



# Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

## Summer Term 2 Newsletter.

What a great year for our Academy, starting with the best results in the school's history (and some of the best in Somerset) and ending with the publication of our fantastic Ofsted report! In between there have been numerous examples of things we can be proud of, whether it be in sport, music, drama, technology, art or in lessons themselves. It's a year our whole community can look back on with a sense of enormous pride. The young people who attend our Academy are tremendously talented, hard working and special individuals who are proving no matter how high the expectations they will meet and exceed them. I am incredibly proud of all we have achieved this year and THANK YOU for all your support to make it happen. Best wishes for a fantastic Summer holiday.



## Facebook and Instagram



To keep up to date with news from the Academy please follow us on social media.



## Wildcat Visit



To celebrate the end of a very successful academic year we had a visit from RNAS Yeovilton 825 Squadron on Thursday 11th July. Following a Summer where the Academy received the best results in its history, beating national averages in all areas and securing its place as the most improved school in Somerset, a visit from Ofsted in May provided the icing on the cake, with a very strong 'Good' judgement.

As an academy we are proud of the connections with the helicopter industry in the town naming their school houses after the different types of helicopters manufactured in the vicinity. The students enjoyed the opportunity to see a Wildcat helicopter up close and to meet the crew who are trained to fly this in various different combat situations around the world. To mark the occasion Harry, in Year 8, premiered the new school anthem that he has composed, with accompaniment from Mr Cornelius.





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## An Inspiring Education for All

### Geography Trips - Summer 2024

This half term the Geography Term have taken Year 10 students to Swanage and Year 8 students to Charmouth.

#### Year 10 Swanage Trips

Our Year 10 GCSE Geography students had a great day, with the sun shining whilst they collected their data for their Paper 3 exam next year. They were looking at coastal processes and enjoyed throwing oranges into the sea to see which way longshore drift occurs. They also managed to squeeze in some fish and chips.



#### Year 8 Charmouth Trips



Our students had great fun going to the Jurassic Coast to see what the geology of the coast was like and see some real life landslides that they had been studying in class. The students

were also lucky enough to have a session with the wardens from the Charmouth Heritage Centre where they went fossil hunting. The students were very fortunate to find a whole range of fossils from ammonites to an Ichthyosaurus vertebrae which dates back 195 million years.



Olivia and Noemie write:

'After we arrived in Charmouth we split up into two groups for our activities. Each group spent time on the beach searching for fossils and sea glass along the shoreline. We managed to find some magnificent pieces including ammonites and belemnites. After fossil hunting we got to visit the Charmouth Heritage Fossil

Museum so we could learn more about how fossils are formed. Unfortunately, on Monday the weather was windy and rainy but that did not spoil our fun. At lunch we all had fish and chips followed by ice cream. Me and my peers really enjoyed this trip and will remember it as one of the best.'

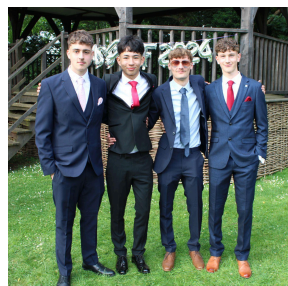
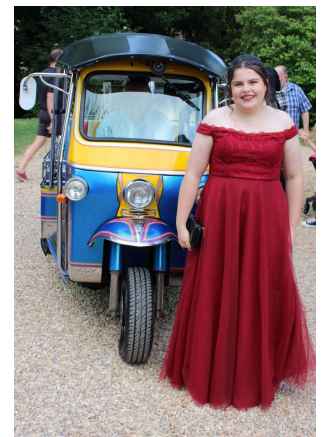
#### Year 11 Leavers Day

At the end of June we bid a fond farewell to the Class of 2024 with a celebration assembly and the traditional shirt signing. We look forward to welcoming Year 11 students back in August to celebrate their successes!



#### Year 11 Prom

Year 11 once again celebrated their prom at Haselbury Mill near Crewkerne. The students arrived in style in a variety of forms of transport: very posh cars, on motorbikes and a tuck tuck! Students and staff enjoyed a two course sit down meal followed by lots of dancing.







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## An Inspiring Education for All

### Smallpeice Trust - Design an App Day

In June we had our second visit from the Smallpeice Trust to deliver a fun filled STEM day to Year 9. This day focused on app development and students had to work in teams and produce a promotional video for the app they'd created.

Aaron writes:

'We had to create an app that would help people around the world. We could choose from a selection of things: crime, zombies, tropical storms or dangerous situations. This was a teamwork task where we were all given a different role to undertake. The winning team got a speaker at the end from THALES.'

### Key Stage 3 Art

This half term Year 7 have made some fantastic Aboriginal inspired paintings:



All Year 7 students at Buckler's Mead Academy have recently completed an impressive Aboriginal Art project, earning praise for their creativity and dedication.

The project, which involved exploring Aboriginal symbols, colours and native animals, resulted in large,

vibrant paintings that highlight the students' artistic abilities and understanding of Aboriginal culture.

Our young artists delved into the rich tradition of dot painting, a distinctive style used by Aboriginal artists to tell stories and depict nature. Through their artwork, the students not only showcased various Australian animals but also incorporated traditional symbols bringing their paintings to life with respect for the cultural heritage they studied.

"We are incredibly proud of our Year 7 students and their efforts; their work is a testament to how ambitious and creative they are!"

The success of this project has set a high standard for future endeavours, and the school encourages these young artists to continue being ambitious and imaginative in their artistic pursuits next year. With such a strong foundation, there is no doubt that the Year 7 students at Buckler's Mead Academy have bright artistic futures ahead of them.

Congratulations to all the students involved in this remarkable project.

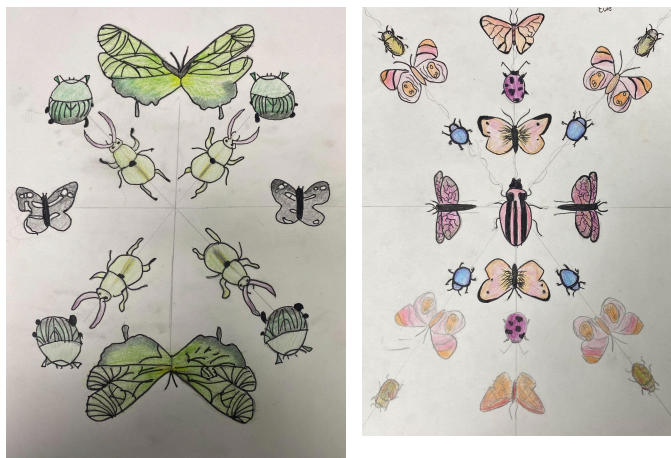




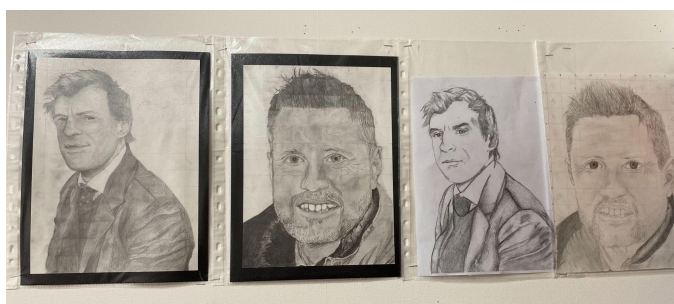
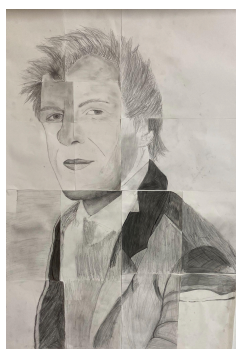
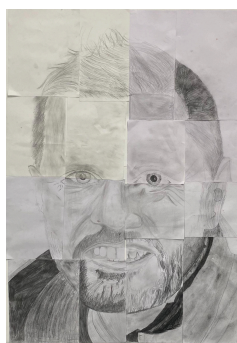
# Buckler's Mead Academy

## An Inspiring Education for All

Year 8 have been looking at insects and repeat patterns to create their own work inspired by Damien Hirst.



Year 9 have been studying portraiture. They have worked on individual pieces and also worked collaboratively to create large scale drawings of Mr Lawrence and Mr Yeates.



### Legally Blonde - a Triumphant!

A cast from Years 7 - 10 put on a spectacular school production last week, supported by members of teaching and support staff across the whole academy.

Emily writes:



'Being in Legally Blonde was such a privilege and I really enjoyed it. I feel honoured to have been part of the cast. I still remember the first rehearsal when we all got introduced. It's amazing

to think back to that and look how far we came together and as individuals. Rehearsals were full of energy and we helped each other get through difficult times. Of course we weren't perfect, but we made it and the end result was incredible. I've never felt more welcomed in my life: the cast of Legally Blonde made it feel like home.'



Harpriya writes:

'Legally Blonde was the best introduction to musical theatre I could have had. Being in this production has made me want to pursue and explore more aspects of musical theatre. Our rehearsals were of course stressful but so







# Buckler's Mead Academy

## An Inspiring Education for All

worth the work as they ended in new friendships that i will have as long as I'm part of Buckler's Mead. I also discovered a new confident side of myself. This was a very enjoyable experience and I felt real pride in performing. I am looking forward to taking part in the next performance.'

*The next BMA Production will take place in February 2025 - watch this space for more information and your chance to be part of it.*

### News from the PE Team

#### A summary of the year in PE

This academic year, 2023-24, we entered all area leagues in Netball, Hockey, Football, Basketball, Rugby, Athletics and Rounders. The Year 7 Girls have been extremely successful; runners up in Hockey and Rounders finals and runners up in the Year 7 Athletics championships. Year 8 Girls qualified for the area Netball finals and were placed 4th.

Our Under 12 Girls Football team had great success and are League Champions. We were 3rd in the County at the Inclusive Panathlon Event and Thomas Rowe, Elisha Guppy and Max Palfreeman all qualified to represent Yeovil at the County Athletics Championship. Thomas Rowe - 100m and Long Jump, Elisha Guppy - Long Jump and Max Palfreeman - Shot Putt.

From Buckler's Mead Academy , Liam Nardiello, Corey Calway, Ashton Brown and Adyn White all represented and played District Football.

Our strong Leadership Academy provided quality leaders for a number of Primary and Inclusive Festivals including a National Dodgeball Tournament. They were highly praised by staff from many schools and represented the academy magnificently.

We have had external coaches from Somerset County Cricket delivering sessions to both boys and girls throughout the year. Mrs Newman, our



resident Dance Teacher, has delivered a fun dance workshop to girls and boys in Years 7, 8 and 9 which was extremely popular and successful.



Mr Ovey, our resident Bath DPP Rugby coach, has delivered coaching sessions to Year 7 and 8 girls and we were lucky enough to have him deliver rugby to the boys at the start of their season during

lessons.

Another amazing Sports Day saw Vixens lift the overall Sports Day Trophy as House Champions. Some fantastic performances across all events and school records were broken by Ruby Plumley (300m), Elisha Guppy (300m).

We look forward to our annual Sports Awards Evening in September to celebrate all these successes and more!

Thank You

Sarah Morrison (Head of PE) and the PE Department

#### Year 7 Inclusive Cricket with Somerset Cricket Club

The Year 7 boys were invited to an inclusive skills cricket initiative by Somerset Cricket Club. One of the coaches worked with the boys and developed their hand eye skills with some batting, fielding and bowling drills. They then finished off the day with a small-sided game against the other schools which Buckler's Mead eventually won. The boys were a credit to the school and had a fun day.





# Buckler's Mead Academy

## An Inspiring Education for All

### Year 9 Football Festival

The Year 9 football team split into two small sided teams and played a mini tournament against Westfield and Preston. Every team played each other and our teams ended up champions and 3rd place.

Congratulations boys, a great way to finish the season.

### Year 7 Football Festival

The Year 7s played the small sided festival at Preston on Wednesday 5th June. There was some tough opposition which created some really hard fought games. The Year 7s played some attractive football at times and did themselves credit against some talented opposition. They eventually came 4th and 6th overall.

Well done boys.



### Sports Day - Thursday 4th July

Once again Sports Day was another successful event for the academy taking place at the Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena at Yeovil Recreation Centre . We were very lucky with the weather (both the day before and the day after were wet!). Some brilliant performances from a range of students meant that four different Houses won in each year group. They were:

Year 7 Winners - Harrier

Year 8 Winners - Wildcat

Year 9 Winners - Lynx

Year 10 Winners - Vixen

Special mention must go to Ruby Plumley (Year 7) and Elisha Guppy (Year 9) who both broke the school record for 300m. Also to Bobby Phesha (Year 8) and Malachy Gray (Year 9) who were very close to breaking the school record for their performances in the same event.

In addition to the performances, the cheering from the students in their Houses was amazing. The Year 9s and 10s were the best we have ever seen in terms of their support and encouragement. The Year 7s and 8s were also very vocal and made sure they were well and truly heard!

The overall Sports Day winner was Vixen. Well done to all those in Vixen and of course Mrs Hurd, their House Leader!

As a PE department we always strive to make Sports Day an enjoyable day for everyone, so when new members of staff come up to us and say it was the best Sports Day they have ever been to then we know it's been a success!

Mrs Thomas







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## An Inspiring Education for All

### Year 10 Work Experience -12th-16th May 2025

Ms Kitchen, our Careers Coordinator, has written to all Year 9 students to introduce Work Experience 2025. Our work experience week next year is Monday May 12th - Friday May 16th 2025. Students will be able to use the Somerset Work Experience Partnership database in the Autumn Term to look for a placement but can also get ahead by contacting employers now.

If you are a local employer who is able to offer a student a work experience placement next year please get in touch with Kate Kitchen

[kkitchen@bucklersmeadacademy.com](mailto:kkitchen@bucklersmeadacademy.com)

### Year 10 Interview Day - Thursday 11th July

On Thursday 11th July we welcomed 15 employers from local businesses to take part in our Year 10 Interview Day. Prior to the day the Year 10 students prepared their Curriculum Vitae (CV) and the employers used this as a reference as part of their interview process. The employers spoke very highly of our students saying:

"I had at least three students that I would offer a position for a job vacancy (should one arise). I found they came across as Honest, Open and Truthful. They were great communicators, keen to learn and asked me about getting a foot in the door for their chosen career choice".  
Julian Bishop from Video-Trax



"Thank you very much. I really enjoyed the morning, and it was lovely to meet your students. Some were very nervous but afterwards were very relaxed which was very good to see." Ellie Edmonds from abp

### Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition July 2024

Over Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July our next cohort of students completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award completed their expedition.

Jess writes:

Over the weekend of our expedition, our team all got to experience proper teamwork, collaboration, communication and enjoy our local environment in a completely new way!

On Day One, we set off from Buckler's Mead and followed a route through Mudford Rec, through various fields and paths all the way to our campsite where we stayed for the night! The views we

saw were nothing but magical, I had never realised how beautiful the countryside really was until I got the opportunity to see it for myself!



On Day Two, there were a lot more challenging circumstances for us to combat, but it really pushed us out of our comfort zone and many of us faced our fears whether it was critters, heights or anything of the sort. Through a lot of hard work and teamwork we made it to Ham Hill which was our destination and we were all so proud of ourselves once we had completed and passed our expedition!

In my opinion, it was one of the best things I have ever done and I would happily do it again any day of the week! The DofE award has brought me closer to my friends and helped me make new ones along the way! It's a true pleasure and a privilege to take part in!



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News and Events from our local community



**YEOVIL4FAMILY**  
**OPEN DAY**

~~~~~  
MONDAY 12TH AUGUST  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
THE GATEWAY, YEOVIL  
~~~~~

**Come along to meet the team & find out about the new Yeovil4family support programme**

Access to professionals	Holiday activities	
Peer support groups	Workshops	1:1 support

