



**Buckler's Mead**  
ACADEMY

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**Educating with care to succeed**

12 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I continually find myself in the position of reflecting at the end of each half term and thinking, 'that was a half term like no other'. Here we are again and since January the whole academy community has had to adapt and change to ensure we are providing the very best educational offer we can for students.

In the last 6 weeks:

- Teaching staff have had to think of innovative ways to teach remotely, learning new software packages, like MOTE, Loom, Google Meets and many more. They have been adaptable, reflective and flexible, working tirelessly to ensure every student can access their learning.
- We have provided on site provision for the students who fall into the vulnerable student and critical worker categories. We have had three times the national average of students on site. Our support staff have been phenomenal in being here every day to help these students.
- We have introduced Lateral Flow Testing and tested hundreds of students and staff. The Army came in and described our testing centre as one of the best they had been to.
- We have made thousands of phone calls home to support students and families with their learning and any other needs.
- We have loaned out over 170 laptops. Every student who was struggling with IT provision has received support.
- Year 11 have completed 'Virtual Mock Exams'.
- Ofsted have visited and will share their findings in the next few weeks.

Thank you for all the support from home. Many of our teachers, including myself, are parents and we know that juggling, work, family and the other stresses and strains of living through a pandemic, as well as home schooling, has been an enormous challenge. It is thanks to the support of our families that we have received so much work from the students, literally thousands of pieces handed in!



**Acting Headteacher: Mr M Lawrence BSc Hons.**

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As I explained it seems like I finish each half term reflecting on how challenging it has been but we continue to meet these challenges as a community. Thank you for your support. It is really making a difference to our staff and students.

Thank you for all the messages of support this half term. If you wish to share any positive messages with the Academy, please send them to [welldone@bucklersmeadacademy.com](mailto:welldone@bucklersmeadacademy.com)

Finally, an important reminder: If your son or daughter tests positive for Coronavirus over half term **and they have attended the Academy in the last week**, please inform us via [reportcase@bucklersmeadacademy.com](mailto:reportcase@bucklersmeadacademy.com)

Enjoy a half term break and we look forward to the next half term with optimism following the triumphs of this one.

Best Wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Lawrence', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**MARK LAWRENCE**  
**Acting Headteacher**