SHINE newsletter

Let your light shine

Headteacher Update

It has been a fantastic and inspiring week at Bury Church, both inside and beyond the classroom. Over the course of the week, KS3 students have enjoyed Lent worship with Reverend Craig, and on Thursday, we had the pleasure of welcoming Year 10 parents into school for parents' evening. As well as this, 47 of our Year 9 students have visited London for a residential trip. The students have visited key landmarks and enjoyed two West End musicals, *Mamma Mia!* and *Six*. It has been a fantastic opportunity for them to expand their experiences and build lasting memories, and my thanks go out to the committed and talented members of staff who made it possible.

I have also had the pleasure of watching the rehearsals for the school production of High School Musical. I was very proud to see our talented students perform with such confidence. I hope you have the opportunity to attend the final performance later this month.

Over the coming months, we hope to further broaden the horizons of our students and extend their learning beyond the classroom. One of the ways we will achieve this is to organise a greater number of school trips. Further information will be sent out regarding upcoming trips and future opportunities.

As always, our children remain at the heart of everything we do in school. Over the past two years, we have seen significant improvements in classroom learning through stronger retrieval practice, subject-specific vocabulary and a renewed focus on reading, which is now fully embedded across the curriculum. Such improvements give our students the knowledge and language required to realise their full potential. An example of the impact of this work is seen in our Year 11 pupils who have completed their mock exams this week, demonstrating impeccable behaviour and resilience during this time. Early analysis of the results shows that our students are on track for some brilliant results in the summer. Their determination and commitment are a true reflection of our school motto: **Let Your Light Shine**.

Dr S Wrigley – Acting Headteacher

Upcoming events

9 March – Y9 option forms are released

20 March – Y11 mock results afternoon

24 - 26 March – High School Musical production

w/c 23 March – Assessments for Y9 in English, Maths and Science

World Book Day

This week we celebrated World Book Day with the theme Heroes and Villains. It was wonderful to see so many students and staff dress up as their favourite book characters, bringing stories to life across the school. The day helped to promote a love of reading and reminded students of the power of books to inspire imagination and creativity.

Reading

We are incredibly proud of our reading offer at Bury Church. There has been huge improvements in reading ages across the school. Our recent reading tests have shown that our pupils on average read significantly above the national average. Bury Church is proud to have met the trust target of 85% of students reading at the expected standard.

Book of the week

The Seaside Sleepover (2025) – Jacqueline Wilson "A warm and funny story about family, friendship and seaside adventures from one of Britain's best-loved children's authors."

Personal Development

SHINE Enrichment- International Women's Day 8th March 2026

In lessons this week, all students explored the theme of International Women's Day and the importance of gender equality around the world. Students explored the meaning of gender equality in respect to education, work and wider society. They also discussed the barriers women can still face globally, including unequal access to education, lower pay and fewer leadership opportunities.

Careers

A group of 40 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 visited the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester to attend a careers fair focused on future opportunities in science and technology. Students had the opportunity to speak with professionals, explore emerging careers and learn about the skills needed for jobs of the future. The visit helped broaden students' understanding of possible career pathways and inspired many to consider careers within STEM-related fields.

PSHE

- Year 7: Understanding why online gaming can sometimes become problematic, including links to gambling-style features, excessive screen time and strategies for maintaining healthy gaming habits.
- Year 8: Learning how to manage conflict with friends and others using respectful communication, assertiveness and recognising when it may be necessary to end unhealthy relationships.
- Year 9: Exploring why some young people choose vaping products, including social influences and perceived stress relief, while understanding the health risks and addictive nature of nicotine.
- Year 10: Understanding how young people can become victims of Child Sexual Exploitation and sextortion, recognising online grooming tactics and knowing how to seek help.
- Year 11: Investigating ethical consumerism and how everyday purchasing choices can affect workers' rights, environmental sustainability and corporate responsibility.

In the News

In this week's In the News session, students explored the current debate about whether the government should introduce a social media ban for under 16s. The government is currently gathering views before deciding whether this policy should be introduced. Students discussed arguments for and against the ban, considering concerns about online safety and mental health alongside the role social media plays in helping young people stay connected and access support.

To help keep your child safe online, please follow the guidance and helpful tips for parents and carers shared by the school. https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2025/12/cc-what-i-wish-parent-guide.pdf

Sporting achievements

Year 7 Netball team have reached the final

Excitement is building as the Year 7 netball team prepares to face St. Monica's in the borough final on Wednesday 11th March. After an outstanding season, the team has beaten every other school in the borough and is now just one match away from bringing the trophy home.

Throughout the academic year, the squad has shown incredible teamwork, determination and skill on the court. Their unbeaten run has made them one of the strongest teams in the competition, and confidence is high as they head into the final.

The talented squad includes Freya, Lana, Rose, Eva, Cara, Serenna, Lily and Arabella. Each player has played a key role in the team's success this season, whether through strong defending, accurate shooting or tireless work in the centre court.

Netball match report

The year 7 girls played outstandingly in the netball matches on Tuesday. A strong start against Phillips High School alongside quick passes saw our girls win the first match 17-0 . The second match against Unsworth Academy did give the girls some challenges but the good use of space opened the opportunity to score many goals. The final score was a 16-5 win. Our last match was against St Gabriel's RC High School. The defensive work from the opposition and the persistent attacking from our girls made this final match very interesting to watch. Final score was a 3-3 draw. Well done to all the girls. Players of the matches were Freya, Serena and Lily.

Boys football

Year 7 Boys play Tottington High School in the Bury School's Plate

Year 8 Boys are in the quarter finals versus St Monica's High School

Year 9 Boys play Tottington High School in the Bury School's Plate

Year 10 Boys are in the quarter finals versus Unsworth High School

Year 11 Boys are in the Semifinals versus Unsworth High School

Individual successes

Millie-Leigh and Marlee-Jo Y11 recently competed in the European MMA Championships in Serbia Millie-Leigh achieved a Bronze medal in her category and Marlee-Jo came 6th out of 50 in her category. Well done to both girls – we are hugely proud of your success.

Attendance and punctuality

Attendance and punctuality remain a key focus in school, as every missed minute in the classroom quickly adds up and impacts learning. To encourage excellent habits, students with strong attendance and punctuality will have the opportunity to take part in our rewards trip to Blackpool later this year. We are committed to working closely with families to promote strong routines, and where concerns arise, communications will be sent home so we can support improvements together.