



Buckler's Mead
ACADEMY

An Inspiring Education For All

1 St. John's Road
Yeovil, Somerset
BA21 4NH
Tel: 01935 424454
office@bucklersmeadacademy.com
www.bucklersmead.com

ML/DJS

20 July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write you an extended letter to draw to a close the academic year, share some highlights you may not be aware of and ensure you are fully aware of the planned timings for September.

Summer Celebration Concert

Students performed in the most amazing Summer Music Celebration on Tuesday evening, which even included a poetry reading from Mrs Hopkins, one of our Teaching Assistants, and now a published poet!

Ms Powell and Ms Ralph put together a wonderful show, showcasing both instrumental and vocal talents from across the academy. It was a very proud moment as Headteacher to be able to sit back and enjoy this event. Well done to all those involved and special thanks to Will, Nicola, Ellen and Amy, who came in to support!

It was also wonderful to have some of our artists celebrated with the Art Exhibition in the hall! Mrs Mead and Mrs Piddock, worked hard to pull this together and showcase some excellent artwork.

Sports Day

Yet another proud moment was Sports Day – an absolutely fantastic event at Mudford Rec, where students performed amazingly. We even had a chance to reintroduce the 'Mudford Mile' for the Year 7 and Year 8 students, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to Mrs Thomas, Mrs Morrison and our PE Team for organising this event, and well done also for the fantastic Sports Awards evening which was another brilliant event and a great chance to celebrate!

This year has been one full of things to celebrate as, once again, the academy has gone from strength to strength. The events above, plus the amazing successes in Design and Technology events, Maths challenges, in the classroom, in the exam hall, and elsewhere across the academy have been a joy to be a part of. Our core values of community, opportunity, enjoyment, success, and ambition are really shining through, thanks to the hard work of staff, the commitment and dedication of students and the support from our families. Thank you all.

Last Day of Term

A reminder of the timings for the school day tomorrow (Friday 21 July). We will finish for the summer at lunchtime on **Friday 21 July**. There will be a staggered end of the day as follows:

Year 7 leave at 12:15
Year 9 leave at 12:20
Year 8 leave at 12:25
Year 10 leave at 12:30

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

Returning in September

INSET Days:

Friday 1 September will be an INSET day. Teachers will be heading to Writhlington School in Radstock for training with the other 11 secondary schools from the Trust.

Monday 4 September is also an INSET day, when staff will be at Buckler's Mead, continuing with training and making final preparations for the year ahead.

Back to School – Launchpad!

The first day back to school for Buckler's Mead students will be Tuesday 5 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 08:27 (gates close)	For registration
Year 8	12:00	Start Period 4
Year 9	09:25	Start Period 2
Year 10	12:45	Period 4
Year 11	11:05	Start Period 3

Our new Year 7 students should arrive and meet in the Main Hall.

Students in Year 8 to Year 11 will begin their day in their registration bases, before heading to assembly.

New Developments

Over the last few years we have invested heavily in improving the fabric and facilities at the academy. This has included refurbished classrooms throughout the academy, new roofs, tarmac areas to allow for more space at break and lunch, the introduction of Student Services, the list goes on!

During half term the initial work was started on our refurbished dining room (students have had to put up with it looking quite messy in the interim). This will be completed over the summer, with the removal of walls, new floors, ceiling and furniture. We will then move onto our new Library/ Study Centre area. As you will be aware, reading and literacy is a priority for us and this will be a vital development moving forward, which we hope to have completed by October half term.

Staff Farewells

It's that time of year when we say goodbye to a number of colleagues. Mr Barker, Ms Sims, Mrs Mead, Ms Harris, Ms Vickery, Mr Wagland, Ms Ralph and Ms Royle are all moving onto new schools, while Mr Bailey, is retiring from teaching. Mrs Lucas (Science Technician) and Mrs Hopkins (SEND Teaching Assistant) are also leaving us for new adventures. So we wish all of our colleagues who are moving on best wishes, and obviously Mr Bailey a long and happy retirement.

We also wish Ms Dunsby good luck. She will be heading off on maternity leave mid-September, so a hugely exciting time for her and her family.

New Staff Joining the Academy

It is very exciting to announce that we are welcoming new staff to the academy, some of whom have already started with us.

Ms K Mulvey is joining our English team
Miss J Wybrew is joining our Art team
Mrs V Rumsey is joining our Science team
Mrs M Coate is joining our History team
Ms I Lloyd is joining our Art and DT team
Mrs H Beaumont has joined our Admin team
Mrs C Johnstone has joined as an SEN Teaching Assistant
Mrs Newman has joined our Student Services team

Many thanks for all your support this year. Buckler's Mead continues to be a better place to come to school every year and much of that is down to the commitment of our whole school community, which includes all school staff, the students and of course our families.

I'm looking forward to getting started in September already, but in the meantime have a wonderful, safe and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Lawrence', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MR M LAWRENCE
Headteacher