



PROSPECTUS



**Buckler's Mead**  
ACADEMY



**An Inspiring Education for All**





Buckler's Mead is an inclusive school

The school is welcoming and pupils respect the differences in other people. Pupils are happy and feel safe in school.

OFSTED 2024

# 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**’,

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. We are determined to provide the very best education which allows students to be successful and have the ambition to be the very best version of themselves.

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





# Senior Leadership Team



**Mr Mark Lawrence**  
Headteacher

I consider myself extremely privileged to be the Headteacher of Buckler's Mead Academy having taken on the position in September 2019.

Over those years the Academy has gone from strength to strength and is now a place where students can really achieve their full potential.

We are committed to ensuring 'An Inspiring Education for All'.

This forms part of our key vision and values and was rightly noted by ofsted in 2024, when the Academy was judged as a strong 'Good' in all areas.

It is my strong belief that every student deserves to learn in a quiet, calm, orderly, respectful environment with committed teachers who are not only ambitious for them and help them to succeed, but teach them to be ambitious for themselves. Students at Buckler's Mead achieve their potential and beyond, because we have 'Sky High Expectations' of every student, making success inevitable. At Buckler's Mead, Sky High Expectations is more than just about the work students do in the classroom; it is about how they present themselves, how they speak to each other, how they engage and interact, and how they involve themselves in academy life.

We have built a strong curriculum, which is not only broad and balanced but is ambitious for our learners. In February 2021, Ofsted commented 'leadership of subjects and curriculum planning are a strength'.

This is at the core of what makes the learning experience at Buckler's Mead so strong.

Outside the classroom there are a wealth of opportunities for students to get involved in, whether it be on the sports field, in Art, Music, Drama or Technology.

In the Ofsted report, published in 2024, Ofsted commented on reading being a top priority. Our Read to Succeed programme is at the heart of this and ensures every student reads challenging texts every day. The ambitious curriculum we have developed, the strong subject knowledge of teachers and the positive behaviour of our students was also noted as strengths of the Academy.

We would love to share more information about what Buckler's Mead Academy has to offer. Please do take the time to visit our website, or if you'd prefer, phone the office and book an appointment for a tour.

## Midsomer Norton Partnership Trust

In September 2021 Buckler's Mead Academy joined the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership Trust. Widely regarded as the leading Multi Academy Trust in the South West, it is made up of 12 secondary schools, 17 primary schools and specialised provision. The Trust continues to grow year on year. Trust schools include some of the most successful secondary schools in the South West region and we benefit on a daily basis from working collaboratively with each of them to continue to drive our Academy forward.



# Our Vision and Values



## Success

Sky high expectations and aspirations for all, making success inevitable.



## Ambition

Building desire and determination. Inspiring hope to be the best version of yourself.



## Enjoyment

Challenging one another, finding the joy in every day and fostering a lifelong love of learning.



## Opportunity

A wealth of opportunities to acquire powerful knowledge and culturally rich experiences.



## Community

An inclusive community working together to succeed together.



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



#### 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

## 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 pastoral leads are at the forefront. Their roles are to guide and support students through their educational journey.

Other key staff such as Achievement Leads 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

High quality pastoral provision is the gateway to academic success and personal development. At Buckler's Mead we are committed to providing 'An Inspiring Education For All', that includes a respectful and inclusive Academy community, and supporting students to be ready, respectful and responsible. Students are provided with opportunities to develop and understand their personal development, morals, and habitual behaviour. Students hold sky high aspirations, develop skills and confidence in developing and maintaining successful relationships and are offered the opportunity to develop the skills of enterprise and self-motivation. We encourage students to be positive and creative, and develop the skills of resilience and reflection. Students are effectively supported, and where appropriate, provided with personalised provision to support their additional educational needs, including those with medical needs.

The Pastoral Team will share developed knowledge of students and their needs, strengths and barriers to learning to support high quality teaching and relationships between staff and students.



Students have the opportunity to play a role in Academy decisions and development through Student Voice, and understand the world they live in through opportunities for cultural capital. Students experience healthy competition and success through a flourishing house system, and are recognised for personal efforts and successes through the rewards system and celebration opportunities.

The Student Support structure allows the Academy to successfully engage parents and carers in the learning of their young person and forges strong and impactful community relationships. Students hold high standards for themselves for attendance, punctuality, behaviour, preparation and presentation and are effectively supported to overcome challenges they may face.

The Pastoral System effectively shares and embeds the Academy's values of community, opportunity, enjoyment and success for all members of the Academy community; adult and child.

The school seeks to empower all students to be successful, ambitious and community minded young adults, irrespective of their starting point. We recognise the contextual and community challenges that some students may face, and are committed to working creatively and tirelessly to support our young people to overcome these.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

**"The arrangements for Safeguarding are effective."**

OFSTED

# Opportunities

## Expectations

Good behaviour, firm discipline and sky high expectations are the basis of a happy and productive learning environment, which is why we have such a positive culture of positive 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. Our 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. School productions, musicals and music concerts allow our students to showcase their many talents.

## 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 8 dedicated ICT suites, all of which were updated with the latest equipment in the summer of 2024.
- 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 and media suite, complete with new machines for 2022.
- Every classroom in the academy has been refurbished ensuring there is a consistent learning environment throughout the academy.

## Sports Facilities

- Our leisure centre offers comprehensive facilities to both our students and community users, including a recently refurbished Sports Hall, with brand new flooring and changing rooms for 2022.
- We enjoy an all-weather 3G sports pitch (recarpetted in Spring 2022) providing a great outdoor resource.
- Additionally, tennis courts, cricket pitches and nets, rugby pitches, netball courts and athletic facilities add to the range of activities students can enjoy at Buckler's Mead.



# Learning that Challenges and Engages

Pupils respond well to the school's 'sky high expectations'. They understand these expectations and think they are fair. Pupils behave considerately towards each other and to staff. Pupils display positive attitudes to their learning in lessons and try their best. At social times, pupils behave well and there is a calm atmosphere in the school.

Ofsted 2024



**W**e know that all students are capable of excellence. Our **exciting** curriculum will **inspire** all students with a thirst for **learning**, and will equip them with a **diverse** range of knowledge and **skills** that will allow them to choose any future educational and career paths.

## Excellent Teaching

Our teachers are dedicated to ensure that all lessons stimulate an intellectual curiosity and allow all learners to develop their talents and interests. 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

Our students frequently tell us that they love being challenged to learn. 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

Our Read to Succeed programme ensures that all learners have the opportunity to engage in seminal world literature. This enables all learners to know how their context relates to the rich diversity of cultures across time and place, and to appreciate transcendent themes and concepts of the past in the present and the present in the past. Every day in tutor time students read a carefully selected text, for 30 minutes, from within the four pillars of literature:

- Morality and Law
- Diversity and Otherness
- Gender and Identity
- Autonomy and Agency



# The Curriculum

The curriculum followed at Buckler's Mead Academy was described by Ofsted to be ambitious, broad and balanced and reflective of the school's aims to provide 'an inspiring education for all'. It 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.

## 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.

## Specialised Key Stage Four Curriculum

From the start of Year 10 students are able to exercise a degree of choice 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, vocationals 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.

## GIVING CONFIDENCE

“Staff have high expectations for pupils’ academic learning. Pupils benefit from the curriculum and are well prepared for their next steps.”

Ofsted 2024

# 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

We have sky 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.

## Supporting all students

We recognise that some students find learning more challenging than others and have systems in place to support all students.

Ofsted commented that, 'Pupils with Special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND) have their needs accurately identified. Appropriate adaptations are made for learning in class or with personalised support. As a result, these pupils achieve well.'







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

**A**t 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. Ofsted commented on how ‘pupils benefit from strong careers provision’.

### Raising Aspirations

Through our 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 and curriculum enrichment 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 develop the highest aspirations and ensuring success in their chosen pathways.







# Buckler's Mead

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