



The  
**Burgate**  
School & Sixth Form

**Christmas Newsletter 2022**

Many thanks to Laurence P in Year 7 for this beautiful artwork

## **Christmas Greetings from the Headteacher**

I hope you are all doing well and looking forward to Christmas and the new year. As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, with Christmas festivities taking place, it gives me great pleasure to introduce our Winter Newsletter 2022.

This term has seen a full return to school life as normal, meaning that we have been able to hold events that we have missed since 2019 such as the Burgate Music Christmas Showcase and the Christmas lights switch-on with carol singing in Fordingbridge. There has recently been a Year 8 Christmas trip to Paris taking almost a hundred students, as well as end-of-term bowling trips for Years 10 and 11 to reward their hard work. Earlier this term Year 7 had a teambuilding day at Avon Tyrrell, Year 11 Geographers went to Bristol and Year 10 enjoyed a day at Thorpe Park, whilst in the sixth form there were residential trips to Berlin for History and Slapton Sands for Geography. There have been trips to the theatre: Year 8 saw *The Lion King* and Years 10 and 11 saw *An Inspector Calls* at The Mayflower, sixth formers saw *Othello* at MAST studios and attended *Crimcon* at The Aldwych Theatre in London. And to top it all, the Duke of Edinburgh scheme is back to full operational status with expeditions taking place. It's a huge relief to re-engage with such activities and we recognise just how important they are to school and college life.

Talented Burgate students have shown their creative flair this term with amazing designs, drawings and dishes as you will see from the wonderful creations in the following pages, as well as having a go at being stonemasons at Salisbury Cathedral. There has also been a lot of sporting success, particularly in Year 9 Netball and Under-16 Hockey, which you can also read about further on. There have been many more activities for Burgate students to participate in this term and not enough space to mention them all here, but we are all most grateful to the staff who provide such a wide range of opportunities for students to get involved in beyond their lessons. Please do encourage students to join in throughout the rest of this academic year, and make sure to reserve a seat for 'Now That's What I Call Twelfth Night!' (details later).

We began this term in September on the very encouraging note of our excellent school and sixth form examination results, and students have continued to focus on their studies and engage positively with their learning. Throughout this term I have been continually impressed by Burgate students' readiness to learn and their engagement in lessons. During The UK Parliament week students actively debated the question of whether to lower the voting age to 16, and the majority of them voted against (increasing by year group age). Also in tutor lessons, students across the school have focussed on 'Drop Everything and Read' so do encourage reading for pleasure and consider a book as a possible gift idea? Year 10 Drama students recently performed their set pieces to friends and family, impressing us with the quality of their acting, which bodes well for their final examination performance in Year 11. Also, earlier in the year, Business students in Year 10 presented the outcomes of their 'Tenner Challenge' to one of our Trustees, who was very complimentary about not only their entrepreneurial skills but also their eloquent presentations.

Over the upcoming Christmas holidays, Hampshire County Council is inviting eligible families to sign up to free school holiday clubs as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme. To check eligibility criteria and individual eligibility, please click the following link: [Free School Meals for Students up to 16](#). The HAF programme is funded by the Department for Education so that local authorities can offer nutritious meals and an exciting programme of fun activities in the school holidays to children who receive income-based free school meals. A small number of places are also available on HAF schemes for other vulnerable families. For details on sites delivering HAF schemes in the local area over the winter holiday period, please click the following link: [HAF Parent Letter New Forest](#).

This term has also seen the school raise £757 for Children in Need and on Friday students and staff will be donating money to the national Christmas jumper appeal. We have also been collecting gifts to support the Salvation Army's Christmas present appeal. Thank you to all those students and staff who have funded, organised and led these worthwhile activities.

Finally, on behalf of everyone at The Burgate, I would like to thank you again for your ongoing support for our school and wish you and your family a very safe, happy and enjoyable Christmas break. I look forward to welcoming students back to school on Wednesday 4 January 2023.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all,

Mr David Pover  
Headteacher

## News from the Chair of Trustees

I write this looking out on a very frosty Fordingbridge morning, fresh from a busy week which has seen the final full board of Trustees meeting of the year, and the school's AGM (Annual General Meeting) as well as England's sad defeat at the hands of France in the unseasonal World Cup, yesterday evening. A group of around 100 Burgate students have just come back from a visit to Paris, and I suspect the football fans among their number are relieved that the visit was before the game rather than after the defeat.

Closer to home, those of you who were at the switching on of the Fordingbridge Town lights may have heard the Burgate's junior choir singing a selection of festive songs, and the Music department hosted a Christmas showcase in the drama studio. School events, activities, sports, trips and visits are some of the most memorable parts of school life and I'm sure I'm not alone in being thankful that the Burgate have been able to reintroduce a full programme of these following the hiatus caused by Covid restrictions. Providing enriching opportunities is a strategic focus for the School leadership and I hope all students are able to find suitable out-of-lesson activities which are enjoyable and educational. 'Learning for life' is our school motto, and clubs, trips and visits are a big part of inspiring curiosity about new things and enabling diverse talents to be uncovered.

This term always sees the Board focus on the Summer exam results that the school have achieved. The Trustees were pleased to see a strong performance in GCSEs, with more students getting grades 7-9 than the last time exams were sat, and for achieving a school record for students getting grade 9 (the highest). In the Sixth Form, we saw over 14% of students achieve A\* rating (more than last year) and more than 80% of students achieved grades A\* to C - both well above national averages. On the back of such strong performance, the school were pleased to see so many students go on to further education, into training or start employment. The Trustees note that the school leadership are focused on ensuring that students don't just leave our school having met their academic potential, but also go on to achieve rewarding careers, and we expect continued focus on this in 2023.

The AGM saw us approve the annual report and accounts to August 2022. I'm pleased to report that the school's finances are in good shape as we head into difficult economic times. Although academic progress is our main purpose, having sound finances is an essential foundation for academic success and the Trustees are always pleased to see the efficient and effective way the finance team manage the school's accounts. This year we appointed fresh auditors who gave the team and their processes a very thorough examination and I'm pleased to confirm that the Burgate passed that test with flying colours. We will never be a wealthy organisation, but we can be well-run. In this regard, the Trustees are pleased to reflect on some previous investments which are bearing fruit - the new heating system, installed in 2021, is more efficient which helps avoid unnecessary additional costs (although like everyone, our fuel costs have rocketed) and the previous investment in new kitchen facilities is now encouraging more students to take advantage of the excellent school meals facility, making this less of an overhead. Further, this summer saw the installation of a significant additional array of solar panels onto the sixth form buildings which is helping with our significant electricity costs. The Trustees are keeping a close eye on local building developments, and our school capacity. In 2023 we will spend more time focused in these areas, ensuring that as we take on more students, we maintain an environment which is safe, sound, sustainable and pleasant to be in.

This year has seen further changes to the Trustee Board. Our long-standing clerk, Sarah Hewitt, stood down, but we have been pleased to recruit Linda Williamson from within the Burgate School as an able replacement. Both deserve our considerable thanks for their sterling work in a complex but important part of the school. Annette Born stepped down in July 2022 after over six years as a Trustee, and one of our Parent Trustees, Sarah Hughes, also had to leave us after three. I'd like to thank both of them for their diligence and support as Trustees. We welcomed some new faces as well - Jim Mowbray, Robin Townsend and John Whitmell joined as Trustees, and Alice Richardson became our new Parent Trustee. Richard Wagland has also announced his intention not to re-stand after his term as Parent Trustee comes to an end in January, so elections for his replacement will happen this month. The new Trustees have settled in quickly and the Board appears to be operating well. We also began work on whether we should connect more formally with other local schools to become a Multi-Academy Trust instead of a Single Academy Trust as we currently are. This work will continue into 2023 and probably beyond. The Trustees are clear that any operational changes to the legal structure of the school should only be done if there is a benefit to the students.

As a last, but most important point, I would like to pass on my deepest thanks to the staff of the Burgate, 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 wouldn't be what it is today.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

With kind regards

David Millar  
Chair of Trustees

[dmillar@burgate.hants.sch.uk](mailto:dmillar@burgate.hants.sch.uk)

## “Drop Everything And Read”

In September we introduced a new initiative for our students and staff to pause and read for 30 minutes together every Friday and we have continued to do this every week.

[#dropeverythingandread](#) [#whatbookisinyourbag](#)



### New Mural

At the start of the Autumn Term, local artist and Burgate alumna, May Summers Perkins came to work with students to create a mural in a prominent place in our school environment. This artwork inspires us as we move around the school site. We are so grateful to **Olivia Inspires** for helping to fund this beautiful piece of art helping to celebrate our school values.



### Silver DofE expedition

Our intrepid explorers enjoying the sunshine and high spirits before finishing their day with a campfire and star gazing.



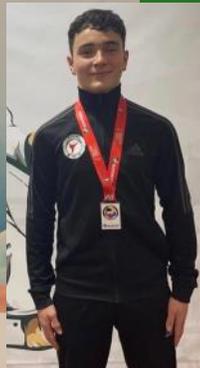
We were delighted to share that Tom was selected as the youngest competitor in the cadet category to represent England at the Commonwealth Karate Championships in September. He defeated Australia to take gold in the final. Tom was then selected to go to the World Championships in Konya, Turkey in October where he again represented England. He went through



2 tough rounds against the best in the world and came 21st, placing highest of all the selected English athletes in the kata categories. An amazing experience for Tom and a real honour to represent his country at the highest possible level. Tom is now waiting for selections for the Europeans in Cyprus at the

### 10TH COMMONWEALTH KARATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### BIRMINGHAM 2022



beginning of February. Having just recovered from Covid, Tom won a Bronze medal on 10 December in the K1 Venice Youth League (World Open). In his four rounds, amongst others, Tom beat the current European champion from Portugal and equalled bronze with the German competitor who achieved silver at the World Championships in Turkey last month. Simply amazing!

Students had an amazing day in October when the British Army visited and introduced students to different career opportunities and skills including climbing, observing, flying, resilience and survival. A huge thank you from all at Team Burgate!



**In October our U16 Netball Team travelled to Southampton to take part in their first National School's competition.**

The girls competed against the top schools across the county and were one of only two state schools to enter the competition. They played some amazing netball and reached the semi-finals where they were beaten by the eventual winners. The girls represented the school brilliantly both on and off the court, showing amazing teamwork and resilience throughout. Congratulations to all the girls involved.



**Year 13 students trip to Berlin as part of their A level Cold War unit.**

Students saw many of the sites including the Berlin Wall and visited 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. 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!





Year 8 Spanish classes learnt earlier this term about the Mexican tradition of the Day of the Dead and thought they would try out the traditional disguises!



Peace Poster Competition 2022

**Year 9 New Forest  
Netball Tournament,  
October 2022.**

Ten teams entered and Burgate were drawn in a pool to play Ringwood B, Applemore, Priestlands A and Hounslow B. This superb Burgate team won each of their games and as winners of their pool went through to the final where they played Hounslow A in an end-to-end game that saw our girls winning 8-4! Congratulations to Grace, Isla, Alice, Elsa, Hanna, Poppy, Florence, Sophie, Olivia, Emily and Kiera.



**Burgate U16 hockey**

This fantastic team were unbeaten in the New Forest Hockey league this season and also won the New Forest Hockey Tournament.



**Ordinary, Extraordinary**  
The Burgate School  
Photography  
Competition 2022

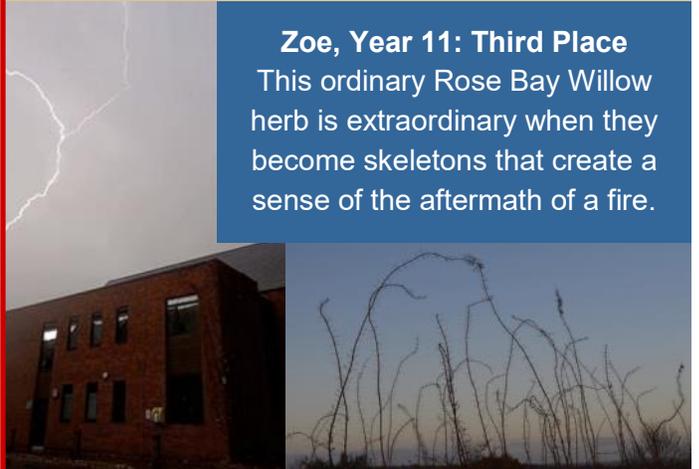
**Seren, Year 8: First Place**

"I chose this picture because, during lockdown and Covid-19, many people around the world took to working from home. This photo taken in Verona, Italy, depicts a person working from home on an ordinary day. What makes it so extraordinary is she is working on her roof a few metres away from the 2000 year old Roman Amphitheatre, part of which can be seen on the left of the image."



**Katie H-N, Year 11: Second Place**

A chance, extraordinary encounter with a lightning.



**Zoe, Year 11: Third Place**

This ordinary Rose Bay Willow herb is extraordinary when they become skeletons that create a sense of the aftermath of a fire.





Our Remembrance display this year was a collaborative effort between our Year 9 3D design students and Year 8 artists.

Thanks also, as always to @burgateartists



**Remembrance 2022**

This year our whole school took time to honour our armed forces past and present with a two-minute silence at 11:00 and spent time further reflecting within tutor lessons.



**Who do we remember?**

We remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces	We pay tribute to the special contribution of families and of the emergency services.	We acknowledge innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict or acts of terrorism.
---	---	---

## UK Parliament Week

All students voted in a whole school referendum asking the question:  
**Should the voting age be lowered to 16 for all UK elections and referendums?**

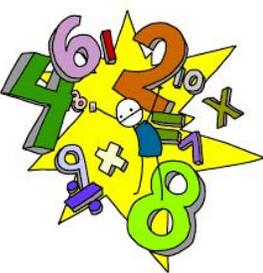
For our Sixth Form students two polling stations in Sarum and Avon buildings were opened. For Years 7-11, an election team visited tutor groups so students could cast their vote in a ballot box.

In all, 958 votes were cast and the outcome was a victory for 'No' with 53% voting not to lower the voting age and 47% in favour. Our A level Politics students helped to organise the vote and counted and verified the results.



In November our Year 8 artists and designers were invited to "Go further" during a session with artist Fiona Charter. They spent an amazing day working with clay, creating thoughtful pieces about things they felt strongly about, values, achievements and aspirations as part of the 'Coat of Arms Project' through Hampshire CAMHS. This was also an opportunity to learn more about this positive mental health campaign. Thank you to Fiona for a brilliant day. Romalie in Year 11 entered the

competition with her Focaccia Coat of Arms inspired by her love of cooking and the environment. This work has now been selected for an exhibition at Winchester School of Art between 9-22 Dec and 28 Dec to 5 Jan.



**Maths Challenge 2022**

Congratulations to Thomas F, Jude G, Matt G, Joshua H, Amelia H, Benjamin M, Sanula N, Bowe W, Ivan G and Bill W, who all took part in the Maths challenge and achieved some amazing results including, three Gold, three Silver and two Bronze awards.



**Food club fun!!**

Every Thursday evening students bring their chosen ingredients and recipes to room 8 and they CREATE!



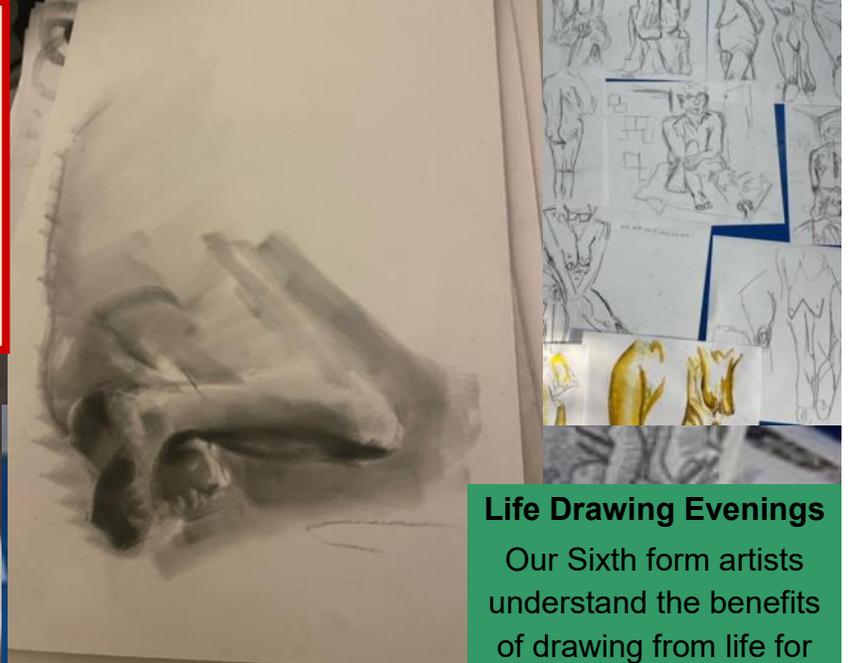
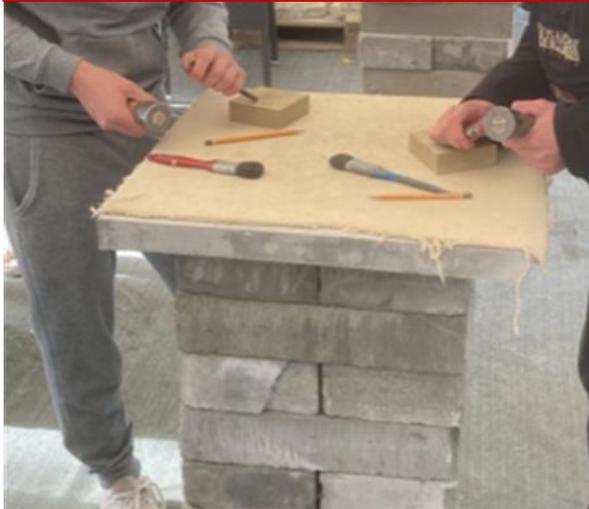


**Graphic Illustration Webinar**  
 Provided by the V&A  
 Inspired by the The Korean Wave  
 and Korean artist Jong-Beom.

Lee Jong-Beom is a  
 South Korean webtoon artist.  
 He is best known for writing the  
 webtoon Dr. Frost.

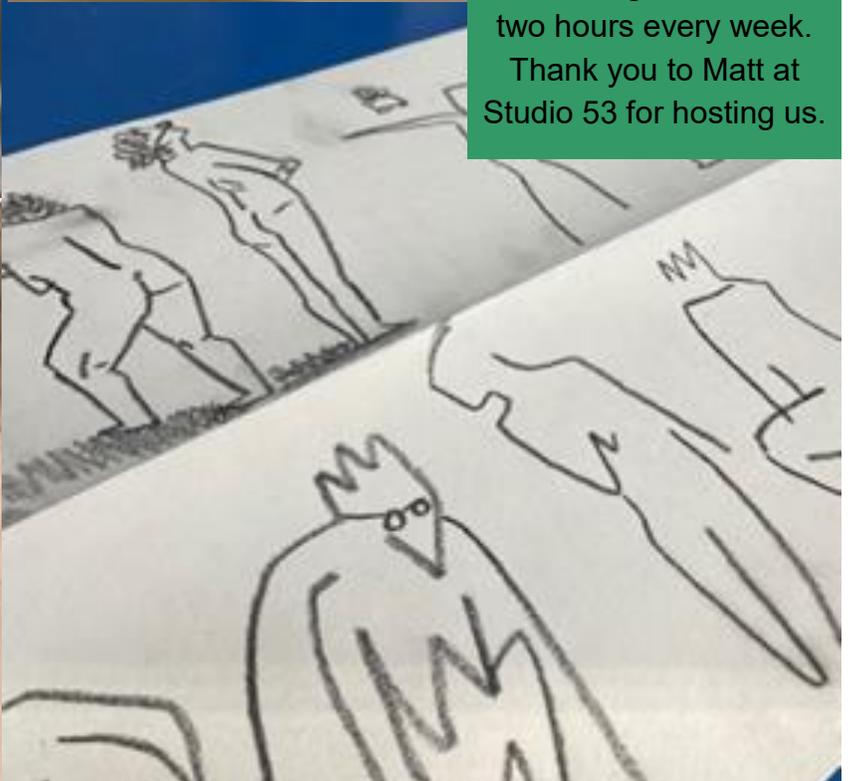
**Stonemason Experience**

Year 12 3D Designers spent an amazing day at Salisbury Cathedral with the fantastic stonemasons. They will have an exhibition at the cathedral in the new year between 12 – 26 January in the North Transept.



**Life Drawing Evenings**

Our Sixth form artists understand the benefits of drawing from life for two hours every week. Thank you to Matt at Studio 53 for hosting us.





We are very grateful to Year 13 artist, Olivia, who made a beautiful Zine for the Year 11 and Year 8 language trip to Paris. Her focus was to support students to enjoy the Musee' D'Orsay.



**Clay Club Fun**  
**Tuesday 3pm – 4pm room 38**  
 This club welcomes all students and staff and now includes all other art.



**Professional photographer, David Riches – a former student returned to The Burgate to run a workshop with Year 9 and Year 13 Photographers.**  
 The Focus was on movement and model, the work produced linked to the series 'Dancers in Motion' by Bill Wadman. The outcomes were bold, blurred, and beautiful, supporting students with technical experimentation and meaningful connections to artists and the wider world of image-making.



**'Lady of the Lake'**  
 Our Art and Design technician Miss Webb, was also our model for the GCSE Photography shoot. A fake lake was built in the school grounds and working with reflections in the darkening evening, students captured a series of eerie, story-like images for their project 'On Reflection'





### Textiles Club Tuesday 3-4pm

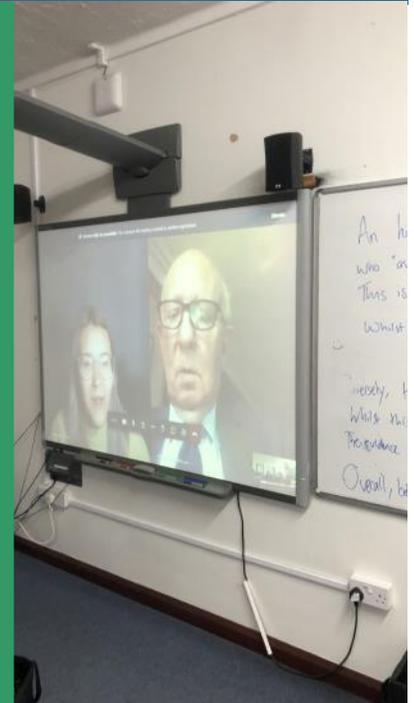
This term, members of the textiles club have been painting flowers on the windows as a form of art therapy along with making advent calendars, pillows and pencil cases. Full machine training is given to anyone who attends and all year groups are welcome!

### 'Learn with the Lords'

Our 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. Before that he was a diplomat involved with the EU and NATO. The students asked a variety of questions covering reform of the House of Lords, the future for Ukraine

and whether MPs should take part in celebrity TV shows!

The students were delighted with his frank and detailed answers and found it an invaluable experience.



### Sociology in Action Trip

Year 12 Sociologists attended a fascinating conference in London recently hearing inspiring speakers on a range of social issues. Students were particularly struck by teacher and educational activist Aisha Thomas' talk on how Representation Matters, especially in the curriculum and Professor Danny Dorling's talk on the economy and social inequalities.

## London Criminology Trip

Year 13 Psychologists and Sociologists enjoyed a Criminology trip to London where they took the Jack the Ripper tour around Whitechapel and were fascinated by a range of speakers at a criminology conference the next day. A range of academics, practitioners and ex-offenders offered a number of insights.

Dr Anthony Ellis' account of male violence in the north of England and Dr Zoe Walkington's discussion of police interviewing and the psychology of

lie detecting were very interesting. However it

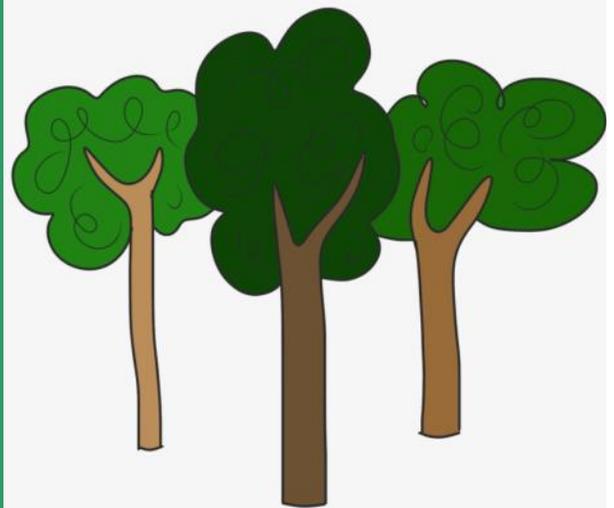
was the talks by ex-offenders that caused the most discussion amongst our group including Marisa Merico a former Mafia member and Justin Rollins former gang leader.



## Eco-club News

We've had a busy term starting with an environmental survey of the school and the planting of seeds for our 'Copse In A Box', being careful to cover them with chicken wire to stop the squirrels getting to them! We also designed posters to spread awareness for the 'Green Christmas Clothes Swap' and donated the clothes we collected. Next term we are going to investigate the siting of swift boxes in the local area. We meet every Wednesday after school in the Student Entrance.

All welcome. Leilah and Sophie



**Crisis**

**Together  
we will end  
homelessness**

Congratulations to 13CO who have continued their charity fundraising this term by selling sweets and candy canes and have raised over £40 for Crisis at Christmas.

## Paris Trip

Half of Year 8 (plus a fantastic group of Year 11 French students) enjoyed a cold and Christmassy few days in Paris last week. Highlights included climbing the Eiffel Tower, where we enjoyed spectacular views across the city, a boat trip on the Seine, where students had opportunities to try out their French whilst seeing the city from a different perspective. We were pleased to head to the Musée d'Orsay where students followed the tour plan provided by sixth form artists.

The following day, we climbed yet more steps to visit Sacré Cœur before heading into Montmartre for some much-needed hot chocolate and souvenir shopping. After a quick spin around the Arc de Triomphe and a jaunt down the Champs Elysées, we arrived at the Jardin des Tuileries Christmas market. Here students braved the big rides and the ice as well as indulging in some Christmas fare.

Thanks to Miss Bédard, Mrs Gibson, Mrs Shering, Mr Cakebread, Mr Child, Mr Graham, Mrs Davies and Mr Mosely for making the trip such a success.

Miss Leahy





**New Slip Road**

Parents will be aware that there are now new road junction markings on the slip road at the front of the school and that buses now park in the bay parallel to this at the start and end of the school day. Please be reminded to take extra-special care at these times, observe the restrictions on parking, be mindful of other road users and respectful of residents in Burgate Fields, particularly by ensuring private residential driveways are not blocked.

After Christmas we are starting a new 20 minute lunchtime Art Club for Year 7 and Year 8 students on Tuesdays in room 38.



**Save the dates!**

**1- 4 February 2023**

**Burgate Productions with**

**Now That's What I Call Twelfth Night!**

Shakespeare's Twelfth Night meets 90s Britpop classics - set in two nightclubs! It's going to be epic!

Tickets go on sale on the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve - we know from experience that our shows sell out fast, so to avoid disappointment, get your tickets by hitting this link:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgateschoolproductions>

Any local businesses wishing to advertise in the show programme /projection on show nights should get in touch with Mr Cakebread by 6 January via [production@burgate.hants.sch.uk](mailto:production@burgate.hants.sch.uk)