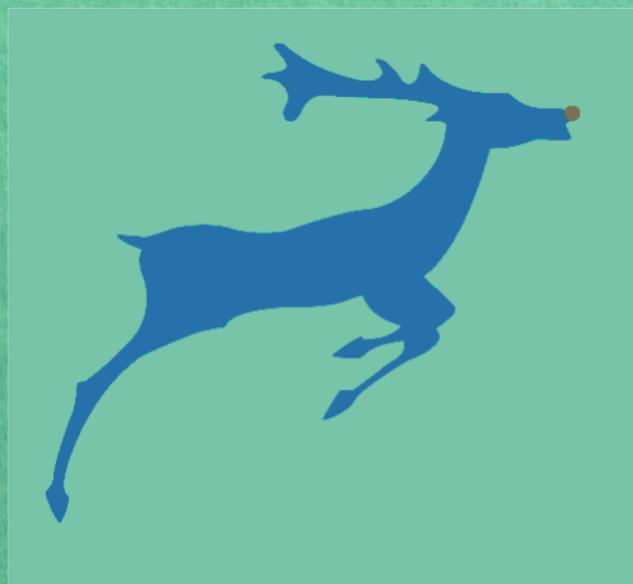




The
Burgate

School & Sixth Form

Christmas Newsletter



Christmas Greetings from the Headteacher

I hope you are all well and looking forward to spending time with family and friends as we approach the Christmas holiday. I am sure you will all agree with me that September seems like a distant memory because we have all had such a busy Autumn Term. Whilst we have not been able to celebrate Christmas with some of our usual events like the Church Service and Carol Concert, we have been sharing the message in school that the break offers us a moment to pause, reflect and give thanks.

The theme of reflection was to the fore with our recent Remembrance Service, which has firmly and rightly become a significant annual event at The Burgate. This year our students focused on diversity within our forces throughout history. Each year group submitted fantastic entries for a creative writing competition and created the most beautiful displays across the school, as well as the memorial 'installation' in the main hall. This all culminated in a poignant service marking the 100th anniversary of the remembrance traditions. Our students, your children, made us all proud throughout the whole week.

Moreover, students have been at their very best in lessons this term: lesson observations of teaching have invariably noted focussed, enthusiastic students who value and enjoy their learning. It is clear that they are appreciating being back in the classroom and making the most of their time in school. Behaviour has also been excellent throughout the school and on the rare occasions when this falls below our expectations that students 'be safe, be respectful and be ready to learn', we have a restorative strategy which encourages them to reflect on the effect of their actions and to undertake to make better choices in future. This system aims to build mutual respect and strengthens positive relationships within the school community.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage all our students and families to focus on their wellbeing over the Christmas holiday and be outside and active as much as possible. It is important all our students stay safe and kind online .

This term has been filled with many, varied opportunities and it has been such a joy to be able to reintroduce a full enrichment programme that so many of our students have embraced. From Amnesty, to sport, from board games to Eco club, the possibilities that staff have provided and students have engaged in have been formidable considering where we were just a few months ago. There have also been many activities in Art & Design, including the wonderful Peace window, designed by Joe P, in the main hall and the school Christmas card designed by Nicholas in Year 7. Please do encourage your child to participate in extra-curricular activities if they have not yet done so.

We are also delighted with the return of school trips and visits. A day at Avon Tyrell was a huge success for our Year 7 (who have settled to secondary school exceptionally well) and all the staff and students who took part returned tired, (and on one day slightly soggy) but full of smiles and happiness. There have also been careers excursions, theatre trips and a sixth form teambuilding trip to New Forest Waterpark. The PE department has excelled in the sport on offer and managed to cram in as many fixtures as humanly possible this term: we have seen some super sporting success in netball and hockey based on teamwork, skill and determination.

We are very pleased to announce that the heating project, which has been underway since the summer of 2020, has now been completed ahead of schedule and under budget. All classrooms are back in use with the last few small jobs now ticked-off. Whilst this has been a challenge for several months, the new heating system is really making a difference for everyone at the school, especially during the recent cold weather.

As the Autumn Term draws to an end, I would like to thank you again for all your ongoing support with the routines and systems we have put in place to ensure that everyone is kept as safe as possible – your understanding, reassurance and patience has been most appreciated. I should also like to thank all of the students for their engagement in learning, cooperation with their teachers and superb perseverance throughout the past year and the Burgate staff for their determination to deliver the best possible learning experience for our students. Team Burgate has been challenged at times this term, but our collective resilience and resolve has won through.

Finally, on behalf of everyone at The Burgate, I would like to wish you and your family a very safe, happy and enjoyable Christmas holiday. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Wednesday 5 January 2022 for Years 9,10,11, 12 and 13 and on Thursday 6 January for Years 7 and 8, and hope for a positive and successful new year ahead.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all,

Mr David Pover

Headteacher

News from the Chair of Trustees

The end of the first term is often a challenging time, with fewer hours of daylight, less sunshine, worse weather and a heavy workload for children and staff after the summer break. The Christmas holiday offers a welcome opportunity to recharge before 2022 spring term arrives.

From a school perspective, this term has seen some notable successes on many fronts. The Trustees have been busy understanding the educational performance of the school, including reviewing the grades achieved by our students in August 2021. As Chair, I can happily confirm that the process the school adopted was extremely rigorous and fair, with multiple checks on marking and assessment conducted, ensuring our results were appropriate but in line with the increased expectations of success that the Burgate has. No one wanted to be in a situation where the school's submitted results were called into question and, as a result of the integrity with which the school conducted itself, I am confident that we achieved the correct balance of fair results for the students without introducing significant grade inflation.

It was in last year's Christmas newsletter that my predecessor as Chair, Andrew Cooper, reported that the school had been successful in winning capital funding for the replacement of the antiquated heating system. This work progressed over the summer and completed this term, and the students and staff are now benefitting from a warmer and more efficient heating system which allows greater control of temperature. On top of this, our solar panels continue to deliver excellent returns and the school are looking at opportunities to increase the number of these, in a bid to achieve a sustainable school environment. It is our goal to make the school as efficient as possible by making use of the natural space we benefit from at the Burgate, so our students can feel comfortable that their education isn't 'costing the earth'. We will keep you updated on the various initiatives that we are pursuing to achieve this.

In our AGM in December the board approved the annual report and accounts to August 2021. Once again, thanks to the shrewd financial management by the staff, we were able to control our budget and finish the year with a surplus. Looking forward, the Trustees are pleased to report that the school looks to be on more secure footing thanks to an increase in student funding and an increase in the number of students being admitted. In previous years our strategy has been to operate within a very limited budget, but our more positive forecasts mean that we now have an aim to increase spending on the school's infrastructure with a view to delivering a better environment for our students and staff. Even so, our financial position is highly dependent upon government funding and financial pressure is a constant, and requires our close attention.

This term has seen further changes to the Trustee board. Jo Newbigging, vice Chair to December 2020, Chair of our Education Committee and committed member of the trustee board, stood down after eight years. Jo will be much missed by the staff and Trustees, but we wish her well with her new responsibilities. We also welcomed a new Trustee, Heather Arnold, who was formally appointed in October this year. Heather's experience includes over 22 years in secondary schools, mostly with a strategic focus on disadvantaged students and communities in areas of significant deprivation, which will certainly help the Trustee board to ensure that the Burgate's high pastoral standards – so important to so many of our parent body – remain as strong as ever. Next term we anticipate the arrival of other new faces to the board, to be confirmed in due course. If you are interested, a list of the Trustees is shown on the school website.

I should finish by offering my sincere thanks to all the staff, who have once again worked tirelessly to deliver outstanding education, and to the supportive parents who we are so fortunate to have as part of our school community. And I'd like to share a snippet from a former parent, who wrote to me about his son, who has now left the school. He said:

(My son) thrived in the environment Mr Pover has created and loved the time he spent there, making lifelong friendships and experiencing opportunities that have opened new horizons for him. He would not be where he is now without The Burgate. I know that there are hundreds of success stories as your school is truly wonderful, but I just want to record a huge thank you to Mr Pover and his entire team who are creating successful lives.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a safe and healthy new year.

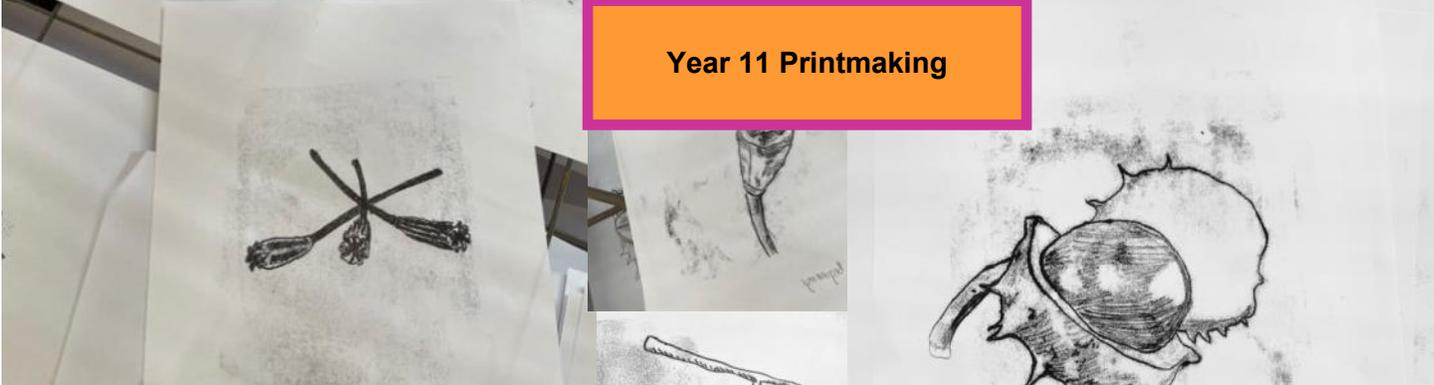
With kind regards

David Millar

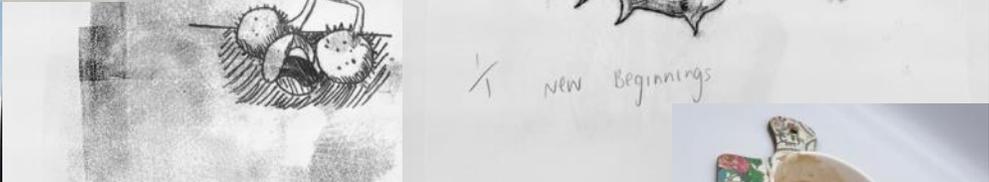
Chair of Trustees



Year 11 Printmaking



**Burgate Girls
Royal Navy Careers Day**



**Year 10 and 11
food practical**



**Sixth Form Geographers
Devon Field trip**

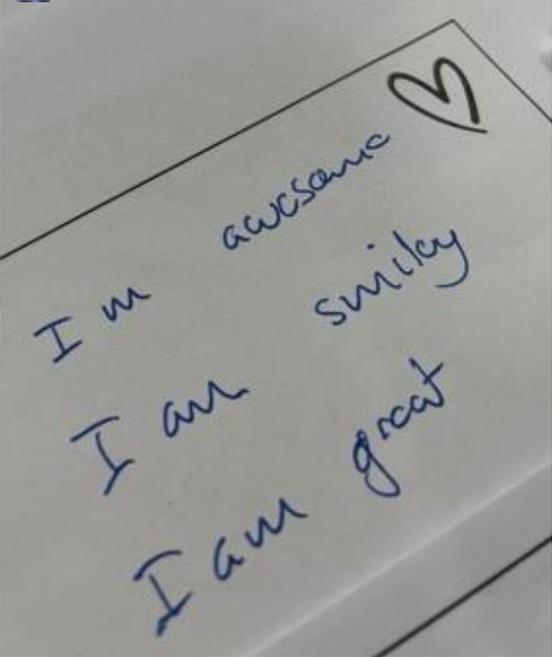
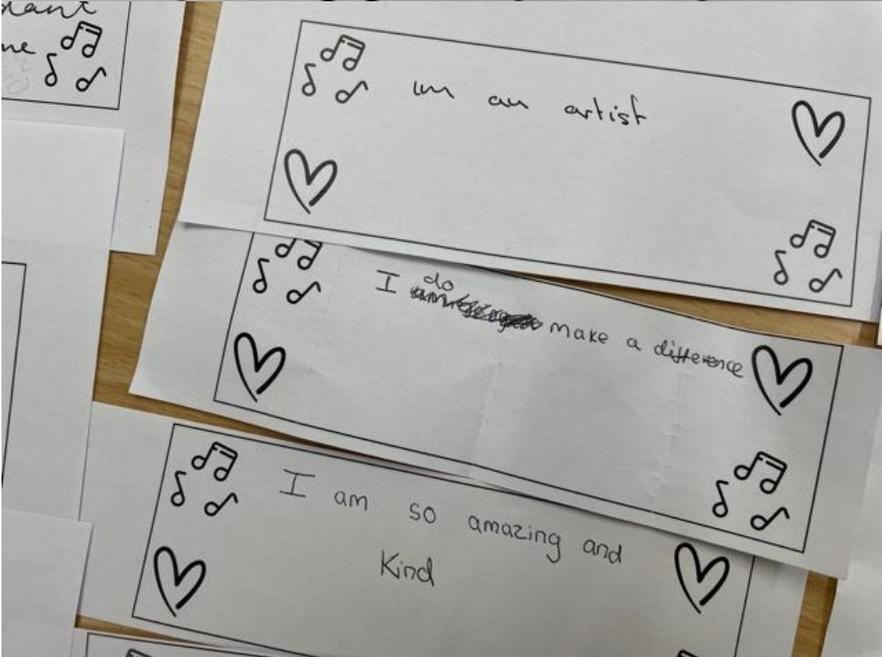
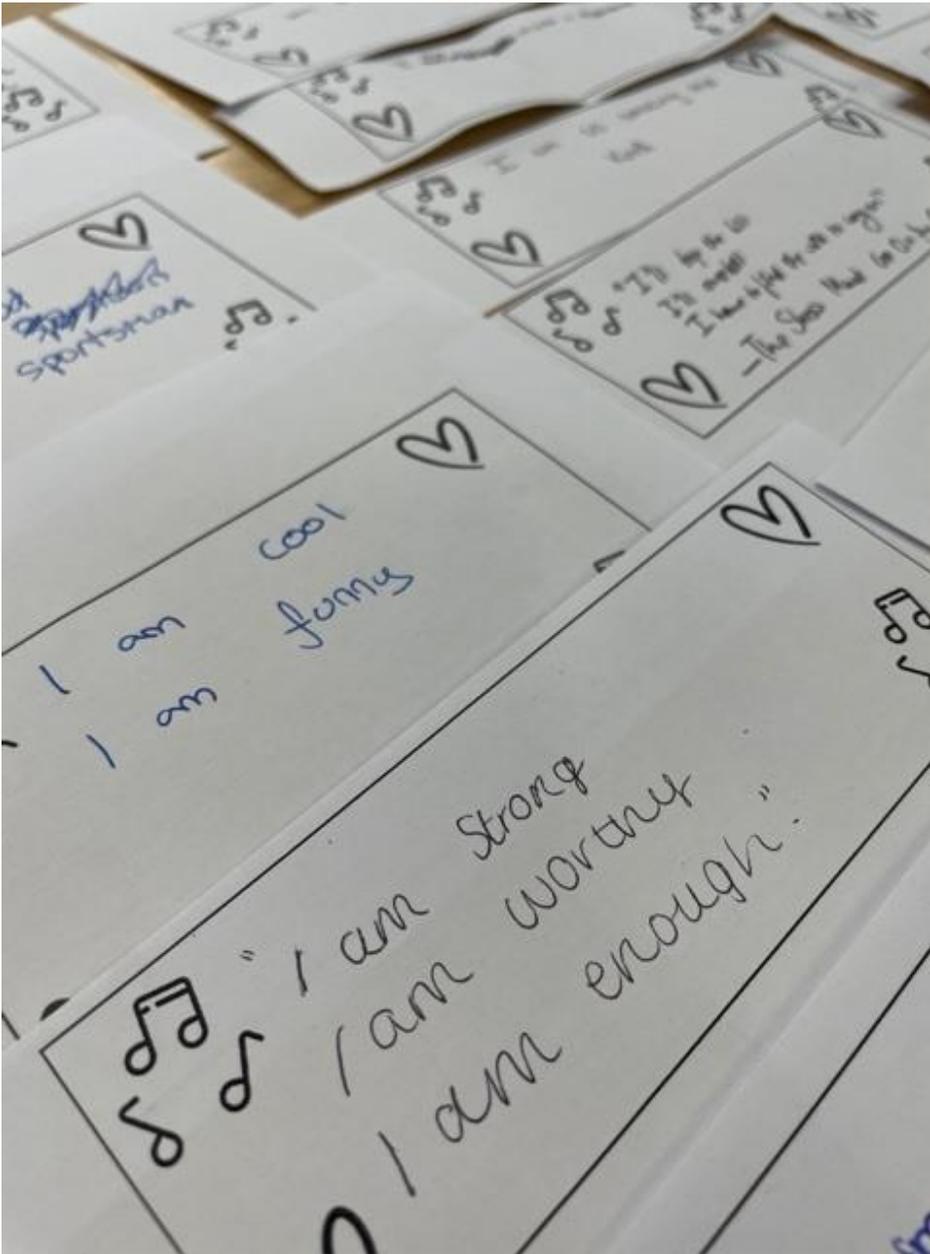




Sixth Form Tutor Group Bonding!



12SF Affirmations



Driving the fight against climate change!

In November we installed two Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers on our school site as part of our school-wide effort to fight climate change.

Headteacher, David Pover and Assistant Headteacher, Richard Hollowbread welcomed back ex-Burgate student Alex Bartlett who has his own business Bartlett Electrical, and specialist knowledge in EV connections to install the charging points and Geography teacher, Sarah Jones was the first to use it!

With our ambitious zero-carbon target for 2025 we continue to encourage staff and students to support this by off-setting carbon through lifestyle changes such as encouraging a move to at least one meat-free meal each week and walking/cycling/car sharing initiatives.

The school is also making good progress on plans to increase the number of solar panels in the school and move to 100% renewable electricity.





**Burgate School and Sixth Form
Remembrance Day 2021**





Tom achieves Bronze at The Spanish National Karate Championship, Málaga.

Year 10 student Tom Klemz flew to Málaga at the beginning of November in order to take part in the Liga Nacional Española de Karate 2021 which is the biggest Spanish Championship of the year. The standard was incredible and over a 1000 competitors took part. We are delighted to announce Tom achieved Bronze with some excellent scores. It was filmed and live on YouTube and Tom even got interviewed in Spanish at the end.



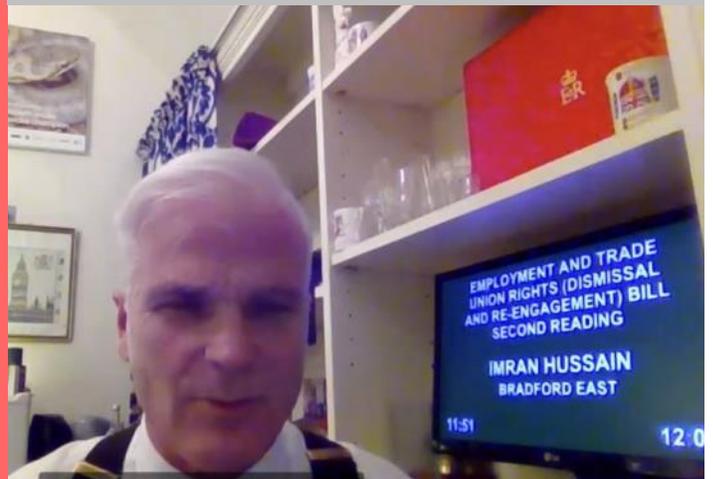
All images courtesy of UK Parliament Education Services with illustrations by: Ananya Rao-Middleton, Onyinye Iwu, Jules Scheele, Nina Cosford

In November students from Year 7 to 13 took part in UK Parliament week 2021.

They spent the week learning about how parliament plays a vital role in promoting the rights of different groups in society by creating legislation to protect them.

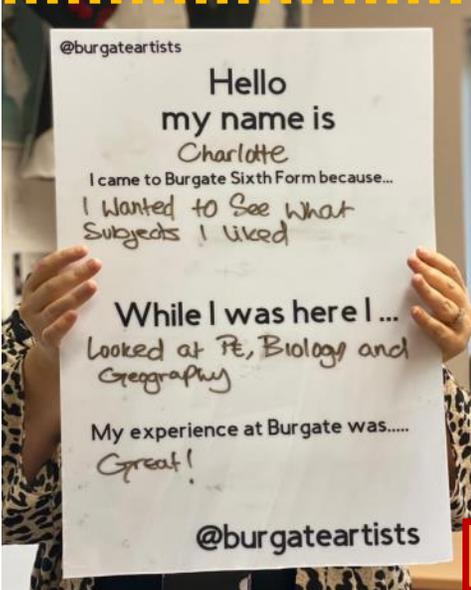
Students were pleased to receive a message from Sir Desmond Swayne MP supporting their work.

Each tutor group spent time learning about someone who was an 'Equality champion' and has worked with Parliament to protect and defend rights.





Our Year 8 students supported a food and household product collection.
 As a school we donated 230 kg of food and cleaning products.
The food collected provided 23 people 3 meals a day for 3 days!



Sixth Form Taster Day Reactions

**Congratulations to Year 7 student, Mia,
on her fantastic Peace Poster.**

Her wonderful design won the school competition,
and now goes forward to the Lion's Club regional
heat. We wish Mia lots of luck for the next stage of
the competition!

Her beautiful image is on display in the window of
Lunn's Store, Ringwood.



Crime scene and criminal court analysis in Sixth Form

Burgate sociologists and psychologists attended a fascinating crime scene to courtroom event earlier this term.

With expert help from former investigating officer and legal trainer, Simon Smith, students followed a murder all the way from the crime scene, to conducting cognitive interviews, assessing forensic evidence and then finally trying the case in Crown Court.

The day offered insights into a range of legal and scientific careers. Ed described the day as fun, interesting and a great way to develop analytical and debating skills.

Murder suspect "Dale" (aka Izzy) enjoyed the fact that students followed the case from start to finish and that the onus was on the students to decide the investigative strategies and weigh the evidence.

We the jury found the defendant not guilty!

Year 10 Mock Interviews

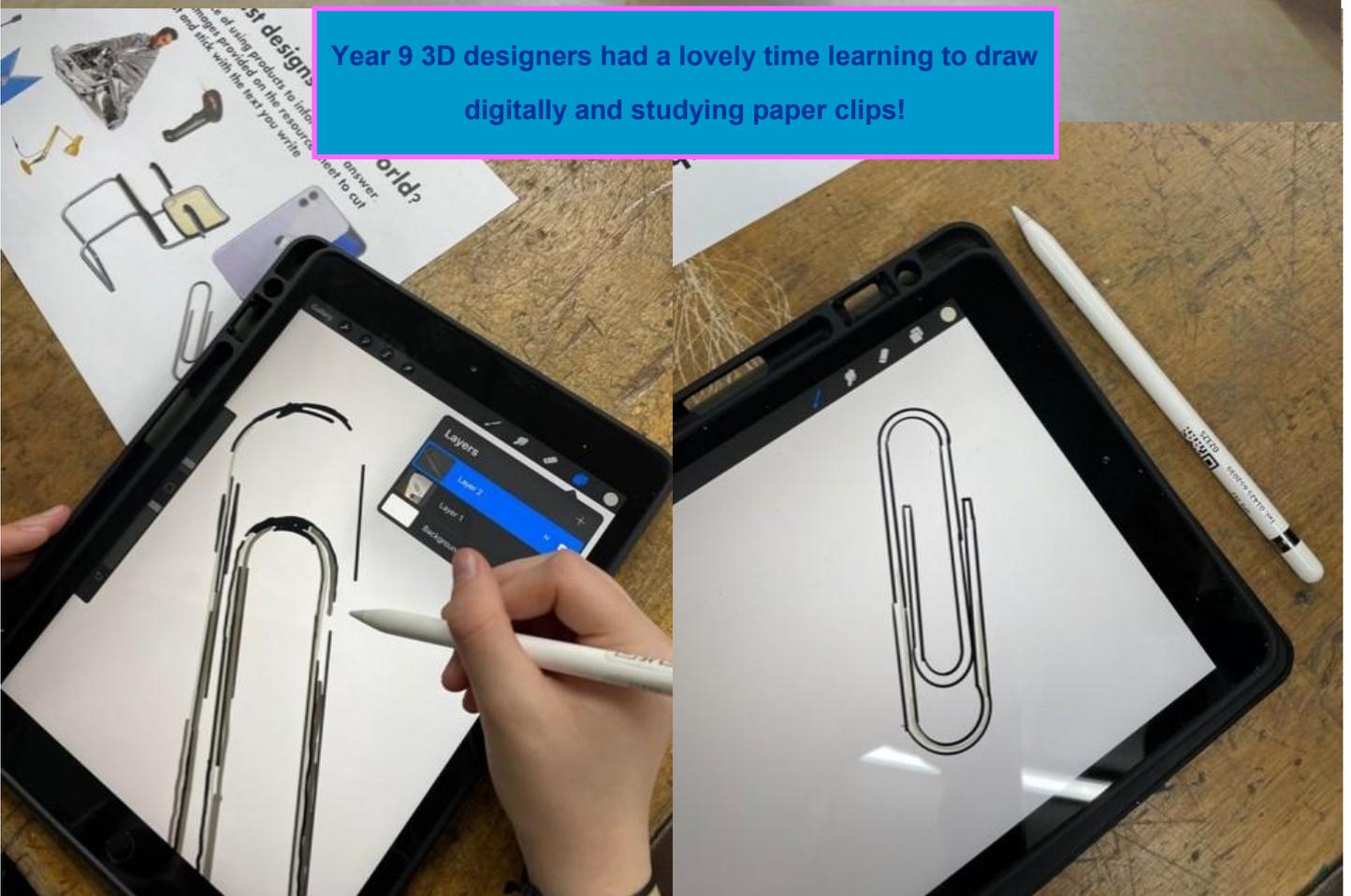
Year 10 students excelled themselves in their recent mock interviews.

This was a great experience that will stand them in good stead moving towards work experience.

Huge thanks to Fordingbridge Rotary and all our other interviewers from Bournemouth University, Brightspace Architects, and Associated British Ports for their support of this vital venture.



Year 9 3D designers had a lovely time learning to draw digitally and studying paper clips!

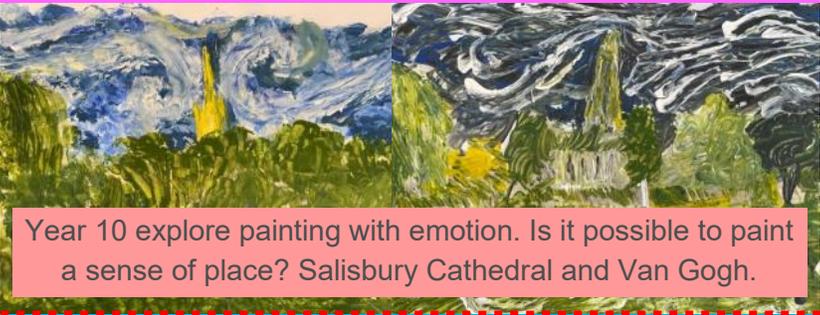


Congratulations
to Year 7
student, Megan
who won the
2021 Nature
Senses
competition with
this stunning
photograph!





Year 12 students from L6RM during a tutor group bonding activity!
Having a big cook up at lunchtime recently - training for future uni days?!



Year 10 explore painting with emotion. Is it possible to paint a sense of place? Salisbury Cathedral and Van Gogh.

Year 11 students help create Police Training Video. Niamh, Theo, Ed, Kye and Will share their experience below.

Last month, we were involved in a police training video about under aged drinking and smoking.

The first scenario showed the police approaching us in the park, we were sitting on a bench holding two bottles of alcohol: Did you know a PCSO can stop and require the name and address of anyone they SUSPECT to be under the age of 18 and drinking in a public place?

The second scenario was based on a group of young people smoking a cigarette in the park: Did you know a PCSO can stop anyone they SUSPECT to be under the age of 16 and believe to be smoking in a public place? They can request a search of that person for the purpose of locating any other tobacco they may have in their possession. If during a search the police find any drugs or offensive weapons, they have the powers to seize these items.

It is not an offence to smoke in a public place under the age of 16, but it is an offence to refuse details and to the search if requested.

The final scenario was of one of us cycling on a footpath - it was interesting to understand the law around this. We learned it is an offence to cycle on a footpath, this can be dealt with by the police in the form of a fixed penalty notice to someone over 18. If this is not agreed to at the time you would then be summoned to court to argue your case in front of a magistrate.

It was a real privilege to be involved in this training activity, learn a little more about laws that apply to us young people and ask questions about careers in the police.

Thank you to New Forest Neighbourhood Policing Team and to PCSO May and PCSO McCormick.



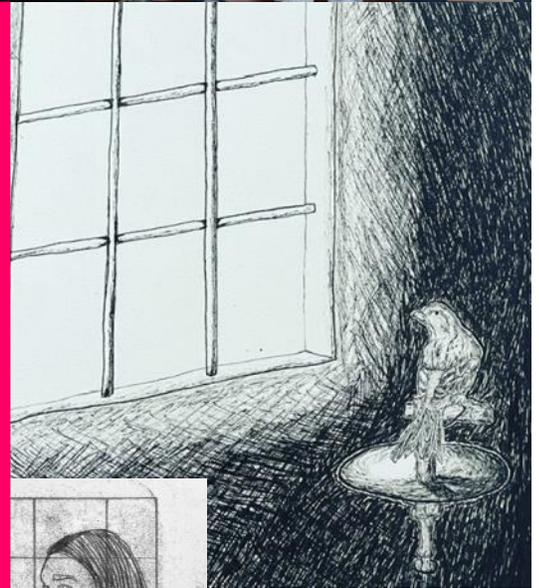


The Burgate School and Sixth Form is celebrating a superb set of Senior Maths Challenge results for its sixth form mathematics and further mathematics students.

The Senior Maths Challenge is an annual national competition in which students are made to think and can demonstrate their problem solving abilities and is sat by around 200,000 students.

All students sitting the paper at the school were awarded a certificate which places them in the top few percent nationally with five gold, four silver and four bronze certificates for the students.

The students are pictured holding their certificates along with Headteacher Mr David Pover and their maths teacher Mr Bailey.



I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings: Year 12 printmaking



Senior Citizen Christmas Afternoon Tea

For many years we have hosted an annual senior citizens Christmas lunch, but with additional Covid safety measures in place sadly we are not able to welcome our local senior citizens to the school again this year.

However, we really didn't want them to miss out and wanted to let them know they were still in our thoughts and so our staff produced beautiful Christmas afternoon tea hampers for all the people who would have normally attended.

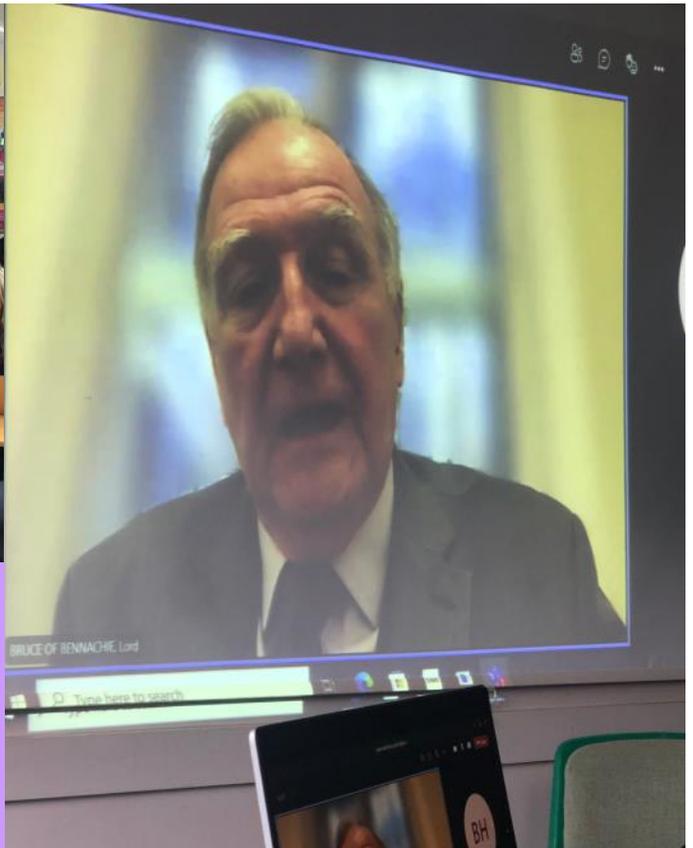
Special thanks to Peter for collecting and delivering these for us.

Extra hampers that were left were donated to local care homes to share the Christmas cheer!

Our Christmas window

Thanks as always to our wonderful team of students and staff who have again created a wonderful display.



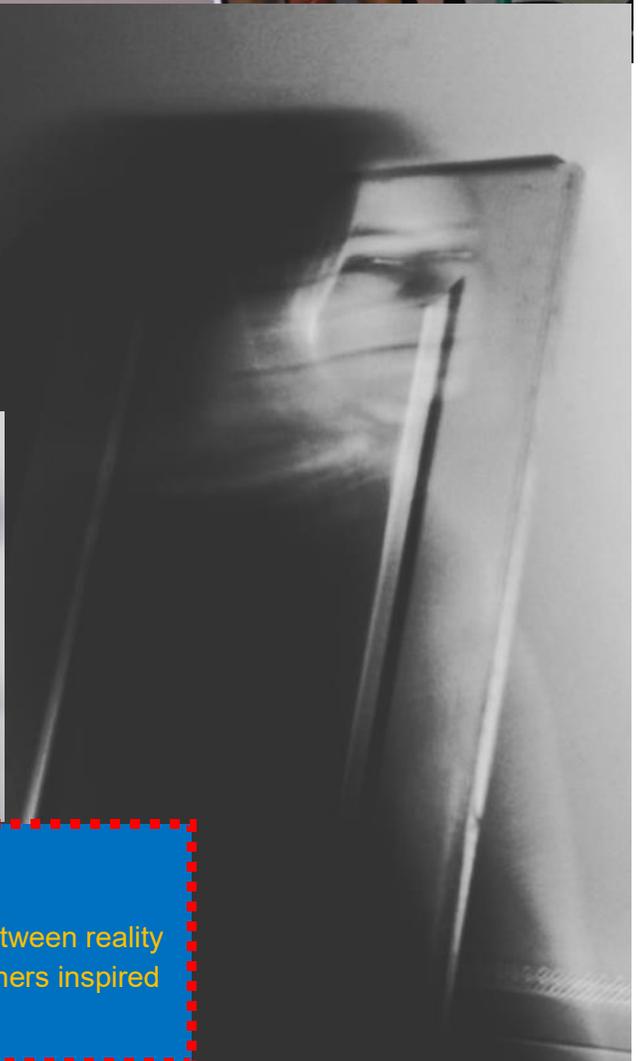
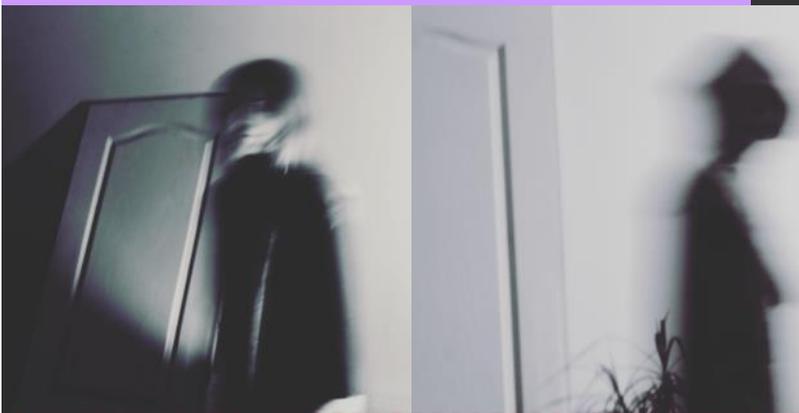


'Learning with the Lords' Education Programme

Our A Level Politics students in Year 12 and 13 took part in a live webchat with Lord Bruce of Bennachie as part of the 'Learn with the Lords' education programme.

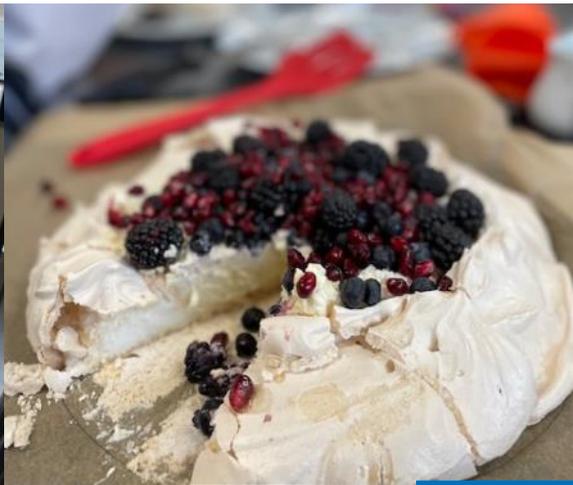
The students took the opportunity to ask many insightful questions to the Liberal Democrat Peer and were really pleased with his honest and frank answers. Discussion included the legitimacy of the House of Lords, its role in scrutinising government decisions during the pandemic and the future of the Liberal Democrat party.

The students were thankful for the time Lord Bruce gave them and the opportunity to delve deeper into their study of Parliament.



Year 12 Art

Fleeting moments, a ghostly presence, blurring the lines between reality and fiction - a beautiful photo shoot today by L6 photographers inspired by Francesca Woodman



More exciting things happening in the student kitchen recently during food exams!



Students in 12CO have done some excellent charity fundraising this term with their £20 "seed money"

Using their £20 group gift, 12CO invested (and reinvested) in sweets and raised over £100 which will be split equally between vital Cancer Research and Crisis at Christmas who provide warm meals, clothes, haircuts, work skills, dental treatment and all-important companionship to homeless people at Christmas and ongoing support throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone and to Father Christmas for his surprise sales turn!



Year 12
Beautiful editions of prints

Year 11 Fine Art Mock Exams:
Beginning and/or end



Charity Christmas single

Programme Support Worker, Rob Aston from Fordingbridge Salvation Army and his band, Becoming Branches, have just released a charity Christmas single, with all the proceeds going to support the work of the Fordingbridge Salvation Army this Christmas.

Video:

<https://fb.watch/9UcYnITtGk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3097497453799672&ref=sharing>

Spotify/Apple/iTunes:

<https://distrokid.com/hyperfollow/becomingbranches/hold-on-to-love-a-sad-christmas-song>

Website:

<https://becomingbranches.com/christmas/>

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas

