

The
Burgate
School & Sixth Form



Christmas Newsletter 2023

Seasons Greetings from the Headteacher

The year Christmas seems to have come a little earlier at The Burgate, which I hope you'll agree is very welcome after the long Autumn Term. The atmosphere around the school has been resoundingly positive and I have been pleased with the engagement of our students. Year 7 and Year 12 students have made particularly impressive starts.

The highlights from this term are in photographic form below and include: our Eco-sustainability school fence project, the Year 13 Clothing Challenge 'Recycle, Reuse', Year 10 students' workshop with the local PCSO, producing a training video on myths around what police can and cannot do with regards to anti-social behaviour in the community. Our Christmas showcase was a truly spectacular evening with performances from a wide range of musical and singing talent across the whole school, including staff. We were entertained by our rising stars in Year 7 to our accomplished performers from our Sixth Form. One performance that really shone out was the flute recital by our Year 13 student, Eloise Gill, who has also recently added a Grade 8 Distinction to her impressive CV.

We are continuing to work in partnership with the local community and welcomed the opportunity to attend the official opening of the Community Orchard in Fordingbridge and to design the lanterns for the Christmas lights parade. It has been a pleasure to invite Mayor Pete White and former Burgate student back into our school. Please take a moment to read his newsletter to the community.

Trips and visits this term have included a visit to Cranborne Chase (students made visual art with creative writing inspired by the day) and a GCSE trip to Malaga in Spain. The Drama and English Departments welcomed AUB Bournemouth to perform Macbeth at the school, which was highly entertaining.

We have introduced our 'Sports Report' where you can read about the many individual and team successes, which we are rightly very proud of and recommend you follow us on Instagram. Team Burgate goes from strength to strength as seen in the inaugural Sixth Form Burgate 7s Netball and Rugby tournament, our Burgate showjumpers who competed at Dauntsey's School, Daisy who was selected for the DWAA (Dorset and Wiltshire Archery Association) and Tom who achieved world number one in the 14-16 category for Kata at the World Karate Federation in Paris. A huge well done to everyone involved.

At the start of this term, I wrote to you about the significant building projects at the school: new 3G artificial grass pitch (AGP) as well as complete rewiring/new fire safety system. I am pleased to report that, despite the weather, both projects are progressing well. Contractors have completed the rewiring of the Science Block and will move to the Music rooms after Christmas.

Here are some pictures I took last week of the AGP under construction:



The foundations are being levelled. Believe it or not, students and members of the local community will be playing sport here one day soon...

I would also like to express my gratitude to you as parents for your ongoing support, especially in helping students to be punctual and for the attendance rates we are seeing at the school, which have shown an improvement compared to last year – let's keep this up please. Good attendance to school is vital to the life chances of a young person; being in school improves your health, wellbeing and socialisation.

On behalf of everyone at The Burgate, I would like to thank you again for your continued support of the school and wish you and your family a very safe, happy and enjoyable Christmas break.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school, refreshed and ready to learn, on Wednesday 3 January 2023.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Mr David Pover

Headteacher

News from the Chair of Trustees

On behalf of the Trustees, I extend a very sincere and heartfelt thanks to the staff of the Burgate and Sixth Form, both teaching and non-teaching, whose hard work and dedication is never in question, and to the parents, carers and students, without whom our school would not be what it is today.

The vision for the Burgate School and Sixth Form is that we want every student to enjoy their learning and to feel valued for who they are. It encompasses the idea that every child matters and that we can inspire them by helping to provide a learning environment where they are happy. We are always looking to the future, and it is something that everyone working in the school is aiming for by enshrining the school's vision and values in the day-to-day workings and activities of the school. The school motto of 'Learning for Life' summarises in three words what the school is about.

The Trustees are no exception and strive for that shared objective. The work of the Board of Trustees has been full and varied this year continuing the work on whether we should connect more formally with other local schools to become a Multi-Academy Trust instead of a Single Academy Trust which we still are. We will continue to explore becoming/joining a Multi-Academy Trust but it is important to the Trustees that any changes to the legal structure of the school will only take place if there is a clear and obvious benefit for the students and we will naturally keep you informed of the situation and consult with you before a final decision is made. Schools locally who have explored forming a Multi-Academy Trust, including Burgate, have formed a partnership called West Forest Forum to collaborate on approaches to teaching and learning, peer reviews and subject network meetings.

At our most recent Full Trustee Board meeting we approved the annual report and accounts, and we are fortunate to be able to continue to report that the school's finances continue to be in good shape. There are major projects taking place with extensive electrical work being done throughout the buildings and a new all-weather football pitch being laid.

The priorities we set for the Board for the coming year were:

- to prepare for Ofsted
- to continue to explore the possible joining of a Multi-Academy Trust, and
- to increase stakeholder engagement.

On this last point we are introducing a new format for the School's Annual General Meeting (AGM) this year. The AGM will take place on 30 January 2024 at 5.30pm in the Main School Hall – please come along. In addition, we will be publishing the minutes of the trustee meetings on the school website to help you see what the trustees are doing – keep an eye out for them!

The school continues to focus on its curriculum enrichment with a multitude of events and activities taking place beyond the classroom. In the Sixth Form, Amnesty International, the Ritangle Competition and Debating Matters continue to be popular and art, photography, drama and music continue to thrive as does a wide variety of sports and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Trips and visits are always popular with France, Italy, Spain and Germany featuring on the international travel agenda as well as many trips in and around the UK.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful and prosperous 2024.

With kind regards

John Whitmell
Chair of Trustees

Sports Report – Autumn Term 2023

The boys football season is drawing to a close with the weather hampering a lot of the fixtures. The leagues have yet to be finalised but the U16's are currently in 3rd position with Year 8 finishing as runners up for the 2nd year in a row. Year 9 have finished 4th in their league whilst Year 7 have been less successful but no less enthusiastic!

The girls football season has yet to get underway in terms of the New Forest leagues, but numbers to after school club is growing and we took Year 8 and Year 10 teams to Testwood School for 6 a-side tournament in September. The Year 10 team finished in 4th place whilst the Year 8 team were unbeaten when the tournament was abandoned due to a prolonged thunder and lightning storm; I am sure they would have won.

The netball season is similar to the football in that there are a few outstanding results needed from other schools; but the Year 7 & 8 teams are steadily improving and enjoying the competition. The Year 9 team have finished in 3rd place in their league and the U16s are the New Forest champions because they have not been beaten all season.

The cross-country season is well underway. We had some brilliant students who stood in at the last minute to race in the 1st round of the national cross-country cup, even though they were not the fastest Burgate runners. Unfortunately, they didn't qualify for the regional final but did well against a predominantly private school opposition. The New Forest Championships was postponed due to extremely wet weather and took place a week later in difficult conditions. The two best teams were the Year 8 & 9 boys who finished in 2nd place, and the Year 10 & 11 boys who went one better by winning their event. We had some fantastic performances in awfully cold and wet weather with a number of students qualifying for the county championships in the new year. Special mention to Charlie Coles for medalling in the inter-boys race at the end of the day.

Our sixth form sporting calendar has grown this year with the U18 Boys Dorset Football leagues well underway, The Girls Netball Team have also had a strong opening to their season with some dominating wins over Ferndown and Ringwood schools.

Mrs Newson Smith put together an inspiring new 7's festival combining rugby and netball as Burgate played host to a number of local sixth form colleges for an afternoon of friendly rivalry. The Burgate Netballers were narrowly beaten into 2nd place with the Boys Rugby team finishing in 3rd place. The Year 11 Sports studies class spent an exciting afternoon at Avon Tyrrell taking part in mountain biking and high ropes activities as part of their outdoor activities coursework. Much fun was had by all.

In September the entire Year 7 and Year 8 boys cohort spent several hours with a team of coaches from Fordingbridge Rugby Club to promote the sport and raise levels of participation. This was well received by the students who thoroughly enjoyed themselves and by the coaching team who identified a number of potential new players who then went on to try out the club sessions the following Sunday morning at Fordingbridge Rec. So, all in all a very positive outcome.

Sixth Form kicked off the new academic year in September with a welcome BBQ for the new Year 12 cohort who were all excited for the journey ahead and ready for the work and fun times along the way!



In September, Daisy was selected for the DWAA (Dorset and Wiltshire Archery Association) Junior County Team, and is now competing in the GWAS (Grand Western Archery Society) Junior Championships.

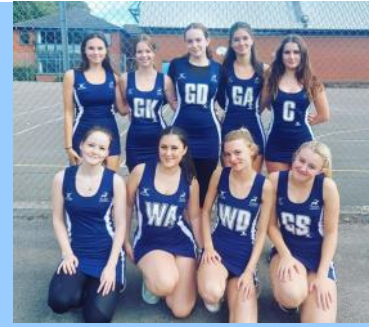


We received huge news in September as Tom Klemz moved to the position of World Number One in the 14-16 category for Kata in the World Karate Federation rankings. He then travelled to Mexico where he won four tough rounds to win gold in the final. At the beginning of December Tom competed in the French Cup where all the best French karate competitors aspire to achieve. With dual nationality Tom was able to compete and stormed the event winning each of his six rounds to bring home the trophy: 4-1, 5-0, 5-0, 5-0, 5-0, 5-0. Tom then competed in The Venice World Youth League with the very best competitors from 52 countries and again won in all five rounds to win a gold medal! Tom is such an inspiration to our school community for the immense commitment, resilience and determination he has shown. His achievements this year are utterly outstanding and we are thrilled for him!

Our Year 9 netball team started the season well and began using all they had learnt during training sessions to develop a great team dynamic.



Our Sixth Form team began their netball season with a 40-10 win at home against Brockenhurst College! They played some beautiful netball, switching positions throughout the match to develop a variety of playing combinations. Special mention should go to Bella, player of the match.



At the start of October our Year 9 boys football team got back to winning ways with a terrific 8-0 victory!



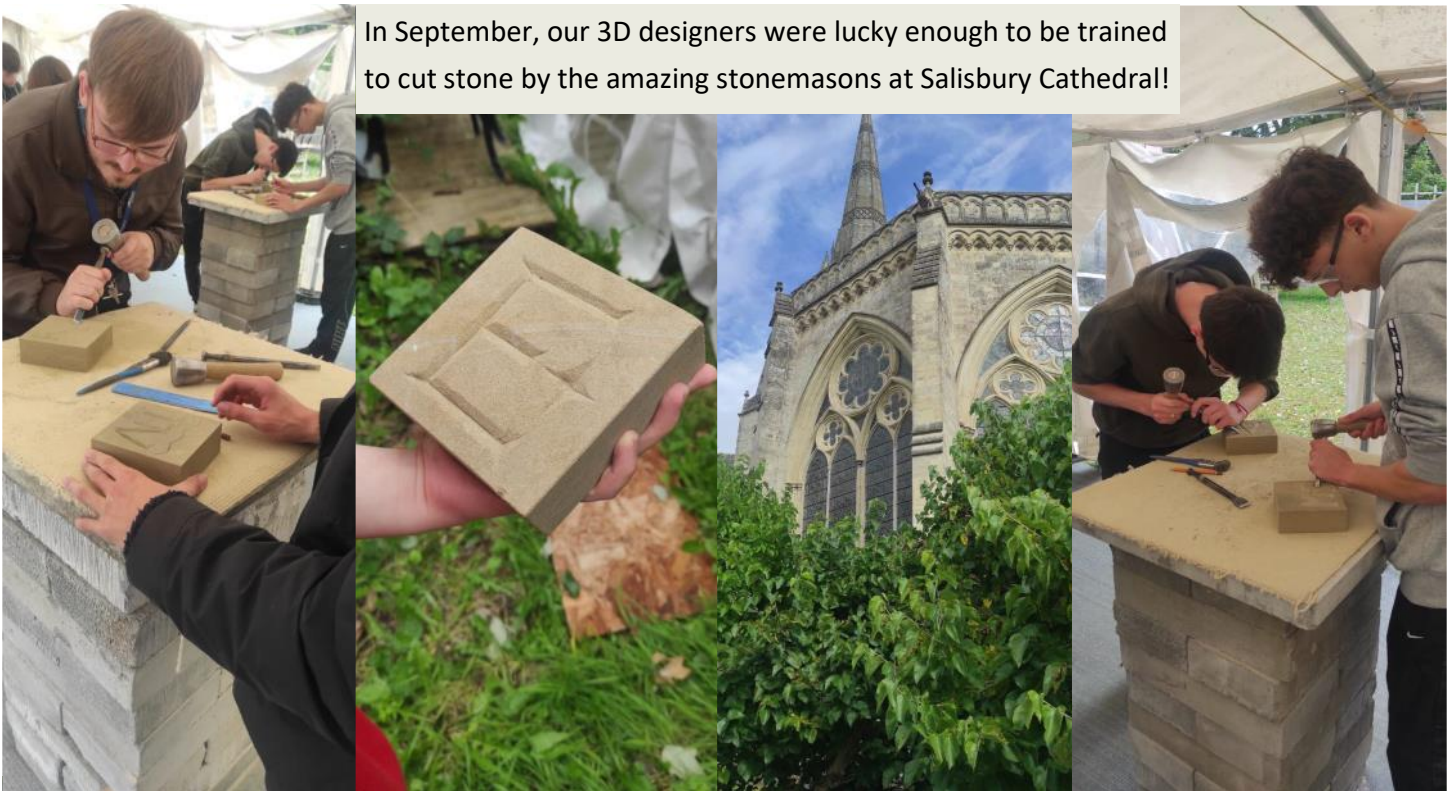
In September a group of Year 11 students attended the official opening of the Community Orchard in Fordingbridge. The orchard was opened by the mayor and former student of The Burgate, Pete White. The sign for the orchard was also designed by one of our students.



The Burgate Sixth Form hosted a fantastic sporting event earlier this term with their 7s Tournament 2023. Netball and Rugby U18 teams from local colleges competed in an amazing event where we were treated to an fantastic display of both sports. The Netball champions were Bishops, with Burgate finishing in second place. The Rugby champions were Salisbury Sixth Form, with Burgate finishing in third place. Students were buzzing about the event and have already begun talking about next year!



In September, our 3D designers were lucky enough to be trained to cut stone by the amazing stonemasons at Salisbury Cathedral!



As part of our eco/sustainability content within the Art and Design curriculum, Year 7 collaborated to make woven outcomes. The students then decorated the front fence to celebrate how they had reused and recycled unwanted materials in order to give them new life. The recycled materials had been provided by the local community. Thank you to all involved. #TeamBurgate #Repurposed #recycling #sustainability





Year 13 artists clothing challenge 'Recycle, Reuse.'
#TeamBurgate #upcycledfashion #sustainablefashion #recycledclothing

Cranbourne Chase.

I Felt Nature

Wind. It breathed life into the long grass and wild flowers. It was cold against my skin. It was swooping and sweeping underneath branches, rustling their many leaves. The air was fresh, clean and pure breathed by many before us. Many lives lived by ancestors of our generation. Calming swishes of tall grass and the array of wild flowers played in my ears like a lullaby. Wishing me to just feel, feel my surroundings, feel the wind, the grass, the many noises of bugs and humans, the feel of nature. Gravel and dirt crunched underneath my feet as I made my way through the field, leaving a cloud of dust to be swept by the wind. I stopped. I looked. I saw many trees in the distance. I saw rows upon rows of fields of grass and flowers. I saw earth. I saw earth and its natural form. I saw earth and I felt the wind cold against my skin, the calming lullaby of grass and wild flowers, the noise of gravel, bugs and humans. I saw Earth and I felt nature.

Following a visit to Cranborne Chase students developed a piece of creative writing inspired by the day and then responded visually to this piece by Alice called, 'I Felt Nature.'



At the end of October our Year 7 netball team travelled to Hounslow School for their first away fixture of the year. The weather conditions were rainy but both our teams took great wins!



Our sixth form netball team took on Salisbury Sixth Form at home. The weather was kind, allowing them to play outside and our team did not disappoint. They put on a stunning display of netball winning 20-14! A special mention should go to Caitlin who was awarded player of the match. It was also great to see the return of Abi, who showed us that she still sparkles as GS!

At the beginning of November, students left behind the wind and rain for a magical Malaga trip which included a visit to Granada and the Alhambra Palace with a taste of Flamenco music included. During the trip they also enjoyed plenty of tapas, museum visits and churros!



November saw our Year 9 netballers give a stunning performance against Applemore College in the New Forest League. They dominated the game throughout, finishing the match with a score of 15-4! A special mention should go to Georgia A who was Nominated as player of the match.



Our U16 netballers were on fire in their match also against Applemore College in the New Forest League. They dominated the game winning 27-0! Olivia was nominated player of the match. Our squad continued to grow with much versatility between the players. They later played a beautifully controlled match in a top of the league clash, which was a thriller! Burgate went out hard from the start, leading the match throughout. We came away with an impressive 19-11 victory. Well done girls, for your enthusiasm and commitment.

Remembrance 2023



Noah E

Peace is important for everyone to live free and in harmony and understanding of people's differences.

Daring to dream is important because we need to believe there can be a better world in which everyone is equal without discrimination and living in fear of war and if everyone works together it can be achievable.

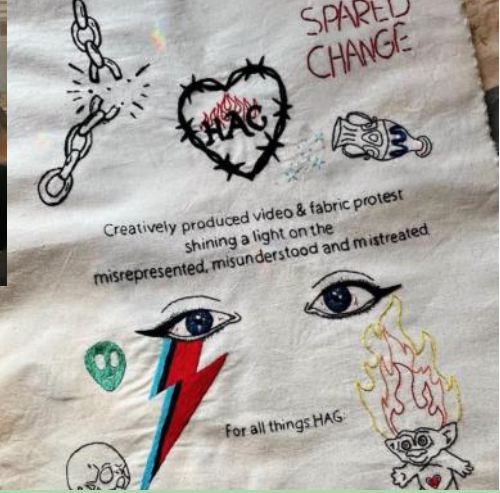
My poster shows daring to dream because of the importance of a united world and that people will love each other and world peace can be achieved.

Peace Poster Competition 2023. Ringwood & Fordingbridge Lions Club (CIO) sponsored this competition at both The Burgate School and Forres Sandle Manor School where nearly 200 Year 7 students took part. Student enthusiasm, compassion and creativity was in abundance with designs centred around a vision of peace, tolerance and understanding which reflected this year's theme, "Dare to Dream". Lunns Art Store in Ringwood has been kind enough to exhibit both the winner and runners up for this competition from each school in their shop in Ringwood Town Centre throughout December. If you are passing Lunns Art Store on Old Christchurch Road please pop in and take a look at the wonderful designs.

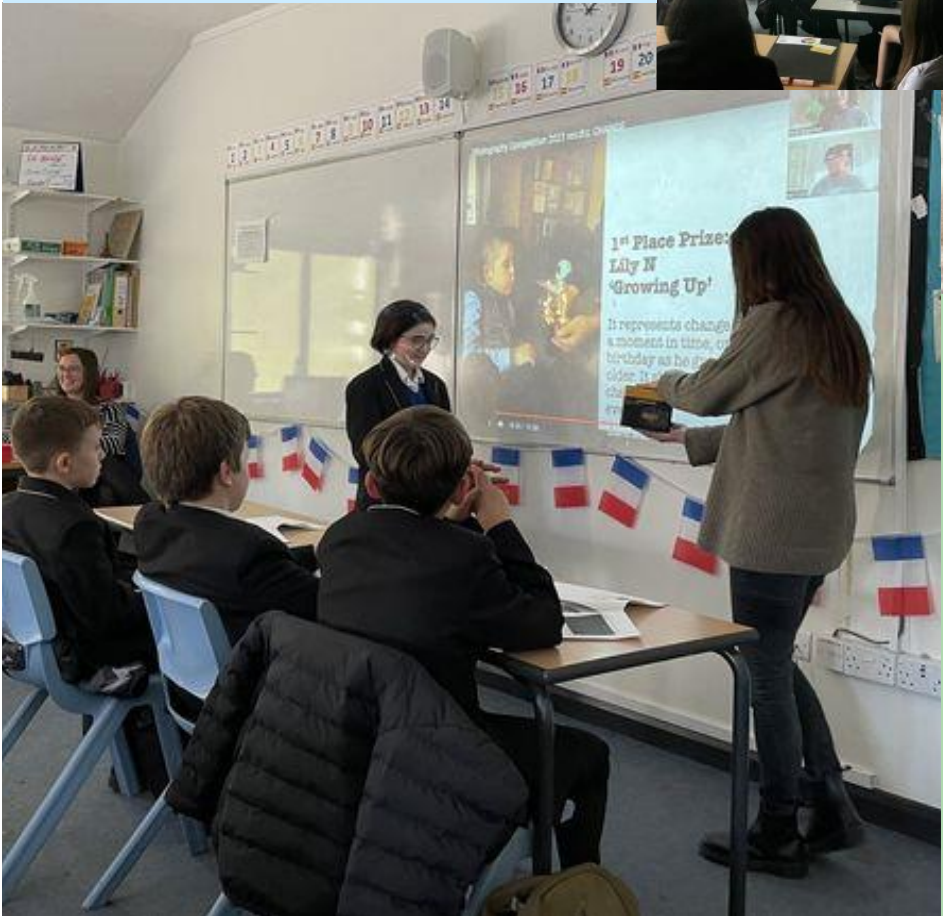


Our Year 7 and Year 8 netball teams travelled to Ringwood to play their latest fixture this season. Both teams put up a brilliant display. Our Year 8 girls lost narrowly 7-6 with Grace being voted player of the match. Although our Year 7 girls lost their match, this result really did not reflect the effort they put into the game. Well done.

Year 9 Textiles students had an inspiring meeting with the artist, Heather Gibson, @hagmedia - Thank you Heather, for all the positive advice.



Lily N, in Year 7, won The Burgate School Photography Competition 2023. This year the competition was judged by Ben Friend, Creative Director of Culture Hustle. Lily's photograph, 'Growing Up' which was of a birthday, was chosen because it represents a moment in time. It shows a simple, yet significant change that happens to all of us every year, we grow another year older. Well done Lily!



A group of our Year 10 students took part in a workshop with our local PCSO, Steve May. The workshop centred around supporting PCSO May in producing a training video on myths around what police can and cannot do regarding anti-social behaviour in the community. The students spent time prepping with PCSO May before role playing scenarios. This video will be used for the training of other Police Officers.



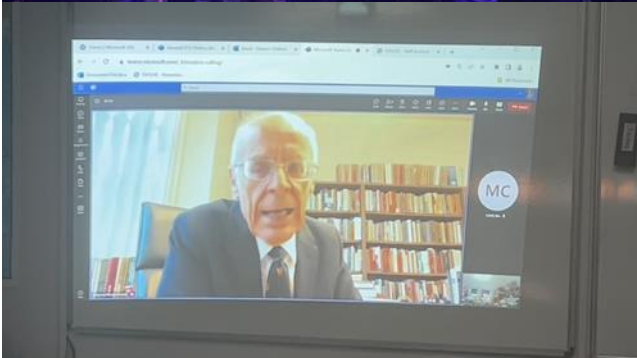


In November Team Burgate Showjumpers, Emilia, Savannah and Laurence, competed in Dauntsey's School showjumping competition, held at the West Wilts Equestrian Centre near Trowbridge. It was a very long day for them, with over 80 riders entered into each class. Team Burgate came away in a very respectable 6th place out of the 14 teams, in the 80-85cm class, despite only having a team of three this time instead of four! A fantastic achievement!

Our Drama and English Departments welcomed Arts University Bournemouth (AUB) to our atmospheric drama studio in November to perform their stunning production of Macbeth to our Years 10 Drama Students and Year 11 Drama and English students.



At the end of November our A Level Politics students took part in a live webchat with Conservative Peer, Lord Norton. This was part of the Parliament education program, 'Learn with the Lords'.



Our students took the opportunity to pose some excellent questions to Lord Norton, who is a professor of Politics at Hull University.

The discussion delved into issues such as the right to protest in the UK, reforming and reducing the size of The House of Lords, the appointment of David Cameron as Foreign Secretary, and Sir Kier Starmer's leadership of the Labour Party.



It was an excellent opportunity for our students to interact with a member of the House of Lords as well as a university professor..



Year 12 students kicked off the festive season with a tutor group cookie decorating competition. Christmas music played in the background as students and their tutors battled it out with some amazing and also hilarious designs!



The Christmas Showcase was a huge success. A talent packed evening with music from our Burgate orchestra, bands and choirs. Huge thanks to everyone involved for supporting this event.



Our Year 13 Politics students attended a conference at Westminster Central Hall. The conference was attended by over 2000 sixth form students from across the country who had gathered to listen to a fantastic line up of nine prominent politicians. Speakers included Jeremy Corbyn, Sir Ed Davies and Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg. All gave short speeches and then opened the floor to a question and answer session, which needless to say, became quite direct and fiery at times. Our students relished the opportunity to discuss, debate and engage with the wide range of political issues including UK foreign policy, the cost of living crisis and predictions for the next general election.

Year 12 Sociologists were inspired by a visit to London and the words of top academics and professionals at a recent Sociology in Action Conference.

It was amazing for them to see world famous Professor Ann Oakley unpick gender, Professor Jason Arday explore racism and Intersectionality, and to be challenged to use their sociological skills to make a difference by Dexter Dias KC.



Burgate social scientists also recently attended a packed two day trip to London, taking the Jack the Ripper tour to improve their offender profiling skills and explore the social conditions of the time. After a hostel stay in the East End they were fascinated by professionals, academics and ex-offenders during a conference. They found out how bad we are at spotting liars (except Henry), explored gendered patterns of crime and a variety of factors leading to offending from both an academic and personal viewpoint.



We are extremely proud of Eloise G in Year 13 who last year was accepted into The Hampshire County Youth Orchestra to play flute, and has now just achieved a distinction at grade 8! These are both outstanding achievements. Well done Eloise!



Image: Thanks to Hampshire County Youth Orchestra



12CO have been raising money for a great cause over the last few weeks. A Festive sweet sale is hoped to raise enough money to fund two people for Christmas cheer and practical support through the charity Crisis at Christmas. People experiencing homelessness will be offered dinner, a safe place to stay, companionship and year round support with employment, education, podiatry and other health treatments.



Our Year 11, 12 and 13 art and design students met and were inspired by Art Advisors, Architects, Graphic Designers, Artists, Lecturers, Photographers, Martin Parr and Grayson Perry! Our textiles students asked him if they could design and make him a dress!!! He agreed!! The students came away totally inspired and excited to get making!



Art, Food, 3D Design, Laser Cut, and Textiles Club creations.



We wish you all a happy and peaceful festive break and look forward to welcoming students back to school on Wednesday 3 January 2024.