



## Message from the Headteacher, David Pover

# Hello Everyone

As we come towards the end of a very successful year at The Burgate, it gives me great pleasure to introduce our Summer Newsletter.

This term has seen the school at its busiest this year, with exams for Year 11 and the sixth form, which have gone very well, and lots of trips, visits and activities for other year groups. All of that and we have Work Experience for Year 10 and Enrichment Week for everyone else taking place, and well-earned summer holidays just around the corner. So, put the kettle on or pour a cold drink and settle down to a review of the year.

Behind the scenes much work has been taking place to ensure our school is the best it can be. The electrical installation and fire safety project is in the final phase and will be completed during the holiday – so no more room changes for staff and students! I'm delighted to report that next year work will begin on a brand new, much larger school reception entrance, befitting of our size and status.

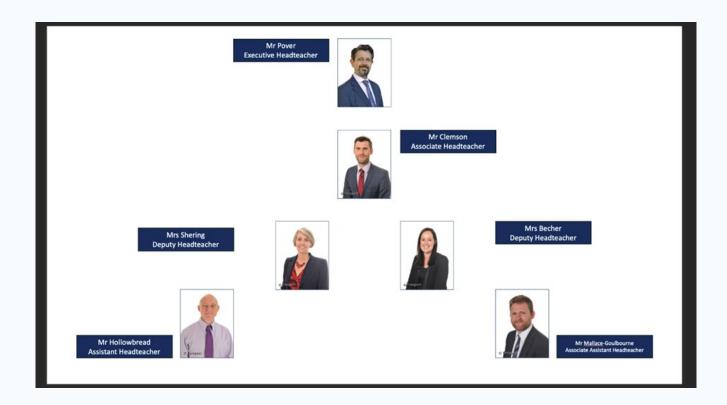
The Burgate is truly a very good school and each one of our students is a key part of its success with all their academic, creative and sporting achievements. You may remember that at the end of last year we had an Ofsted inspection which confirmed what we already knew – that staff and students at The Burgate are ambitious to do well. More than this, we are a very good school on a path to being a great school, one of the best. And to achieve this, we need to keep developing and making sure all of our hard work continues to take us forward.

To keep moving forward from good to great, the school leadership team and the trustees (who are responsible for looking after the school) have been deciding on how to do this. One of the best ways we have been able to improve our school is through collaboration and partnerships with other schools and educational organisations, particularly when developing new ideas and sharing what works well. So, we want to do more of this going forward, building closer relationships with other partners.

Parents may remember that the Trustees recently announced a planned restructure of the school's Leadership Team for September 2025 onwards. This restructure has now been completed. In summary the changes are: as your current Headteacher, I will take on a new strategic Executive Headteacher job which will involve working away from school for part of the week. Mr Clemson will take on a new job of Associate Headteacher and he will be responsible for the routine day-to-day running of the school as well as being the senior contact for parents.

There will be two deputy headteachers, with Mrs Becher as a new deputy joining Mrs Shering. Mrs Becher will continue to focus on expectations of restorative and recognition across the school along with school admissions and our digital strategy.

I will be focussing on developing our school to make it as innovative and exciting as it can be. Above all, I will continue to have overall responsibility for the school in its entirety and will continue to report all of our progress to the Board of Trustees. These changes will not result in any loss of staff or affect any students directly.



All that leaves me to say is I hope you enjoy the end of term and that you have a lovely summer holiday. Well done to the whole school community for your hard work this year and above all your kindness to each other. You can be very proud of yourselves and the curiosity you have shown in your learning. I would especially like to thank all of the staff for their hard work this academic year and for providing so many opportunities for you to show your ambition.

Parents, in particular, I thank you for your unwavering support: it is invaluable and makes such a difference to the success of the school. With the end of the school year, we invite you to take a moment to express your appreciation to our staff, individual or collective, who have guided, supported, or inspired your child throughout the year. Your words of thanks mean a great deal and remind our staff how valued they truly are. You can share your message either by emailing the member of staff directly or completing the form link:

## https://forms.office.com/e/fGMpbNB0Ay

I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter!

Mr David Pover

Headteacher

## **Message from the Chair of Trustees**

At The Burgate our vision is for every student to enjoy their learning and feel valued for who they are. The bedrock to achieving this vision is the school values. This year we have reduced the values to three; Kindness, Curiosity and Ambition with the aim of enabling students to understand more easily, remember and 'live' them in their routine actions. There is a reason Kindness comes at the start of the list: being kind creates the environment on which everything else builds. It therefore is a key facilitator to enjoyment of learning. There are various aspects to Kindness but for me it starts with Kindness of thought. There is a saying, "think nice thoughts and nice things happen". While the school staff drive the vision and values daily, ultimately it is the individual student's actions which make the difference not just for the student but also for colleagues and peer group. This is why we put Kindness at the front of our values, and we encourage all students to act in a kind manner to each individual and respect each student's individuality.

Through our motto 'Learning for Life' we recognise that at school we aim to give students the building blocks to achieve their life goals in an ever-changing world well beyond their time at Burgate. We aim to be a learning organisation which encourages self-learning as part of a fundamental culture as a means for long term success for students. The Ofsted inspection took place in November 2024 and recognised many strengths of the school. As a trustee I was pleased with their comment that, "the school's vision underpins its drive for continuous improvement and is supported by all those involved. Trustees provide strong support and challenge and take their statutory responsibilities very seriously, not least safeguarding. Staff are very proud to work at the school." Another comment of note was that, "pupils thrive at this welcoming and happy school. The school's relational and inclusive approaches are at the heart of all it does. Pupils are known well and treated as individuals. Consequently, they trust staff to listen to them and help them if necessary. Behaviour is exemplary in lessons and in social time. Pupils are respectful and polite to adults and to each other. Sixth-form students are excellent role models for younger pupils." Staff, students and trustees should be proud of these comments and proud that we are rated as a good school. That said, I am aware that there are instances where an individual student's experience may not reflect the comments made. They may feel sad, anxious or not fitting in with the wider group for a variety of reasons, some of which are peer on peer issues, indeed unkind actions. I would encourage all students who feel like this or are concerned about a friend to seek out the pastoral team and seek guidance in a confidential manner. It is a team effort for staff, students, trustees, parents and guardians to collectively drive the concept of kindness to ensure each individual student truly feels valued for who they are.

This year has seen significant investment in electrical work at the school. I am pleased to report that the school has recently been successful in gaining two further grants to facilitate improvements to the site security, thereby improving safeguarding further, and fire safety. At a time of funding issues within the education sector, securing funding for these improvements is a major win for the school and will make a huge difference in coming years. My congratulations and thanks to all those who worked on the funding submissions.

You may be aware that trustees are considering joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and a significant volume of work has been undertaken in this area. Trustees have placed this project on hold as the wider educational landscape and government policy in this area remains unclear. We continue to work in a collaborative way with external bodies and other schools to ensure we access the best possible educational outcomes and support for the school.

The Trustees consider that significant progress has been achieved at the school in recent years. We need to ensure that achievements to date become embedded and build further in areas which will project the school forward whilst maintaining the current upward trajectory of school performance.

The recent changes to the school leadership with the creation of an Executive Headteacher role focusing on strategic partnerships and bringing best practice from elsewhere into the school, together with the creation of an Associate Headteacher role focusing on daily operational management is designed to make this happen at an accelerating pace. I wish all involved success, and I am confident that this will enable the school to move forward significantly.

As we move towards the end of term and this academic year, I would encourage all students to reflect on their year's progress. This is your future being shaped whilst at school. Take time over the summer to think what has worked well for you and areas which worked not so well. Dedicated school staff aim to do all they can to assist you achieve your goals. Through reflection and discussing with school staff changes can happen where appropriate. Remember we cannot change the past but we can influence the future.

For those of you who have taken examinations, I wish you success and hope that you achieve your personal goals. Truly the world is an exciting place, and our aim as always is to prepare you as best we can for the opportunities within it, whether academic or otherwise.

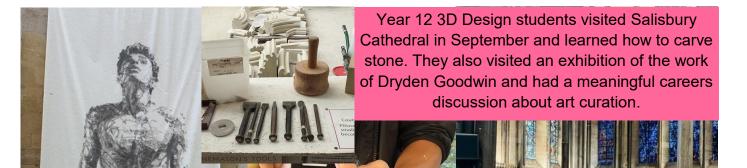
To the staff, I thank you again for your hard work, dedication and support over the last year. A year is made up of a myriad of individual events which can transpire to knock us off course but as a collective you have worked to the common good, the vision and the benefit of each student.

To parents, thank you for your support and your trust in the school. Please continue to talk to students of the vision and values of the school to help ensure that each individual is valued for who they are. As key stakeholders of the school and its ambitions please do give feedback and comment via the various communications issued by the school. Alternatively, the Trustees can always be reached via our clerk's email address; <a href="mailto:clerktotrustees@burgate.hants.sch.uk">clerktotrustees@burgate.hants.sch.uk</a>.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and enjoyable summer break.

Jim Mowbray

Chair of Trustees



Another fantastic careers event with the army coming in to speak to our students about the opportunities on offer in the British Army.



Year 7 Team Building in September saw three days of fun and smiles as students enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities. These days are a great opportunity for new students to learn new skills while having a great time and getting to know other students within their cohort. There may have been rain but it certainly didn't dampen their spirits.

At the end of September, our Year 9 girls travelled to Ringwood to play in the New Forest Netball league.

They played some superb netball and were goal for goal throughout the first three quarters.

The match finished 17-14 to Ringwood who pulled away in the final quarter.

Such an exciting game.

Congratulations should go to Rosie who was nominated player of the match.





22 in the world. In February, he became European Champion! Still only a junior, he entered the most prestigious French competition: The Senior Male Karate Championship. He went through 5 knockout rounds where he won each one: 5-0, 5-0, 4-1, 4-1 and 5-0. This meant he proceeded to the final where he beat the 3 time French champion, 8 years his senior, 5-0. Outstanding achievements! Tom is an incredible example of hard work, commitment and determination.



Our U16 girls played Ringwood in the New Forest League. The final score was 21-15! Florence M was player of the match.



Our Year 9
netballers beat
New Forest
Academy in their
New Forest
League match
18-9. Erin was
nominated player
of the match.



Sixth Form students, led by Dr Hill, Ms McDonald and Ms Mutimer, enjoyed an exhilarating trip to the South of France as part of their Media and Creative Arts curriculum. The trip began in Nice, a city that has captivated filmmakers for decades, before taking in excursions to nearby destinations including Cannes and Monaco.



The Antler: In October we unveiled our new sixth form space, 'The Antler'. Through our student voice forum, we worked on a range of ideas to develop what was formally known as 'The Purple Room' into a mature hybrid social and study environment, which reflects our student culture today.



Our Eco Team achieved an Eco-Schools' Green Flag in 2024! This shows that we are empowering our young people to drive change within the school and beyond, helping to inspire a new generation of environmentalists. A fantastic achievement!





First Place WINNER of The Burgate Peace Pos Competition: Carina Y

We were absolutely bowled over by this beautiful design, with many thoughtful elements taken from a wider visual sense of what peace might look like. Again, the motif of space is used to brilliant effect, the dove occupying the largest area of the poster and reminding us that we, too, can watch over our world from an infinitely peaceful place. Well done, Carina! We wish you every success at the district final!



Our Year 11 girls played in the New Forest Netball Tournament and won all games but one of their games and were crowned New Forest Champions!





Lions International Peace Poster Competition 2024 was won by Year 7 student, Carina. Orrin M came second and Albie H came third.

Orrin's jigsaw spaceman design symbolises how we can build towards (and take away) peace.

Albie's world of flags design reinforces the sense that in a limitless universe we have a chance for peaceful co-existence on Earth.

Learning for life was on display at The Burgate when our Year 10 students took part in mock interviews. This opportunity helps students to build confidence and aims to reduce any anxiety for real interviews as well as improving communication skills. The process introduces students to common interview formats and workplace expectations. Feedback provides advice on strengths and areas for improvement to help students reflect on their skills, achievements and potential career goals.





Year 12 and Year 13 Further Maths students took part in the Ritangle Maths Challenge. Students had a week to solve the final stage questions with the best solution being selected as winner. After a gruelling two month worldwide competition they have received a commendable mention as a team and school who submitted an answer to the final stage. Many congratulations to Max S, Archie C, Ethan G and Wilf S in Year 13 and Ben S, Thomas S, Ahmed A, Tom W, Tom K and Jack G and Hadrian O in Year 12 for their hard work, commitment and teamwork.



Team Burgate did the school and themselves proud at the New Forest Schools Area Cross Country Competition. Our 7 Girls and Boys Teams both placed second in the competition and our Year 9 Boys took first place. All athletes were brilliant but there were stand-out performances in Year 7 from students, Flo S, Josie M, Ellie H, Will B and Jack T and in Year 9 from, Ash M and Ted B who both put in brilliant performances, as did Isla O from Year 10.



Year 7 boys Rugby Team had a fantastic season.

Our sports staff
organised an amazing
girls football trip to watch
the Champions League
game of Arsenal vs
Juventus at the Emirates
Stadium.



Year 7-10 students enjoyed a visit to The Green Gram in Fordingbridge High Street to learn more about ethical retail, natural cleaning products and Fair Trade. Thank you to Green Gram for such a warm welcome.



Year 9 student Archie was very busy before Christmas taking part in three concerts with Celebrate Voice. He was the only member of the Youth Choir to have a solo and was invited to sing his solo again with the professionals at the Theatre Royal, Winchester.





learning to observationally draw things moving which was challenging but brilliant fun.

Bonnie! They were



Our Christmas Showcase 2024 was a truly wonderful way to kick off the season's festivities, highlighting some of the many talents of our fantastic students including skills in baking, singing, musical instrument playing, drawing, painting, photography, textiles, 3D design, drama and much more. Congratulations and thank you to all that contributed to such a fantastic festive bonanza.

Before Christmas Arts University Bournemouth
@aubfoundation came in to talk to our Year 12
students about the creative industries and their
Art Foundation and Degree courses. They also
carried out interviews with our Year 13s. We are
so grateful to AUB for coming in, inspiring and
interviewing our students for a fast track
place at university.





In the world of engineering for Burgate students, several competed in both the Navy Fleet Air Arm Engineering Challenges and also the Institute of Engineering Faraday Challenge. At our Local Region Faraday Challenge students earned a spot on the leaderboard for the South of England.

Team Burgate then achieved first place in the Fleet Air Arm Engineering challenge at Yeovilton Museum and Airbase.



Ofsted and Exam Success! The Burgate was inspected by Ofsted in November 2024. The new report highlighted not only how our outstanding/good standards have advanced but also how The Burgate's dedication to excellence and continuous improvement benefit our students and the wider community. It noted that, that, "Students thrive at this welcoming and happy school."

This report came after the publication of the school's excellent GCSE examination data which is well above the national average with 85% of students passing both Maths and English.

Burgate Equestrian Team news at the start of the year included news of Laurence competing in the Arena Eventing Championship Qualifier competition at West Wilts Equestrian Centre where he finished in 4th place qualifying him and his horse for the National Championships. Dan and Willem then competed in Showjumping at Moreton Equestrian Centre where Dan began a new partnership with a young and inexperienced horse. The team scores here meant they qualified in both classes for the Championships at Hickstead. Annabel and Jess also joined the team.



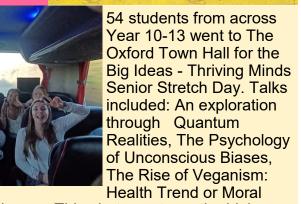


Year 9 students enjoyed a trip to Bletchley Park, once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers including Alan Turing and other agents of the Ultra Intelligence Project who decoded secret enemy messages.

January was very busy for our A Level Politics students. Firstly, Year 12 and 13 students took part in a webinar with Lord George Young, a conservative peer, as part of the 'learn with the Lords' programme. Year 12 students also spent a day in Westminster. They toured the Houses of Parliament and were lucky enough to enter both chambers and then return to the viewing gallery in the Commons to watch Question Time with the Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson. The students then went on to visit on the UK Supreme Court to explore its role in the British political system. They were delighted to be allowed sit in the seats of the Justices in Court One.

Our Sixth Form Debating Team took part in an online transatlantic debating competition with teams from the USA. The three UK schools including us that were invited, were all winners in the past. It was a great honour to have been part of this inaugural and prestigious event. Although we didn't win this time it was an amazing debate and experience.

Year 9 and Year 12 3D Designers enjoyed a guided tour of Griffon Hoverwork. This was a great experience that showed students how the hovercrafts are constructed from the ground up. Students were buzzing about the careers advice and opportunities that they had to offer in the field of marine engineering.



Imperative, and more. This photo captures the high spirits on the journey back to Hampshire as the back of the bus serenaded everyone (for most of the way), even taking requests!

A level Spanish students had a really thought provoking study day at the BFI focussing on the legacy of dictatorships and the concepts of memory and forgetting. They also participated in a live Q&A with members of La Comuna.







The Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge programme (ASK) visited to talk to Year 10 students - later some of girls in Years 9-11 also had a talk about opportunities for woman in the army.



Taylor Wimpey also visited to deliver careers workshops to our Year 7 students. As well as learning about careers in the property industry, student teamwork skills were tested in a competition to build the tallest, strongest towers from straws!

Years football Hamps Footba showed g

Years 7 and 8 girls
football team at The
Hampshire County
Football where they
showed great teamwork
and ambition!

Undergraduate, Graduate



Supply Career Choice Procurement Supply Read of the Supply Career Assumed the Supply Read of the Supply Read

V&A Innovate National Design Challenge 24/25 - Winners in the 'Celebrate' category: Iona, Isobel, Keira and Jess. V&A News said "The winning entry for the Celebrate category was Planet Puzzles by The Burgate School & Sixth Form, Hampshire. The team's fantastic engagement with their target audience of primary school students and their clear celebration of marine animals landed them with the category winning prize."



Interschool Photography Competition: Ellie H and Sienna G represented The Burgate in the Year 7-10 category.



Our Year 8 students analysed WWII artefacts as part of their 'Changing Warfare' topic. They compared their knowledge of life in the trenches to see how technology and tactics had changed by 1939.

Our Future 16-18 Pathways event in March was a huge success!



Year 10 student Stevie competed in the England Championships and won gold for the second year running. She had her medal presented to her by Team GB weightlifting legend, Emily Campbell.

We welcomed Sir Vince Cable who shared insights from his career in politics with some of our students in Years 10-13. Sir Vince offered invaluable advice on political life, leadership, and making a difference through public service.

> 8CL had a reward afternoon and completed a paper based 'Escape Room' challenge. They won a competition amongst Year 8 tutors groups for the most engaging and informative presentation about an 'Equality champion'. 8CL did a fantastic presentation about disabilities campaigner Ben Purse.

Year 9 students took part in a practical First Aid session. The students had the chance to role play the primary response sequence, placing someone in

Fordingbridge town centre.

the recovery position and practice their CPR technique.





Team Burgate took part in the **UK Maths Trust Pink Kangaroo** Challenge. Year 10 student, Ralfie did so well in the Intermediate Maths Challenge that he qualified for the follow on round which was a harder hour long set of questions and he achieved the highest award of a gold certificate!



We attended a planning event to support our community with the new Neighbourhood Plan. It was

a real privilege to be invited and work alongside @Feria-urbanism and @fordingbridgetowncouncil and other key stakeholder groups in the town. As a school we were asked to consider what we want Fordingbridge to look like in 2040.







Year 8 Kody and his grassroots football team, Broadstone Jaguars, won the Dorset Division 1 this season, undefeated, with 16 wins, 108 goals, 12 clean sheets and +98GD! As well as this, the team also won The Dorset County Cup final. Kody in particular did brilliantly having also passed his first term assessment and trial to get into Chelsea's advanced centre in Winchester. A fantastic achievement.

Year 9 textiles and Years 7 and 8 artists had their hard work displayed in Fordingbridge town centre as part of the 80th VE Day commemorations.

Eadie played her first tournament for Weston Park Blades Netball in May and will join the team for a season of regional games all over the south of England from September. Having only started netball just over 18 months ago, Eadie is an example of what hard work and passion can achieve in sport!



After suffering a broken thumb earlier this Spring, Rafe recovered and was able to attend the first round of the NORA British Cup in May. This two day event was held in Cornwall and attracted the top national

riders from all over the UK. He lined up with 40 of the UK's top riders and qualified 16th. Overall Rafe finished 5th at the event, securing some prize money and setting the bar high for the rest of the championship. Rafe then headed to Wroxton with Ringwood MXC in June. He finished third in his first race, fourth in the second, and ended with a podium finish following the third. We look forward to hearing more updates about Rafe's amazing achievements in this sport.



Duke of Edinburgh practice expeditions were a wonderful sunny experience in May where students impressed with their teamwork, kindness and resilience in finding their way after a wrong turn. All DofE groups then headed out on their final assessed expedition at the start of June and were initially a little less fortunate with the weather but the rain soon passed and spirits were raised as the sun appeared.





In May some ex-Burgate students celebrated their 40 year reunion with a tour of the school, lead by one of our former teachers Mrs (Mary) Adams, followed by drinks and much reminiscing!









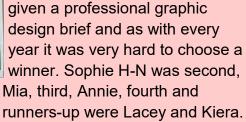








Lily R was our winner of the Year 10 prospectus competition. Each year our Year 10 artists are











In June Year 12 Biology students enjoyed a sunny day sampling

invertebrates on the River Piddle, mapping seaweed zones at Kimmeridge Bay and seeing dune succession before their eyes at Studland.



**SMALL** WORLDS

The Winchester Gallery 11th July - 16th August

An exhibition of globes by artists, communities

and schools

Come and see your artwork!

The Winchester Gallery Winchester School of Art Park Avenue Winchester SO23 8DL pening times: resday - Friday 12 – 6pm rturdays 12 – 4pm

Laurence and Willem represented the school in June at Moreton Equestrian Centre in an Eventing competition where they had to complete a dressage test, a round of showjumping and a Cross Country course within a specified time. Both of them were successful and ended up placed, with Laurence coming 7th on a new horse who had never done it before and Willem 5th, qualifying him and The Burgate School to compete at the 3 Day Event Championship in August. This was a fantastic achievement.

Our Year 9 artists observed river energy, movement and marks with fast flowing ink on shiny paper. Year 8 artists made models for an exhibition at Winchester Gallery. Small Worlds: Little Things Make a Big Difference. Small Worlds is part of the ongoing Climate Unity Project.









Year 12 Art and Design exam work 2025.



Our wonderful DofE participants were awarded this certificate for the 949 hours of volunteering they have done within our community this year! This is an outstanding achievement and one which will definitely have made a positive impact.



Our Eco Club recently talked to Kate from Hampshire County Council about the Eco-Schools Distinction Award that we received last year.

Students gave details about what they had done to achieve this and answered questions. Their work is now being shared with other schools across the county!



Year 9 visited the River Avon in June as part of their River of Hope exploration. River of Hope is an arts-based learning project linking schools around the world through the study of rivers and environmental issues. It aims to inspire young people through creativity whilst addressing key Climate Change and environmental issues.

Their visit today was led by Matthew West who is a poet, writer, educator and facilitator based in Southampton. Together students explored poetry, sounds and emotions and our young artists were encouraged to write a collaborative poem to express their concerns about global environmental issues through the spoken word and their observations of experiencing the river.

# **Burgate School – River of Hope Poem**

Here, where the river meanders around rocks and trees

We name its colours, sandstone grey, lava red, duck-head green.

And here, where the island rises from the river like a podium for a swan

It parts its way. A symphony of birds

Make beautiful song.

But here, the sounds of cars rumbling over the bridge Underscore the harmony of nature.

A rainbow. Cheerful children.

O' water-beast, o' dragon, o' moving mirror

We name your colours ink black, volcanic orange, roof-tile grey

We name your colours paper white, flaming yellow, neon green

And naming, begin to see

And seeing

Between the cracks

These layers of life.







We welcomed Year 5 pupils across three days for a fun and educational taster day and welcomed our new Year 7 cohort to their induction day. We were very lucky with the weather on each day and as you can see, the day was full of smiles.

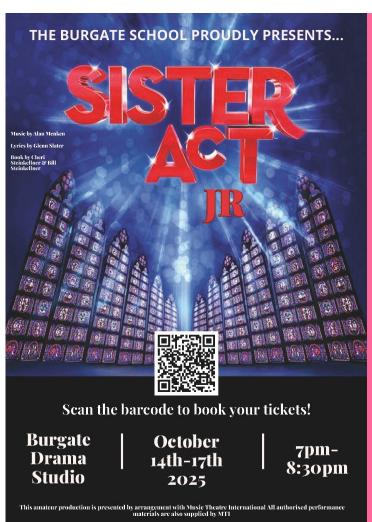
# Farm-to-fork lesson with Ivan Ponder-Sigston from the New Forest School

# Year 9 History Trip to Munich 2025.

A group of 44 students from Year 10 travelled to Munich in June for a packed visit which included visiting Dachau Concentration Camp, walking the Munich Putsch, visiting the university to learn more about The White Rose Group, a trip to Nuremburg and also the burgers at the Hard Rock Café!



Our inaugural Sports Awards evening was a huge success, underscoring the vibrant sporting spirit of our students and their achievements from the past academic year. We were thrilled to have Aaron Phipps MBE, an esteemed paralympian and motivational speaker join us to talk about his journey and to inspire us all. Ed Murphy, from Fordingbridge Rugby Club also joined us for the event. His presence demonstrated the close relationship between our local sports clubs and the school and illustrates how such partnerships enhance sporting experiences for our students.



#### Sister Act Jr

# **Book your tickets now!**

Rehearsals and preparations have started for our school production in October!

Tickets: follow QR code on poster or this link:

https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-burgateschool-and-sixth-form

As always the support of our parents and friends in the community to help make this the best possible event is gratefully received.

If you would like to be a sponsor please email Mr Wood via: swood@burgate.hants.sch.uk

or

If you have and 60s costumes or props you think may be suitable for this production please email Mr Wood at the email address above.

# Wishing you all a safe and happy summer!

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 and Year 12 students on Tuesday 2 September 2025.

We look forward to welcoming all other year groups on Wednesday 3 September 2025.