



# Buckler's Mead Academy

## An Inspiring Education for All

### Spring Term 1 Newsletter February 2025

What a fantastic half term! Christmas seems like ages ago and Spring is just around the corner, but to finish this half term with the school production of "We Will Rock You" is simply fantastic. The show was sold out over three nights and four primary schools came to visit and **WOW** did they get a good show! I sound like a broken record when I say it, but these are the things that make school days memorable and create that fantastic culture of a successful school. I could not be more proud of all the staff and students involved in this shining example of the Academy going from strength to strength.



As we head into the second half of the Spring Term, we turn our heads to yet more new beginnings as we start the process of getting to know our new cohort. The number of Year 6 applications is at its highest in many many years and we are looking forward to welcoming them all to our wonderful and rapidly growing Academy community. I hope you all have an amazing half term and can enjoy some downtime with your families.



### Facebook and Instagram

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



### Celebrating the 100 Club: Encouraging Attendance, Building Success!

At Buckler's Mead Academy, we know that every school day counts, and our 100 Club is a fun and rewarding way to celebrate students who show outstanding dedication to their education by achieving 100% attendance each month!

January has been another fantastic month, with so many students earning their place in the 100 Club. These students have demonstrated commitment, resilience, and a positive attitude toward their learning. Congratulations to each and every one of them!

Each month, 100 Club members receive a special recognition letter and are entered into a prize draw as an extra incentive for their amazing efforts. This initiative has helped encourage strong attendance habits, which in turn supports academic success, confidence, and engagement in learning.

### Introducing the 100 Club – SKY HIGH!



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# 100 CLUB SKY HIGH

We're excited that this month saw the launch of a brand-new initiative 100 Club – **SKY HIGH!**

This exclusive group celebrates students who live up to our **SKY HIGH** expectations and achieve both 100% attendance and zero behavior points for the month. These students set an

incredible example, not just by showing up every



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# 100 CLUB



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day but also by demonstrating outstanding behaviour and attitude in every lesson.

Students who reach **SKY HIGH** status will receive special recognition and are entered into a second prize draw for their commitment to excellence. This new initiative encourages not only great attendance but also the positive behaviour that creates a thriving school community. Who will rise to the challenge and go **SKY HIGH** next month?

A huge well done to all of our January prize draw winners, who were randomly selected from our 100 Club and 100 Club - **SKY HIGH** members. We are so proud of all our students who have made school attendance and behaviour a priority, and we encourage everyone to keep up the great work.

### Personal Reading Books

From half term all students will be expected to carry a reading book with them at all times. We are introducing personal reading sessions. Students have access to thousands of books in our library: we have fiction/non fiction/ graphic novels etc . All students are encouraged to use the books in the library for their personal reading book, but they also can bring in a copy from home! This is your chance to choose the book you want to read!

### World Book Day - £1 token

Students have received their £1 voucher to celebrate World Book Day. These can be spent between 13th February and 23rd March 2025 in Tesco, WH Smiths, Waterstones and other bookshops. Every year there are special £1 book produced that students can exchange their voucher for or use as part payment towards another book.



### Class of 2024 - Awards Evening

On January 23rd, we welcomed back the Class of 2024 for the presentation of their GCSE certificates and our school awards. It was a good opportunity for friends to catch up and for staff to find out what students were doing after life at Buckler's Mead.

Our deserving award winners were:

Keith Richmond Cup for Girls' Contribution to the Academy - Lily Fry

The Len Knight Cup for Boys' Contribution to the Academy - Wiktor Chyc

The Dennis Bagnell Award for Resilience - Oliwia Kulbacka

The Ashford-McKenzie Memorial Cup for Determination to Succeed - Callum Murray

The Christopher Collins Cup for Achievement - Lewis Pitman

The Gulliver Music Award for Contribution to Academy Music - Gia Enticott

The Mandy Perkins "My Lovely" Award for Kindness and Caring Towards Others - Busra Sen





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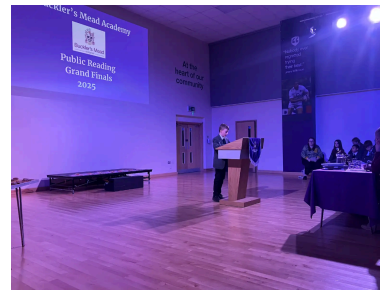
Oliwia, winner of the Dennis Bagwell Award, has recently joined us for her Year 12 work experience and in this time reflected on her five year journey at Buckler's Mead:

I joined Buckler's Mead in 2019 but my education was soon disrupted when Covid-19 made it forbidden to come to school and I spent most of Years 7 and 8 in online learning. Going back in Year 9 wasn't easy as we relied largely on facemasks, sanitising and staying in designated 'bubbles' to minimise the risk of another lockdown. When I started learning about the subjects I chose as my options, school definitely got more enjoyable as I studied a lot more of what I wanted to study. When the pressure of mock exams was setting in, I wish I had taken on advice from everyone around me to start revising. I'll totally understand if you stop reading here but, trust me, the adults know better! In Year 10 I also did a series of work experience placements which gave me many insights into workplaces and allowed me to discover definitely what I didn't want to do as a career - which is a great advantage as it saved me a lot of disappointment which I would have experienced if I had gone to the companies for a 'real' job.

Fast forward to September 2023, Year 11 is a lot to get used to with Period 6, practice exam papers, homework and revision; not to mention applying to college and the next step. As difficult as it was to juggle all of these at once, a good timing strategy would have made it easier and more bearable... Year 11 is going to be a year focusing on yourself almost as much as all your studies, so please reach out to someone if it's becoming a struggle. After all of the hard work, hours of revision and mountains of information you've absorbed it will be Leavers Day, Prom and the Year 11 Awards Evening - all dedicated to you and celebrating overcoming the hurdles you strived to overcome.

### Buckler's Mead Public Reading Competition 2025

I had the amazing opportunity to compete for the second time in Buckler's Mead Academy's



reading competition. Both years that I have competed have been such fun and they really helped to improve my confidence levels and my

reading skills. The teachers give so much support and they make it such a good evening for both competitors and the audience and I'm so grateful that I have had the chance to compete not only twice but to win for my year group once too! The reading competition was such a great idea and it is so worth coming to the next one if you can!

Mya Strick (10LSBT)

### News from the Art Department

This term Year 8 have been studying the work of the artist Rebecca Vincent. They have been experimenting with mixing natural colours and how to create texture.







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## We Will Rock You - amazing!



This week has seen our talented students from all year groups put on 7 performances of the hit stage show **We Will Rock You!** We were delighted to welcome Year 6 students from Primrose, Birchfield, St Michael's and Milford Juniors to watch performances on Monday and Tuesday. All the students left buzzing with the excitement of rock n roll!

All three evening performances have been to sell out crowds and the show has received rave reviews in the **Yeovil Press**.

Well done to all the students and staff involved in putting on such a fantastic show!



## James Lake - visiting artist

A small group of year 9 students have worked with a visiting artist, James Lake, learning how to create 3D portraits from cardboard. They have learned how to move from 2D to 3D and have completed an incredibly challenging task, thinking about the human form as well as how to shape and manipulate cardboard. It has been a fantastic two days with some amazing outcomes.



## MNSP Trust Chef of the Year Competition 2025

Last Wednesday, 5th February, I was honoured to witness our own budding chef, Mbalenhle Sikhosana, join Year 9 chefs from across the Trust to compete for the title 'Chef of the Year' at Writhlington School. The day began at 9.30 in the kitchen, collecting equipment, ingredients and familiarising themselves with the layout of the Writhlington kitchen. Chefs then took part in two different masterclass lessons creating traditional ravioli then seafood delicacies.



The Young Chef of the Year Competition required all chefs to prepare and present a main course dish for two people within 90 minutes. The





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standard of high culinary skills demonstrated during this time was extremely high and looked terrific.

Congratulations to each and every chef for their hard work. An Executive chef from a fine dine restaurant in Bath was one of the three judges, who explained that all the dishes presented were of such quality that it took over one hour to agree on first, second and third place. Congratulations to every chef that braved the heat in the kitchen that day. Well done Mbalenhle!



*Mrs Hansen, Design and Technology Teacher*

### Design and Technology News

This term Year 8 students have been exploring sustainable forms of energy in the Design Skills module. They had a team challenge to develop a working model of a wind turbine.



### Design and Technology Club News

We have three exciting extra curricular opportunities for students in the Design and Technology Department.

The **Green Power Car** is making progress and we will start testing this after half term. Many thanks go to Noah in Year 9 who has persevered with the wiring and got other Year 9 students involved.

Our successful **Flight Club** continues to run and after extensive testing of new designs and materials it has been decided that our iconic

design from two years ago seems the best. We have also made various gliders and carried out testing with these in preparation for the competition at the end of March.

We have a new exciting competition called **Race to the Line** which is being sponsored by Morson Products. This large company is a strategic partner for Leonardo and the man in charge of their STEM budget is an ex pupil of the academy keen to give back to our community and help our students develop their STEM skills. The competition will involve Year 7 students building a rocket car. Speak to Mr Tofts in the Design and Technology Department to find out more.

### Duke of Edinburgh Award



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is open again for new participants in Year 9 and 10.

The Award consists of four sections: Volunteering, Physical Activity, Skills and an Expedition.

At the moment there are lots of students in Year 10 completing their award and will be gaining their badges and certificates soon. As well as their expedition they have been taking part in sport, using the gym, cooking, performing, playing instruments, helping run the library, assisting in the school departments, reading, conducting science research, learning a new language...the list goes on and on.

If you would like to take part you can sign up on ParentPay. If you would like any further information, please contact Mr Hawkins or Mrs Gale.



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## Maths Matters!

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, forty of our keenest mathematicians in Years 9 – 11 took part in the UK Mathematics Trust's Intermediate Maths Challenge. Sixty minutes of problem solving and hard thinking resulted in some absolutely fabulous outcomes for Team *Buckler's Mead*. Finn in Year 9 and Hugo in Year 10 both achieved **GOLD** awards! Both have been invited to represent the school in the next stage of the competition, Finn with UKMT Pink, and Hugo with UKMT Grey, Kangaroo Challenges.



United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust

Faseela, in Year 11 and a seasoned UKMT participant, shares "I would say that the UKMT Challenges require you to engage in critical thinking and with problem solving skills rather than demonstrate your mathematical knowledge. I am really proud of the **SILVER** award I received and I am very much looking forward to participating in the Senior Challenge next year when I am in the Sixth Form studying for A Levels in Mathematics and Further Mathematics".

**GOLD** award winner Hugo found the challenge "enjoyable; it gave me an opportunity to both demonstrate my understanding of mathematics and sharpen my problem solving skills. I am very much looking forward to participating in more challenges in the future."

Mrs Forsey, Head of Maths, says "I am so very pleased with the results achieved this year; two **GOLD**, three **SILVER** and six **BRONZE** awards is an amazing outcome for our school."



## PE News

### Under 12 Basketball v Stanchester

The Under 12 team opened their basketball season with a very close game against Stanchester. The boys took an early lead and held it right up until half time where Stanchester scored a late basket. The second half was exactly the same; Buckler's took back the lead with literally 1 minute 30 seconds left on the clock. Stanchester equalised and then scored the winning basket. A fantastic game where any team could have won on their day.

Great effort for your first ever game boys well done!

### Under 16 Girls Football v Stanchester

The Under 16 girls football team played against a very strong Stanchester team. The girls started very positively where they took an early lead. However Stanchester kept pushing and looked to equalise. Some superb defending and pressing of the ball kept Stanchester at bay with Buckler's adding to their score making it 2-0 at halftime. The second half was very similar to the first with Stanchester having much of the possession. Yet again Buckler's defended outstandingly, holding Stanchester and resulting in a 3-2 win.

Congratulations girls, a fantastic victory.







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## Under 16 Basketball v Ansford

The Ansford team had a superior height advantage and they used it well in the first half and they took a big lead but our boys battled back and got to within 6 points. Unfortunately they scored a three pointer very late in the game and we were unable to get it back. It was a good game and the Buckler's Team fought hard and showed a lot of spirit.



## Under 14 Basketball v Preston

We made a quick start against a tall Preston team who hadn't played a lot of basketball this year. We scored 6 unanswered points before we gave away a pair of free throws of which they converted 1.

The experience and power of our team nullified their attacks and we were able to stop them scoring any other points with strong rebounding and defence. We went on to score 26 points to Preston's 1.



## Somerset Cricket Initiative

Somerset Cricket started this term by working with the Year 7, 8 and 9 boys. Over the next 5 weeks the boys will get a comprehensive coaching session free from one of the Somerset cricket coaches. It's an initiative only offered to Buckler's Mead in the Yeovil area, which is due to the positive reaction the coaches receive from the pupils. We look forward to working with the club again next year.



## Primary School Dodgeball Championships

The national Dodgeball Association held their annual regional championships at Buckler's Mead on Friday 17th January. This involved a number of primary schools around the region. Buckler's Mead not only hosted, but supplied the officials for the tournament. The Year 9 Sports Leaders had to complete an online course beforehand and then some practical training before the actual tournament. There were some very competitive teams bidding for the winning title and our leaders were excellent in their control and officiating of each game which allowed all the participants a fun day.

Well done to all the leaders - yet again a credit to the school!





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### Careers News - successful apprenticeship application

*We are very pleased that one of our students has been accepted onto Leonardo's apprenticeship programme. She's written us an account of how she got involved:*

At first it was just an interest in helicopters and I had no idea how to even start thinking about applying for Leonardo's. I looked into some of the events that Leonardo's do and take part in and I went to the aero women event. This was all about women in engineering. For me this was very intriguing and inspired me to think about going into engineering even more. I did a three day work experience with Leonardo's at the iAero Centre where I got the opportunity to speak to apprentices in different sectors of the company along with people who have been there for years with lots of experience in the company. They gave insights on their jobs and how the company has been developed. When the apprenticeships went live I decided to apply straight away for the Aerospace Manufacturing Machinist Apprenticeship. A few days later I had an email inviting me for a video interview. This was a scary process but throughout each stage there were opportunities to ask any questions and ask for help if it was needed. After the video interview, I got accepted to the next stage. At this point we started doing career openings in school and we had other companies come into school and we went out of school too. At the Careers Fair at Westlands I met Emily Steel who deals with the apprentices at Leonardo's. Emily had invited me for an interview at the end of January. In my interview, I was asked many questions but everyone was kind and again gave many opportunities to ask questions. A week later Emily called me and told me I was accepted for the role and I had never felt so relieved! The application experience had been scary but everyone had been so supportive, as well as Mrs Kitchen who

gave advice and was very passionate about helping to get my career started.

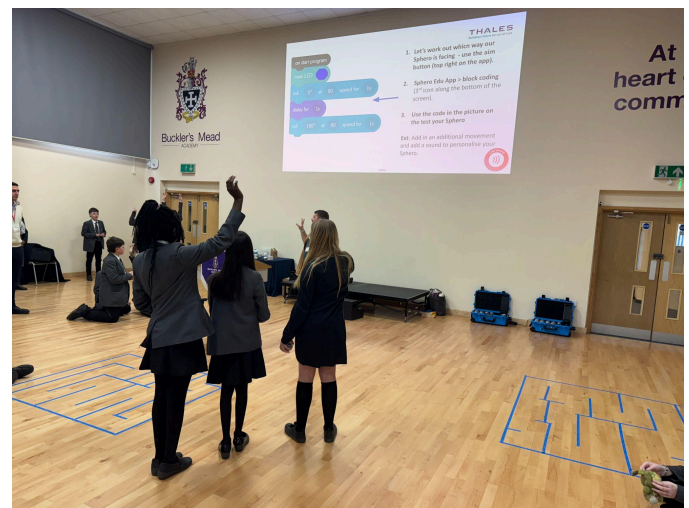
### Year 7 Spheros Workshop with THALES

We got to learn about what jobs are available at THALES and what jobs the three people who visited had. I also coded a little robot by using a tablet with coding blocks. I mostly enjoyed guiding, through coding, the robot to go around the maze.

*Hayden, Year 7*

We had to control the robots THALES gave us by using codes on the iPad to move them. I enjoyed moving it around the maze and changing its colour. I learnt that THALES supplied armies with robots and mechanical things. They keep most of their work at THALES top secret. The three men helped us with the coding and showed us tricky work that they do.

*TJ, Year 7*



On Thales Spheros day, we explored the world of engineering and programming for little spheros bots. With these, we programmed them to do all sorts of things such as change colours, move in different directions and make smiley faces with the matrix button. We programmed these by



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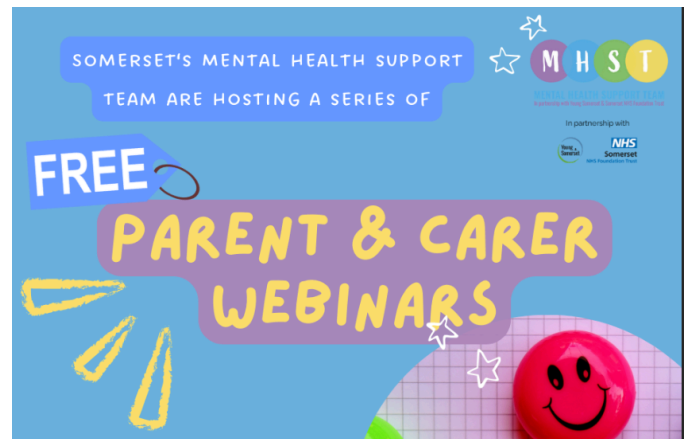
using tablets that allowed us to make codes in order for us to activate/use the bots.

During the session we learned about engineering, programming and more about the worldwide company, Thales.

Personally, I enjoyed the programming and challenges of making the sferos bots do unique things. I would like to do something like this again someday.

*Poppy, Year 7*

### Mental Health Support Team - Free Parent and Carer Webinars



For more information and to sign up for these webinars please visit [bit.ly/mhstinfo](http://bit.ly/mhstinfo) or follow on Facebook @SomersetMHST and Instagram @Somersetmhst

**Supporting your neurodivergent child** - 20th Feb, 11th March, 18th March

**Supporting exam and test wellbeing** - 19th Feb, 6th March, 8th April

**Understanding and supporting anxiety and low mood** - 3rd April, 15th April

**Supporting your child's big feelings** - 10th April, 15th April



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](mailto:ewalker@msnpartnership.com)  
Find a list of local governing bodies on the MNSP website.