



Buckler's Mead
ACADEMY

An Inspiring Education For All

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ML/DJS

15 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

End of Summer Term 2024

In January, I presented assemblies to each year group, with the theme, "Let's make 2024 a year to be proud of...".

2023 was a truly triumphant year for us, as we broke all school records for progress and attainment, were among the top performing schools in Somerset, in the top 10% nationally for improvement and well above the national average in all areas. Building on that success would be a challenge, but thanks to the amazing hard work of the staff and students, Ofsted finally came and wrote a report glowing with praise for the academy.

I particularly liked the comments made by Ofsted about our students (who I believe are 'Simply the Best'), which included:

- **The school is welcoming and pupils respect the differences in other people.**
- **Pupils are happy and feel safe in school.**
- **Pupils respond well to the school's 'sky high expectations'.**
- **Pupils display positive attitudes to their learning in lessons and try their best.**
- **At social times, pupils behave well and there is a calm atmosphere in the school.**

Over the course of the last few weeks I have seen amazing achievements and events taking place across the academy. I wanted to draw your attention to some of those and give you some further information about the end of this term and the start of the 2024/2025 academic year, more information of which can be found in the newsletter.

We held Sports Day at Mudford Rec, which was a great day, with Ruby and Elisha breaking long standing records and all students competing brilliantly for their houses. The overall winner was 'Vixen'. The school production of 'Legally Blonde' was phenomenal, with rave reviews coming from everyone who has seen it. This was a fantastic team effort from our hugely talented students and staff. An overwhelming success. Last Thursday saw the academy host local employers who took part in our Year 10 interview day. We also had a visit of a Wildcat Helicopter from RNAS Yeovilton, and of course over the last half term we have seen continued success in Sport, Music, Drama and Technology, where we continue to bag lots of prizes in a range of competitions.

It has, without doubt, been a year to be proud of and we will be celebrating this at our Celebration Assemblies on Wednesday. Additionally we have our summer music concert and Art Exhibition on Tuesday night (16 July). So, again, another busy week!

Headteacher: Mr M Lawrence BSc Hons.

Buckler's Mead Academy, Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership
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Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership

The Last Day of Term – End of Term Arrangements

We will finish for the summer at lunchtime on **Wednesday 17 July**. (Thursday 18 and Friday 19 July are INSET days). There will be a staggered end of the day on Wednesday, as follows:

Year 7 leave at 13:00
Year 9 leave at 13:00
Year 8 leave at 12:55
Year 10 leave at 12:55

Free School Meals students can spend their full allowance at break time on the last day of term.

Returning in September

INSET Day

Monday 2 September will be an INSET day – students are not required in school.

Back to School! – Launchpad!

Tuesday 3 September

The first day back to school for Buckler's Mead students will be **Tuesday 3 September**. This is the day when Launchpad activities will take place. These are important reminders of the year ahead for students and the expectations of the academy. Launchpad activities take part in tutor groups.

The first day of term will have a staggered start, as follows:

Year group	Arrival Time	School Day timing.
New Year 7	Arrive: by 08:25 (Gates close)	For registration
Year 8	12:00	Start Period 4
Year 9	09:25	Start Period 2
Year 10	12:45	Period 4 (Go to registration)
Year 11	11:05	Start Period 3

Our new Year 7 students should arrive at the front gate, where there will be senior staff to greet them and send them up to the main hall to start their day. **Students in Year 8 to Year 10** will begin their day in their registration bases, before heading to assembly.

New Developments

As we continue to move forward and make this a fantastic place to work and learn, we endeavour to improve the fabric of the building as much as possible. Last summer we redeveloped the Dining Hall, and this summer we will be enhancing this yet further. We will also be completing work on new student toilets across the academy. Significant investment has also been put into improving the IT infrastructure and hardware and by 1 September the academy is due to have new computers in each IT suite for student use, as well as replacing all staff computers.

Staff Farewells

It's that time of year when we say goodbye to a number of colleagues. Mrs Piddock, Mr Lonsdale and Mr Balkwill are moving onto new schools, with Mr Balkwill taking on the Headteacher role at St Dunstan's School in Glastonbury. Mrs Callard-Weller, is retiring from teaching and Mr Gill and Mr Ovey are moving on to pastures new. This year we have been lucky to have the services of Ms Francis and Mr Pearce who have joined us as English and Maths tutors. They will also be moving on to new roles.

We wish all of our colleagues who are moving on our best wishes, and obviously Mrs Callard Weller an enjoyable retirement!

New Staff

As the number of students applying for places continues to grow, it is very exciting to announce that we are welcoming new staff to the academy, some of whom have already started with us.

Ms Hannah Jeans is joining our English team from St Dunstan's School

Ms Chloe Miell is joining our English team from Whitstone School

Mrs Marie Goorun is joining our Modern Foreign Language team from Writhlington School in Radstock

Mr Thomas Hemsley is joining our Humanities team from a school in London

Mr Lyall (Science) and Mr Henley (Maths) joined us in the Spring Term.

This has, without a shadow of a doubt, been a hugely successful year for our academy community. Students and staff alike have plenty to celebrate and a huge amount to be proud of. The next academic year will bring new challenges and yet more reasons to celebrate success. In the meantime I hope you and your families have a restful and peaceful holiday.

Yours sincerely



MR M LAWRENCE
Headteacher