SHINE newsletter

Let your light shine

Headteacher Update

On the final day of last half term, we celebrated the successes of our fantastic students with the Bury Church Summer Picnic. The atmosphere across the school was wonderful, with students enjoying a range of summer games, dancing and singing. The ice cream van proved especially popular, with a large number of treats enjoyed throughout the day. It was a real pleasure to see staff and students spending time together in the sunshine, making the most of the food, activities and vibrant summer spirit. It was a great end to a brilliant half term.

Year 11 exams are still ongoing this week and we are extremely proud of the hard work and commitment our students continue to demonstrate. We look forward to celebrating the end of their time at Bury Church in the coming weeks at both the leavers' assembly and prom.

We are delighted to welcome new staff to Bury Church. Mr Everitt is a wonderful addition to our pastoral team, bringing a wealth of experience in pastoral care and already proving to be a valuable asset. We are very fortunate to have him, and his positive impact is already being felt across the school.

We are also thrilled to welcome Miss Lawrence to our attendance team. She has made an excellent start and has already brought enthusiasm, warmth and a strong commitment to supporting our students and families. Her work is helping to strengthen our focus on attendance, which remains a key priority, as we know that the more consistently students are in school, the better outcomes they achieve. We are very pleased to have her as part of the Bury Church team.

We are now looking ahead and planning for next year, building on this year's successes while striving for even greater achievements. The Year 9 options process is currently being finalised, alongside staffing arrangements, and outcomes will be shared with families by the end of the term. Where any changes have been necessary, students and parents will be contacted directly. We have taken care throughout this process to maximise the number of students receiving their first-choice subjects.

A particularly exciting addition to our curriculum this year is GCSE Citizenship, which builds on our SHINE curriculum and social action work, offering valuable opportunities for our students. It has also been encouraging to see that our significant investment in the Creative Arts has led to a notable increase in the number of students opting for these subjects.

As always, it is a genuine privilege to celebrate the achievements of both our students and staff as they continue to 'let their light shine'. I wish you a lovely weekend.

Dr S Wrigley

Upcoming events

21st May – Y7 Parents Evening
22nd May – Whole School Summer Picnic
1st June – Y9 Assessments
1st June - Y10 Mock Exams
1st July – Art, Design and Textiles Exhibition
8th & 9th July – Open Mornings
26th June – Year 11 prom
13th July – End of year trip

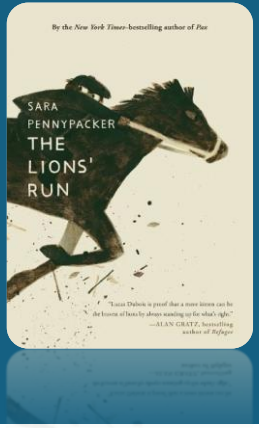
Online safety

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 Lions' Run
by Sara Pennypacker

Perfect for fans of Ross Montgomery and Phil Earle, this emotive and exciting animal story set during World War II from the author of the bestselling *Pax* finds cowardly Lucas emboldened to make a stand against the Nazis after witnessing acts of resistance in his village.



Personal Development

SHINE Enrichment Update

As we begin a new term, students in Years 7–10 have continued to engage with their chosen SHINE enrichment projects, developing new skills, exploring personal interests and learning beyond the classroom.

This week, students participating in French Culture explored French music and art, gaining a deeper appreciation of French culture and its influence around the world. In Dragons' Den, students continued developing their business ideas, refining their products and beginning to design prototypes in preparation for their final pitches.

Students in Disability Sports took part in sitting volleyball, experiencing an inclusive sport played by Paralympic athletes and developing teamwork, communication and resilience. Meanwhile, students in Cosmetics planned the packaging for their bath bomb products and learned about the production process, considering both branding and manufacturing.

In Beauty, students explored appropriate makeup techniques for professional settings, learning about presentation and the expectations of different workplaces. Our Year 9 Leadership students continued to work with a representative from Women's Aid, who led a thought-provoking discussion and debate around money, relationships and gender roles, encouraging students to consider different perspectives and challenge stereotypes.

It has been fantastic to see students engaging so positively with their chosen projects and developing valuable skills, knowledge and confidence through these enriching experiences. These opportunities help students to embody our core values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience, while encouraging them to "Let Their Light Shine" by exploring their talents, broadening their horizons and making a positive contribution to the school community.

Year 6 Transition: Friendship, Teamwork and Sweet Success 🎂

There was a real buzz of excitement this week as our Year 6 Enhanced Transition group came together for their third session—and what a fantastic session it was!

This group of students, who will be joining us as single entrants in September, have already made remarkable progress. Over the past few weeks, we've seen them grow in confidence, quickly forming friendships and building strong, positive relationships with staff. It has been wonderful to watch them settle in and begin to feel part of our school community.

This week's session focused on teamwork—and what better way to bring everyone together than through a hands-on cooking activity? Working collaboratively in small groups, students took on different roles to create some delicious cornflake cakes. From carefully measuring ingredients to mixing and decorating, everyone contributed with enthusiasm and care.

But the teamwork didn't stop there! In true team spirit, pupils also shared the responsibility of tidying up, willingly pitching in to wash, dry and clear away. It was fantastic to see such cooperation, communication and mutual support in action.

With just one session remaining next week, there is a real sense of anticipation building. Our final meeting will lead perfectly into Transition Day, which everyone is now very much looking forward to. If the past

three sessions are anything to go by, these students are more than ready to take their next step with confidence.

As we've seen so clearly this week—teamwork really does make the dream work!

PSHCE Update – Next Week

- **Year 7** – What is the difference between criminal law and civil law?
  Students will explore the two main types of law in the UK, learning how criminal law deals with offences against society, while civil law resolves disputes between individuals and organisations.
- **Year 8** – New Unit: How does justice work in a democracy?
  Students will begin their new Citizenship unit by investigating who has the power to bring about change in the UK, including the roles of Parliament, government, campaign groups, the media and individual citizens.
- **Year 9** – New Unit: Keeping Safe in Relationships
  Students will learn about sexual consent, what the law says about consent, and how UK legislation protects young people from harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- **Year 10** – Mock Examinations and Revision Skills
  Students will continue with their mock examinations and will also have opportunities to develop effective revision techniques and study strategies to support their preparation for future GCSE examinations.

Year 9 RSHE Information for Parents

Year 9 students will shortly begin a new Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) unit entitled "How do I keep myself safe when starting relationships? (STIs and Contraception)".

Throughout this unit, students will receive age-appropriate, factual and balanced education designed to help them make informed decisions, recognise risks and develop the knowledge and skills needed to keep themselves safe and healthy.

Topics covered will include:

- Sexual consent and how the law protects young people, including learning about Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- Sexual harassment, stalking and recognising unhealthy behaviours in relationships.
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), how they are spread, prevented and treated.
- Different methods of contraception and how they can help prevent pregnancy and some STIs.
- Correct condom use and where to access support and advice if needed.
- HIV and AIDS, including modern treatments and developments in prevention.

All lessons will be delivered sensitively and within the context of our school's Christian values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. Students will also be signposted to appropriate sources of support and guidance should they have any questions or concerns.
If parents or carers would like further information about the content of this unit, or wish to discuss any aspect of Relationship, Sex and Health Education, please contact **Mrs Shelmerdine** at lynn.shelmerdine@bury.tbft.uk.

This important learning helps ensure that young people receive accurate information, rather than relying on potentially misleading content found online or through social media, enabling them to make safe and responsible choices as they grow into young adults.

This week, we have continued holding personalised 1:1 career discussions with Year 10 students to help them explore their ambitions and plan next steps. Looking ahead, students will be diving into the world of construction, as students learn more about a career as a bricklayer, exploring pathways into the trade, local salary expectations and the key skills and responsibilities needed to succeed.

Please follow the link below to access our careers newsletter:

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

Youth Voice Census 2026 – Have Your Say!

The deadline for the **Youth Voice Census 2026** has been extended to **Monday 22nd June**, giving more young people the opportunity to share their views and experiences.

The Youth Voice Census is the UK's largest annual survey of young people. It provides valuable insights into education, careers, employment and the challenges facing young people today. The findings help organisations, employers and policymakers better understand and support the next generation.

The survey link will be shared with students via **Satchel One**, and we would be grateful if parents and carers could encourage their child to take part. By completing the survey, students can help shape future opportunities and ensure that the voices of young people are heard.

Further information can be found at Youth Voice Census 2026 – Youth Employment UK.

Drowning Prevention Week: 13th–20th June

As the weather becomes warmer and more young people spend time around water, we would like to support Drowning Prevention Week (13th–20th June) and remind families of the importance of staying safe near water.

Drowning can happen quickly and silently, and many incidents are preventable. By working together, we can help ensure our young people enjoy the summer safely.

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) recommends that children and young people:

- Always swim in lifeguarded areas where possible.
- Never enter water after consuming alcohol or drugs.
- Avoid jumping into unknown water, as hidden hazards and changes in depth can cause serious injury.
- Stay away from the edges of rivers, canals and reservoirs, where banks can be slippery and unstable.
- Never swim alone and always tell someone where you are going.
- If you see someone in trouble, call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service or Coastguard rather than entering the water yourself.
- Remember the Float to Live message: *If you unexpectedly fall into water, float on your back, keep calm, and control your breathing until help arrives or you can safely reach the shore.*

Parents and carers can find further advice, resources and water safety information from the Royal Life Saving Society UK at: Drowning Prevention Week

🏃 PE Extra-Curricular Timetable for Term 3 (May to July 2026) – Starts Monday 18th May 2026

After School PE Clubs from 3.10pm to 4pm ***Students MUST bring PE kit*** 👕	
Monday	⚽ Year 7 Boys Football Practice – School Field **(PC/JB)** ⚽ Girls Football Practice for All Year Groups – School Field **(JM/LT)** 💃 Dance Club for All Year Groups – Main Hall **(DT)**
Tuesday	🏏 Rounders Practice for All Year Groups – School Field **(RLD/LT)** 🏏 Cricket Practice for All Year Groups – Tennis Courts **(PC/JB)**
Wednesday	📚 Year 10 AQA GCSE PE Theory Intervention until 3.40pm – F3 **(JB/PC)** 📚 Year 10 and Year 11 OCR Theory Intervention until 3.40pm – Library **(AJN)** 🏃 Athletics Practice for All Year Groups – School Field **(LT/RLD)**
Thursday	🏐 Netball Practice for All Year Groups – Tennis Courts **(LT/RLD)** ⚽ Year 8 Boys Football Practice – School Field **(JB/AJN)** 💃 Dance Club for All Year Groups – Main Hall **(DT)**
Friday	📚 Year 10 AQA GCSE PE Theory Intervention until 3.40pm – please meet at the Sports Hall **(PC)**

PC = Mr Connolly AJN = Mr Jackson RLD = Miss Lloyd

JM = Mr Mort LT = Miss Thompson JB = Mr Bleasdale DT = Mrs Toto

- Students must bring PE kit for the after-school PE events.
- Students must let their parents/carers know if they are attending after school PE events and ensure that they can get safely home.
- Additional PE fixtures/competitions will take place throughout this term and PE staff will update students about these on a regular basis.