



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Spring Term 2 Newsletter April 2025

The sun has finally come out and the longer days are upon us, which is a time that always coincides with the really important final push for Year 11. It has been a pleasure to watch them working so hard in the run into their final exams. The maturity this year group have shown and their dedication during after school and holiday revision sessions is a credit to them! This newsletter is once again full of many of the fun and exciting events that have taken place at Buckler's Mead over the last few months really demonstrating that we have a school that we can be really proud of. The end of term is always a good time to reflect on achievements and all the best bits of the term, but is also a time when we often have to say goodbye to valued colleagues who are moving on to new challenges. This term we are saying goodbye to Mrs Hopkins and Ms Mulvey, who have been brilliant colleagues to work with. We wish them well for the future. As we enter the Summer Term, we look forward to inviting our new cohort of Year 7. Due to our growing reputation, we are looking forward to welcoming more of them than we have for many years. It is going to be great to welcome them to the Buckler's Mead community and get to know them all really well!



Facebook and Instagram



This newsletter is a snapshot of some of the amazing things we get up to at Buckler's Mead Academy. To keep up to

date with news from the Academy please follow us on social media.



Celebrating the 100 Club: Encouraging Attendance, Building Success!

Celebrating the Success of the 100 Club!

We are delighted to celebrate the success of our *100 Club*, which has been running for over 7 months and continues to improve student's' attendance! The *100 Club* is a special initiative designed to reward students who demonstrate outstanding commitment by achieving 100% attendance in a calendar month. All eligible students are automatically entered into a monthly prize draw for a chance to win exciting rewards!

Since its launch, the *100 Club* has motivated students across all year groups to show up every single day, and the results have been truly impressive. As we enter our eighth month, students are still continuing to strive towards joining the club and the monthly draws have become a Buckler's Mead fixture!

A huge congratulations to our *winners* so far, who have each received well-deserved prizes for their dedication and perseverance. More importantly, we want to celebrate every single student who has worked hard to achieve 100% attendance – your efforts do not go unnoticed, and you should all be incredibly proud!

We are also thrilled to introduce a brand-new initiative: 100 Club SKY HIGH! This exciting new tier celebrates students who not only attend every day but also maintain zero negative behaviour points throughout the month. Just like the original 100 Club, students who qualify for SKY HIGH status will be entered into a monthly draw for special prizes. It's our way of





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recognising those who consistently strive for excellence in both attendance and behaviour.

The *100 Club* and *100 Club SKY HIGH* continue to encourage a positive school culture by promoting consistency, responsibility, and resilience. Let's keep up the momentum, aim for perfect attendance and positive behaviour, and make the next prize draw even bigger and better!

Keep showing up, keep shining, and remember – *every moment matters!*

Year 10 Theatre Trip - *Birdwatching* Bath



On Friday 21st March, Year 10 Performing Arts students and I visited Theatre Royal Bath to watch a new and exciting play called "Birdwatching".

Originally performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the play features three female characters: Amelia, Poppy and Lauren, who are wild camping in the Northumberland forest when "a watchful presence takes hold over the camp: but who is watching who?"

It was a fabulous production and I was impressed by the quality of acting and plot.

The actors held the audience in the palm of their hands! The scary story of a fairy boy abandoned in the woods by his human parents and that the only way to see him without dying was to cover your face in blood and to take off your socks and shoes, was both ridiculous and frightening.

But the things that really impressed me were the sound effects and lighting design. Both design elements set the mood and tone of the performance, transforming from the happiness of

the daytime to the sinister presence at night. The shining of the torch into the audience, the strange noises in the woods and the screams made everyone jump.

At points, the dialogue made me cry and laugh and put me on the edge of my seat.

I couldn't believe they mentioned DofE as I did it earlier in the year and the mention of it did make me giggle.

I would definitely recommend this production to my family and friends, and I would go and watch it again and again!

Jacob - Year 10

MNSP Library Book Awards 2025

8 volunteers have signed up to take part in the MNSP School Library Book Awards 2025. Six books were chosen by the Trust librarians for the competition to see which book is the students' favourite!





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The books they have to read and score afterwards are:

Bird Boy by Catherine Bruton
Keedie by Elle McNicoll
Murder at Wintertide by Fleur Hitchcox
Cross My Heart and Never Lie by Nora Dasnes
The List by Keith Gray
Sisters of Sword and Shadow by Laura Bates

After their scores are submitted the authors are contacted and told how their book did in the competition and the author of the best book wins a trophy!

Many thanks to all the students for taking part!

Mrs Walls - Librarian

English Speaking Union - Shakespeare Competition

Two of our very talented students took part in the regional heats of the English Speaking Union Shakespeare Competition: Harpriya and Olivia. Well done to Harpriya who got through to the South West Final!

A Poet in Our Midst - Poetry workshop with Mrs Hopkins

On Thursday 27th March, two groups of Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to engage in a poetry workshop, led by local poet, Sheila Hopkins. Whilst Mrs Hopkins has been working at Buckler's Mead as an LSA in the Learning Support Base, she has written several poems based in the Academy. She shared these poems and others written in Yeovil. Two poems, 'Friendship' and 'Friendship 2' were inspired by the quote on a stone in the grounds, 'Let this be a timeless place where we can reflect upon the true value of friendship.' Pupils were given time to write their own poems which were shared with the group. Having heard their poems, Mrs Hopkins commented that she had started

writing poetry in her twenties, but it had taken her



published three poetry books to date and donated a copy of each of her books to the Academy library. Mrs Walls will be able to help you to find them.

forty years to realise that she is a poet. 'You are poets already,' she told the pupils. 'Realise it now and enjoy it!'

Mrs Hopkins has



Spring Concert

Once again the audience was entertained by a huge variety of talent and musical styles at the end of term Spring Concert. Students from all year groups took part with performances from bands, singing soloists and duets and a guest performance from Mr Weston on the saxophone. Well done to all involved - a very enjoyable evening!





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Forest School News

We have had a really busy term at Forest School. We are delighted to announce that we are the very happy recipients of a donation from Somerset Gardens Trust which, in addition to the locally donated scaffolding boards, have allowed us to make a start on re establishing the school garden. Able to Achieve very kindly visited during the half term and did a sterling job of clearing the weeds and brambles allowing us to really start using the space. To date we have planted four fruit trees, seven fruit bushes, and have lots of vegetable plants growing from the seeds we were kindly donated from Brimsmore Garden Centre and Paulls of Martock.

We were also lucky enough to have a visit from Able to Achieve who delivered a workshop on the ancient skill of scything; pupils even had a go themselves.

As well as all of this we even found time to make "the best pizza I have ever had" according to one happy pupil.



Careers News

This term we have had visits from a number of different employers running workshops for our students to learn more about the job market. A group of Year 9 students worked with experts from Microsoft to learn more about coding. All Year 8 students got to look inside a Henry vacuum cleaner with Jonathan Dicker, who is the school's Enterprise Adviser and is the Early Careers Manager for Numatic. They took advantage of the opportunity to find out more about the company and the career options that it offers.

James Warren from Droning Media came in this week to deliver 3D Design workshops to Year 9 students that have an interest in design.

James introduced them to using computer aided design software to create a key ring. Their designs will then be printed and sent into school, for the students to keep.





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Year 9 Futures Day Interviews

On the 19th March, Year 9 had the opportunity to participate in Futures Day. Members of different organisations and colleges, such as Thales and Strode College, came into the school together to interview students one on one, as a mock interview. It was a great experience and feedback from both the interviewers and students was massively positive.

A student quoted, "I enjoyed it very much as it helped me experience what could happen in the future for an interview and how to prepare for it." Another said, "I found it useful as, although you could prepare for some questions, there were others that you couldn't prepare for and you had to think about on the spot; it was like a real interview."

The interviews allowed students to think about their future careers and answer questions about their options which have recently been chosen. This experience was incredibly helpful in terms of preparation for future interviews which students would now have experience and knowledge about.

Olivia Chamberlain and Mia Richards.

Year 11 Geography Field Work Visits to Bristol

Over 2 days all Year 11 Geographers got to go to Bristol and collect their data for their Paper 3 exam. The theme was to look at the impacts of urban regeneration, based around Cabot Circus. They also had a chance to walk around the city area and see some of the places they had learnt about in the classroom back in September as Bristol is their UK City Case Study. All students were very well behaved and hopefully can now go into the exams with confidence.



Year 9 Visit to the Tank Museum

The Tank Museum trip was a great opportunity to have been given and allowed us to learn about Hitler's life and the trench experience. We got to do an engaging workshop that educated us on the life of Hitler and what led to the Nazi Party gaining power. During the activity, we were given different artefacts that we had to use to find answers to questions about Hitler. Then we were taken through to the model trenches and told about what it was like by our guide. We got to see what equipment they used and even tried them on. It really helped me to realise what it would have been like for the soldiers in the trenches. Finally, we were given free time to





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explore the museum and learn more about the tanks. Me and my friends had a great time dressing up, looking at tanks and learning. It was a really enjoyable and informative school trip.

Emily, Year 9

Year 10 Advanced Mathematics Support Programme - Trust Lecture

On March 11th, Year 10 top set students and pupils from other schools in our Trust, sat in the main hall and learnt about the jobs that need maths qualifications for you to get that job. Examples ranged from roller coaster designer to finance advisor. This showed us how beneficial the studying of Further Maths can be, and also that people who did Further Maths get paid 11% more for their job than people who didn't do Further Maths. Now, this wasn't just talking, there were activities such as trying to link oil, water and gas to three houses and other maths problems. There was even an experiment where we tried to see if people who were born in the summer had a harder time learning than winter-born people.

Riley, Year 10

Millfield Maths Challenge

Once again we entered a team of Year 10 and 11 mathematicians to take on this team challenge run by Millfield School in Street. The competition is fierce with teams from the local state and private schools all competing on a level playing field. Out of 16 teams we were delighted to finish in 6th place, the highest placed state school. Well done to all involved.

Sparx Maths Homework

Maths homework at Buckler's Mead is evolving! By now as parents and carers you should have received emails updating you on your child's progress with their maths homework using the website Sparx. This is an exciting new tool for us to use to set personalised homework that works

to identify your child's areas for improvement and provides tutorial videos and challenging questions to help them make the progress they are capable of. Look out for the regular email updates that will ensure your child continues to be their best in their mathematics!

PE News

The half term has seen action for all our football and netball teams. We have also taken part in a number of inclusive sporting events.

24-25 Netball Match Report

Years 7, 8 and 9 have fulfilled all their Netball fixtures this season. It has been a mixture of results but throughout the season and with every game the girls have all demonstrated grit and determination, teamwork and progression of their skills and gameplay. All girls had stand out moments across the games with 'Player of the Match' being given to different players each game. Well done girls and we look forward to taking our strengths and building upon them next season.

Year 7 Player of the Match

Alyce Euden-Payne

Laura Musademba

Imogen Cochrane

Year 8 Player of the Match

Thandi Munawa

Ruby Simpson

Ruby Plumley

Year 9 Player of the Match

Emily Crawley

Crystal Gullis

Mbalenhle Sikhosana

Mrs Morrison & Mrs Thomas



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Key Stage 3 Rewards Trips - High Ropes Activity Day

Students from Years 7, 8, and 9 enjoyed a day of team building and risk taking for their rewards trip this term. They visited the High Ropes course in Bristol where they took part in climbing activities, barrel building and various "dangling" challenges. They thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to do something different and step out of their comfort zone.



MN Midsomer Norton
SP Schools Partnership

Become a School Governor



Are you passionate about education? Do you want to help shape the future of young minds?

Becoming a school governor is an incredible opportunity to use your skills, time, and passion to ensure students receive the best education and support. Whether you're a parent, professional, or community member, your voice can make a real impact in the direction and success of our schools.



Make a Lasting Impact in Five Key Ways:

- Attend termly Governing Body meetings, reviewing data and ensuring the best outcomes for students.
- Get tailored, ongoing training to build your skills and understand your role (induction, safeguarding, and more).
- Act as a link governor, focusing on an area of your interest or expertise, and reporting on school progress.
- Represent the school positively in the community – become a proud ambassador!
- Take part in important panels (interviews, exclusions, and more), shaping the school's future.

Who Can Be a School Governor?

No prior experience is needed! All that's required is a commitment to the role and a willingness to learn. We need governors from all walks of life:

- Parent Governors: Provide insights from the parent community.
- Community Governors: Bring your skills and experience, even without a direct connection to the school.
- Foundation Governors: Preserve the school's religious character.
- Staff Governors: Offer the unique perspective of school staff.

What Do You Get Out of It?

Being a school governor is incredibly rewarding! You'll develop valuable skills, make a positive impact in your community, and help prepare students for success in further education and beyond. It's a role that's challenging but never dull, giving you the chance to contribute to something truly meaningful.



For more information, contact Emily Walker (Governance Professional): ewalker@msnpartnership.com

Find a list of local governing bodies on the MNSP website.