



Buckler's Mead
ACADEMY

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Educating with care to succeed

ML/SLM/01243
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Dear Parents and Guardians

As you are aware Ofsted visited us earlier this term. I have attached a copy of the letter from the Lead Inspector. We are extremely pleased with the feedback received following this Ofsted Monitoring Visit. This was an intensive two-day inspection, carried out by two of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) on the 2nd and 3rd February 2021. The inspection focused on what has taken place to improve the academy since the last inspection in November 2019 and the remote provision that has been in place since January 2021.

Since September 2019, Buckler's Mead Academy has undergone significant changes:

- A full review of behaviour has taken place with a new policy introduced.
- A full curriculum review to ensure that all students receive a broad and balanced curriculum which prepares the students for their next steps and progression.
- The introduction of the learning cycle as a way of securing consistency and high quality teaching in all lessons.
- Introduced Personal Development as a separate lesson in order to secure a high quality PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) provision and promote fundamental British Values (Democracy, Diversity, Tolerance, Mutual respect and the Rule of law).
- Introduced Read to Succeed which ensures every student reads challenging and inspiring texts widely and often.
- Introduced split lunchtimes to reduce pressure on the Dining Hall, create more space for recreation and contribute to a positive atmosphere around the site during these times.
- Created and developed areas to offer more outside spaces so students can 'play' at break time.
- The introduction and growth of the Student Service centre so that students always have somewhere to go should any issues arise.
- Made significant progress towards achieving the Rainbow Flag Award as well as celebrating diversity in our community.
- There have been significant changes to leadership across the academy, including new leaders of English, Maths and Science and the promotion of the SENCo to the leadership team.
- We have strengthened and built more capacity into our leadership team through the appointments of two Deputy Headteachers.
- We are in the process of joining The Midsomer Norton Partnership Trust, a successful Multi Academy Trust, with a proven track record for school improvement.

We are delighted to report that all of the above and the many more improvements were recognised by the Ofsted team as they judged that:

Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action to provide education in the current circumstances.



Acting Headteacher: Mr M Lawrence BSc Hons.

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The letter received from Ofsted states that:

- Leaders have high expectations for all.
- We have worked diligently to provide education to pupils in the current circumstances.
- Pupils are complimentary of their teachers and the education they receive.
- Following the last inspection, we have been ambitious and acted decisively.
- We introduced quickly, higher expectations of behaviour.
- We have broadened and strengthened the curriculum.
- We have taken effective action to provide support for vulnerable pupils.
- Robust systems to track the attendance and engagement of pupils have been established.
- Reading has been prioritised and used to help to accelerate pupil's ability in reading.
- Provision for pupils in Year 11 has been well considered to ensure that the curriculum is completed and provide careers guidance to prepare them for their next steps.
- The SENCo is well trained and knowledgeable.
- We have been outward looking as a leadership team.
- Directors have acted diligently in their response to a review of governance.

The whole Buckler's Mead Academy community should feel justifiably proud of the comments made in this Ofsted report. While it does not change our overall grading, it does show the exceptional progress we have made across the academy since September 2019. This is thanks to the hard work of everyone linked to the academy, including our families, our teaching staff, and our support staff and of course our students.

Yours faithfully

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

Mr Mark Lawrence
Acting Headteacher