SHINE newsletter

Let your light shine

Headteacher Update

This week, enrichment has been a key focus within our SHINE curriculum, providing students with purposeful opportunities to explore new interests and broaden their experiences beyond the classroom. Students chose from a wide range of activities, including disability sports, volleyball, creating beauty products, exploring fashion, and learning about entrepreneurship. These high-quality experiences were carefully designed and delivered by our staff to inspire confidence, curiosity, and aspiration. I would like to thank colleagues for their creativity and commitment to ensuring all students benefit from a rich and inclusive enrichment offer.

Listening to student voice continues to shape our work. Following feedback from last year's pupil survey, where many students expressed concerns about the future of the environment, we introduced our *Action for Change* curriculum. Through this, students are learning about sustainability and taking practical action to make a positive contribution to our school community. This week, students began preparing the school garden and wider outdoor spaces in readiness for planting seeds grown in lessons. This work will enhance the school environment, improve biodiversity, and support learning across the curriculum, including food technology.

We are also pleased to share that building work on our new canteen began this week, marking an exciting stage in the continued development of our school. This investment will enable us to expand our facilities and further improve the service we provide for students at break and lunchtime.

Looking ahead to next week, our music students will join young musicians from across the Trust to take part in the Bishop Fraser Trust Gala Concert. This event celebrates collaboration and musical excellence, and we are incredibly proud of the students representing our school. Families are warmly invited to attend and support them.

Year 11 students are now just weeks away from their final examinations. To support them during this important period, a bespoke exam timetable is in place, including targeted booster sessions with subject specialists ahead of each exam. We are proud of the focus, resilience, and determination students are demonstrating, and I would like to thank staff for the additional time and support they continue to provide.

As always, it is a privilege to celebrate the achievements of our students and staff as they continue to let their light shine.

Dr S Wrigley

Upcoming events

28th/29th April - GCSE 3D Design & Textiles Controlled Assessment
30th April/1st May - GCSE Art Controlled Assessment
5th May - Year 11 External GCSE Exams begin
21st May – Y7 Parents Evening
1st June – Y9 Assessments
1st June - Y10 Mock Exams
26th June – Year 11 prom
13th July – End of year trip

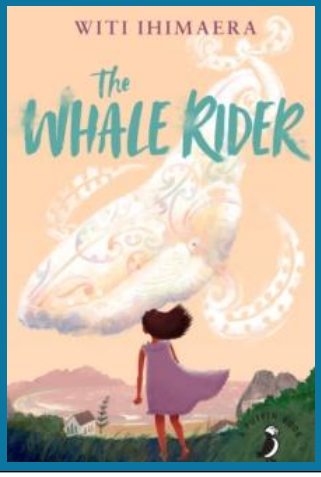
Online safety

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

Book of the week

The Whale Rider
By Witi Ihimaera

This timeless story tells how the courage of one Maori girl in standing against the tide of tradition enables her tribe to become reconnected with their ancestral life force. Since publication in 1987, 'The Whale Rider' has become one of Witi Ihimaera's best-loved stories, capturing readers with its universal themes of conflict between generations, respect for nature, family love and personal courage.



Personal Development

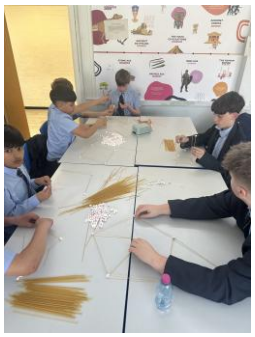
SHINE Curriculum – Pupil Choice Enrichment Launch

This week, we were proud to launch the pupil choice element of our SHINE curriculum. Staff have carefully designed a diverse range of enrichment activities to broaden the curriculum, develop key life skills and promote engagement through pupil-led choice.

It has been fantastic to see students demonstrate such enthusiasm and commitment when selecting and participating in their chosen activities. Early sessions have already highlighted strong levels of engagement, collaboration and independence, reflecting the positive impact of giving pupils ownership over their learning.

This programme is a key part of our commitment to high-quality personal development, ensuring all pupils can access experiences that build confidence, resilience and aspiration.

We look forward to sharing the journey over the coming weeks, follow us on social media to celebrate and see the achievements of our students in action.



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

- **Year 7:** Understanding the physical and emotional changes boys experience during puberty, including growth, hormones, and developing identity.
- **Year 8:** Exploring the risks of alcohol use for teenagers, including impacts on health, decision-making, and weight gain.
- **Year 9:** Identifying unhealthy online relationships, including risks linked to AI bots, influencers, and harmful online groups.
- **Year 10:** Learning how to recognise and respond appropriately to child-on-child abuse, including reporting and seeking support.
- **Year 11:** PSHCE curriculum complete – students are focusing on Maths and Science revision.

International Expedition Opportunity – Peru 2027

We are delighted to share an exciting opportunity for our Year 9 and Year 10 students to take part in a 4-week expedition to Peru in July 2027, in partnership with Camps International. Students need to raise their own funding to go on the trip.

This incredible experience will allow students to work on meaningful community and conservation projects, explore the stunning landscapes of Peru, and learn about local cultures. It is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop independence, resilience and valuable life skills, while gaining experiences highly regarded by universities and employers. If you require any more information, then please speak with Mr Mort through the office email.

Developing Character Through Outdoor Learning

As part of their OCR Cambridge Nationals Sport Studies, sixteen Year 10 pupils attended Rock and River Outdoor Pursuits Centre last term, taking part in both canoeing and orienteering.

This experience formed a key part of our commitment to broadening the curriculum and give students the opportunity to engage in outdoor and adventurous activities.

These experiences play an important role in preparing pupils for future success, contributing to their wider personal development and readiness for the next stage of education, employment or training.

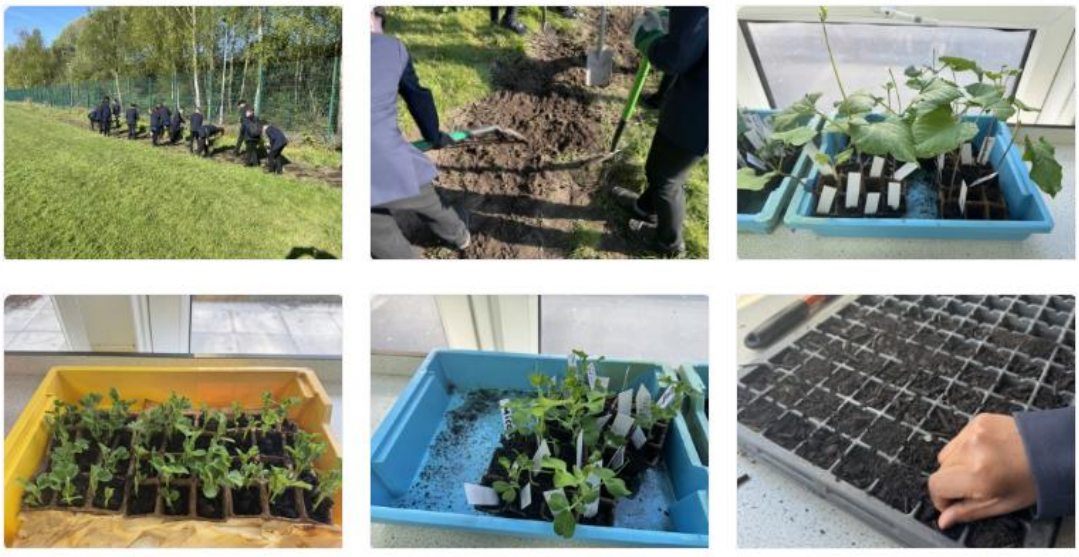
We are very proud of the way our pupils represented the school throughout the visit.

Action for change curriculum

Students are busily preparing for summer improvements to our school's outdoor environment. They have been learning hands-on gardening skills, from growing plants to preparing the school grounds for planting. Each year group is contributing to a different area of the project:

- **Year 7** students are preparing the ground to create a vibrant wildflower patch.
- **Year 8** students are germinating food crops in the classroom and getting the garden ready for new planters.
- **Year 9** students are planting sunflowers for a natural bird-feeding garden, while learning why this approach is more beneficial for wildlife than traditional bird feeders.

These activities are helping students develop practical skills while supporting biodiversity and environmental responsibility across the school.



Sport and Music

Year 7 B Team Football Competition v Derby

It was fantastic to see so many students from Year 7 attending the B team Football competition against Derby on Tuesday 31st March. All the students who have been committed to training but had not played for the A team were invited to play. This gave our students who have been coming to training the opportunity to represent Bury Church at competitive Football.

Bury Church were able to put three teams of 8 players in a Football competition against Derby, and they were was fantastic. All of the students displayed fantastic attitudes and played really well. The player of the match from the Bury Church Red team was Robert, the player of the match from the Bury Church Orange team was Ronnie and the player of the match from the Bury Church blue team was Shameer.

A special mention must go to the students who helped out with the competition. These students were Noah and Ethan in Year 10 and Micah in Year 8 along with a number of students from the Year 7 A team who stayed behind to support Bury Church. Well done to everyone involved in the B Team competition. The next B team Football fixture will be on Tuesday 28th April against Woodhey at Bury Church.

Year 9 Bury Schools Football Plate v Derby

The Year 9 Boys Football team played Derby in the semi-finals on the Bury Schools Football Plate. Derby started the game well and scored early. Bury Church recovered well and went into half time leading 3-2. Bury Church then played well in the second half and ended up winning the game 6-2. All of our students demonstrated excellent attitudes - it was a great team performance. Our Year 9 Boys Football team can now look forward to playing their first ever school football final - well done to everyone involved.

Player of the match for Bury Church was Callum. Scorers for Bury Church were Brad with 3 goals, Harvey, Kaleb and Max.

Bishop Fraser Trust Gala Concert

There is great excitement as our choir and band prepare for the Bishop Fraser Trust Gala Concert, an evening that brings together all the schools in the trust in a celebration of music. The concert will feature performances from each school, while also showcasing collaboration across the trust through pieces performed by a massed choir, bringing together singers from all the primary and secondary schools. There will also be performances from a joint orchestra, made up of instrumentalists from Bury Church, Canon Slade, and St James's schools.

Families and pupils of Bury Church are warmly invited to attend the event.

Venue: The Victoria Hall, Bolton (BL1 2AS)

Date: Tuesday 28 April 2026

Time: Doors open at 6:00pm | Concert begins at 6:30pm

Tickets: Available via TicketSource
Visit www.ticketsource.com to book

We look forward to seeing you there for an unforgettable evening of music and community spirit!

Easter Revision Sessions: Going the Extra Mile

A fantastic turnout from our Year 11 pupils during half-term intervention sessions, led by a range of subject specialists across the school.

These sessions reflect a strong culture of commitment, where pupils are actively engaging with targeted support, refining their knowledge, and responding positively to high-quality teaching. With only a few weeks to go until GCSE examinations begin, it is particularly encouraging to see so many pupils demonstrating resilience, independence, and a clear determination to succeed.

This level of engagement highlights the impact of our curriculum and intervention strategies in supporting pupils to make sustained progress. Our Year 11 cohort are truly going the extra mile, taking ownership of their learning and maximising every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

We are incredibly proud of the maturity, focus, and ambition being shown.

Celebrating Creative Excellence: Caitlin's Artwork Showcased in Rochdale

We are incredibly proud to celebrate Caitlin and her outstanding achievement, following the selection of her powerful artwork for public display in Rochdale. This is a fantastic recognition of her creativity, talent, and the strength of her voice as a young artist.

Caitlin's piece, which explores the theme of identity, is a striking example of how art can be used as a medium for personal expression and reflection. Through thoughtful design and skilled execution, her work captures a deep sense of individuality, encouraging viewers to consider how we see ourselves and the world around us.

Opportunities such as this play a vital role in developing pupils' confidence, creativity, and cultural capital. By showcasing her work beyond the classroom, Caitlin has embraced the chance to share her story with a wider audience, demonstrating both courage and ambition in her artistic journey.

This achievement reflects not only Caitlin's dedication, but also the strength of our creative curriculum in nurturing talent and enabling pupils to truly *shine*.

Congratulations, Caitlin - your light is shining brightly, and we look forward to seeing where your talent takes you next.

A safeguarding and Partnership Programme for parents

To further support our partnership with families, we are pleased to offer a series of online parental workshops led by our PSHCE Lead. These sessions are designed to help parents and carers navigate some of the most pressing challenges facing young people today. Each workshop will provide practical guidance, up-to-date information, and strategies you can use at home to support your child's wellbeing, safety, and personal development.

Session 1 – Why PSHCE Matters in 2026 – Social Media, AI and Online Harms - recording available on request

Session 2 – Pornography, Consent and Sexual Norms - recording available on request

Session 3 – Mental Health, Social Media and Identity - **Thursday 7 May 2026**

Session 4 – Unhealthy Relationships, Coercion and Misogyny - **Wednesday 17 June 2026**

Session 5 – Risk Culture: Drugs, Vaping, Gambling and Financial Exploitation - **Thursday 9 July 2026**

Student leadership:

Year 11 Prom – Student Leadership in Action

The Year 11 Prom Committee are working hard to plan an exciting evening. They are finalising the *"Bury Church Set"* - selecting 15 songs voted for by the year group - and organising the *"Most Likely To..."* awards, which students will vote on soon, with winners announced on the night.

Bury Church School Shop – Student Leadership in Action

This week, our Year 7 School Council team proudly launched the new school shop - open before school and during first break.

Led by students, for students, the shop offers essential stationery including pens, pencils, erasers, rulers and notebooks for 10p, with glue available for 50p. A supply of free sanitary products is also available from the trolley, ensuring all students can access what they need.

All funds raised will be reinvested into student-led projects, giving pupils a real opportunity to shape and improve their school community. This is a fantastic example of our pupils letting their light shine and making a positive difference.

As the project grows, the School Council hopes to expand the range of items available.