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Principal: Richard A Jacobs B.A. (Hons) P.G.C.E., P.G.C.M., N.P.Q.H.

24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parent,

### **Re: Principal's Newsletter – Autumn 2018**

At Budmouth College we strive to ensure our students are happy and successful, today and tomorrow.

We are, therefore, very excited to be able to inform you of some very exciting changes here at Budmouth; changes that we are very confident will better enable us to help our students secure the future they wish for themselves.

### **New Board of Governors**

Budmouth College has started the new academic year with a new team of Governors at the helm. Dorset County Council has used its powers to appoint a totally new team of Governors to support us in our drive to improve examination results and return our school to 'Outstanding' status.

The seven members of the new Interim Executive Board were handpicked by the Local Authority for their range of experience and include a former senior education executive of Dorset County Council, a leader of a much respected Academy Trust, a local retired secondary Headteacher awarded a prestigious Headteacher of the Year accolade, the Chair of Governors from Woodroffe School, an 'Outstanding' Dorset secondary school, a local education finance expert and governors with proven track records of supporting schools return to sustained educational excellence.

An Interim Executive Board is a smaller but more powerful form of Board of Governors and is more directly involved in the leadership and management of a school. The new Board will be meeting every two weeks and has already hit the ground running.

Catherine Shaw has been appointed as Chair of the new Board. You will have an opportunity to meet Kate, and the other IEB members, at some of our forthcoming events.

I am thrilled to receive the support of such an impressive Board – this is the sort of dream team any school would want supporting them.

### **Promising Summer Examination Results**

Over the summer hundreds of anxious students (and parents!) streamed into College to receive their A Level, GCSE and equivalent examination results. It was a joy to see so many students be rewarded



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with the grades they had worked so hard for, allowing them to go on to the next stage in their chosen academic or training pathway.

Most of our Sixth Formers have been able to secure places at Universities across the country, including both Oxford and Cambridge. 10% of A'Level grades were either at A\* or A, 37% of grades were within the range A\*-B, with 65% within A\*-C.

The majority of our Year Eleven students have earned the opportunity to join our Sixth Form. 58% of students achieved GCSE grades 9-4 in five or more subjects, including English and Maths, with 75% of students securing grades 9-4 in English and 70% in Maths.

We are pleased with the improvement in our examination results, but we acknowledge that there is still a lot of work to be done before we meet national expectations. Initial details can now be found on the school website.

### **Masterclass Programme Underway**

Just before the summer break, our first class of teachers completed the new Masterclass training programme we have recently introduced. This is turning out to be a very popular opportunity for our teachers to reacquaint themselves with those teaching and learning strategies that have been proven to have the most beneficial effect on student learning. Colleagues immediately applied the strategies in their lessons and we are already seeing significant improvement in learning progress. A second class begins in the second week of term under the very able care of our Assistant Principal, Mr Cavill.

### **New Behaviour Strategy**

Generally, our students are well behaved, kind and courteous. However, we do believe we can help our students develop a greater sense of independent responsibility. Hence, we have started to roll out a new behaviour management strategy, through which we will be communicating our expectations to students more frequently and consistently within a positive, supportive but more assertively authoritarian manner. We are confident that both students and parents will welcome the emergence of a new culture within which any disruption to learning will not be tolerated. Our Vice Principal Mrs Fortescue is leading on this issue and started the new year with a forceful and inspirational training session for us all.

### **Learning Leaders**

Our Subject Leaders now have new job descriptions and will from henceforth be known as Learning Leaders. Our intent is to distribute leadership to those who are in the best position to improve the learning experience for our students. The new job descriptions better describe our expectations and return responsibility for student progress and quality of teaching and learning to middle management.



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Many of our Learning Leaders are now receiving coaching from a highly experienced colleague from a neighbouring school and many will soon start preparations for the prestigious National Qualification for Middle and Senior Leadership.

### **Pastoral Leaders**

We have recently started a consultation period with our Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Assistants to reform their positions in a bid to further enhance the pastoral support our students receive. It is our intent that Heads of Year will be the first contact point for parents concerned about any aspect of their child's schooling experience. We have already re-designated our Pastoral Support Assistants as Deputy Heads of Year to better reflect the senior position they hold within the school.

### **The New Key Stage 3 Curriculum**

Work has now begun on restructuring our Key Stage 3 curriculum. We have already announced our intent to return to a traditional three year (Years 7-9) KS3 curriculum, with the intent of securing our students' mastery of the key skills they will need to be successful in their Key Stage 4 examination subjects and beyond. The new curriculum will begin in 2019, which means our current Year 8 students will not be choosing KS4 options until they are in Year 9.

The new Key Stage 3 curriculum will give us an opportunity to integrate the life and work skills advanced by our very successful CEIL programme into subject lessons taken by our younger students and give them more 'real world' experiences.

### **School Improvement Plan**

The new Interim Executive Board of Governors have approved the school's Improvement Plan for the academic year 2018-19. The plan will be a 'living document' and will be kept under constant review and amendment as the year goes on. The SIP will soon be posted on the College's website.

### **Academisation**

Parents will be aware that a recent Ofsted inspection returned a judgement that the school was currently 'Inadequate' and deemed that we require Special Measures. As part of those measures we have recently received an academisation order from the Department of Education. This requires us to join an Academy Trust in the near future. A number of Trusts have expressed an interest in becoming our sponsor and bids are currently being prepared for the consideration of the Regional Schools Commissioner. Representatives from these Trusts have already started to visit the school to discuss its future. We will keep you informed of developments as soon as we are able.



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## Frog

We have been experiencing a few problems with our Frog site lately. We do apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. We are soon to review all of our IT services to ensure that we can give you the best possible experience. We do thank you for your patience in this matter.

## Thanks to You

We have a very exciting year ahead of us. We have many challenges to overcome before we can be confident that we are successfully supporting our students to be happy and successful, today and tomorrow. Yet we have been energised by the very generous support you have given to us all over the previous term. We genuinely thank you all and look forward to strengthening the mutually supportive partnership we are forming between home and school.

Please feel free to share your opinions and concerns about the direction the school is now taking at my usual email address, [jacobsr@budmouth.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:jacobsr@budmouth.dorset.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Richard A Jacobs  
Principal