09 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We warmly welcome students back to school following the Christmas break and wish all members of our school community a happy and blessed New Year. As we begin 2026, we reflect on the themes of hope, renewal and fresh beginnings that sit at the heart of our Christian faith, encouraging students to approach the year ahead with kindness, purpose and a renewed commitment to letting their light shine.

At Bury Church of England High School, our SHINE curriculum continues to support students in developing the knowledge, skills and values they need to thrive as respectful, responsible and resilient individuals. This week, students across all year groups have engaged in a wide range of PSHE, Careers and SHINE lessons, exploring topics that help them understand themselves, others and the wider world.

In this week's worship assemblies students have been learning about the festival of Epiphany, with a focus on the revelation that the wise men had in learning that the messiah had been born. Students reflected upon their own moments of revelation and how taking a step back to look at the bigger picture can often give new and reassuring perspectives.

Careers education

In Careers this week, alongside continuing 1–1 guidance meetings with Year 10 and Year 11 pupils, students explored the role of a Catering Manager. They examined key responsibilities, skills required, career pathways and salary expectations. An insight into catering within a large football club was particularly engaging and helped pupils understand how skills are applied in real-world professional settings.

We have also spent time supporting Year 10 students with their upcoming work experience placements, answering questions and offering guidance. It has been fantastic to hear from students who have already secured placements and are keen to get started. A reminder that completed work experience forms, along with the business insurance document, must be returned by Monday 12th January. Mr Halden, our Careers Lead, will continue to support any students who still need help securing a placement.

SHINE lessons this week

Our SHINE lessons continue to bring together personal development, citizenship and careers education, helping pupils connect classroom learning to real life. Through discussion, reflection and active learning, students develop confidence, responsibility and a strong sense of social awareness.

- **Year 7 – What is Parliament?**
  Students learned about the role of Parliament as the UK's law-making body, exploring how laws are made, how citizens are represented and why democracy matters.

- **Year 8 – Equality and Social Action**
  Students explored equality, protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and the importance of challenging discrimination, considering how social action can improve communities.

- **Year 9 & Year 10 – What is Labour Market Information (LMI)?**
  Students learned how LMI helps people understand job trends, skills shortages and future career opportunities, supporting informed decision-making.

- **Year 11 – Revision: Metacognition – Learning How to Learn**
  Students explored how memory works and how metacognitive strategies can support effective revision, long-term learning and confidence as exams approach.

PSHE lessons next week

In PSHE lessons next week, students will engage with age-appropriate, thought-provoking topics that help them understand themselves, their relationships and their place in society. These lessons support students in developing self-awareness, aspiration and informed decision-making.

- **Year 7 – What is multicultural Britain?**
  Students will explore what multiculturalism means in modern Britain, celebrating diversity, shared values and respectful community living.

- **Year 8 – What are my employability skills and which careers are available to me?** *(Employment rights and responsibilities)*
  Students will identify key employability skills, explore a range of career pathways and learn about basic employment rights and responsibilities.

- **Year 9 – What are my strengths and how do these inform my aspirations?** *(Cultural expectations and stereotypes)*
  Students will reflect on their personal strengths and aspirations while considering how cultural expectations and stereotypes can influence choices.

- **Year 10 – Why do people still get married in 2026?** *(Families in 2025, including separation)*
  Students will explore different family structures, reasons people choose marriage today and how relationships and separation can affect families.

- **Year 11 – What are my responsibilities when I start work?** *(Tax and National Insurance)*
  Students will learn about financial responsibilities in employment, including tax, National Insurance and understanding payslips.

These lessons continue to reflect our commitment to helping every student *let their light shine* through knowledge, character and aspiration.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Bury Church of England High School