed to motivate the Courtfields strong spine and Buckler's conceded 2 late goals before half time. Although Buckler's threatened a number of times Courtfields proved resilient in defence and clinical in attack scoring another 2 goals to finally beat us 4-1. The girls showed real character and some really good individual performances.



Year 7 and 8 Hockey

The Year 7 and 8 girls had their first hockey fixture of the season and both teams played extremely competitive games. The Year 7s drew their game but unfortunately the Year 8s lost very narrowly. It was a very positive first game experience. Player of the match was awarded by the opposition to Lilly Goodson and Emily Crawley.

Year 11 Rugby

The Year 11 team have not played a game of rugby since year 7 due to COVID and other restrictions. They have been enthused once again in their core lessons to the point where they have rallied and worked together to raise a squad of 17. Their first game was against Preston and their commitment to the tackles and pressuring the play was outstanding. Unfortunately their lack of game experience meant that there were a number of times where they had overloads in the wide areas and conceded tries. The team lost but great credit goes to all the students who worked together to make this squad and to battle hard right to the final whistle.



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Macmillan Cancer Support - Mighty Hike Jurassic Coast



In February Mrs Barker decided to get Mrs Hurd, Mr Barker and Mr Keegan (who used to work at Buckler's Mead Academy) roped into walking the Jurassic Coast

Macmillan charity coastal walk. At the time we did not realise what we were going to be letting ourselves in for! We completed a marathon distance on Saturday 9th September - one of the hottest days of the year hitting 32°C! We thought it would be a great way to get Buckler's Mead Academy involved and support the charity by arranging some fundraising events with the support of students in our tutor groups: 11HSBa and 10VDHu. We organised ice lolly selling, penalty shoot out and sponge the teacher. Unfortunately the weather let us down and so could only sell ice lollies but this still raised £160! On the 29th September we had a non uniform day and we raised a further £400! All donations have been sent to Macmillan Cancer Support and will be making a huge difference to those in need.

We are all extremely grateful for all the generosity and kindness shown by our students knowing we had your support kept us going on that long, hot walk up the steep hills.

Mrs Dani Hurd

Languages Week



Languages' week is to celebrate all the languages around the world.

During this week, we conducted assemblies to explain to students the importance of languages

and how they can be used in their future life as well as in their future careers. In tutor time, we had an online escape room that we had to complete. To get the code we had to answer questions based on languages which the whole class could work on altogether. Lastly, we also had videos to watch, which explained how useful languages are and how we can use them in different jobs.

Milena Castagna 10SMH

Open Evening



Languages' open evening was very successful with many people having a lot of fun. In the Open Evening we had a quiz that had the answers around the room both for French and German and once people got their answers right they

could have a sticker and a sweet as a prize. They could also have a German cone called a **Schultüte** filled with sweets. It is a German tradition to give one of these to children on their first day of school and we thought it was a good idea to use them as a prize that day. During open evening the parents could also look at other students' workbooks to have a clear idea of what students learn during the years.

Leilanna Brolly 10SMH





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Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition

Saturday 30th September to Sunday 1st October



16 Year 10 students have made a good start to completing their Bronze Award this year by completing the expedition part of the award.

Kaytee-Mia Ball writes:

On the first day of our DofE expedition we walked from school to Somerset Reindeer Ranch. We walked in groups of 5-6 people and slept in a tent with 2-3 people. On the night we arrived we set up our tents and cooked in our walking groups, we then explored the Reindeer Ranch and went to sleep. In the morning we woke up, cooked breakfast, briefly went over our route for the day and then packed up our tents and bags and started walking. We walked from the Reindeer Ranch and met the other groups at Ham Hill. I enjoyed doing the experience with my friends and got to know other people a little bit better. The most challenging part of the expedition would be learning how to read a map accurately and using bearings. In order to complete the award you need to also complete volunteering, physical and skills. You need to do one section for 6 months and then the other two sections for 3 months.

James Laney writes:

In the DofE expedition we had to use map skill six figure grid references and use a compass. We also had to cook our own food using a camping stove and put up a tent to sleep in.

I really enjoyed using maps and compasses to find where our destination was. The most challenging part was when one of our team members sprained his ankle and we had to go through the procedures to make sure he was ok and then get a teacher to help us get him to a road. I am going to get involved with my friends to get out and do more exercise and become a better person by volunteering.



Sam Pollen writes:

The thing I enjoyed the most was cooking our food on the Trangia as it was nice to learn a new skill. Next me and my friends are planning to go cycling together to complete the physical section of the award. I am also going to begin my skill which is astronomy which will be very interesting.



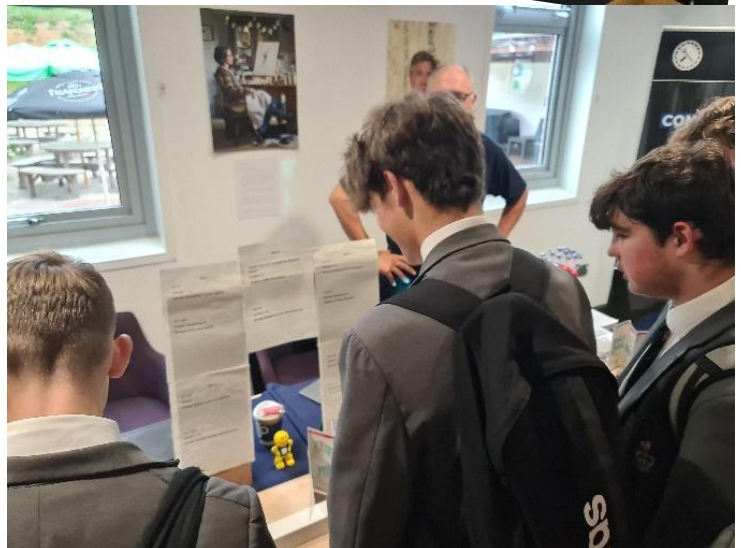
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Year 11 Visit the Careers Fair at Westlands Tuesday 10th October

"At first I expected the Careers Fair at Westlands to be like a typical open day, with stands and boring displays. But, as I walked in, I soon realised how much care and attention was put into each of the stands. Personally, I went around different collage and Sixth Form stands asking about the courses that they offer. I was supremely impressed by how much information I was given about each of the courses I asked about. I also went around different NHS stands to find out more about Pharmaceuticals and possible career opportunities in terms of Optics to which I received a great lot of advice. Overall I must say that there is nothing negative to say about the Westlands Careers fair."

Wiktor Chyc Year 11





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Year 8 and 9 Reward Trips to Crealy



For the Year 8 Rewards Trip we had the privilege of going to Crealy Adventure Park. Once we set off in the coach we sang songs and played games. But the real fun began as we entered the park. Freedom! We got into groups of four and ran towards the bone shaking exciting rides.

Me and my friends went on Maximus first, a thrilling roller coaster based on Roman Legends. It was the most popular ride among my fellow classmates. We also loved the Flying Machine where we felt as if we were riding a spinning top. My group also enjoyed Pirates Revenge; a tipping, rocking boat and the log flume where we all got drenched. After a few more different rides with our drama teacher Mrs Browncey we had a small picnic and bought gifts in the shop.

Too soon it was time to board the coach and go home. We made great memories during our fun filled day out at Crealy.

Olivia Salmon 8WMC



The teachers enjoyed the trip too!

The excitement was really building up the morning of the trip and I couldn't wait. I walked on the bus with my friend and enjoyed the long journey that I experienced.

As soon as we got there we were given our bands and walked (or rather ran!) to the rides. All the rides were so fun. We went on them again and again and it was really fun to have the freedom of doing things we wanted to with our friends. My favourite ride was the log flume because of the speed and the rapidness of the ride.

Then we went inside to eat and to go into the inside play areas to scare people in the dark maze. We came to our final ride and it was sad to be leaving because it was just so fun and exciting to be going out of school for one day in non-school uniform. On our journey back, we listened to music on our phone and slept a while. It was one of the best days of my life that I will always remember.

Jacob Hatton 9HCP

World Mental Health Day #HelloYellow Tuesday 10th October 2023

The Academy supported World Mental Health on Tuesday 10th October. The prefects organised a "how many sweets in the jar?" competition to raise money for the charity YoungMinds which helps young people access services to support their mental health. Well done to Naisha in Year 7 who guessed 182 - only a few sweets out!

