SHINE newsletter

Let your light shine

Headteacher Update

This week's exceptionally warm weather has created challenging conditions for both staff and students. However, true to our school values, our students have shown remarkable resilience - continuing to attend school and fully engage in their learning despite the heat. The option of wearing PE kit has certainly helped, and students have particularly enjoyed gathering in cooler areas of the school to watch highlights of the previous evening's football matches during social times. We will continue to show the football in school, as the response from students has been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in ensuring your children attend school regularly. We know that the best outcomes are achieved when students are present and benefiting from the expertise of our exceptionally dedicated and talented staff.

One of the highlights of the week was welcoming our new Year 6 students as part of their transition to Bury Church ahead of their arrival in September. On Tuesday evening, despite the intense heat, the main hall was packed with parents and students eager to learn about our routines, expectations and, of course, to hear about our excellent Ofsted report. It was clear that families were excited to be joining our school at such a positive and exciting time.

The evening began with a fantastic performance from our High School Musical cast, showcasing the strength of our performing arts department. The students delivered an energetic and highly polished performance, including impressive singing, dancing and even some acrobatic moments. A huge thank you to Miss Lythgoe for her dedication in bringing this together - it was fantastic, and we were incredibly proud of the students' performance. We also heard thoughtful and inspiring speeches from Elijah and Arthur, who spoke warmly about their experiences at Bury Church.

Transition Day itself was equally successful. We have received a great deal of positive feedback from parents, many expressing how confident and pleased they feel about their choice of school. We even received a message from a local primary headteacher describing how "buzzing" the children were following their visit. This is a real testament to the hard work of Miss Chapman and all the staff who contributed to such a well-organised and welcoming event.

I hope you have now had the opportunity to read our recent Ofsted report. We are incredibly grateful for your support throughout our rapid improvement journey, and we hope you feel as proud as we do of the recognition the school has received through this rigorous external evaluation.

As always at Bury Church, our students continue to let their light shine. It is a privilege to celebrate their achievements each and every week.

Dr S Wrigley

Upcoming events

1st July 2026 – Art, Design and Textiles Exhibition
7th July – Bury Church World Cup for Year 5 primary teams
8th & 9th July 2026 – Year 4, 5 or 6 Open Mornings – Tours throughout the morning
13th July – End of year trip to Blackpool
17th July – Glasto-Bury - whole school celebration for years 7 – 10. Bring suncream, hats and some money for the ice cream van.

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

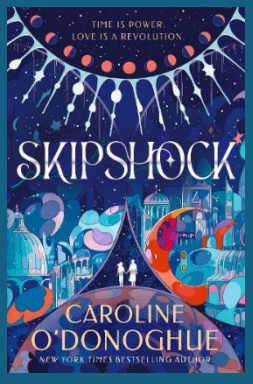
Skipshock
by Caroline O'Donoghue

Margo and Moon were on two different trains, in two different worlds.

They never should have met - but they did.

And now they are running out of time.

A dazzlingly inventive sci-fi fantasy romance from the bestselling Irish author of *The Rachel Incident*



Personal Development

PSHCE Update – The week ahead

- **Year 7 – What are County Lines?**
  Students will learn how criminal gangs exploit young people through County Lines and how to recognise the warning signs of child criminal exploitation.
- **Year 8 – What is Anti-Social Behaviour and How is it Dealt With?**
  Students will explore different types of anti-social behaviour and the consequences and legal measures used to protect communities.
- **Year 9 – How Does Contraception Prevent Pregnancy and Some STIs?**
  Students will learn about different contraception methods, how they work, and which methods can help protect against STIs.
- **Year 10 – What Political Issues Are Important to Your Generation?**
  Students will discuss issues affecting young people today and debate which should be the highest priorities for politicians and government.

UCL Research Project on AI and Adolescence

Researchers from **University College London (UCL)** will be in school on **9th and 10th July** to speak with groups of students about their understanding and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
The researchers are also keen to hear from parents about how they feel AI affects young people. If you would be willing to contribute to this important research project, please contact Mrs Shelmerdine at lynn.shelmerdine@bury.tbft.uk

🌞 **Year 6 Transition Day – A Fantastic Start!** 🌞

On Wednesday 24th June, we were delighted to welcome our incoming Year 6 students for a fantastic Transition Day. From the moment they arrived, there was a real sense of excitement as pupils began to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings, meet key staff, and experience a range of engaging lessons designed to give them a taste of life at our school.

Students enjoyed a variety of activities across subjects, including conducting their very first experiment in our brand-new science labs, designing imaginative fairground rides in technology, exploring a spooky poem in English, and tackling problem-solving challenges in maths.

The day also provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to build new friendships, with plenty of smiles, conversations, and laughter throughout. Students were treated to a complimentary pizza snack, and many chose to extend the day by taking part in after-school sports such as badminton, dodgeball and dance.

Despite the warm weather, pupils showed great enthusiasm and made the most of every moment. It was a truly enjoyable day, and we look forward to welcoming them back in September as they begin their journey with us.

Year 10 Mock Interviews

On Thursday 25th June, our Year 10 students took part in a Mock Interview Day organised in partnership with Salford Foundation. The purpose of the event was to help students develop the employability skills needed for future education, training and employment opportunities. Through the interview process, students were able to gain valuable experience of a formal interview environment, practise answering questions confidently, and receive professional feedback on their communication, presentation and interview techniques.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for students to reflect on their strengths, discuss their future aspirations and build confidence ahead of future college, apprenticeship and employment interviews.

We would like to thank the interviewers from a range of organisations who generously volunteered their time to support our students. Their expertise and encouragement helped to make the experience both meaningful and memorable for our students.

The feedback from employers was overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on the maturity, enthusiasm and professionalism demonstrated by our Year 10 students throughout the day.

Future Fridays – Food Scientist

This week, students across Years 7–10 learned about the role of a Food Scientist as part of our Future Friday's careers programme. Students explored how food scientists use research and testing to develop safe, nutritious and sustainable food products, while gaining an insight into careers within the food and drink industry.

Future Fridays continue to introduce students to a wide range of careers and help them understand the pathways available to achieve their future aspirations.

Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience Week is fast approaching and will take place from 6th–10th July 2026. This is an exciting opportunity for students to gain first-hand experience of the workplace, develop employability skills and explore potential career pathways.

Mrs Doherty-Kirkwood has recently shared important information with parents/carers regarding work experience arrangements, expectations and key contacts. We would be grateful if families could take a few moments to review this information to ensure students are fully prepared for the week ahead. We look forward to hearing about the valuable experiences and skills our students gain during their placements.

🎵 BBC Philharmonic Orchestra – Year 10 GCSE Music

Year 10 students who are completing GCSE Music recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to our sister school, St James', where they heard a live performance by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. The programme featured a diverse selection of orchestral pieces, offering students a valuable opportunity to experience world-class music and enhance their appreciation of classical performance. It was a truly memorable and enriching occasion that brought their musical learning vividly to life beyond the classroom.

Armed Forces Day – 27th June 2026

Bury Church of England High School proudly honours the selfless service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces personnel, past, present and future.

Armed Forces Day, previously known as Veteran's Day, is a fantastic opportunity for us all to show our appreciation to the wonderful men and women who have served and continue to serve our country.

Church schools should remember veterans to honour the virtues of service, sacrifice, and gratitude, drawing parallels between military selflessness and Christ's teachings of putting others first.

The purpose of Armed Forces Day is to honour and recognise the incredible service of the Armed Forces community and to say thank you to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Royal Marines, including reservists and Cadets for the sacrifices they make.

It is also a time to recognise the vital contribution and sacrifices made by the families who support them every day.

⚽ Year 7 Boys Football Plate Final v Philips on Tuesday 23rd June

The Year 7 Boys Football team have had a strong season and recently competed in the Bury Schools Plate Final against Philips High School on Tuesday 23rd June. They played in very hot conditions on the 3G pitch at Elton - the team showed great determination after going 3–0 down early on. By adapting their formation and demonstrating excellent resilience, Bury Church fought back to make it 4–3. Although Philips held on to win, the match was played to a high standard and was a fantastic example of school football. Well done to all involved – a brilliant team effort.

Bury Church - Player of the Match - Fionn O'D. Scorers from Bury Church were Rio A, Reuben M and Seb M

FREE Summer Holiday Club

Bury Church of England High School is hosting a *Summer Activity Week* from 10th–14th August 2026, free for Year 4 and 5 pupils from our feeder primary schools. Places are limited to 50 students. Please contact the school office for further information.

🏐 Summer Netball Camp Opportunity

We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity for our students this summer. A three-day netball camp will be taking place during the holidays, featuring high-quality coaching and an exclusive training session led by a Manchester Thunder player.

With many talented netballers in school, including our Year 7 league-winning team, this is a fantastic chance to develop skills, build confidence and enjoy the sport further. Our very own brilliant PE teacher – Miss Lloyd – will be helping to run the event. Please see the attached flyer for full details and how to get involved.