



The  
**Burgate**  
School & Sixth Form

Summer Newsletter 2023

## Summer Greetings from the Headteacher

I am delighted to share our summer news as we reach the end of term and look forward to the holidays and a well-earned break. Our students and staff certainly deserve one as you will see with all the activities they have been involved in recently, not to mention the enrichment opportunities happening this week. I must say it has been a full and proper academic year with (possibly!) even more trips and visits than ever before. So put the kettle on and peruse what has been going on at The Burgate.

Our students have engaged with many opportunities beyond their lessons, demonstrating Burgate values such as enthusiasm, ambition and creativity. Trips abroad have featured strongly this academic year and it comes as little surprise that studying a language as an option choice is now very popular. The Creative Arts and sporting successes also feature heavily, as is our tradition. We have had other notable successes to read about such as reaching the National Final of the First Lego League Competition in April and winning the Debating Matters competition at The House of Lords in March. And today, three handmade bird boxes landed on my desk courtesy of Business Studies students (and future entrepreneurs!) who were involved in the 'Tenner Challenge'.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students worked hard to ensure they were entirely focussed and 'exam ready' for their finals; we have every hope for great their results when we welcome them back during the summer holidays. I would like to thank every member of staff from the teachers in the classroom, to the learning support assistants, the catering team, the admin team and the caretaking staff for supporting our students, making school a happy and safe environment, and always striving to go above and beyond.

We have had a busy time working to achieve additional resources for the school and I am delighted to announce that the school has been successful in its bid for a new site-wide fire safety system and electrical works. This will include installation of a new fire alarm system, detection and emergency lighting to meet L2 compliance, alongside a full electrical and IT rewire to avoid further power failures and possible school closure. The total project cost is £2,244,244 funded by the Department for Education's Condition Improvement Fund, with a school contribution of £20,000. The project will commence mid-way through the Autumn Term, taking approximately 14 months to complete, intending to achieve much improved teaching facilities and classroom environments, but with minimal disruption to learning.

Further solar panels are currently being installed on the roof of the sixth form (Sarum Building) adding to our existing solar array in our quest to become a carbon neutral school before the end of the decade.

Additionally, the Main School girls' and boys' toilets will be totally modernised, giving complete individual privacy, whilst making the toilet area more open plan and robust enough to meet the rigours of the high volume of usage. Students have been consulted about the proposed plans, which have met with broad approval. Work begins immediately at the end of term.

I would like to thank all those parents that took to time to respond to the parent survey. This, along with the student survey, gives us an invaluable perspective as we seek to improve our school in line with your expectations. Thank you also for sharing your experiences and feedback with us. It is always a real pleasure to read about individual successes both at school and in the wider community.

In September, there will be new approaches for our student recognition system and the way we report on student progress which will be outlined in more detail in the Autumn Newsletter at the start of the new term.

I am extremely proud of all our students and staff who continue to develop their confidence to navigate our everchanging world. Team Burgate has united in values of kindness, inclusivity and ambition. Throughout this year, we have inspired curiosity and enthusiastically embraced many exciting opportunities as you will see in the following pages.

Hopefully good weather will continue long into the summer holidays, and you will enjoy much deserved time with your families and friends. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 and Year 12 on Monday 4 September and the rest of the school on Tuesday 5 September.

I wish you all a lovely summer!

David Pover  
Headteacher

## Trustee News

Mr Ian Newman, who joined the board of governors (trustees) in 1995, has recently tendered his resignation. David Millar, Chair of Trustees, and David Pover presented the 'Freedom of The Burgate' to Mr Newman in grateful recognition of 28 years of service as a governor and friend of the school. Mr Newman was a pupil at the school from 1966 to 1971 and held the position of Head Boy. In his original application for the role of parent governor, he wrote that, "I know the school to be a very good one and wish to offer my skills as a businessman and carer in the community to help further the school." We wholeheartedly thank Ian for doing this and significantly more in his generous support of the school over many years.

## Staff News

At the end of this term, we sadly say a fond farewell to the following members of our staff team who are moving onto pastures and ventures new. We wish all of them the very best for the future.

- Our two Art & Design Technicians; Miss Daniel who is taking up her university studies and Miss Webb who takes on a new role as an Art, Design and Media Lecturer at Brockenhurst College.
- Mrs Milnes who joined us as a Cover Supervisor last September but who will be re-joining us in the new academic year in the Geography department.
- Mrs Evans who is retiring after 20 years of teaching and who has been back with us this past year as Teacher of ICT and Cover Supervisor.
- Mr Cunningham, Teacher of Science, who is leaving to become Head of Year 7 at Regents Park Community College. We thank Mr Cunningham for his work as Duke of Edinburgh Award Coordinator ensuring that students continue to have this wonderful opportunity.
- Mr Wilson, Teacher of Maths, who is leaving to pursue other opportunities including some travelling further afield. A former Burgate student himself, Mr Wilson has been a fantastic addition to the Maths department and the pastoral team.
- Miss Bedard, Teacher of MFL, who is leaving to take up a new role at Bishop Wordsworth School. We thank Miss Bedard for her support with so many trips and visits and for the extra-curricular activities she has led for her students.
- Mr Cakebread, Head of Careers and Teacher of MFL, who is moving on to pastures new (joining Wyvern St Edmunds). We thank Mr Cakebread for the passion, hard work, dedication and time and effort he has given over the years to the wonderful school productions put on that have allowed our students, both on/off stage, to shine.
- Miss Bowring, Teacher of PE, who is leaving after 15 years at The Burgate to pursue new ventures. We thank Miss Bowring for her work as our School Sports Coordinator, a role she held for over 10 years, working with the local primary/junior schools helping to raise the profile of PE and sport.
- Miss Harty, Teacher of History, who is leaving after 21 years at The Burgate to pursue a new career outside of teaching. Miss Harty has been a very committed member of the History team who has held several roles during her time with us, most notably Head of History for 13 years.

- Mr Finch, Teacher of Product Design, who has been at The Burgate for 22 years is leaving for a new and exciting venture joining a company that inspects, designs and builds high rope activity centres across Europe. Mr Finch has taught many students over a long and distinguished career at The Burgate, as well as enhancing the school environment thanks to his work on the school's awards boards, signage and displays. He wanted us to share with you that teaching here and working with all the children and watching them grow up has been a fantastic experience and he will miss that more than anything.
- Mr Rowett, Teacher of History, who is leaving teaching after 22 years at The Burgate. Mr Rowett has helped to oversee teaching and learning at The Burgate with his roles as Lead Practitioner and Coordinator of newly qualified and recently qualified teachers. This and his excellent teaching have had a significant impact across the school over many years. Although there's no more teaching for Mr Rowett, he will be returning to The Burgate in September as a teaching and learning consultant.
- And finally, we say goodbye to one of our Deputy Headteachers, Mrs Gibson who leaves us after 22 years of loyal and dedicated service to The Burgate. Joining in September 2021 as a MFL teacher, Mrs Gibson's success and achievements over the years have been extensive, and she has been instrumental in the school's success. After a long and distinguished career, including 15 years in the Leadership Team, Mrs Gibson will be retiring from full-time teaching and relocating to the north of England where she will be able to take some much-deserved time for herself and her family.

As we say goodbye to these staff, we look forward to welcoming some new staff members to Team Burgate and to our school community in September:

- Miss Brownsey – Teacher of Maths
- Miss Farjadpour – Teacher of Maths
- Mrs Hosegood - Teacher of MFL
- Miss Inglis – Teacher of English
- Miss Lowe – Teacher of Girls' PE
- Mr Martinez – Teacher of Spanish
- Mrs McGrath – Teacher of History
- Miss Siuda - Teacher of Science
- Mr Kitcher – Art & Design Technician /Demonstrator
- Mrs Wooler – Art & Design Technician/Demonstrator
- Miss Smith – Art & Design Technician
- Mr Smith – Cover Supervisor

## Message from the Chair of Trustees

It's the end of another busy school year and the dawn of summer holidays, with the promise of the chance to unwind before the new challenges ahead. For those of you who have been going through the stress of exams, I am sure the summer can't come soon enough and the Trustees hope that you achieve the results that you need to be successful.

I started my first term as Chair of the Trustees in December 2020 and therefore still find it a novelty to be writing about a school year which hasn't had to refer to disruption caused by the pandemic. But although the threat of lockdowns now seems a strange memory, as Trustees we are faced with the task of ensuring the school reacts appropriately to the unprecedented period we've lived through. The Board has had several sessions where the Leadership team have explained the different ways they see the impact of the pandemic on the students - for example, different ability levels caused by disruption to learning in primary schools, increased absenteeism, and even differences in the engagement of parents. Although these present new challenges, the leadership team and the school staff have continued to work hard with the aim of ensuring that all the students at the Burgate are able to enjoy their learning and feel valued for who they are, which remains our vision of success. As part of this, the Trustees were pleased to adopt the school leadership's new Improvement Plan, a document which sets the strategy behind the teaching and learning that goes on at the school. Although early in its three-year approach, we are already seeing exciting developments in areas such as metacognition and curriculum - and if you want to know more about those topics, please get in touch.

I know that many of you will have felt the disruption caused by strike days. Again, the Trustee board has kept an eye on the Leadership team's management of this impact and have been impressed by how the school has resisted the option to close its doors and strive to keep students in an educational setting where possible, and as a result the Burgate has lost far fewer teaching days than many comparable schools. As Trustees we also have a responsibility to our staff (striking or otherwise) and know that the decisions they have faced will not have been easy. Hopefully you will agree with me that the school took the best possible line, of putting student welfare first while also meeting the legal duty of not undermining strike action.

The Trustee Board has also been busy considering how best the Burgate Academy Trust should be structured, and whether we should seek to form a Multi-Academy Trust with other, like-minded schools in the region. As at the time of writing no plans to form a MAT exist, but the Board does see the value in exploring this idea further, for the benefits it can bring to our students and staff. If there is more news on this, we will of course let you know. The Board has also seen some significant changes, as we completed a necessary legality to separate the Board into Trustees and Members. Whilst the Trustees have the responsibility of ensuring that the Leadership of the school make sensible decisions, the Members make sure that the Trustees are doing our role well.

Separating Members from Trustees has not been easy, and no one will see any difference in the way the school operates day-to-day - but it means we now operate under best practice, and that the governance of the school is stronger than it ever has been. I'd like to thank our new clerk, Linda Williamson, and the Head Teacher's secretary, Sarah Hewitt, for their considerable efforts to make this happen, and our new Members for volunteering their time for the good of the school. While writing, I'd also like to welcome the Trustees who have joined the Board this year - Mr John Whitmell, our two new parent-elected Trustees, Mrs Alice Richardson and Dr Robert Milsted, and most recently Mr Nigel Himmel and Dr Helena McVeigh.

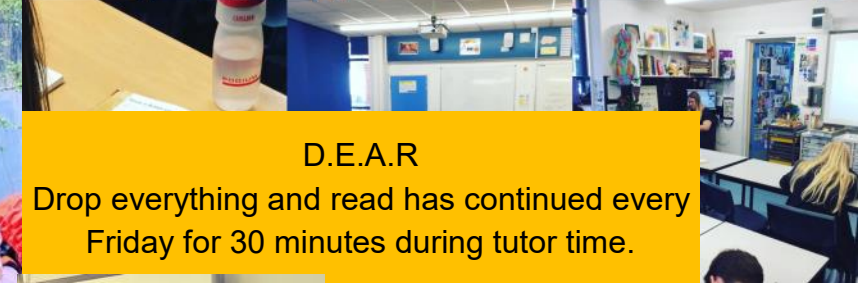
Leaving us is Matt Hughes and Ian Newman, and I would like to thank them both for their time as Trustees. In particular, Ian has been involved with the school for a generation, stretching back to when he was head boy, and I was pleased to be part of a small gathering who celebrated Ian's time by presenting him with 'the key to the Burgate' as a lifelong friend to the school. Thank you Ian, for all you have done, and to my fellow Trustees, past and present. You can read more about the Trustees and Members on the school website.

One thing you have noticed is the building work outside the school. After considerable disruption the approach to the school is now looking much better, with improved bus parking, no need for students to cross the busy main road, and new planting along the new fence which should improve the natural setting the school enjoys. We are also excited by news that the school is getting a new all-weather pitch installed to replace the old hockey surface, and we'd like to thank the school leadership for their hard work in making this happen, as well as funding from the Football Foundation and New Forest District Council. The school has also been successful in receiving national funding for the installation of new fire alarm system, detection and emergency lighting, alongside a full electrical rewire, and is looking to renew the old toilet blocks over the summer - both essential works to ensure the comfort, safety and security of everyone at the Burgate.

As a last point, thank you to all of you who take an interest in the school. If you would ever like to take a closer look at the school, or to raise any issues (positive or challenging) then please do get in touch via the clerk's email address - [clerktotrustees@burgate.hants.sch.uk](mailto:clerktotrustees@burgate.hants.sch.uk).

David Millar  
Chair of Trustees

We began this academic year mourning the death of Queen Elizabeth II.



**D.E.A.R**

Drop everything and read has continued every Friday for 30 minutes during tutor time.

Our silver DofE expedition in high spirits and with plenty of sunshine for the weekend.



In October there was a fantastic opportunity for some of our students to work with the British Army climbing, observing, flying, experiencing resilience and survival.





**On 15 October Burgate U16 Netball Team travelled to Southampton for the school's first National competition and played some amazing netball to reach the semi-finals, where they were beaten by the eventual winners.**

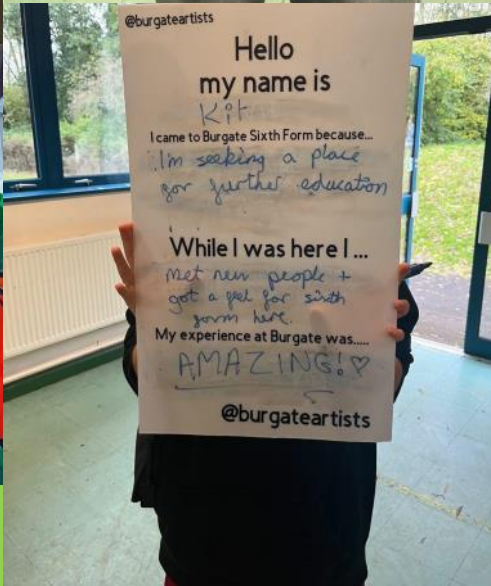
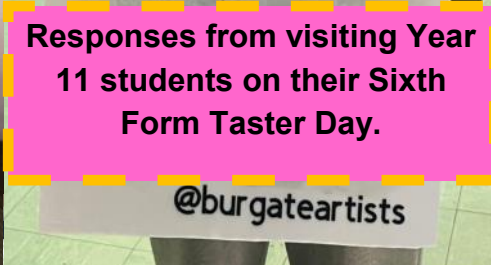
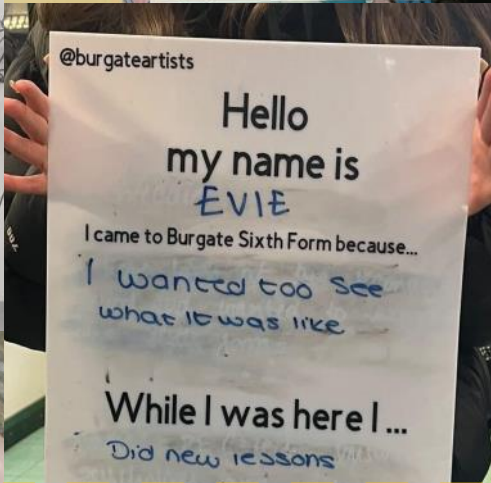
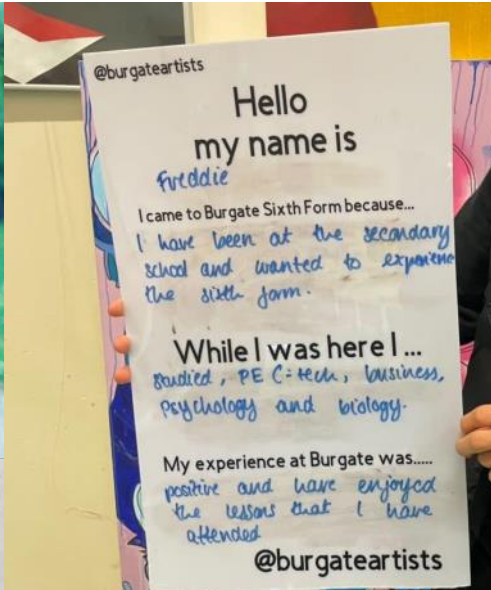
Year 13 students visited Berlin in October as part of their A Level Cold War unit. Not only were they able to visit and see for themselves the Berlin Wall, they were also able to visit the Stasi Prison which was used in Communist East Berlin. Students were shocked at how recently the prison was used, as well as the conditions of the prison. As well as that, students were also able to visit some of the sites of Nazi Germany which they had been unable to when they were in Year 10 due to Lockdown. Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp was a particular site that many students felt is something they'll never forget!



**Peace Poster competition 2022-2023**



Our Remembrance Display



Our young artists and designers had their first GO Further session and spent an amazing day working with clay, creating thoughtful pieces about things they feel strongly about.





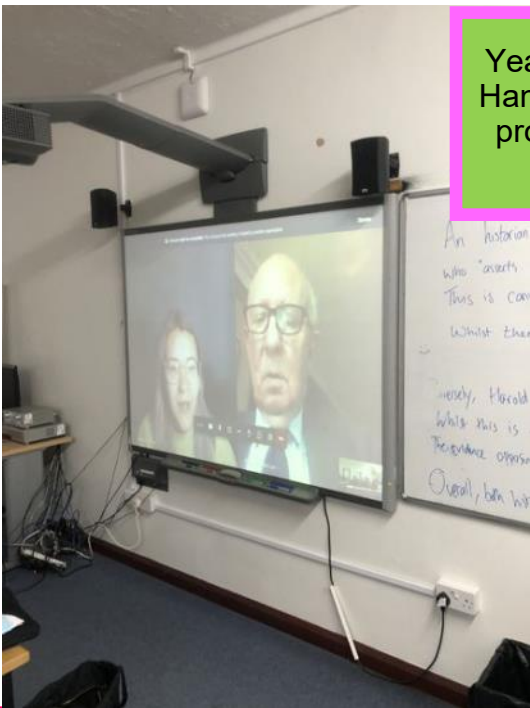
**As part of UK Parliament Week, students from Year 7 through to Year 13 took part and voted Yes or No to the question, 'Should the voting age be lowered to 16 for all UK Referendums and election #UKPW**

**In all, 958 votes were cast and the outcome was a Victory for 'NO' with 53% voting to not lower the voting age and therefore 47% in favour .**



**Paris Trip  
December  
2022**

Year 12 and 13 Politics students enjoyed a live webinar with Lord Hannay of Chiswick as part of the 'Learn with the Lords' education program. Lord Hannay is a Crossbench Peer who has served in the House of Lords for nearly 30 years.



Year 12 Computer Scientists visited the Photonic Systems Circuits and Sensors Group at Southampton University in December. They were given a special back-stage pass and shown around by Dr James Gates and his colleague.



Our Food Club chefs cooked up some special treats for some very deserving students in December.



Y12 and Y13 sociology students enjoyed a talk from former Burgate sociologist Martha Shering last week. As a highly successful A level student and current final year degree student of Social Anthropology, Martha was able to offer many useful tips for success and advice about next steps.



Now That's What I call Twelfth Night. Our Burgate School production was sold out in January.



Our Sixth Form Netball Team



In January we welcomed John Glen MP to The Burgate School to meet with our sixth form students and to discuss politics.



Our Gardening Club were delighted to receive lots of bulbs kindly donated by Baskets and Blooms and planted these across the school site in spaces used by our wider community.

Year 8 students created a collaborative installation that illuminates our connection to the living earth and to evoke a wider appreciation for the planet's biodiversity.



In February A level Politics visited Westminster. As students travelled to London they heard that President Zelensky of the Ukraine would be making an address to Parliament that morning, so upon arrival excitement and security were high! The students firstly visited the UK Supreme Court, touring the court rooms and sitting in on a case, then toured the Houses of Parliament, standing on the exact spot in Westminster

Hall, where President Zelensky had addressed parliament just 45 minutes earlier before finally attending the viewing gallery of the House of Commons where they saw Home Secretary, Suella Braverman being questioned on the 'Prevent' terrorism strategy.

Year 13 student, Kunle, won the regional heat of the Articulation public speaking prize in March. This is an acclaimed public speaking initiative for young people, designed to promote the appreciation and discussion of visual culture. Kunle then travelled to Oxford to speak at the Ashmolean. He didn't make it to the national final, but it was still an immense achievement to get to Oxford and finish runner-up in this prestigious competition.

In March Our Sixth Form Debating Team became the Debating Matters **House of Lords Champions 2023!** This was a truly great achievement and testament to the hard work and commitment shown by these students and support given from teachers, Mr Bailey, Mrs Dennis and Mr Mallace-Goulbourne.



The Burgate Year 8 football team who beat Bishops 2-1 to finish the season unbeaten with 5 wins and 2 draws.



Year 8 Malaga trip in March where amongst many things students visited Mijas where they learnt about life in the mountains and how they used the land, visited a bullring, had a flamenco lesson in Colegio Maravillas, as well as lessons in art and paella making. Students also enjoyed delicious churros con chocolate at the Casa Arranda blossom and visited the Alcazaba for a spot of drawing and photography while admiring the Moorish fortress. Students visited the Alhambra Palace then had a quick ice cream before starting the climb to Sacromonte, the gitano quarter of Granada, known for its flamenco and cave dwellings.



Amongst all this there were plenty of visits to the beach!





In the Rotary Interschool Photography Competition 2023 - 'Movement' - This figurative image by Felix and image of trees by Maddie were both selected to form part of the final exhibition of photographs! From over 800 entries and 21 schools Felix's entry went on to win the Years 11-13 category!

Sociologists and Psychologists in sixth form welcomed back former student, Emily Tryhorn, a now fully-fledged social worker, who inspired all.



Our Y8 boys rugby team who saw out the season with a strong win against The Trafalgar School with a final score 25-5.



In April Extended Project Qualification students impressed invited guests with their specialist knowledge and research.



Year 8 Art Exhibition - I am an artist and an Environmentalist.

**Our Year 9 Netball Team**



In May King Charles was crowned.

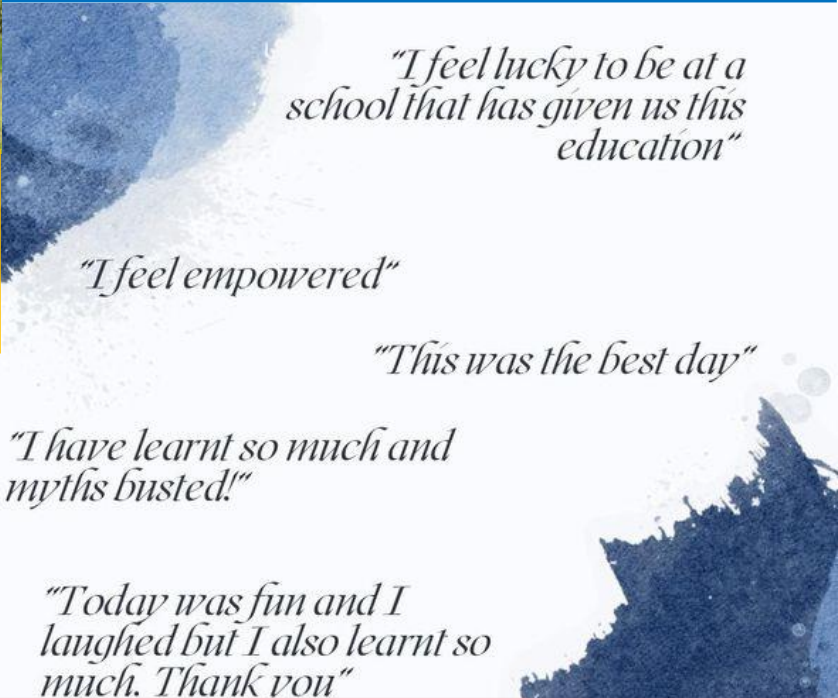






Having explored research from the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, Burgate sociologists in the sixth form tried their hand at some semiotic analysis of their own. Dressing up as representatives from different youth subcultures they analysed the meanings and contexts of subcultural style.

Year 9 were truly superb during their Respect & Relationships day in May. Their maturity, thoughtfulness & engagement was fantastic.



*"I feel lucky to be at a school that has given us this education"*

*"I feel empowered"*

*"This was the best day"*

*"I have learnt so much and myths busted!"*

*"Today was fun and I laughed but I also learnt so much. Thank you"*



English corridor display

May: Picnic in the sun with Year 8 readers



In June our Year 8 Rounders Team took part in the New Forest Tournament and finished in a fantastic third place having won their first game convincingly and putting on an impressive score of 10 rounders in 21 good balls.

In June the PE department took a group of students to the school's takeover day to watch Hampshire v Somerset in a top of the table clash that went down to the last ball!



Team Burgate are thrilled for guitar teacher, John Wines, who made it through to the judges' deliberations in America's Got Talent after wowing them with his guitar skills. We all have our fingers crossed that he gets through to the next round, 'live finals' but whatever happens, we are so proud and so inspired by this incredible achievement.



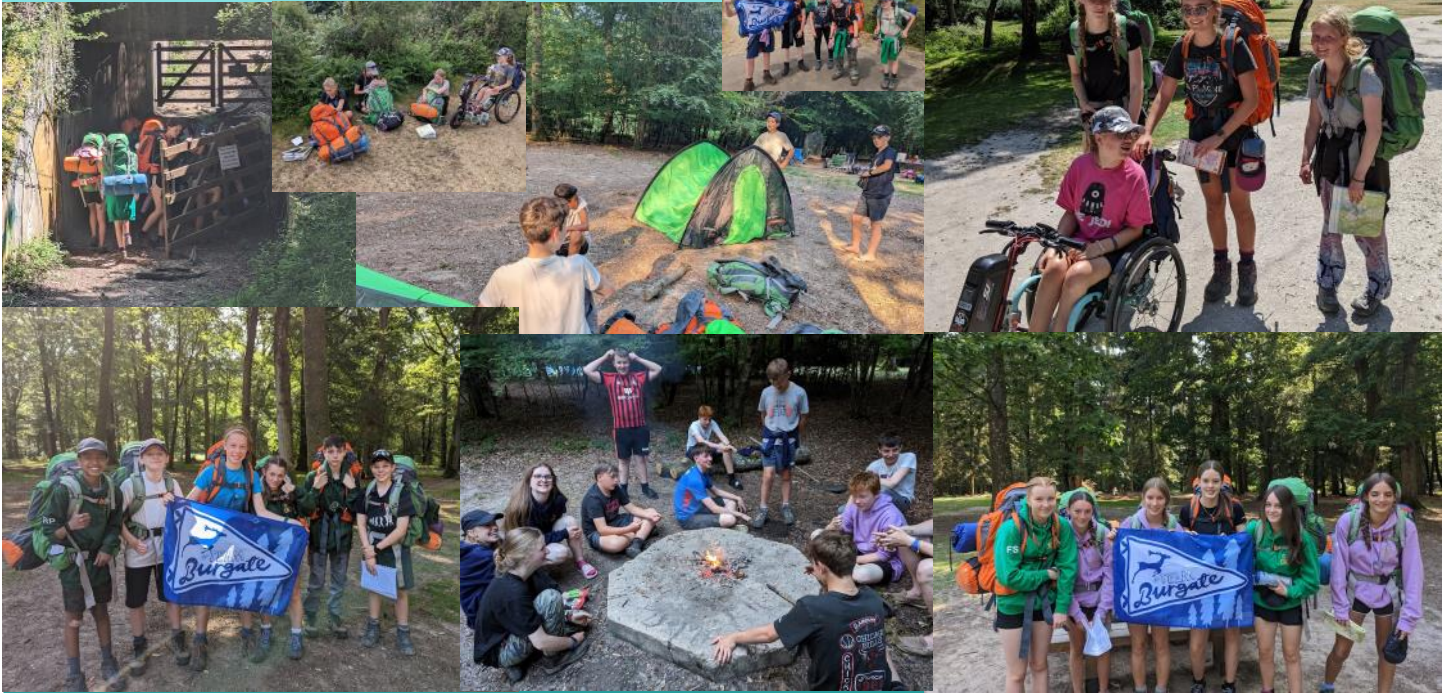
We had another amazing Creative Arts Evening which showcased the outstanding level of creativity, talent and imagination of Burgate students.





We had a wonderful series of Year 5 taster days with students from local schools enjoying fun lessons, a picnic lunch and ice lollies during a space themed day.

Fantastic Bronze DoE expedition memories 2023



Burgate Netballers Olivia and Flo were selected for the Team Bath Talent Pathway. This is a highly competitive procedure with the girls attending trials at Bath university.

Over 350 girls competed as part of this program. It is an outstanding achievement by the girls and we look forward to seeing them play for Bath in the Netball super league!

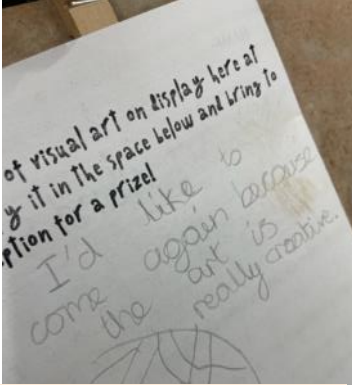
Flo also entered the school's county pentathlon event this term. This event is not for the faint at heart as athletes have to take part in the five following events, 75m Hurdles, 800m, Shot, Long jump and High jump.

Flo smashed it and qualified for the regional event where she performed brilliantly coming 9th in the south.





We are very proud of our Burgate School Equestrian Team who have taken part this year in NSEA show jumping competitions against other local schools with some fantastic results.



Young Art Ambassadors from our cluster schools visited us for a creative morning.



Thank you to The Barn Equine Surgery for our team sponsorship.



Our Year 7 Rounders team who played in the New Forest Tournament hit big, fielded really well and communicated brilliantly together. This fantastic performance led to them being unbeaten and becoming New forest Champions!



At the beginning of July the Mayor of Fordingbridge came to celebrate our artists' designs for Fordingbridge Greener Living. And below please see the winning Community Orchard sign that is now in situ at Sweatford Water Meadows.



Sixth Form Freshers' Day was a triumph with amazing students, activities, food and weather. We can't wait to welcome our new students in September.

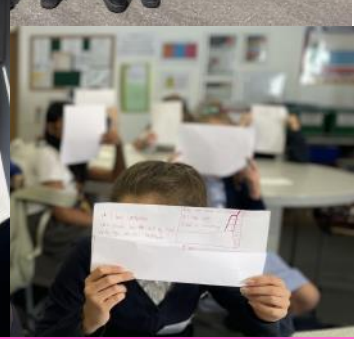


### Tom Klemz

Tom began the school year in fine form, taking Commonwealth Karate Gold in Birmingham followed by 7th place in the European Championships and 21st place in the World Championship in Turkey. He has continued to have great success in the World Karate Youth League including 2 bronze medals and 2 fifth places. These combined results have propelled him to number 3 in the World Karate Federation rankings for under 16s. Tom trains for many hours each week and is a member of the Kazoku Renshinkai Dojo in London. He also trains monthly with the England squad in Birmingham. He is hoping to be selected to represent England again at the European Championships in Georgia, February 2024.



Year 6 Induction Day was another fantastic day earlier this term and we can't wait to welcome our new students in September to Year 7.



BurgateFest 2023 - the weather wasn't too kind for our Year 11 leavers event but this was still a fabulous memory making night for all.



Year 9 Artists spent a wonderful day exploring a sense of place with artist @jobeal4 @cranborne.chaseaonb @artlotmoreton



Our sixth form artists recently visited Bournemouth AUB where they were all inspired by the incredible creative work on display.



Following his own mum's diagnosis Liam has raised £2300 for Breast Cancer. He completed a 30 miles in 30 days challenge (actually running more than 40 miles) and was invited to an event at the House of Lords for afternoon tea to say thank you for his charitable efforts. It was an amazing experience and incredibly humbling to learn about all the research and support for breast cancer patients that Liam's fundraising will help to provide.

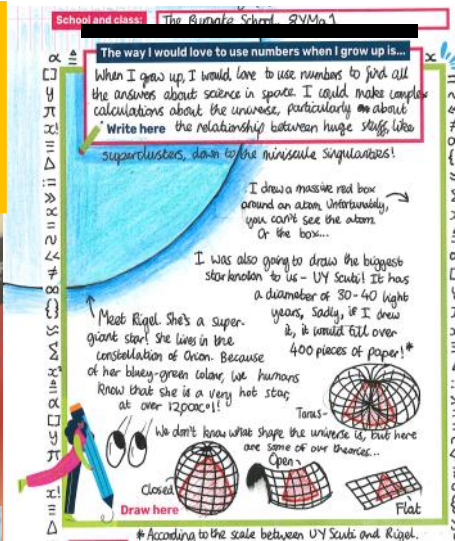


Sports day 2023

Our recent Munich trip gave students the opportunity to explore Munich University, to stand on the balcony where Sophie Scholl distributed her anti-Nazi leaflets, to stop in Shirker Street, visit Dachau Concentration Camp, and more.



Year Eight student Seren, won a runners up prize in the National Numeracy Day Number Heroes Competition. What a wonderful achievement given the hundreds of entries nationwide!



Burgate Careers Fair 2023 - an opportunity for all year groups to be inspired about where their future may take them. Thank you to all the companies and organisations who took time to come and meet our students.

This year we won the Regional heats of the First Lego League Engineering Challenge and managed to make the National Finals in Yorkshire. The Team did brilliantly, placing in the top 40 teams out of almost 2,000 in the UK. Their project on sustainable energy in schools was well received by the judges and the students were fantastically brave in the face of real-world engineering experts. A fantastic achievement!



Congratulations to Georgia who competed for the first time in a RDA national competition and out of 15 people in her class, finished a fantastic 4th with a score of 70.5% in the dressage test. The first six in the class are awarded and so for her first competition Georgia did brilliantly.



**Wishing you all a safe  
and happy  
summer!**

**We look forward to welcoming our new  
Year 7 and Year 12 students on Monday 4  
September 2023.**

**We look forward to welcoming all other  
year groups back to school  
On Tuesday 5 September 2023.**