



Buckler's Mead
ACADEMY

Inspiring Education For All

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ML/DJS

25 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't quite believe we are at the halfway point of this half term already, and as you can imagine it has been a busy one!

On 10 January we hosted our first school wide Celebration of Reading competition. Many thanks to those parents who were able to attend and support their families. This was a real highlight as so many of our students read beautifully from seen and unseen texts and their own work. Thanks to the English Department and in particular, Mrs Vella and Ms Dunsby for their work on this. The overall winners were:

Year 7	Ashleigh Niescierowicz
Year 8	Tyler James Watson
Year 9	Lewis Harington
Year 10	Callum Murray
Year 11	Zoe Harris

The outright winner and 2023 Public Reading Champion was Ashleigh Niescierowicz. All those taking part should be extremely proud of themselves.

Our students showed a really mature attitude when the snow arrived last week. I felt it was essential we stayed open if we possibly could so the site team checked the site to ensure it was safe. We built in a review period between 11.00 and 12.00, by which time, thankfully, the sun had come out. This was undoubtedly the right call as students were able to enjoy the snow sensibly during their break time, without missing out on any of their learning. The brilliant site team then worked really hard to make sure the site was safe for the following morning.

In premises news, the old study centre is currently being restructured and will become our Student Support Base, with the study centre (library) relocating to the English block.

Thank you to all those Year 11 Parents who braved the cold and icy weather to attend Parents' Evening last week. This was an extremely well attended evening and will really help the Year 11 students in the run up to their exams in the summer. Next week sees the start of 'Period 6', the extra lessons being put in place at the end of the day to support that extra push to get those high grades. Mr Gold, Mrs Coulter and Mr Yeates are working hard to make sure the package of support we have in place for all Year 11s over the next few months really makes a difference.

Mrs Lewis' Geography trip to Paignton Zoo took us by surprise, selling out in 45 minutes. This is a record and not something that we have experienced before! In response we increased the number of students who are now eligible to go on this trip. We will adjust the timing and give plenty of notice for the release onto ParentPay of trips in the future.

Headteacher: Mr M Lawrence BSc Hons.

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In staff news, Ms Laws joined us from Holyrood Academy, Chard this half term as a new Assistant Headteacher and Maths teacher. She is very welcome and has already made a great start. We were, however, sad to see Mrs Kelly, our PE Teaching Assistant leave us for a new Challenge. She leaves with our best wishes.

High praise for some of our students came from the national 'Falcon 2 Challenge' sponsored by Boeing, Aeronautical Society, 'Aerobility' and Middlesex University. Mr Tofts and the Technology department have led on this and it is great to report a '2nd Place Winner' for the poster designing a flight simulator. Those involved were: Alice Smith, Anastaszja Gosciniak, Arthur Hann, Shubhangee Das, Jordan Lumsden, Jay Schooley, Teofil Iancu, Evie Underhill, Ellen Leighton and Caius Lonele.

A reminder of some of our key rules – energy drinks and fizzy drinks, including 'Prime', are banned items and should not be bought into the academy. If they are, they will be confiscated. Students should arrive for school by 8:27 am, which is when the main gates will be closed. Students should be lined up and ready to be in registration for 8:30 am.


Overall we are really proud of the behaviour of our students around the academy and in lessons. This is something that is consistently commented on by visitors, particularly those who work in other schools. Our students know how to 'show off their best', but they do sometimes need reminding of just how good they are!

You will be aware that the NEU teachers' union has voted in favour of strike action, with the first day due to be 1 February (next Wednesday). We are currently working on our plan. The aim is to be open for all year groups as usual, but obviously this may not be possible. More information will follow in the next few days.

And finally a plea! Please ask your sons and daughters to be careful and vigilant of traffic on their way to and from school. The sun shines brightly and is low in the sky at this time of year, making crossing St John's Road and other roads difficult at the end of the day. Visibility is also difficult for car drivers, so please ask your sons and daughters to put phones away and hoods down when crossing roads and be very careful. I also thank you for your care and attention when collecting and dropping off students at the beginning and end of each day.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



MR M LAWRENCE
Headteacher