

Parents' Newsletter – Autumn Term 2021

17 September 2021

Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome to the new academic year at The Burgate, where the mood is very positive and optimistic, with school and college largely returned to normality. Long may this continue but rest assured that we remain prepared for any changes that may be imposed upon us. I hope you have managed to have an enjoyable summer holiday and were able to spend some quality time as a family. I should like to offer a very warm welcome to all of our new students and parents, including those who have recently joined the school in Year 7 or in the Sixth Form. With all these additional students, particularly the significant increase in the Sixth Form, The Burgate has never been more popular.

Everyone appears to have settled in particularly well and the students are getting used to their different surroundings. With building work on our brand-new heating system almost completed and no further necessity for year group bubbles, disruption to the learning environment is over. This means that students can once again take full advantage of all the specialist rooms available, which has not been the case for the last 18 months.

Our main focus this year is supporting our students to feel confident and successful at school and college after all the disruption to their education. We are aware of the challenges faced by our community and understand that a nurturing approach is especially important to ensure that school remains a positive, safe and happy experience. One of the advantages in the reduction of restrictions upon us is that we are once again free to offer a full programme of extra-curricular opportunities. Staff are planning to reinstate previous clubs and activities, as well as beginning new ones. Please see the school website for an overview of the initial offer; further exciting opportunities will be added as the term and academic year progresses.

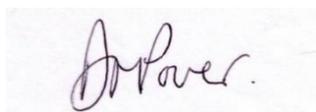
Similarly, we are taking full advantage of being able to run trips and visits once again. Already in September we have a Year 12 Watersports trip, a Year 10 STEM trip to the Southampton Boat Show, Year 13 and Year 11 Geography field trips and stone carving at Salisbury Cathedral. Many more trips and visits for all students will continue throughout the year. We will provide a detailed schedule, by year group, of planned activities for the year ahead.

We have already welcomed our Year 7 and Year 9 Parents – thank you for joining us this week. For parents of students in Year 12, your Welcome Evening is Thursday 23 September from 17:00 in the Sixth Form, when you will have an opportunity to meet with your child's tutor and the sixth form pastoral leadership team. Year 8 Welcome Evening is Wednesday 22 September at 17:30 in the Main School Hall and Year 13 Information Evening is Wednesday 29 September at 17:30 in the Sixth Form Hall.

Please continue to follow The Burgate through our updated website, which underwent a complete refurbishment last year. We use our website, Facebook and Instagram account to share upcoming

events, student success and community achievements. Every single student is important to us and we are always keen to hear of their success. Do remember to let us know about our students' achievements outside school so that we can also share the good news on our platform, in our newsletters and at our celebration of success events.

Thank you and best wishes for a very positive Autumn Term – I sincerely hope that all of our students continue to enjoy their education at our school and college.



David Pover
Headteacher

Message from the School Trustees

The start of the new year has arrived, and with it all the changes it brings to routines and adjustment. For many of our school community it will feel a welcome return, but there will be a lot of people becoming part of the Burgate family for the first time. The trustees would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone and encourage you all to take advantage of all that life at The Burgate has to offer. Our Burgate staff team are focused on providing a broad curriculum and a creative approach to learning in a safe environment, while our aim as a leadership team is for every student to enjoy their learning and feel valued for who they are. If you'd like to learn more about our goals and priorities, please get in touch. Good luck to everyone for the year ahead.

David Millar
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Senior Students

As in previous years, we have chosen posts of senior responsibility for Year 11. This year we have a Top 6, sports captains and a student leadership team. We are really looking forward to supporting these students as they work on their Burgate legacy.

I am extremely pleased to announce the following posts for this academic year:

Head Girl	Lola Darch
Head Boy	Matthew Gillett
Deputy Head Girl	Ella Forshaw
Deputy Head Girl	Bowe Wills
Deputy Head Boy	Tom Florence
Deputy Head Boy	Luke Grant
Sports Captain	Neve East
Sports Captain	Harry Francis
Sports Captain	Nyah Merryweather
Sports Captain	Harry Palmer
Sports Captain	Sophie Sherry
Sports Captain	Archie Wood

Student leadership Team

Tharushi Algamakoralalage	Bella Rees
Ruby Bennett	Izzy Reeves
Torey Boss	Hannah Sellwood
Ella Critchley	Fern Sherwood
Ben Dixon	Sam Smith
Niamh Dominey	Will Smith
Amelia Jacobs	Erica Williamson
Catherine Langley	Becky Wood
Emilia Pugh	

Calendar

The holidays dates for 2021/22 can be found on the school website to help plan your holidays outside of term time. Holidays taken during the school term will not be authorised and parents may be fined in line with Hampshire guidance.

Student Appointments during the School Day

We actively encourage and expect parents to arrange appointments such as dental check-ups and non-urgent medical appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. Any time missed from school can disrupt learning. If it is an essential appointment, you must ensure the school is fully aware of the arrangements and for your child to be collected in person. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation, this insistence is necessary to safeguard your children.

Reporting any absence from school is very easy, either call the school office on 01425 652039, or email attendance@burgate.hants.sch.uk. We are always striving to maximise attendance at school, if your child wakes up feeling poorly, but feels better as the morning goes on, please don't hesitate to send them in half way through the day. At The Burgate, every lesson counts.

Student Wellbeing

Our student wellbeing team is well resourced and thoroughly trained, collaborating with highly qualified, experienced and specialist members of the pastoral team. Collectively they work with young people and their friends and families, where appropriate, to support their everyday emotional needs, particularly during these unsettling times.

It is really important that if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's head of year in the first instance. They will guide you to the best person to help you or your child.

- For Head of Year 7 contact HOY7@burgate.hants.sch.uk
- For Head of Year 8 contact HOY8@burgate.hants.sch.uk and so on
- For sixth form pastoral contact sixthform@burgate.hants.sch.uk

Our in-school Wellbeing team offer a range of support strategies, including well-established links with external and independent charities and agencies.

If you have any concerns around your child's emotional health and wellbeing, please email wellbeing@burgate.hants.sch.uk

Hampshire Safe - Drug prevention partnership

We continuously work with students to raise further their awareness of the impact of substance misuse and as part of this anti-drug strategy, drug detection dogs will periodically be deployed in school to ensure our premises are drugs free.

We wish to reassure you that the dogs will be deployed to search a whole building and not individuals. However, during their search the dogs may detect drugs on students or in property belonging to students. Should that happen, anyone suspected to be in possession of illegal substances may be searched. Police assistance will be provided where necessary and parents would be informed at the earliest opportunity. Additionally, students and families affected would be signposted to counselling and family support services. Any student found in possession of illegal substances could be at risk of exclusion or face prosecution.

We believe that by working together we can collectively not only raise awareness of the impact of substance misuse but also put measures in place to stop it from happening at our school and college.

Progress Reviews, Examinations and Parents' Evenings 2021 - 2022

Parents will have direct access to reports via SIMS parent app. Parents will be able to respond directly to the School Comms e-mail with any queries that they have, and all responses will be monitored and passed on to the relevant member of staff.

Please contact assessment@burgate.hants.sch.uk should you have any further queries. If you wish to receive paper copies of all assessment information, please advise the school accordingly

Each student receives three Progress Reviews per year, including two termly reviews and one Annual Review. These reports include progress expectations for Year 7 – 8 and current working grades for Year 9 – 13 along with Learner Profile scores for all students. The dates for these are as follows:

Autumn Term Interim Review Year 11 and Year 13 only – week ending 22 October 2021

Autumn Term Review all year groups (except Year 11) - week ending 26 November 2021

Autumn Term Review for Years 11 - 7 January 2022

Spring Term Review all year groups (except Year 11 & Year 13) - week ending 25 March 2022

Spring Term Annual Reports for Year 11 & Year 13 - week ending 8 April 2022

Summer Term Annual Reports for Years 7-10 & Year 12 - week ending 8 July 2022

There are also key examination weeks for Years 9-11 and sixth form students as follows. These complement the ongoing formal assessments carried out throughout the year:

Year 9: 25 –29 April 2022

Year 10: 9 – 13 May 2022

Year 11: 22 November 2021 (Mock Exams) & External GCSE Exams 10 May - 29 June 2022

Year 12: 4 May 2022

Year 13: 10 January 2022 (Mock Exams) & External GCE Exams 10 May - 29 June 2022

Parents' Evenings:

After a successful trial year, we will be continuing with our virtual Parents' Evening through School Cloud. Parents will be contacted through school comms with log in details the week before their child's evening to enable them to book appointments.

Year 7: 29 March 2022

Year 8: 26 April 2022

Year 9: 26 May 2022

Year 10: 15 June 2022

Year 11: 12 January 2022

Year 12: 5 April 2022

Year 13: 3 February 2021

MIDYIS testing

As our current Year 7 students did not sit SATS at the end of Year 6 we will be running internal testing using the MIDYIS computer programme on Monday 20 September. This allows us as a school to gauge any gaps in students learning so far. Students complete a 50-minute online test which cover numeracy and literacy. The test is adaptive, so it becomes harder or easier depending on the students' responses. Students cannot revise for the MIDYIS test, but they do need to remember their login for the school computers.

Personal Details

It is important that we are informed immediately about any changes in personal circumstances, particularly changes of parental responsibility. All data previously submitted regarding parental contact and parental data will be used for 'School Comms' purposes. 'School Comms' is our electronic system for contacting parents via email or mobile phone. You can check your contact details on Sims Parent App. If you believe any of your contact details are incorrect or no longer in use, please use the request to change details option and we will update these changes via the app on the system. If you have any problems, please contact ICTsupport@burgate.hants.sch.uk

Emergency Closure Procedure

If it is necessary to close the school and/or the college for any reason, up to date information will be posted on the school website and parents will be messaged through School Comms. Students will also be notified through Teams. Provided a member of staff who lives locally can get into school, the school answer machine message will be updated and if appropriate the phone will be operated. We shall also contact our local radio stations and they will post the appropriate announcements on their websites.

Please assume that the school will be open and running normally unless you receive confirmation of closure from one of these sources. In the event of possible closure, due to the large distances some students and staff travel to school, and to aid our parent body, we endeavour to make any closure decision as early as possible.

Main School Uniform

All students have begun the new year looking the part with excellent uniform. Spare uniform is loaned from Mrs Becher to students who come to school without items such as ties or blazers. Could we ask for your continued support in making sure all our students come to school in the correct uniform to ensure a positive start to their school day. It would help us greatly if you could reinforce the following:

- Stud earrings are allowed (one lobe piercing per ear)
- No nail varnish or acrylic nails
- Blazers are to be worn at all times
- Coats are allowed during break and lunch if students are outside
- No hoodies or non-school jumpers allowed at any point
- School shoes should be black, leather and have a black sole
- Haircuts and styles should be appropriate for school and should conform to Health and Safety requirements for practical lessons. We also expect hair colour to be a natural shade.

Homework

Homework continues to form a crucial part of our students' learning at The Burgate. All homework will be set on MS Teams and this will allow teachers, students and parents to share schoolwork and to

communicate effectively. There are three main objectives for homework: firstly, to help students progress through the curriculum; secondly, to reinforce the learning that has already happened; finally, to encourage independent learning.

Homework club runs Monday to Thursday (15.00 - 15.45) in the library to support any student who needs it or to offer a place where students can complete some homework independently before leaving school. Access to computers is available during these sessions.

Remote education provision when a student is absent

Teachers will only set for work for students who are absent due to having COVID-19.

Teachers will be informed during the day if one of their students has had to self-isolate because they have COVID-19. By the end of the day, they will post the work that has been completed in the lesson, whether this be a PowerPoint, a worksheet, a set of instructions or a link to a digital platform on MS Teams. If the student is well enough, they can access the work in this format so that they can keep up-to-date. Please note that there is no obligation to complete work if your child has covid symptoms and is unwell.

School Gateway

Our method of payment is via the School Gateway. If you have not already accessed the School Gateway please visit the homepage on our website and click on the 'SCHOOL GATEWAY' link or download the App. Enter the email address and mobile phone number that the school will contact you on and a pin number will be sent to your mobile number to enable access. If you need any further support, please email: ictsupport@burgate.hants.sch.uk

School Fund

We are continually looking at ways to develop and improve the school and we are proud of the learning environment that we provide for our students: voluntary contributions from parents to the school can make a real difference to this. The funds we have raised from parents are used in a variety of ways such as enhancing extracurricular resources and supporting school events such as the school's Creative Arts Evening.

Therefore, at the beginning of each academic year, we invite all parents to make a voluntary contribution of £25. If you have not yet made a contribution this year and wish to do so, you can make a payment via the School Gateway. Alternatively, you can fill in the reply slip on page 8 of this newsletter and return it in an envelope clearly marked School Fund 2021/22 together with your child's name and tutor group. Under the Government's Gift Aid scheme, we are able to claim Gift Aid back from the Inland Revenue on eligible donations: if you are a taxpayer and complete a Gift Aid declaration which can be found on page 9. Every pound donated by you is worth £1.25 to the school, making your donation go even further.

We thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any additional ideas about how we can use the contributions from the School Fund to advance the school

Pupil Premium

In order to support all of our students fully it helps the school enormously if eligible families register their child for Free School Meals. The Government is giving more money to schools to help children from lower income families to do their very best (this funding is called the 'Pupil Premium'). At The Burgate, these students are now performing exceptionally well compared with national benchmarks. As this funding is the **only** increase in school finance it is very important we receive our fair share. Please read the attached information to see if you qualify to make sure your child does not miss out on extra funding for their education. Please be reassured that this information is treated with total

confidentiality. The school is also eligible to receive Pupil Premium Plus funding for adopted children. If your child is adopted from care and you have not yet informed the school but would like to do so, please email Mrs J Price at jprice@burgate.hants.sch.uk

Registering for Free School Meals

1. You can register your child for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of one or more of these benefits:
 - Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
 - Income Support
 - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
 - Universal Credit - In England, if you apply on or after 1 April 2019 your household income must be less than £7400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get). If your child is currently eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

Students can also register for Free School Meals if they get any of these benefits themselves.

2. Registering is straightforward – if you think you qualify go on-line for an immediate decision by using the new online Free School Meal Eligibility Checking Service. Hampshire County Council Catering Services (HC3S) has launched a new online service so parents can check their eligibility for free school meals themselves.

This self-service option is at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

Please note that the criteria for free school meals is the same, regardless of the method of checking eligibility, but for the online service all you need to do is enter your name, national insurance number or asylum number, your address and your child's details. Press 'submit' and you will find out if you are eligible.

If your result comes back 'found', this means your child is eligible for free school meals and the system automatically tells your school.

3. If your child is eligible to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime – they will receive the free meal and the school receives £955 additional funding. With this money we will buy new lesson resources for the classes that your child is in. This could be new text books, IT equipment or other special subject resources. If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also get, for example, money towards school uniform costs or help with costs of educational school trips.
4. If you don't want your child to have a free school meal, you can apply as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, the school will still receive £955 funding.

For more information or help with registering please contact Mrs J Price on 01425 652039 or jprice@burgate.hants.sch.uk

School Fund Donation 2021/22



If you have not yet made a contribution this year and wish to do so, you can make a payment via the School Gateway. Alternatively, please complete and return this slip, together with your contribution, in an envelope clearly marked **SCHOOL FUND 2021/22** and add your child's name and tutor group. Cheques should be made payable to The Burgate School and Sixth Form. Envelopes should be handed in at the main school office.

Student's Name _____ Tutor Group _____
(PLEASE PRINT NAME)

I wish to pay for one year only (£25.00)	
I wish to pay for the five year period (£125.00)	
I am unable to contribute on this occasion	
I do not wish to contribute to this fund	
I wish to make a donation of _____	
I have already donated money to cover the five year period	

Signature _____ Date _____

GIFT AID DECLARATION

For past, present and future donations

Name of Charity: **The Burgate School & Sixth Form**

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made:

today in the past 4 years in the future

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that The Burgate School and Sixth Form will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Donor's details

Title _____ Forename(s) _____ Surname _____

Home Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Signature _____	Date _____
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Student details (if applicable):

NAME	TUTOR GROUP

Please notify The Burgate School and Sixth Form if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the highest or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Registered Charity No: XR64243



The Burgate Expectations

Be safe

Be respectful

Be ready to learn

Reporting Guidance for Parents: The Learner Profile

The School believes that students who demonstrate these qualities are successful learners and follow the School’s motto of “Learning for Life”

Each subject teacher will judge a student’s performance against these qualities and indicate the main focus for improvement in each category, where required

<p>Prepared Learner</p> <p>I consistently... bring the correct equipment/kit to lessons.</p> <p>arrive at my lessons on time (in the correct school uniform).</p> <p>complete my homework to a high standard and hand it in on time.</p> <p>produce work that is of a high quality with presentation that meets the Burgate Standard.</p>	<p>Independent & Resilient Learner</p> <p>I consistently... complete all my improvements to a high standard.</p> <p>think for myself and ask meaningful questions.</p> <p>avoid excuses and take responsibility for my learning.</p> <p>persevere, try new things out and learn from my mistakes.</p>	<p>Attitude to Learning</p> <p>I consistently... listen carefully to my teacher’s instructions and act upon them.</p> <p>work in a way that enables me and others to succeed.</p> <p>am actively engaged with my learning in this subject.</p> <p>treat my peers and teachers with respect and courtesy.</p>
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	<p>4 ALL</p> <p>3 MOST</p> <p>2 SOME</p> <p>1 FEW</p>	<p>The student is working successfully in all of these competencies.</p> <p>The student is working well in most of these competencies.</p> <p>The student is working successfully in some of these competencies, however there are areas of focus (or one significant area)</p> <p>The student is working successfully in few, if any, of these competencies</p>
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