SHINE newsletter

Let your light shine

Headteacher Update

Last week, the formal publication of the Government's Key Stage 4 performance data brought some wonderful news for our school community. After two years of sustained hard work, determination and a shared commitment to excellence, Bury Church of England High School was recognised as the highest-performing secondary school in Bury for attainment, achieving the borough's highest Attainment 8 score and the highest proportion of students achieving both grades 4+ and grades 5+ in English and Mathematics.

Whilst we never pursue recognition for its own sake, it is deeply gratifying to see the exceptional efforts of our students, staff and families reflected in these published outcomes. Over recent years, we have worked tirelessly to strengthen every aspect of school life, raising expectations, enriching our curriculum and ensuring that every child is supported to achieve their very best. To now see that work acknowledged in the official performance tables, alongside the excellent feedback we received through our recent Ofsted inspection, is a moment of real pride for our whole community.

As Headteacher, I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together. I hope our families feel equally proud to be part of the Bury Church of England High School community and confident that their children attend a school where they can flourish. It remains a tremendous privilege to serve this community, and I would like to thank our staff, governors, families and students for the part each has played in this success.

This week, a group of Year 10 students took part in their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, showing impressive resilience, teamwork and determination throughout. Despite heavy rain and a cold October camp, they embraced the challenge and should be incredibly proud of their achievement. Thank you to Mr Tinston for organising the expedition. I am also told that the campfire and marshmallows were a particular highlight!

This week brought even more celebration to our school community. Each year group took part in our new Shine Awards Assemblies, where every subject recognised two students who have excelled this half term. We also presented Head of Year and Headteacher Awards for each year group. It was a real pleasure to celebrate so many achievements, and we hope all those involved enjoyed being recognised for their hard work.

Alongside this, we celebrated students with 100% attendance this half term. Hundreds attended our Headteacher Treats event, enjoying music, cookies and a fantastic atmosphere. A surprise dance performance from Mrs Walmsley and Ellie in Year 11 made the occasion even more memorable. My sincere thanks go to Mrs Walmsley for organising such a wonderful event. The students absolutely loved it.

Friday ended with our Year 7 Freshers' Disco, where the entire year group joined in a singalong to *YMCA*, *Ghostbusters* and *Superman*. Mrs Chapman organised a brilliant event for a year group that has made an exceptional start to life at Bury Church. We are immensely proud of their resilience, enthusiasm and hard work throughout their first half term with us.

Finally, as we go into the half term holidays, I would like to thank all the wonderful staff at Bury Church. From our cleaning and site teams, who keep our school looking its best, to our catering staff, who keep us all well fed, and our dedicated teachers and teaching assistants, who provide an exceptional education every day, every member of staff plays a vital role in our success.

I wish you all a wonderful and restful half term and thank you for your continued support. We could not achieve so much without the strength of our partnership with families. Together, let us continue to build on our success and maintain our reputation as the best school in Bury.

S. Wrigley

Upcoming events

2nd – 13th November – Year 11 Mock Exams
30th November – Year 7 and 8 Assessment Week
7th December – Year 9 Assessment Week
18th January – Year 10 Assessment Week

Transport Buses 2026-2027

Please find a link below to our website to view the new school bus timetables from September 2026

Bury CE High School - Transport & Buses

Visit our Instagram page

Our Instagram page is full of Bury Church updates and photos of students enjoying our wonderful curriculum. Please follow us!

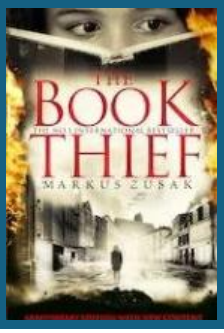
Online safety

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

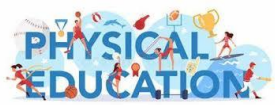
The Book Thief
By Markus Zusak

The Book Thief is a historical fiction novel by the Australian Author Markus Zusak. Set in Nazi Germany during World War II. The novel follows the adventures of a young girl, Liesel Meminger, living with foster parents Hans and Rosa.



PSHCE Update – The week ahead

- **Year 7 – Unit 2: Relationships Education – How do I maintain respectful relationships?** During lesson one, pupils will explore how feeling empowered can improve their confidence and self-esteem.
- **Year 8 – Unit 2: Global Britain – What are Britain's responsibilities to the international community?** During lesson one, pupils will explore what responsibility means and why it matters.
- **Year 9 – Unit 2: Health and Wellbeing – How do I maintain my health and wellbeing in Year 9?** During lesson one, pupils will examine how self-esteem and mental health influence happiness.
- Year 10 - **Unit 2 - Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) – Why is commitment important in relationships?** During lesson one, students will explore how to build respectful relationships, recognise boundaries and manage changes or the ending of relationships.
- **Year 11 – GCSE Revision:** Pupils will focus on revision and preparation during their mock examination period.



The Year 8 Boys Football team played in the first round of the Bury Schools Cup against Woodhey High School on Tuesday 20th October 2026. Bury Church lost to a strong team from Woodhey. The players kept going in difficult and wet conditions. The scorer from Bury Church was Mathias C. The player of the match from Bury Church was Reuben M.

The Year 8 Boys Football team will now move in the Bury Schools Plate. They also have central venue Football fixtures at Elton on Tuesday 24th November, Tuesday 1st December and Tuesday 8th December. More friendly Football fixtures will also be arranged during the remainder of this academic year for both the Year 8 'A' Football team and Year 8 'B' Football team.

Year 8 Football practice will continue, Mondays after school after October half term.

Well done to everyone who played against Woodhey.



Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition

Congratulations to our Year 10 students who have completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition!

Throughout the two-day expedition, students put their navigation, camping and teamwork skills into practice. They supported one another, persevered through challenges and demonstrated our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

Students should be proud of this achievement and the determination they showed. A huge thank you to the staff who supported and supervised the expedition, making this memorable experience possible.

Well done, Year 10 — you have certainly let your light shine!

Thank You for Your Harvest Donations

A heartfelt thank you to our students, families and staff for their generous donations to our Harvest collection for Gigg Lane Food Bank.

Your kindness will help support local people and families in need. It has been wonderful to see our school community come together, showing compassion and putting our Christian values into action.

Thank you for helping us to ***"Let your light shine"*** within our wider community.

Year 11 Take Their Next Steps

Year 11 students have taken an exciting step towards their futures by completing college applications during their enrichment lesson this week.

Building on recent college presentations, students explored their options and put their plans into action, demonstrating responsibility and growing independence as they prepare for life beyond school.

Well done, Year 11! We look forward to supporting you as you continue working towards your goals.

In the News: World Menopause Day

Students across Years 7–11 learnt about World Menopause Day during their form time 'In the News' session this week.

The session helped students develop their understanding of menopause, how it can affect people's lives and the importance of showing sensitivity and support. Through raising awareness, we encourage respectful conversations and empathy for others within our school and wider community.

<u>Duke of Edinburgh Expedition</u>

Our Duke of Edinburgh participants recently completed their expedition, demonstrating outstanding resilience, teamwork and determination throughout the experience. From navigating routes to carrying their own equipment and working together to overcome challenges, students developed valuable life skills while enjoying the outdoors.





We are incredibly proud of their positive attitude, perseverance and commitment, and these photographs capture just some of the highlights from their adventure.

Well done to all involved!



