



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Summer Term 1 Newsletter.

Welcome to our latest newsletter which is full of many of the wonderful activities and events that are taking place across the academy. As you are aware we have had a busy week, with Ofsted visiting the academy for a graded inspection. I was delighted to have finally received notification of this inspection as I have been keen to show off all the hard work of our staff and just how great all of our young people are! Thank you to all of those of you who completed the Ofsted Parent Survey, it was overwhelmingly positive and I look forward to sharing the content of the report with you in July. Year 11 students are doing us all proud with the commitment and maturity they are showing to their exams. Saturday mornings, Period 6, the Exit Timetable and the schedule for half term is all coming together now and students are entering their exams confidently and smiling on their way out. They are brilliant! Across the year groups there is so much to celebrate, this newsletter gives you a flavour of that. The academy continues to grow and to support this, we have been delighted to welcome Mrs Cox who has joined us as a Teaching Assistant Supporting English and Modern Foreign Languages and Mr Henley, joining us in June as a Maths teacher. We also have a number of new specialist teachers joining us in September.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday and have a wonderful half term.



Year 11 - making the most of every opportunity

We have been delighted to welcome Year 11 into school for the last two Saturdays as they prepare for their GCSE exams. We will continue to offer opportunities for students to revise over the half term break and the weekends after.



Year 11 Revision Resources to use over Half Term

All Year 11 parents have been sent a letter with information about revision resources that have been put together across the MNSP Trust. Please check your email and make use of these over the holidays with your child.

Earth Day - 22nd April 2024

World Earth Day, 22nd April, Year 7s and 10s took part in a live assembly with a range of scientists, climatologists and zoologists to discuss what we can do as individuals to help save the planet and ensure that ecosystems are being protected.





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Year 7 Bag Making in Design and Technology

In the first lesson we watched a video about the different parts of a sewing machine and how to use them. After that we got straight into the more practical side of it. The first time we used a sewing machine was in our first lesson! We drew lines on paper and sewed neatly along them. Some people got it quicker than others, but we all got there in the end.

Recently in Design and Technology we have been making our own tote bags. We pinned our handles on which was a lot harder than I expected. Sewing is really interesting when you attempt to actually do it. Design and Technology has been one of my favourite lessons so far at Buckler's Mead Academy.

Ella Shortland, Year 7



Legally Blonde: The Musical Jr.

Showing Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th July

Rehearsals are well underway for a spectacular musical production of Legally Blonde: The Musical Jr. Students have been learning lines, songs and working on dance routines. Tickets will go on sale on 10th June via ParentPay. Meet the cast:





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Learning about carers with the RSPCA

On Monday 20th May students in our Learning Support Base had a visit from the RSPCA to learn about the work that they do and possible careers working with the charity.

Charlie Mudd, Year 8, writes:

It was very interesting and we learnt lots of facts. One of the facts was about hedgehogs and they asked did we think they had brought more in this year or last year? The answer was last year because they had 364, nearly one every day! They also talked about pets and told us how to look after them.



News from the Music Department

We are busy preparing for our next concert, which will be on Tuesday 16th July 5-7pm. Ticket information will come out nearer the time, however for those who haven't been to one of our summer concerts, (weather permitting) we showcase pieces and songs which have been worked on throughout the year in an outdoor setting - on the school field, festival style! Bring your picnic chairs and rugs to settle in for an evening of BMA musical entertainment.

Music Ambassadors

We are thoroughly pleased to announce our newly appointed Music Ambassadors:

Year 9 - Sebastian Evensen, Molly Coleman and Tyler-James Watson

Year 8 - Harry Cooper, Tjevula Matebele and Ben Potten

"I'm really excited about being a music ambassador. I can't wait to get started". - Tyler

"I'm really pleased to be a music ambassador. I spend so much time in the music department, practising my instruments and rehearsing with other students. This way I will learn more and it will help my CV. I would like a career in music when I leave school". - Harry

These students are usually the first students to arrive in music, and the last ones to leave for the day. They already contribute so much to the music department, and we are thrilled to have them as our music ambassadors.





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News from Food Technology

The Year 8 food technology students have been learning about special dietary requirements. They demonstrated safe and confident knife skills when creating their own version of a delicious vegan curry using chickpea, lentils and vegetables. All ingredients are provided by the school, enabling every student to explore a wide range of foods. They select vegetables, seasonings and often a choice of protein for their dishes.

News from the PE Department

Primary school rounders

The leadership group ran the primary schools' rounders festival on Thursday 16th May. They officiated the entire festival until right at the end when the heavens opened and the children literally had to run for cover. The leaders were exceptionally mature in their supervision and care of the children in extreme weather. Well done team as always.

Inclusive football

Over the past three months the inclusive Under 13 and Under 14 football team have been competing in the county league. As the Under 14 team are a year below most of the teams they have played they have competed and won some games. However, this is their development year and next year they will be the older team and will most likely have some success. The Under 13 team had varied success. They beat all teams except

one over the course of the season. However due to a number of draws they ended up 4th overall in the county. The teams did Buckler's Mead proud and are already looking forward to next season.

Primary school 'B' team Football Festival

The leadership team ran the primary 'B' football festival on Monday 20th May. The teams from the local primary schools played a mini festival where they had the opportunity to play each other. The leaders were complimented on their support through the games when they were officiating.

Under 15 District County Finalists

The Under 15 District representative football team played Mid Somerset in the Under 15 County final. Four players represented Buckler's Mead Academy on the team. The team went 2-0 down but clawed back two goals both scored by Buckler's Mead students: Corey Calway and Adyn White. Adyn's goal enabled the team to equalise with 5 minutes to spare. Unfortunately the game was finally decided on penalties in which Mid Somerset won. Congratulations go to Liam Nardiello, Corey Calway, Ashton Brown and Adyn White. They were a credit to the school.

Year 8 Girls' Rounders

The Year 8 girls had their first rounders match against Sexeys on Tuesday 21st May.

Sexeys won the toss so chose to field, putting Buckler's Mead in to bat first. The girls struggled to begin with to make significant contact with the ball, meaning that Sexeys managed to field quite easily, preventing



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Buckler's Mead from getting to 2nd post to score half a rounder. After 20 good balls, Buckler's Mead had scored 1 rounder. Sexeys went into bat and were able to get quite a few half rounders meaning that at the end of the first innings it was 7-1 to Sexeys.

In the 2nd innings the batting did improve, but Sexeys were very tight in their fielding, so once again prevented Buckler's Mead from scoring more than 2 half rounders. The pressure was therefore on when Buckler's Mead went into the field again. Having played the first innings, the girls were very good at recognising which players were better at hitting the ball. The fielding in the 2nd innings by Buckler's Mead was unrecognisable compared to the 1st innings. By the end of the innings although Sexeys had scored another 5 rounders they only had 2 players left, with 7 of the Sexeys girls getting stumped out at 2nd post. The final score was Sexeys 12 Buckler's Mead 2. Although a disappointing result there were lots of positives and some areas to work on before the next match on Thursday 6th June against Westfield.

Well done to Mbalenhle Sikhosana for becoming Player of the Match (selected by Sexeys) for her great bowling and consistent hitting.

The Flying Start Grand Final

AEROSPACE BRISTOL

Friday 17th May 2024

Friday 17th May saw a very early start to our trip to Bristol for the Grand Final of The Flying Start Challenge. The trip there was a lot easier than expected and the students fresh from a promising Thursday afternoon Glider test were eager to get started.

Aerospace Bristol is a fantastic museum, housing the last flying Concord in its own display hanger. We started with an introduction to the competition and joined our

group for the first Engineering Challenge. This went reasonably well, and then moved on to the second challenge. Our teams had learnt from the first challenge and both produced good towers for the Earthquake Challenge. Points were awarded for design and use of materials.

We next visited the Restoration Hangar where there was a Bristol Freighter – a large transport plane used by the RAF and Commercial Airlines. It was very basic inside and not at all like a modern airliner. There was also a Bristol Blenheim Mk4 aircraft being restored.

Lunch was next followed by our turn visiting the Museum. This was well worth the visit with the whole history of all the aircraft, cars, trucks and other projects built by the Bristol Aircraft Company being displayed. A fantastic interactive museum.

The third Engineering challenge was next and again our students made some good projects. Our teams did well in this challenge with points for design and construction being awarded as well as performance.

The fly off did not go well, with a very narrow flying area and obstacles on either side to rip a wing off your glider, our pilots were taking care with their flights.

A short break and the results were to be announced. Our teams sat at the side as the Engineering Challenge Results were announced. All were a little down as they thought they had not done enough to get near the top. The first two challenge results were announced, then to our surprise The Flying Triangle won the third Engineering Challenge, our teams sat up and the Team collected their Prizes. Great result.

The overall results were next, third was announced, then second and again unbelievably our Year 9 team "The Magic School Bus" came 2nd overall.

What a fantastic result for all the hard work and effort the students had put in to win the Regional Heat and do



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well in the Grand Final. "Never give up" is the moto, you just do not know how the others have performed.

My thanks to – Seb Evensen, Harry Bunkin, Tyler Watson, Noah Gibson, Ben Potten , Zac Mabey and Dominic Brooks.

Thanks also to Mr Atkin for a pleasant trip to Bristol and return back to Buckler's. Mr Tofts



Forest School

This term at Forest school we have begun to recover the school allotment by making some raised beds and filling them with some compost donated by 'allgreen'. We have planted lots of seeds donated by Brimsmore and Palmers Garden Centres and are hoping to harvest some vegetables before the summer holidays. We have been improving our tree house with a rope ladder, a pallet platform and a tarpaulin, we have played lots of games, learned how to sharpen knives for whittling sticks into pegs and have cooked pancakes and campfire bread on the campfire in the woods.



The students have enjoyed this provision and commented:

"Forest School gives me chance to calm down so I can go back into class later"

"It is really calm up in the woods"

"I love everything about Forest School but I like cooking on the fire best of all"

Year 10 Work Experience

Last week Year 10 enjoyed work experience in a wide variety of workplaces in and around Yeovil.



Ollie Fry went to the Cow and Apple in the centre of town and he perfected his waiting skills. It was a good opportunity to work on his hospitality and catering skills in a workplace and he enjoyed making brownies and pulled pork. He also had an opportunity to work with stock control and learn more about running a

business.

Grace Mitchell went to work in the marketing department at Yeovil College where she enjoyed using her creativity skills. The experience boosted her confidence working independently and part of a team.



Ruby Mudd went to the Somerset Reindeer Ranch and has produced this write up of her experience:

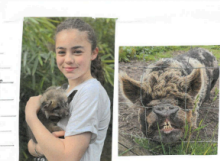
MY WORK EXPERIENCE

Where did I go and why?
I went to the Somerset reindeer ranch. Why? I went because I love animals. I thought it would be nice for me to experience hard work.



What did I do there?
I cleaned out some horse stables. Filled up hay for the chickens and horses. I also chopped down some trees to build a new stable.

Was it hard to achieve?
Overall, I thought that the hardest bit was shovelling some horse poo into a heap. I also think that carrying all the wood up to the goat field feeding the emus was a bit scary because they are a tall animal.



What animals were there?
The ranch has a range of animals. There are: 6 horses, 12 reindeer, 2 pigs, 1 donkey, 3 goats, 4 foxes, 3 skunks, 3 emus, 3 turkeys, 5 cats, 4 guinea pigs, 2 soams, 1 turkey, and 4 chickens.