SHINE newsletter

Let your light shine

Headteacher Update

This week was dominated by the exceptional performance of our music students at the Bishop Fraser Trust Gala Concert. They represented our school in a truly phenomenal manner alongside the other schools in the trust. I am incredibly grateful to Miss Lythgoe, who has invested considerable time, energy and dedication into developing students of such outstanding talent, enabling them to perform so brilliantly on the night. It was a pleasure to share a Headteachers' Brunch with the students this week, where I was able to hear about their experiences and personally thank them for all their hard work.

The recent spell of sunshine has brought a real sense of positivity across the school. Students have enjoyed spending lunchtimes on the field, making the most of the good weather and contributing to a calm, happy and sociable atmosphere. This positive feeling has extended into form time, where students have continued to enjoy shared reading with their form tutors, providing valuable moments of routine, reflection and connection.

Lunchtimes have continued to run smoothly despite the ongoing works to create our new, larger canteen. Students have made good use of the available spaces, including time spent outside on the field and in indoor areas such as the library. The library is open at lunchtime and continues to be a popular space for reading, study and quiet social time during the school day.

Year 11 students completed their 3D Design, Art and Textiles controlled assessments this week. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Art and Design staff team for the considerable time, commitment and expertise they have invested in supporting students throughout this demanding process. We are extremely proud of the focus, commitment and dedication demonstrated by our Year 11 students during these assessments.

As we move into next week, the formal examination period begins for Year 11. This marks a significant stage in their secondary education, and we wish all students every success as they prepare to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Staff will continue to support students throughout the exam series, and we encourage students to maintain strong routines, attend school every day and make full use of the revision support available to them.

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

5th May - Year 11 External GCSE Exams begin
21st May – Y7 Parents Evening
1st June – Y9 Assessments
1st June - Y10 Mock Exams
1st July – Art, Design and Textiles Exhibition
26th June – Year 11 prom
13th July – End of year trip

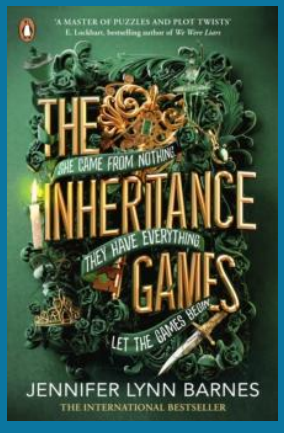
Online safety

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 Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

A bestselling YA mystery thriller following Avery Grambs, a teenager who unexpectedly inherits a billionaire's fortune, provided she moves into his secret-passage-filled mansion and survives a deadly game against his disinherited family. The series is renowned for its fast-paced puzzles, secrets, and romantic entanglements.



Personal Development

SHINE Enrichment Update – Pupil Choice in Action

This week, students across Years 7–10 have continued to immerse themselves in their pupil choice enrichment projects, showing fantastic enthusiasm, creativity and independence. It has been brilliant to see students exploring their interests beyond the traditional curriculum and developing new skills in such a purposeful way.

Here are some pictures from the events…

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.

In Fashion, students have been developing their digital design skills by creating inspiring mood boards, learning how designers communicate ideas visually. Over in Survival Skills, students have been getting hands-on, learning how to design and build a survival shelter, demonstrating teamwork and problem-solving.

Meanwhile, in French Culture, students enjoyed a virtual tour of Paris, exploring famous landmarks and gaining insight into French product branding and identity. In Hair and Beauty, students explored the fast-paced world of beauty influencers, analysing trends before creating their own engaging influencer-style videos.

It has been a fantastic week of creativity, curiosity and confidence-building. We are incredibly proud of how our students continue to embrace these opportunities—truly embodying our school vision to "let your light shine."

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

- **Year 7:** Students will learn about puberty for girls, focusing on physical development and menstruation, including understanding different sanitary products.
- **Year 8**: Students will learn about vaping and nicotine products, including the associated risks and health impacts.
- **Year 9:** Students will learn about the reasons why people choose to have intimate relationships, explored within a Christian context.
- **Year 10:** Students will learn how young people can become victims of child criminal exploitation and how to stay safe.
- **Year 11:** Exam preparation and time management.

Sport

Year 7B Football Fixture - Tuesday pm

Bury Church hosted a round-robin competition on Tuesday afternoon, played in warm sunshine after school, as Year 7 B team took on Woodhey in an enjoyable and competitive fixture.

All the boys performed exceptionally well throughout the afternoon, showing a great level of football, determination, and, most importantly, teamwork. Passing was sharp, movement off the ball was intelligent, and there was a real sense of unity across the team in every match played.

A special mention must go to the Year 10 referees — Alfie W, Olly S, and Noah C — whose efforts ensured the fixtures ran smoothly. Without their support and commitment, the event would not have been possible.

Well done to everyone involved for representing the school so positively and contributing to a fantastic afternoon of football.

Year 7/8 Girls Football Fixture - Tuesday pm

On Monday, the Y7/8 girls' football team travelled to Elton for their cup fixture. For many of the players, it was their first time representing the school in a football match, and they rose to the occasion brilliantly. Their teamwork stood out throughout the game, with every player working hard to support and encourage one another right up to the final whistle.

Although the match ended in defeat against a strong Elton team, there were outstanding performances all over the pitch. Louise H made some excellent saves in goal, Eva T impressed both in defence and midfield, and Esme M and Roseanna G combined superbly to score a well-worked goal. These are just a few highlights from a team full of determination and spirit.

Well done to everyone involved for representing the school and our values so admirably.

Tuesday 28th April - Year 8 Football

The school Year 8 boys 'B' team played against Derby on Tuesday afternoon in the beautiful sunshine. Ably coached by Zach and Cameron, the squad dominated early exchanges and, if not for a number of (correct) offside decisions by Year 10 ref Olly Seddon, would have taken the lead early.

Persistent pressure paid off and the Year 8 boys started to score in quick succession and, by half-time, were leading 5 - 0.

Captain Harry Russell had a strong influence on the game spraying passes forward to the attackers. The scoring continued and the team extended their lead to 9 - 0.

Just before the final whistle, Derby scored a deserved consolation goal and the game ended 9 - 1. Well played to all involved with several putting themselves in the frame for the 'A' team.

Year 8 Enrichment - Disability Sports

Students in Year 8 got the opportunity to choose what activities they wanted to take part in for this term in Year 8 Enrichment. Mr Connolly and Mr Bleasdale offer the opportunity for students to take part in Disability Sports. The focus was on seated Volleyball, and students developed their skills and knowledge linked to this. Students discussed the barriers that disabled people might face when taking part in sport and physical activity.

Careers:

This week, our Year 10 students took part in a special assembly focused on apprenticeships. The session provided a clear insight into what apprenticeships are, how to access them, and the wide range of opportunities available at different levels—supporting students to take confident next steps towards their future pathways.

Alongside this, our Careers Lead has continued to provide one-to-one careers conversations, offering personalised guidance and support to help students explore their aspirations and make informed decisions about their next steps.

Please follow this link to access our weekly careers newsletter, this week is Edition 34.

https://www.burychurch.bury.sch.uk/careers-information-for-parents/#gswModal1

Year 10 Apprenticeship Assembly

Andrew Bradburn from the local authority visited our Year 10 assembly to deliver an excellent presentation to pupils around their options as they approach their final year in school.

Should any pupils want to get more information around Apprenticeships they can contact Mr Halden (Careers) and parents can look at options online at https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

AI Research Opportunity for Students & Families

We are pleased to be working with University College London (UCL) and the PSHE Association on a research study exploring how young people use and experience AI chatbots. Students in Years 8–10 will be invited to complete a short class survey, and pupils from all year groups may be invited to take part in a brief discussion or creative activity during the school day. Participation is voluntary, confidential, and requires parental consent. Full details will be shared with parents/carers by email shortly. There will also be an opportunity for parents/carers to share their views on adolescence and AI directly with the research team.

Bishop Fraser Trust Gala Concert – A Celebration of Talent and Collaboration

We are incredibly proud of our pupils who represented Bury Church at the Bishop Fraser Trust's first ever Trust-wide Gala Concert. The event brought together students from across the Trust's primary and secondary schools, showcasing the power of collaboration and shared talent.

Our pupils performed alongside their peers, demonstrating not only their musical ability but also their confidence, teamwork, and commitment. The evening featured a fantastic range of performances, with students working together across phases to deliver a truly memorable experience for an audience of over 400 people.

This event was a wonderful example of our Trust community in action, with pupils supporting one another and embracing the opportunity to perform on a larger stage. Every student involved represented their school with passion and pride, truly embodying our ethos to ***'let your light shine'***.

Thank you to the following children for providing their time and talents to showcase Bury Church.

Amelia, Benjamin, Edson, Elijah, Emily, Emma, Grace, Holly, Isobel, Katie, Leo, Maksymilian, Rebekah, Ruby, Savannah, Sophia, Sophie and Thea.

A special thank you goes to Miss Lythgoe for her dedication in supporting and preparing our pupils for the event. We are extremely proud of everyone who took part in what was a fantastic celebration of music, talent, and unity across the Bishop Fraser Trust.