SHINE newsletter

Let your light shine

Headteacher Update

This week, our fantastic Year 7 netball team won the Bury Schools' Netball Competition, beating St Monica's in the final to bring the cup home! We are incredibly proud of their achievement.

It has also been a busy and enriching week for trips. Year 10 and 11 Drama students enjoyed an outstanding immersive performance of *Road* at the Royal Exchange Theatre, followed by a meeting with the actors in this iconic venue. Year 9 visited Bury Art Gallery, creating work exploring personal identity and deepening their understanding of diversity and equality through art. Year 8 gained valuable insights into future pathways at the National Apprenticeship and Education Event at Salford City Stadium. Then we ended the week by celebrating a group of hardworking KS3 students who have excelled in their Sparx Science homework and STS scores with a trip to the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford.

In the weeks ahead, we are placing a strong emphasis on punctuality, as every minute late means lost learning. Punctuality will play a key part in the criteria for our Easter reward event - the Spring Easter Egg Hunt, led by Mr Jackson in full Easter Bunny spirit. To help students start the day well, we now offer a free breakfast before school, which has already become very popular, particularly the warm bagels. Please encourage your child to arrive on time so they can enjoy this daily provision.

To strengthen communication with families, we have launched the Bury Church Instagram account - please follow us at **@burycehigh** to see the wonderful things happening across our school. We are also finalising the rollout of the new Arbor Parent App, which will provide quick, secure access to attendance, behaviour and academic information. Please bear with us as we make this transition; we are confident it will greatly improve communication. Full instructions will be shared as soon as the app is ready to go live.

Our Year 11 students continue to impress this week as they settle back into their normal timetable. Staff have been working tirelessly to mark mock exams, and we are excited for their mock results day to share the brilliant progress made. The hard work that has gone into our ambitious curriculum is truly paying off.

As always at Bury Church, our students never fail to let their light shine. It is a privilege to celebrate their achievements each week.

Dr S Wrigley – Acting Headteacher

Upcoming events

23rd March - Y9 Core Assessments (English, maths, science and RS)
24th - 26th March – High School Musical production
20th April - Y7&8 Assessment Week
28th/29th April - GCSE 3D Design Controlled Assessment
30th April/1st May - GCSE Art & Textiles Controlled Assessment
4th May - Year 11 External GCSE Exams Begin
21st May – Y7 Parents Evening
1st June – Y9 Assessments
1st June - Y10 Mock Exams

Uniform

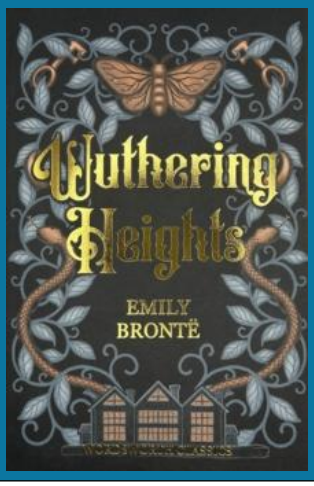
Monkhouse will no longer be a uniform supplier to Bury Church due to the closure of its Bury Store on Friday 17th April. Bury Church uniforms will be available at a discount rate until this date.

PTS School Wear will remain our sole uniform supplier, trading from 7 New Road, Radcliffe, M26 1LS. Telephone: 0161 723 0991

Book of the week

Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte

Ever since it was published in the mid-19th Century, Emily Brontë's tale of passionate love and ruthless revenge has captivated generations of readers. It is now once again the subject a new film adaptation as well.



Personal Development

SHINE Enrichment

This week, students explored a range of topics designed to support their personal development and understanding of the world around them. Year 7 students focused on challenging bullying and how to stand up for themselves and others in a respectful and responsible way. Year 8 students examined homophobic bullying, discussing the importance of inclusion, respect and supporting others. Year 9 students explored how to make informed financial decisions, developing their understanding of money management and responsible choices. Meanwhile, Year 10 and Year 11 students focused on finding work locally and nationally, exploring how to search for opportunities and better understand the world of work.

PSHCE: Looking ahead to next week's PSHE lessons, students will explore a range of important topics.

Year 7 – Saving and spending money Students will learn the difference between saving and spending, explore needs vs wants, and begin understanding how making careful financial choices can help them manage money responsibly.

Year 8 – How do my hormones affect my relationships? Students will explore how hormonal changes during puberty, including menstruation, can affect emotions, behaviour, and relationships, and discuss respectful understanding of these changes.

Year 9 – How do we respond to alcohol and drug related emergencies Students will learn how alcohol and drugs affect the body, recognise signs of an emergency, and understand how to respond safely, including when and how to seek help.

Year 10 – How does the media sexualise men and women? Students will analyse how media and online content can promote unrealistic or harmful portrayals of gender, including misogyny, and consider the impact this can have on attitudes, relationships, and wellbeing.

Year 11 – How does the Online Safety Act 2025 affect me? Students will explore how new UK online safety laws aim to protect users from harmful content, understand their digital rights and responsibilities, and learn how to stay safe online.

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

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.

Sport

Year 8 boy's football

The Year 8 Boy's football team enjoyed success in the Bury Schools Cup Quarter Finals against St Monica's. Jack put the team ahead on the stroke of half time with a 25 yard thunderbolt, only for St. Monica's to equalise right on the full-time whistle.

The boys held their nerve with Ajay making an outstanding penalty save in the shootout. The team are through to the Semi Finals.

Bury Netball Champions – Year 7

It was a thrilling and hard-fought match as Year 7 Bury Church faced St Monica's in an intense and closely contested game. From the very first whistle, both teams showed determination, energy, and excellent teamwork, making it a fantastic match to watch.

Bury Church demonstrated great resilience and composure under pressure. Their teamwork, communication, and determination allowed them to stay focused in such a competitive match. In the final moments, Bury Church managed to edge ahead, securing a 1-goal victory in what was truly a nail-biting finish.

Every single player played incredibly well and contributed to the team's success with outstanding effort, commitment, and sportsmanship. It was a brilliant performance from all the girls.

A big thank you to the parents who came along to support the team - your encouragement from the sidelines was greatly appreciated and helped create a fantastic atmosphere for the match.

Well done to Freya, Lana, Eva, Rose, Arabella, Cara, Lily, Robyn and Serenna.

New upcoming parental app - Arbor

You may have noticed recent changes to the way we report STS scores. In January, we changed our management and reporting system from SIMS to Arbor to improve how we manage and share information. Arbor is a modern, cloud-based system that will support clearer and more efficient communication. Once fully in place, you will be able to access your child's attendance, progress data, and STS scores easily in one place. We will send out more information regarding the new app in the next few weeks. Thank you for your patience as we make this change.

Trips and visits write up

GCSE Drama Trip – The Royal Exchange Theatre

Twenty of our Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Drama students had the fantastic opportunity of visiting the Royal Exchange Theatre to watch a powerful performance of Road as part of their studies.

The visit gave pupils the chance to experience live professional theatre, helping them develop their understanding of performance, staging, characterisation and dramatic impact - key elements of the GCSE Drama course. Seeing the production performed in such an iconic theatre brought the script to life and allowed students to analyse how directors and actors interpret the text for a modern audience.

To make the experience even more memorable, pupils were also lucky enough to meet actor and comedian Johnny Vegas, who is currently starring in the production. Students had the opportunity to speak with him and learn more about performing on stage in a professional theatre environment.

Experiences like this help inspire our young performers and give them a deeper appreciation of the creative arts and the power of live theatre.

A brilliant day and a fantastic opportunity for our students!

Bury Art Gallery

A group of Year 9 students visited Bury Art Gallery to view the artwork they have been developing through the Linking Schools – Fair Futures project on the theme of identity. It was fantastic for students to see their work displayed and to reflect on the creative journey they have taken as part of this collaborative project.

National Apprenticeship and Education Event

In careers education, forty Year 10 students attended the National Apprenticeship and Education Event in Manchester. The event brought together employers, training providers, colleges and universities from a wide range of industries. Students had the opportunity to learn more about apprenticeships and further education pathways, speak directly with employers and training providers, gain advice on career options and applications, and develop a clearer understanding of the many opportunities available to them after Post-16 and Post-18 education.

National Museum for Science and Media

To celebrate British Science Week, a group of Year 7, 8 and 9 students travelled to Bradford's National Museum of Science and Media to take part in a national celebration of British science. We took part in interactive workshops on computer science and games design, and there were lots of hands-on STEM activities to participate in.