



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Autumn Term 1 2024 Newsletter.

You will find this newsletter full of articles written by some of our wonderful students. We felt it important that they were able to write about events that are happening in school that they have enjoyed. It is all part of being the fantastic school community that we are.



As the reputation of the Academy grows and the number of students increases we have seen a growth in the number of school leaders who are keen to visit. Without exception they have been thoroughly impressed by what they have seen at Buckler's Mead Academy. I am extremely proud every time I get the chance to show off our wonderful staff and students and I am grateful to you as parents and carers for your support. It is a real team effort to create the amazing culture we have at our wonderful school. Thank you!

Facebook and Instagram



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



Buckler's Mead 100 Club

At Buckler's Mead Academy, we are clear about the importance of attendance on your child's education and time at school. It is vital that students, parents/carers and the academy play a part in making sure every child attends school every day. As one of our initiatives to support exceptional attendance, this month saw the launch of the **100 Club!**



The **100 Club** is a monthly prize draw open to any student who has achieved 100% attendance in the previous calendar month. Each month there will be 4 prizes drawn at random, meaning that each member of the club is in for a chance at winning a £50, one of two £20 or a £10 Amazon voucher in the prize draw.

As we moved into October, Mr Fletcher drew four random names from the September 100 club to give us our winners:

- Charlie Malcolm
- Kyle Bell
- Aaradhya Shinoy
- Kienna Ferguson

The **100 Club** will reset every month meaning that even if your child has missed a day in September, there will be plenty more opportunities for them to join the **100 Club** over the course of the year.

Achieving 100% attendance is a huge achievement for any student, so we hope that membership of the **100 Club** recognises this and that you join us in encouraging all students to aim to 'join the club' every month!





Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Cyber Challenge at Blandford Camp

The Blandford Camp Cyber Challenge Trip that we went on in September was aimed at KS4 secondary school pupils, and it helped us learn how to be safe online, as well as the consequences of hacking and criminality on the internet. We had 10 students take part, and we split ourselves into two teams of 5 to each tackle the entire challenge! There were two sections, each taking up 1hr and 45 minutes! One section was a Cypher Challenge with the goal of gaining as many points as possible to win for your school. There were many different puzzles, ciphers and separate activities that led to the end goal of discovering the 'hacker' and preventing an attack. The other half of the day was spent completing 5 miniature activities, such as building working model cars and finding out information about the Royal Signals! The entire trip was extremely informative and enjoyable!

Jess, Year 11

Year 7 Trips to Corfe Castle

In the morning we got split up into two groups and one group went and studied history. They went to the very top of the keep. The other group went to the bottom of the hill and studied geography. They learnt how to use maps and what contour lines were and some people got sent down a hill with a rope!

When we were studying geography, myself and three others got sent down a hill to show a contour line of the hill and how they worked. I enjoyed understanding the history and past of the castle when we walked around and wrote on clipboards. We answered some questions on the



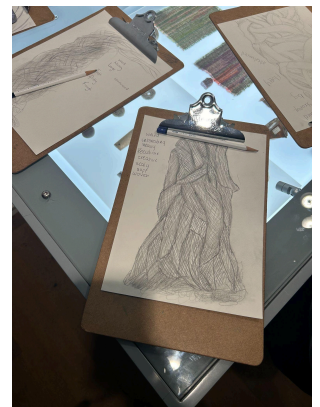
history of the castle and what it looked like 1000 or so years ago.

On this trip I learnt that the keep at Corfe Castle was built in the early 12th century for King Henry I, William the Conqueror's son. It was designed to be impressive – and it certainly was. Standing 21 metres tall, and positioned atop a 55-metre-high hill, this gleaming tower of Purbeck limestone could be seen from miles around.

Layla, Year 7

Year 10 Visit to Somerset Rural Life Museum for a Textile Weaving Workshop

Our Year 10 Art students recently enjoyed a trip to the Somerset Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury, where they participated in a textile weaving workshop. Guided by a textile artist, they learned how natural dyes are made from plants and how to weave wool using traditional techniques. The hands-on experience was a hit with the students, who enjoyed weaving their own samples and learning about textile processes. Many found the creative process both relaxing and rewarding. They left with a greater appreciation for the craftsmanship involved in weaving and how natural resources can be used sustainably. The trip was an enriching experience, allowing students to deepen their understanding of textiles, sustainability, and traditional arts.





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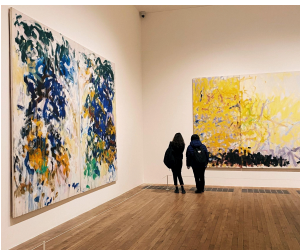
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Year 11 Art Trip – Tate Modern, London

Year 11 Art students recently visited the Tate Modern in London, where they explored the permanent collection galleries, featuring iconic works by artists such as Matisse, the Guerrilla Girls, and Roy Lichtenstein. The collection showcased a wide range of mediums, from painting and photography to sculpture, installation, and even Duchamp's famous toilet seat! The day was filled with new and exciting sights, as students walked around the museum gathering research and inspiration for their



current art projects. They particularly enjoyed seeing such diverse works up close, sparking ideas and creativity for their own artistic development.



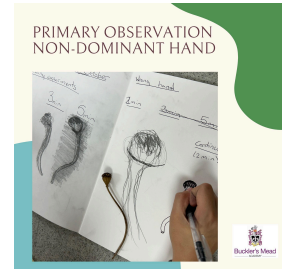
Year 7 Students Take on Timed Drawing Challenge

This week, students embraced a unique artistic challenge to push the limits of their creativity and technique. Working from natural forms, such as dried poppyseed heads, pupils were tasked with completing a series of timed drawing exercises. The challenge included one-minute, three-minute, and five-minute drawings, along with continuous line drawing and even using their non-dominant hand.

These exercises tested not only their observation skills but also their ability to adapt quickly and work under pressure. The results were a diverse



range of expressive sketches, each capturing the essence of the natural forms in a different way. Students found the experience both fun and challenging, gaining new insights into their artistic process. This initiative is part of an ongoing effort to encourage creative experimentation and skill development in the arts.



Duke of Edinburgh Expedition September 2024

On the Saturday, we all arrived at school and we checked our bags, went over some reminder information and then set off at about 9am. Our group walked from school to Mudford Rec and then kept on walking on until lunch. We stopped at a teacher checkpoint and decided it was time to eat so we all sat down and highly enjoyed our lunchboxes we had packed. We then had the pain of putting the bags back on, getting back up and walking again. Up till then, we had a very successful trip with few mistakes, but now we started making quite a few. At one point, we honestly thought one field was never ever going to end; it was relatively funny looking back on it but at the time we just wanted to get to the Reindeer Ranch. We then finally arrived at the Ranch where we got chased and scared by geese but we quickly overcame our fear and put up our tents. When the evening hit, we ate pasta (once the water eventually boiled since we had a broken pot) and then when me, Elisha and Jess went to wash up, Mrs Rumsey got freaked out because she found a chicken hiding out in the toilet she was planning to use.

Day two was much more tiring but we started with strength and ended with it too. We walked along roads and used our road safety efficiently and we got our boots very muddy walking up some horrible hills. Again with the animal theme, we had a herd of cows that frightened us whilst



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

walking through Church Farm. We ate lunch (and lots of sweets) outside Montacute House and at about 4:30pm Sunday we finally completed our Bronze Duke Of Edinburgh Expedition. Overall, I personally loved my DofE experience and am so grateful I had the opportunity to do it.

Mya, Year 10

I have recently completed the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. I found it really enjoyable and it allowed me to develop new skills including a new language, improved my communication and leadership. I would thoroughly recommend the Duke of Edinburgh Award to everyone.

James, Year 11

We have had a successful term with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award with James Laney, Faseela Nishad, Samantha Olaniru, Oliwia Kulbacka, Sam Potten and Paige Whitmarsh all gaining their Bronze Award and even more who are only one section away completing. This represents lots of hard work and dedication on their part, so well done!

Year 10 students have started their progress towards gaining their awards, with two successful expeditions completed. They are now working on their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections undertaking varied activities including working in charity shops, maintaining musical instruments, acting, singing and dancing in the school production, going to the gym, learning languages on Duolingo...to name a few!

Participating in the award will be open to students in Year 9 after the half term. If you are interested please talk to Ms Laws, Mrs Gale or Mr Hawkins.

We Will Rock You - coming to a school hall near you February 2025!



Our experienced production team at BMA have been providing a structured environment for our performers to refine their skills, synchronise with others, and explore creative interpretations. During rehearsals, students have had the opportunity to experiment with different dance styles, learn new songs, receive feedback, and make necessary adjustments to enhance the quality of their performance. We have been blown away by the attitude and commitment of the students during rehearsals and feel we are laying the foundation for a polished and cohesive final presentation, ensuring that every element of the performance comes together seamlessly. We cannot wait to take to the stage and share with you what we have been working on.

Performances will be on Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 February 2025.



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Colour Run

The day of the Colour Run everyone got the opportunity to come to school in non school uniform. Many students arrived excited to raise money and have a chance to make memories with their friends.

The aim of the Colour Run was to raise money for our chosen house charities and to celebrate our academy values of Community and Enjoyment. There were opportunities for students to either run or throw. The majority of students had chosen to run. The students that did the throwing



did an amazing job!

From my perspective as I entered the school gates everyone was so full of excitement and joy. I knew it was going to be a good day because even the teachers were smiling!

Molly, Year 7

Motionhouse Dance Workshop

On Thursday 18th October we hosted the dance company Motionhouse. Students watched a dance performance before then taking part in workshops to develop their contemporary dance skills.



Fundraising Activities this Half Term

This half term we have supported two charities, as well as raising money for our house charities through the Colour Run.

Staff and students enjoyed lots of cakes in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning in September.

On the 10th and 11th of October students across the academy had the opportunity to partake in the 'Great Duck Hunt'. The Prefect Team hid ten yellow rubber ducks for the rest of the school to find in order to raise money for the Young Minds charity for World Mental Health Day. We had a large amount of students take part which was brilliant to see! Eventually we put all the names of the people who participated in a hat and randomly selected the winner which I am pleased to announce was Nozipho in Year 7. Well done Nozipho!



Year 11 PE Trip to Bath University

15 Year 11 Health and Fitness students visited Bath University at the beginning of October. They took part in a variety of fitness testing including speed, power, strength and flexibility, toured the Sports Village and received a lecture on Principles of Training. It was an extremely informative day and well done to Leon who volunteered for a gruelling Vo2 Max Test (this is a treadmill activity that assesses your cardiovascular fitness).





Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

PE News

This half term our sports teams have been in action playing Rugby and Hockey against local schools.

Under 15 Rugby

The Under 15 Rugby Team played their first game against Westfield. Buckler's started very positively, scoring two tries within the first eight minutes of the game. Westfield steadied the ship and defended like trojans, however Buckler's power and strong running led them to 43- 5 victory.

Congratulations all!



The Under 15 Rugby Team played Wadham in what was to be a very physical and hard fought game. There were some ferocious tackles being made by both teams and few opportunities for them to score. Buckler's eventually broke down their defensive line and scored the first try of the game. Wadham responded with a try and a conversion to take the lead. However Buckler's went back into the lead with a well worked try in the corner. Wadham tried to equalise with an early penalty in the second half but missed the posts narrowly. Wadham managed a breakaway try from a counter ruck which again gave them the two point lead. With two minutes to go Buckler's had a penalty 10 metres out and tried to run it through the line with no success meaning Wadham won by the two point margin. A

fantastic, competitive game of rugby played in very good spirit where both teams were a credit to their schools.

Great effort boys!

Under 12 Rugby

The Under 12 Rugby Team played their first festival at Westfield. A strong squad played three games against Westfield, Stanchester, and Holyrood. The boys excelled themselves only losing one game in literally the last move of the game! They showed their resilience, skill and potential to learn as they grew better in every game. Well done boys - congratulations!



Under 14 Hockey

The U14 Hockey team played their first two matches against Westfield and Wadham. They beat Westfield 2-1 (goal scorers: Scarlett C and Mia) and Scarlett C was the player of the match. They beat Wadham 2-0 (goal scorers: Mia and Emilija) and Emily C was player of the match. Both matches they played with grit and determination, demonstrating excellent skill and teamwork. We look forward to their next match and hope for another win!





Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Year 7 Hockey Club

At hockey club, we have a lot of fun! Apart from doing it in PE lessons, some girls also do the after school club, which is amazingly fun! By taking part in this club, we can go play matches outside of school and make our school proud even if we lose because at least we were brave enough to try! You can make new friends, have fun, stay with others and have a fantastic time.

I enjoy all of hockey, even the parts where I have to put on hilarious goalie armour or the times I've fallen to the ground; the most important thing is getting back up and keep going! By far my favourite thing I enjoy the most is my team and friends, even if you haven't played with each other a lot they are still like a family and you will go through winning and losing together!

Greta, Year 7

Recently there was a hockey competition against Huish and we won! It was 8 goals to us and 2 to them. In that competition it was really fun; everyone was supporting each other. You can make so many new friends in Hockey Club because everyone is so kind.

Lanaiya, Year 7

An Inspector Calls Review

This term the English Department treated Year 11 students to the exciting opportunity to watch An Inspector Calls at the Bristol Hippodrome. It proved to be a worthwhile and beneficial experience which will better our understanding of the play which we are yet to learn in our English lessons. I think I can echo the thanks of the rest of Year 11 to Ms Dunsby and Mrs Vella who played a key part in the organisation and extensive planning of the trip.

Sam, Year 11

Nigerian Independence Day Assemblies

The veritable avenue of the school assembly was utilised to clear doubts, address misconceptions and dispel false impressions about the country called Nigeria. The beautiful landmarks, the resilient people, the real culture and diverse potentials of the people of Nigeria was projected in the form of a podcast to the amazement of students. The presentations opened up conversations about the natural endowment, physical and human resources as exemplified by resourcefulness of the Nigerian students in Buckler's Mead Academy.

Samantha, Year 11

Creative Writing Competition Winner

A big congratulations to Madison in Year 9 who has won a creative writing competition and will see her work published!

She writes: I entered the competition because I thought it would be a good chance to do something I love doing. The competition was to write a 100 word story and if you won you would get £50-£100 and a trophy and your story would be put in a book with other people's stories and that book would be published.

Madison, Year 9



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Debate Club

As part of the Prefect Team here at Buckler's Mead Academy, one of our core visions is to create as many opportunities for the student body as possible. From the beginning of this academic year, one of the many ways we have done this is through the creation of the Debate Club. It has been a large success with our group respectfully debating topics large and small from politics to the correct pronunciation of a scone! Every time we meet we debate many intriguing and interesting topics which each of us get an opportunity to choose. Please come and join us - Tuesdays Week B First Lunch in MM3.

Sam, Year 11 Prefect

Yeovil College Experience Day - July 2024

At the end of the summer term our Year 10 students visited Yeovil College for the day to experience life at the college.

When we went to Yeovil College I did a cooking taster session which was fun because we learned how to cook and prepare Chinese food.

After lunch I did a childcare taster session. I enjoyed this one more because we made nature boards and did activities that children would do as part of their development.

Taylor, Year 11

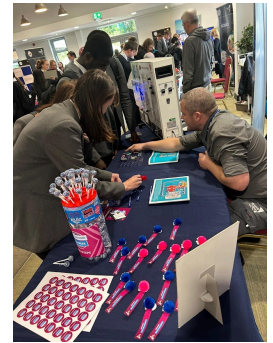
Taylor completed the feedback survey and won a prize!

Year 11 Visit to Westlands Careers Fair

At the beginning of October, Year 11 had the opportunity to attend a careers fair at Westlands Leisure Centre.

Yeovil College exhibited each of their departments and students were able to engage in a range of exciting activities, as well as finding more about their chosen career pathways.

Students also had access to a wide range of local colleges, sixth forms, universities and employers. All of which helped to introduce students to the diverse range of career routes that are available in our local area.



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 have been using the Somerset Work Experience Partnership database to look for a placement but can also get in touch with employers directly.

If you are a local employer who is able to offer a student a work experience placement next May please get in touch with Kate Kitchen kkitchen@bucklersmeadacademy.com

Sporting Successes Outside of the Academy

Well done to Charlie in Year 11 who has been accepted into the Dorset County Junior development program for Golf.

Well done to Sonni in Year 10 who has been successful and is in the Bath RFC Player Development Pathway.



Buckler's Mead Academy

An Inspiring Education for All

Ski Trip 2026



There is a fantastic opportunity for Year 9 and 10 students to sign up for the long awaited return of the school ski trip. Don't worry Year 7 and 8 students - you will get your chance in the future!

Key information: Feb 2026, 9 day trip, 6 days skiing / snowboarding, all food, accommodation, travel and equipment hire covered in the price. Sign up and pay a deposit via Parent Pay. Unfortunately places are limited so sign up early to avoid disappointment.

Speak to Mr Howarth if you have any questions.




MNSP Midsomer Norton 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.

News from our local community



TALKING THE WALK

FESTIVAL OF IDEAS FOR YEOVIL GLOVERS WALK

FILL IN THE SURVEY SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS





yeovilartspace.uk/gloverswalk