SHINE newsletter

Let your light shine

Headteacher Update

Our students have enjoyed tremendous success at competitions and events over the past few weeks. Twelve Year 9 students attended a STEM competition at Holy Cross College, where they excelled throughout a series of challenging rounds. We are particularly proud of Louis and Arthur, who were part of the winning team. As a result, they have secured a place in the regional finals at the University of Huddersfield in January 2027. This outstanding achievement was made even more special when the students had the opportunity to meet the Mayor of Bury and celebrate their success. This follows the success of another group of students who recently won the Rotary Technology Tournament, which many of you will have seen featured on our Instagram in June. These achievements are a testament to the strength and depth of our STEM curriculum and the enthusiasm and talent of our students.

It was a privilege on Friday to watch our students compete in our Bury Church Sports Day. They demonstrated exceptional resilience, determination and sportsmanship, giving their very best in every event. As always, Mr Connolly planned and delivered a superb day, ensuring another fantastic sporting occasion for our school community. I am incredibly proud of all the students who represented the school and competed with such commitment.

Last Friday also marked our final farewell to our Year 11 students at their prom. It was wonderful to see them looking so fantastic and enjoying a memorable evening together. While it was sad to say goodbye, we wish them every success and happiness in the next stage of their journey. I would also like to thank Mr Jackson for organising such a fantastic event and creating lasting memories for our students.

Our expanded programme of educational visits is also in full swing. This weekend, a group of Year 10 students enjoyed an exciting trip to Wimbledon, where many were delighted to discover they had been spotted on television during the matches. Following an overnight stay, they continued their visit with trips to Buckingham Palace and several other iconic London landmarks, creating experiences that will stay with them for years to come.

As we move into the penultimate week of the academic year, we are looking forward to welcoming prospective students and their families to our Open Mornings. The positive impact of our recent Ofsted report has certainly been felt within the local community and beyond. I have received many messages of congratulations and have been delighted to hear so many positive comments about the school. Whenever I hear such praise, I am reminded how fortunate we are to have such dedicated staff and such wonderful students. I am immensely proud of them all.

We have recently enhanced our communication through social media. If you do not already follow us, please join us on Instagram at **@buryce** to keep up to date with the many exciting opportunities, achievements and events taking place across the school each week. 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

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.

Visit our Instragram page

Stay up to date with our latest news, updates, and announcements by visiting our Instagram page.

https://www.instagram.com/burycehigh/

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

Birdie
By J.P. Rose

Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal for Writing and the UKLA Book Award. Birdie Bagshaw has never known her parents. Having grown up in a children's home for mixed race children in 1950s Leeds, now she has come to live with her great-aunt in the Yorkshire Dales.

From her arrival, Birdie is treated like an outsider by the local children. When their bullying drives Birdie to hide in the nearby coal mine, she finds an unexpected rescuer in the form of Mr Duke, the last remaining pit pony in the village. As the weeks pass, Birdie forms a special bond with the spirited little pony.

Personal Development

PSHCE Lessons This Week

Year 7: Students will explore why some young people carry knives, the risks and consequences of knife crime, and the positive choices and support available to help them stay safe.

Year 8: Students will learn what happens when someone under the age of 18 commits a crime, exploring the youth justice system and how it aims to balance accountability with rehabilitation.

Year 9: Students will learn how to use a condom safely and correctly, understand common mistakes to avoid, and find out where to access confidential support and advice if needed.

Year 10: Students are on **Work Experience** this week. We wish them the very best of luck and hope they enjoy this valuable opportunity to develop new skills, build confidence and gain an insight into the world of work.

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**

Collective Worship with Livit: Celebrating Gifts and Talent

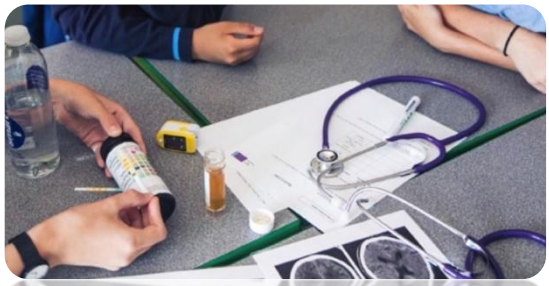
This week, all students in Years 7–10 took part in an inspiring act of worship delivered by Livit, centred on the theme "Celebrating Gifts and Talents."

Students were encouraged to reflect on the unique gifts and talents that each person has been given and how these can be used to make a positive difference in the lives of others. The worship explored the importance of recognising our own strengths, celebrating the achievements of those around us, and using our abilities with humility, kindness and purpose.

Through engaging stories and thoughtful reflection, students were reminded that everyone has something valuable to contribute to our school community and beyond. The message encouraged them to continue developing their talents, living out our school vision of letting their light shine.

We would like to thank the Livit team for leading such an uplifting and thought-provoking worship, which was enjoyed by students across Years 7–10.

Year 9 STEM Stars Shine at Holy Cross Science Challenge



On Tuesday 30 June, 12 of our Year 9 students represented Bury Church of England High School at the Holy Cross College Science Challenge, taking part in an exciting day of STEM activities alongside students from schools across the region.

Working collaboratively was a key focus of the event, with teams made up of two students from Bury Church paired with two students from another school. Throughout the day, students completed three of four 75-minute STEM challenges, earning points for teamwork, presentation skills and the quality of their solutions.

The challenges included creating a police-style e-fit image using the same software as police forces, designing and racing an electric car, solving a medical diagnosis through questioning and analysis, and programming LEGO robots using engineering and coding skills.

Our students achieved an excellent set of results throughout the competition, with teams receiving recognition across several challenges, including Robotics, Forensics and Electric Cars. The highlight of the day came when one of the mixed-school teams, including two Bury Church students, was crowned the overall winner of the event and secured a place in the regional finals at the University of Huddersfield in January 2027.

The event concluded with an inspiring address from the Mayor of Bury, celebrating the achievements of all the young people involved.

We are incredibly proud of all our students, who demonstrated exemplary behaviour, enthusiasm, resilience and outstanding teamwork throughout the day, representing the school exceptionally well.

Year 10 Explore Future Pathways at Bury College

This week, all our Year 10 students attended a taster morning at Bury College, giving them the opportunity to experience life as a college student and explore a range of subjects that interest them.

Students selected taster sessions based on the courses they are considering studying after Year 11, allowing them to gain first-hand experience of different curriculum areas, meet specialist teaching staff and learn more about the exciting opportunities available to them.

The visit formed an important part of our careers programme, helping students make informed decisions about their post-16 pathways while raising aspirations and encouraging them to think about their future education and career goals. We hope the experience has inspired them as they begin planning the next stage of their educational journey.

Year 10 Work Experience Week – 6–10 July

Next week, our Year 10 students will be taking part in Work Experience Week, an exciting opportunity to gain first-hand experience of the workplace, develop employability skills and explore future career pathways.

We ask all parents and carers to support their child in preparing for the week by ensuring they:

- Have contacted the employer.
- Know where they need to be, what time to arrive and who to report to on their first day.
- Have confirmed the dress code or uniform required by their employer.
- Plan their journey to and from their placement in advance, allowing plenty of time to arrive promptly each day.
- Bring any equipment, lunch or refreshments they may need.

During the week, students are expected to demonstrate the excellent standards of behaviour they show in school by being punctual, respectful, reliable and willing to take on new challenges. They are ambassadors for Bury Church of England High School, and we are confident they will represent our school with pride.

Attendance remains compulsory throughout the week. If your child is unable to attend their placement for any reason, parents and carers must contact both the employer and the school as soon as possible on each day of absence.

Members of Bury Church staff will be visiting or contacting students during the week to see how they are getting on and to celebrate their achievements.

We wish all our Year 10 students the very best of luck and hope they enjoy this valuable opportunity to develop new skills, build confidence and take another important step towards their future careers.

Year 11 Prom took place on **Friday 26th June at the Village Hotel in Bury**, and pupils were on the dancefloor from minute one!

A huge congratulations to our **Prom King and Queen, Jocey Sinar and Adam Popovici**, who both looked amazing on the evening. 🎉 ✨

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all the **staff, families, and the team at the Village Hotel** for their support and hard work in making the evening such a massive success. It was a wonderful celebration and a fitting way to mark the end of our pupils' Year 11 journey. 🎓 💃 🕺

⚽ **Sports Day – Friday 3rd July 2026**

The annual Bury Church Sports Day took place on Friday 3rd July. Some events took place in the morning and then the whole school came together in the afternoon on the school field for the afternoon events. Sports Day 2026 was a massive success, and it was a great team effort from all the staff. The students were excellent and really enjoyed Sports Day 2026. Well done to the following students who broke school Sports Day records that first started in 1984:

- Cameron F in Year 8 who broke the 2003 school record of 12.36 in the Boys 100 metres by achieving an amazing time of 12.16
- Isaac T in Year 8 who broke the 2018 school record of 45.45 in the Boys 300 metres by achieving an amazing time of 41.67

Year 7 Joint Winners: 7R (Miss Pearce's Form) and 7E (Mrs Walker's Form)
Year 8 Winners: 8C (Mr Guest's Form)
Year 9 Winners: 9R (Mrs Bradburn's and Mrs Watson's Form)
Year 10 Winners: 10E (Miss Lythgoe's Form)

<u>FREE</u> 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.