



PROSPECTUS



**Buckler's Mead**  
— ACADEMY —

**An Inspiring Education for All**



BRILLIANT YEAR

“It has been a **brilliant** year. I have nothing but **praise** for the way my daughter has settled in.”

Year 7 parent

## Welcome to Buckler's Mead Academy

“You have **supported** me and taken an interest in everything I have done. My **confidence** has **improved** so much.”

**T**hese words from one of our students summarise our approach. We believe in every one of our students, aiming to provide an; **‘inspiring education for all’**, to develop happy, confident children who fulfil their potential.

Students and staff are very proud of our academy and hope this prospectus gives a glimpse of our wonderful **community**.

We invest time in developing positive **opportunities** and believe this is a hallmark of Buckler's Mead Academy.

We have a happy, caring, welcoming atmosphere where students thrive and are motivated and stretched by highly-trained, enthusiastic staff creating **enjoyment** in learning.

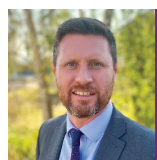
As an academy we are continually evolving new approaches that build a positive learning culture because we are determined to provide the very best to allow students to be **successful**.

**Buckler's Mead Academy is a very special place.**



# Senior Leadership Team

Since September 2019 the **leadership team** has seen a number of key changes as we have endeavoured to get the **best leaders** in place at all levels across the academy.



**Mr Mark Lawrence**  
Head Teacher

I joined Buckler's Mead Academy in 2003 as a newly qualified Geography Teacher. I have worked in a number of roles across the academy and was asked by the Board of Directors to take on the position of Acting Headteacher from September 2019. It is a fantastic honour for me to be leading our wonderful academy. I am committed to ensuring that every student has the very best educational opportunities they can. I have worked with so many amazing teachers, students and their families over the years and this is why I think the sense of community that is created at Buckler's Mead Academy is something that should be cherished and developed as we look to provide an inspiring education for all. Enjoyment of life in the academy is important to me and I see this as a key part of shaping successful young people who are ready for life beyond our academy.

I have lived in this part of Somerset all of my life - I was even born in Yeovil hospital! I enjoy all sport, particularly football; you will often find me in the stands at Yeovil Town.

HIGHLY RECOMMEND

“Moving our daughter to this school was the **best decision we ever made. I highly recommend** it to anyone.”

Year 9 parent



**Ms Kate Royle**  
Acting Deputy Head  
(Pastoral & Safeguarding)



**Mr Paul Balkwill**  
Acting Deputy Head  
(Curriculum)



**Mr Craig Fletcher**  
Assistant Head  
(Behaviour & Attitudes)



**Mr Tim Yeates**  
Assistant Head  
(Teaching & Learning)



**Mrs Sophie Thompson**  
Assistant Head  
(SENDCO)



**Mrs Caren Forsey**  
Associate Head  
Head of Maths



**Ms Megan Dunsby**  
Associate Head  
Head of English



**Miss Rebecca Parsons**  
Associate Head  
Head of Science

ENCOURAGED TO STRIVE

“I have nothing but **praise** for all of the staff. Our boys have been **supported and challenged academically**. They have been **encouraged to strive** and respected as individuals, gaining a confidence and disposition any parent would be proud of. All of this and they have had **great fun too**. I happily recommend this to any parent as the “go to” school.”

Year 11 parent

# Transition

**B**uckler's Mead Academy is **well known** as a **caring academy**.

Our transition for students is excellent and places an emphasis on students **feeling at ease**, even before their first day in the academy. On joining the academy, students are placed into mixed ability tutor groups and remain in that tutor group for their five years at the academy.

## Primary Friendships

As part of the transition process we endeavour to ensure students are with some of their friends from their primary school. Your child's tutor and our learning mentors are at the forefront. Their roles are to guide and support students through their educational journey.

Other key staff such as Year Coordinators and Senior Leaders, are also involved in the transition process ensuring that students and parents are supported and valued.

Relationships with our partner Primary schools are extremely positive with a high level of collaboration and mutual respect.

Regular meetings, visits and collaborative ventures are scheduled between our family of schools so that students know various key staff and feel comfortable in their new surroundings before they start in September.



## GIVING CONFIDENCE

“The teachers are **outstanding** and **genuinely care** about each individual child. I **trust** them with my son's future.”

Year 8 parent

# A Caring Academy



## A Caring Academy

We aim to create a safe environment where students feel valued and they can grow socially, emotionally and academically. At the same time we set out to stimulate their desire to learn and challenge them to achieve the very best they can in all that they do.

At Buckler's Mead Academy we believe pastoral care underpins personal development; students who feel they belong develop their self-esteem because they feel valued.

Pastoral care begins with an underlying ethos of consideration and kindness and is promoted when the staff work collaboratively for the good of the students.

## Nurturing Self-confidence

By encouraging good behaviour and taking on responsibility, students can develop self-confidence, learn to keep things in perspective and to be resilient.

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT

“The arrangements for **Safeguarding** are **effective**.”

OFSTED

# Opportunities

## Expectations

Good behaviour and firm discipline are the basis of a happy and productive learning environment, which is why we set high expectations for the standards of behaviour in our academy.

## Rewarding Effort

This is reinforced with a culture that celebrates hard work and accomplishment in all aspects of academy life, supported by a system of rewards and celebrations that recognise the very best of our students' academic, social, creative and sporting progress.

We treat our students as mature young people who are able to take responsibility for their actions. We aim to make sure that they understand the relationship between effort and achievement, and between responsible behaviour and exciting opportunities.

## At the heart of our community

We believe we are here to serve our community and are very proud of our links within Yeovil. In previous years our student Sports Leaders have organised sporting events throughout the year for local primary schools. We usually host inclusive sporting events for students to take part in and have various classes meet and work with residents groups, such as the local Good Fellowship Group.

## Excellent Facilities

The excellent facilities at Buckler's Mead Academy enhance our students' education and personal development – it is a place students feel safe and want to learn. Our commitment is to continue to develop the site even further to provide some of the best facilities in the country.

## Educational Facilities

- We have eight dedicated ICT suites enabling students to apply ICT skills across the curriculum.
- Our fully resourced study centre offers a safe and quiet place for independent learning and homework.
- A modern auditorium complete with retractable seating, modern lighting and a sound system to complement any production.
- Great facilities in the Music department including an Apple Mac technology/media suite.
- Every classroom in the academy has now been refurbished including our new Maths and Computing area which was completed in summer 2020

## Sports Facilities

- Our leisure centre offers comprehensive facilities to both our students and community users.
- We enjoy an all-weather sports pitch providing a great outdoor resource.



## GOOD BEHAVIOUR

“Leaders have **high expectations** for all.”

Ofsted 2021

“You have a range of strategies to **accelerate** pupils' ability in reading including daily whole class reading lessons.”

Ofsted 2021



# Learning that Challenges and Engages

We know our students are **capable** of remarkable things and we expect them to make **excellent progress** during their time in the academy.



## Excellent Teaching

The best learning takes place in interesting, relevant and engaging lessons. We believe in excellence and have a passion to provide the best education for your child - we value every student and believe everyone wants to and can succeed. We have an experienced, hardworking and caring team of staff who are highly committed to empower and prepare our students for future education and employment.

## Constantly Challenged

Our teachers know each student's starting point and regularly assess them to evaluate their progress. This knowledge of their needs is used to reshape their learning so that each child is challenged to excel.

## Enthusiastic Learners

We want students to be enthusiastic learners, to accept responsibility for their learning and to develop a thirst to learn more. Buckler's Mead Academy teachers provide opportunities for students to consolidate their learning through homework and independent study. This encourages students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed for lifelong independent learning and to manage particular demands, such as GCSE deadlines.

## Homework Tracking

Students are expected to complete 'independent learning' in order to enhance their learning and develop resilience. This homework is tracked by staff to ensure there is a positive impact on learning.

## Read to Succeed

At Buckler's Mead Academy we recognise the tremendous amount of value students gain from regular reading. In September 2019 we introduced Read to Succeed, changing the timing of the school day to ensure for half an hour students are read to, read aloud, read in silence and enjoy reading together. We have chosen some really engaging texts which cover contemporary issues as well as some 'classics'.

# The Curriculum

The curriculum followed at Buckler's Mead Academy is designed to enable our students to become:

- Successful learners, who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- Confident individuals, who are able to lead safe and healthy lives
- Responsible citizens, who make a positive contribution to society
- Aspirational young people, who are aware of the opportunities which exist outside of their immediate experience

## Personal Development

All students within the academy study a personal development curriculum that enables them to discover and delve into topics such as social and emotional health and wellbeing, British values, relationships and living in the wider world.

### GIVING CONFIDENCE

“Pupils are complimentary of their teachers & the education they receive.”

Ofsted 2021

## Broad Curriculum

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are taught a broad range of subjects, which form the foundation of their learning in the academy. These subjects include English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Beliefs and Values, Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages (French and/or German), Music, and Physical Education.

## Options

From the start of Year 10 students are able to exercise a degree of choice with 40% of their time, where they can personalise their learning and complete a combination of courses suited to their interests and talents. The academy offers a range of GCSEs, vocational/BTEC and alternative accreditations.

## Enjoyable Academy

Our watch words are Positive, Self-motivated, Resilient, Determined and Reflective. We want our students to enjoy their time in the academy and take a full part in lessons because they are stimulated, engaged and curious.



# Academic Results and Excellence

We fully **embrace** the notion that a student's time in education is about much more than their final GCSE results at the end of Year 11. However we also **understand** our collective responsibility to do all we can to enable students to **achieve** their very best academic grades to **improve** their life chances and next steps.

## Constantly Improving

We are far from complacent and are continually evolving new approaches that build on our successes because we are determined to provide the very best for our students.

## Rapid Progress

Students make good, and often rapid, progress at Buckler's Mead Academy. We have high expectations of our students and staff. We set challenging targets for each student in all subjects and monitor their progress towards these goals. Where students are successful we celebrate with them and where students need extra support we intervene, support and encourage.

VALUES

“The academy **values** the **progress** of all students.”

OFSTED



ACHIEVING HIGH GRADES

“**Thank you** for having **confidence** in me, in giving me additional responsibility as a prefect and helping me to **achieve high grades**. It has been an **honour** to be part of Buckler's.”

Year 11 student



# Life after Buckler's Mead Academy

At Buckler's Mead Academy we appreciate a major part of our role is to prepare students for their journey through life. We are **committed** to **ensuring** that the part we play ensures a **successful** and happy future for all of our students.

We have a designated Careers Advisor who works with students from Year 7 to Year 11, offering information, **advice** and **guidance** on what is available for students after they leave the academy.

## Raising Aspirations

Through the careers programme, we engage students in tasks to broaden their horizons, raise aspirations and develop a clear vision for their future. This includes the assembly programme, with guest speakers and day to day lessons promoting a sense of working towards a bright future. We also offer a work experience week for Year 10 students which is well supported by local businesses and organisations.

## Successful Futures

Students from Buckler's Mead Academy go on to be successful, whether they choose a local college or sixth form, go further afield, or into the world of employment through the apprenticeship scheme. We pride ourselves on helping each student find the right future for them.



Extremely positive relationships, caring, compassionate, confident young people, responsible citizens, leaders of the future...

## We stand out because we:

- Nurture compassionate, caring and confident young people
- Engage students to be responsible people who show respect for others
- Are a caring, inclusive academy that has equality of opportunity at its heart
- Develop leaders of the future - encouraging students to take on whole school responsibilities at all stages
- Promote the development of leadership at all levels with opportunities to develop their leadership skills and become young leaders in many areas across the academy
- Build extremely positive relationships



## ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENT

"I just wanted to say **thank you** for all the **time and effort** you have spent on me during my time at Buckler's Mead. There have been so many times you could have just given up trying but you didn't. **I really appreciate it.**"

Year 11 student





# Buckler's Mead

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