



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Welcome to our Buckler's Mead Academy

Spring Term 1 Newsletter.



So here's another action packed newsletter bringing you up to date with so much of the activity that has been taking place at Buckler's Mead over the last few weeks. It has been (as always) a busy time with lots to celebrate. You will be aware that the number of students

applying for places at Buckler's Mead is growing rapidly, and to accommodate the extra students who are applying we have been looking to recruit the very best people to join our strong team of staff. I am delighted to welcome Mr Cameron, who is joining us as Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for safeguarding. Mr Cameron joins us from a successful school in Slough and is a highly experienced senior leader. Mrs Morgan has joined us as a Cover Supervisor, again Mrs Morgan brings a wealth of experience to the role, Mr Pearce, an experienced Maths Teacher joins our team as a Maths Tutor, and Ms Francis, an Oxford graduate and an experienced tutor joins the English department. Mr Weston, a highly talented musician and music teacher, joins our Music department. Finally it is a pleasure to welcome back Mr Fletcher, formerly part of our leadership team and someone who has given a great deal to the academy, returning as Associate Assistant Headteacher: Key Stage Three.

Welcome back The Class of 2023- Record Breakers!!!!

Awards Evening 2023 - Thursday 11th January

It was with great pride that we welcomed back to the academy the Class of 2023 to celebrate their **record breaking GCSE results** and success last summer. The students enjoyed catching up with each other and their teachers; sharing their experiences of life after Buckler's Mead. As part of the evening we awarded our seven special awards to the following students (from left to right):

The Dennis Bagnall Award for Academic Effort - Harry Galpin

The Ashford-McKenzie Memorial Cup for Determination to Succeed - Keira Saunders

The Mandy Perkins 'My Lovely' Award for Kindness and Caring towards others - Sabiha Mustafa

The Gulliver Music Award for Outstanding Effort and Loyalty to the Music Department - Ellen Leighton

The Len Knight Cup for Merit - Harry Woodbury

The Dr Christopher Collins Memorial Cup for Academic Achievement - Shubhangee Das

The Keith Richmond Cup for Merit - Jennifer Reynolds





Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Public Reading Competition - Tuesday 16th January

What a night!

I don't think I've ever felt so proud of the academy as I did on this evening. On Tuesday January 16th we gathered in the hall for the grand finale of our public reading competition - a huge endeavour that every student takes part in.

It was a huge team effort. From the brilliant Mr Tofts, who helped us get the hall ready with lighting etc, to the wonderful prefects serving tea and coffee. Thank you to everyone who helped us out either before or during the event.

We had 27 students involved in the evening itself, with 11 of them finalists and the others volunteers who delivered an array of speeches, poems and Shakespeare.

The reading finalists themselves battled it out at the podium, firstly reading their prepared piece and secondly reading an 'unseen' piece. To say their performances were brilliant would be quite the understatement. Highlights included Boss (on the box) - who had the audience eating out of the palm of his hand and Georgia - who had the audience weeping! I could mention every single one of them for their performance as they were all absolutely superb.

Our esteemed judges were both from inside and outside the academy and it was a particular pleasure to be joined by Dan Skirrow, The MNSP Trust Lead for English and Alison Jeffery, Strategic Manager of Curriculum and Literacy from the local authority. Both were astonished by the standard, the confidence and the quality of performance from all our students. To quote our visitors:

'Huge congratulations on such a fantastic evening! I was truly astonished by the standard of reading and speaking'

'What an amazing event for the school community and a really great illustration of the school's commitment to reading and the difference it can make to the students you serve'

We performed to a packed hall - a huge thanks to the parents, carers, friends and students who turned out to support us on such a bitterly cold evening.

The overall winners were:

Year 7: Boss

Year 8: Darcy

Year 9: Daniel

Year 10: Samuel

Year 11: Georgia

Overall Winner: Georgia

Mrs Vella





Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

The Library.... coming soon

Mr Povey and the Site Team have been very busy rebuilding a unique space for the library. Walls have been knocked down, new floors and ceilings put in place and a complete redecoration. Reading is a priority at Buckler's Mead and this new welcoming space will form an integral part of our read to succeed programme, and our commitment to getting students to read for pleasure.



Sports News

Somerset Inclusive Cricket

Somerset Cricket Club approached Buckler's Mead to run an inclusive cricket initiative which included three year groups and leaders. The students were introduced to table cricket in which a mini festival has been planned for March against other schools in the area. The older students played a game called "Super 1" which involved all the key skills needed to play cricket. The leaders were put through their paces being taught how to set up the games and actually run them as clubs later in the year. It was a rewarding day for all with Somerset Cricket Club complimenting the students on their fair play and resilience.



Under 14 Boys Football

The Year 9 team competed against a very strong and physically big Kingsmead School. The boys battled well right from the start and held their own. Unfortunately when it came to set pieces they were out sized and the goals mostly came from corners or free kicks. As is always the case, the boys never gave up and were rewarded when a 25 yard strike from Dexter Starnes went into the top corner of the net. Unfortunately it wasn't enough to win the game. However the boys did take away much from the game.





Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

County Panathlon Games

A number of our students took part in the County Panathlon games in Street. The students competed as a team participating in a number of multi skills activities. They all accumulated points which were then finally collated and added to give the team total score. The students were up against a number of other schools in the county. The team gained a bronze medal. A fantastic achievement by the pupils and a very enjoyable experience for them all.



Under 16 Girls Football

For some girls this was their last game representing the school. The girls have really gelled as a team over the season and this paid off by them being unbeaten in the final 2 games of the season. They drew 2-2 against a very strong Stanchester team and were comfortable winners against Sexey's. The girls have had a fantastic season and it was a great way to finish. Well done to all who were involved.



County Cross Country Championships

Buckler's Mead had a record number of students qualify for the county cross country championships which were held at RNAS Merryfield on Saturday 20th January. As expected there was a very strong field of runners from all around the county. Evie Sky Hallett and Lily Goodson put in some good performances.

Congratulations to all those who qualified.



Primary School Basketball Festival

10 primary schools from around the South Somerset area entered into the primary basketball festival. The leaders took charge of the games and were very competent as well helpful in coaching them as they were playing. The leaders were complimented on their maturity and how they took responsibility for each of their games. A good afternoon was had by all those pupils involved.



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Under 12 Girls Football

It was the last game of the season for girls football which has been very successful this year. The Under 12 team were entered into the Under 12 festival but due to a number of schools pulling out they ended up playing Preston. They mixed the players into two teams and took on Preston's strongest girls. Both teams were unbeaten until they played each other. A Ruby Plumley hat trick was the difference between the two teams who played some very competitive football and look very promising for next year.

Well done and congratulations to all girls who have played a part in this girls football season.



Year 7 THALES - Sphero Programming and Coding Day

Year 7 learnt about programming and coding with the company THALES through using tablets to control little robot balls called Spheros.



"We could change the colour and move the balls around. When we got good at it we did an obstacle course" Mia 7SEH

"We learnt what robots were and how to control them using the app" Rhylee 7SEH

"We had to put in the angle we wanted the ball to go" Victoria 7SEH

"The challenge was to program the Sphero so that it moves through two cups without knocking the cups down. They were hard to program. We had to use different blocks in the app to make the Sphero move" Raghad, 7HIW



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Year 10 Work Experience - Monday 13th - Friday 17th May 2024

Year 10 students are in the process of making contact with local employers to find placements to experience the world of work during our work experience week. If you are a local employer who would be able to offer a student a meaningful experience please contact our Careers Coordinator, Kate Kitchen

workexperience@bucklersmeadacademy.com

Careers News and Updates

For all the latest news and information about career opportunities in our area please see the emails from Ms Kitchen, our Careers Coordinator and keep an eye on the Careers section of our website where we post updates we receive from local employers and training providers in our locality and further afield.

Design and Technology News

In Design and Technology this term we started off in the first few lessons learning about the design process and how to evaluate our designs. In one of the first double lessons, in our teams we all made our designs. We then talked about each design until we came up with a conclusion on a design. We then modelled our design and added some extra components that we thought were good. We evaluated this design before making an improved one. We then will present our final design.

Harry, Year 9

Performing Arts Dance Workshop

My opportunity to partake in the recent Grease workshop at my school was fantastic. The team we worked with taught us amazing skills to contribute into the singing of "Grease is the word" and some incredible west end choreography to "Grease Lightning". As a musical theatre lover that's been performing almost my whole life, I thought the fact that myself and so many other students got to participate in the workshop was such a fun, engaging activity that really allowed us to dive deeper into our interests. I'm so thankful for the school and for the amazing time I had last Friday!

Myra Strick, Year 9





Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

What's been happening in Art this half term?

Year 7 have been working on creating chine collé Poly Prints inspired by artist Angie Lewin studying the theme Natural forms.



Noor



Lily, Millie (top right), Ragged (bottom right)

Year 8 have created textured clay tiles of Landscapes informed by the work of Rebecca Vincent.



Year 9 have studied Pop Art to produce a screen print image of fruit in the style of Karan Singh specifically looking at form, contour lines and pattern.





Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

To complete the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award students need to complete four components: volunteering, skill, physical and the expedition. Since completing their expedition in October our Year 10 students have been busy working towards these other components and three of them share their experiences here:

Sam Potten

Section: Voluntary Service

Activity: School Librarian

Since November as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award I have been volunteering for the school library. I have been cataloguing mini library collections and running errands. This has been an enjoyable part of my week and will continue to be whilst I complete this section. I would highly recommend the DofE to others my age as it enables you to further your knowledge and help make your community a better place.

Max Palfreeman

Section: Skill

Activity: Skill at Arms, Army Cadets.

I started my skills section in August 2023. The skill that I have chosen to do was my Skill At Arms training to prepare for shooting blank rounds, live rounds at targets and the standard air rifle. I also do this to practise my firing positions, my aim and my general safety with the SA80 rifle. We also practise for competitions and try to earn badges for scoring a certain amount of points with a single magazine.

Leilana Brolley

Section: Skill

Activity: Cookery

Since October I have been doing a new skill which is cooking and trying new recipes. So far I have managed to try a range of different techniques and cuisines from different countries from around the world. I have enjoyed it very much when making it and eating it too. So far I have made tacos, burritos and Italian parmesan chicken with noodles. As well as that I spent more time baking. So far I have been making cakes, cookies and brownies. My favourite so far was homemade cinnamon rolls. I have about a month left before I finish this section but I will continue to cook and bake afterwards.

We will be launching the Bronze Award to Year 9 later in the Spring Term - for more information speak to Mr Hawkins, Mrs Gale or Ms Laws or any Year 10 who is already making good progress towards their award!

Upcoming Events





Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Year 7 Corfe Castle Trip

Year 7 had an excellent day out at Corfe Castle, where they were able to apply their learning from lessons within Geography and History. They completed tasks such as field sketches and interpreting OS Maps. In addition, they were able to visit and see what a real motte-and-bailey castle was like and the history of why it is an incomplete castle. Students were well behaved and a credit to the Academy. Thank you to all the students and staff for making it a fun day.



The journey took an hour. When we went outside we saw a mini display of Corfe Castle and Mrs Coate explained to us that the walls were an important part of the castle as they were the strongest and stopped enemies from invading.

I enjoyed this trip because we had the chance to explore the castle and have fun with friends.

Millie B 7HJW

I learnt how to identify the location of things and places into a map. I enjoyed the fact that we could see the contour lines from the map in real life. We stood on a slope and on the map it showed that it was hilly.

Laura B

I learnt some map skills and the history behind the castle.

I liked looking around the ruins. It was fun to imagine what it would have been like to live in the castle.

Ava, 7SEH

On the trip, I learnt about the history of the castle including the fact that there are two baileys; one for the royal hunting forest and one for cooks and kitchens.

I also learnt about how to do a field sketch and labelling everything in it. We learnt about contour lines, and where they are in real life.

Overall it was a fun trip and the learning was very well integrated into a fun trip.

Janeisia P, 7SEH

