

The  
**Burgate**  
School & Sixth Form



---

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It gives me great pleasure to celebrate the success of our students and school through our Christmas Newsletter. The Autumn Term is always very busy and this year has been no exception. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, relatives and friends of the school for supporting us in our work over the last few months – it is very much appreciated.

Collaboration between school and the community is especially important to me for the benefits it brings to all involved. Our PTA goes from strength to strength and since the last newsletter we have opened our Memory Garden. Additionally we now have a flourishing Parent Focus Group who help to shape key school developments. Please let us know if you would like to be involved in either group.

We have recently launched our own Burgate Twitter account <https://twitter.com/BurgateSchool> in addition to our Facebook page. These add to our own website to keep you up-to-date with everything Burgate related. Please let us know your child's successes out of school so that we can celebrate them more widely.

We are now looking forward to our end of term activities including the school choir performing in the Carol Service at St Mary's Church on Friday 19 December at 10:45. Please remind children in Years 7 – 9 and Year 10 Prefects to wear coats for their walk to St Mary's Church on the last day of term. All students will return to school after the Carol Service and will be dismissed formally at 12:30. Please try and join us if you can for either of these festive events. Parents and Friends of The Burgate are always welcome as we celebrate the end of term.

At this time of year, with the seasonal deterioration in weather conditions, we are increasingly concerned about the safety of our students. They are particularly vulnerable on their way to and from school as the light deteriorates. Parents, we respectfully request that you avoid using Burgate Fields to drop off and pick up your children and that you only use the slip road if absolutely necessary. We thank you for your help in this matter.

If it becomes necessary to close the school for any reason, please listen to the local radio stations for emergency information. Details of any closure will be posted on the school website in the 'News' section. We will also send a text message using our School Comms system. Please let us know if you have recently changed your email address/mobile telephone number so we can update our records.

Finally on behalf of the students and staff of The Burgate I would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year. School and College will resume on Tuesday 6 January 2015 at 08:25.

David Pover  
Headteacher

# The Burgate

## School & Sixth Form



## AMNESTY GROUP: WOMEN'S RIGHT TO WORK



On Monday 20 October hundreds of students and staff showed their support for women's right to work globally without fear of danger. Students took to the front field in high visibility jackets and hard hats to highlight that many women are employed in jobs that shouldn't be dangerous, but, in places like Afghanistan, unfortunately put them and their families at risk. These are jobs such as teachers, doctors, MPs and police officers. At Burgate we believe our female and male students should pursue a wide variety of careers and sometimes we can take their right to do so for granted. Our photo was taken by Amnesty International to Downing Street to remind ministers that the education and employment of women and girls globally should remain a high priority and that we want our government to continue to support human rights defenders across the world. Burgate students and staff certainly showed this was an issue close to their hearts with whole tutor groups taking part and there was fantastic support from Year 7 through to Upper Sixth.

## SD\*JEM VISIT BURGATE



On the 26th of November, The Burgate School played host to the pop duo SD\*JEM. Where? In our very own drama studio! We were treated to a very special, private concert followed by Q and A. Fresh off of their tour with The Saturdays, this feisty, up and coming brother and sister act came to Burgate and got all of the school dancing. In the two concerts they performed for the students, the dynamic duo had the whole year groups 7, 8 and 9 up on their feet and laughing with exciting original tracks and quirky anecdotes from behind the curtain of fame. However, their music was not the only thing they were trying to raise awareness of. This singing sibling sensation also double as ambassadors for the charity DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education); a charity devoted to the education of young people to the dangers of drugs. Through some heart-wrenching personal accounts SD\*JEM managed to explain some

## The Burgate School & Sixth Form



tough truths that every young person should hear. At the Burgate School we are very fortunate in our opportunities and experiences but this will definitely be listed as one of the very best; special mention going to Mr Padfield and the Year 11 prefects for making it happen. So whilst the drama studio bleachers may be a little worse for wear having had three years partying on them in one day, a big thank you goes out to all involved, especially the performers themselves!

---

## YEAR 7 DIVERSITY DAY

In our multi-cultural, diverse society it is important that we recognise and celebrate our individuality and the individuality of others. In response to this, Year 7 took part in Diversity Day: a day set aside, not only to explore how we are different, but also to learn why that is important for us as a school, a community and in the wider world. The year group took part in 7 different activities throughout the day in Food Technology, Art, Drama, Dance, Philosophy, Music and PE. Each department looked at a different aspect of diversity, so that by the end of the day, each student had their own understanding of what it means to be a diverse community. In subsequent RE lessons, we discussed the importance of celebrating that diversity as it is not a case of tolerating difference, but actually seeing the benefits of diversity within society that is important. Year 7 had a fabulous day; feedback from them has been that they cannot wait to do something similar next year. Thank you, Year 7, on behalf of all the staff who worked with you on the day, we had a great day celebrating diversity with you!



---

## SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Burgate threw open its doors to prospective students and parents on Thursday 4 November with the annual Sixth Form Open Evening. The evening was a triumphant success with several hundred visitors packing into the Sixth Form Hall to hear presentations from the Leadership Team, teaching staff as well as current students. This was followed with an opportunity to tour the campus. With an established record of A-level success, the college's highly qualified teaching staff were on-hand to demonstrate the dynamic learning culture at The Burgate. Assisted by Subject Ambassadors, each department went to great efforts to show-case their subject and help students make an informed decision about the curriculum choices on offer. Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Louise Burn was very pleased with the over-whelming success of the evening: "It was great to meet so many visitors excited about our Sixth form Open Evening, it was such a great event!"



The  
**Burgate**  
 School & Sixth Form



## A-LEVEL GOV POL TRIP TO POLECONUK



Early on the morning of Monday 1 December, the assembled Burgate A level Government and Politics classes left behind the comfort and safety of the Sixth Form Centre and embarked on a daring expedition into Westminster, the heart of London's political epicentre, in the name of social justice, and political debate. They were heading for the PolEconUK conference in Westminster Central Hall, where some of the UK's biggest political names, from all main parties, were set to speak and answer to the toughest of questions. The torporific state of the students during the journey through traffic was lifted as soon as they stepped out into the bracing London air. Ready and eager for discourse of the highest order, they stepped into a world of grandeur: the opulent hall, filled with young intellectuals from all across the country, and from all academic backgrounds. The great hall, with its 2000+ capacity, was full to the brim. With the ever-changing political battleground, and impending bombshell of the General Election, the Burgate GovPol posse were fired up and ready for verbal combat, notepads at the ready. Soon after The Burgate's representatives arrived, at 1100 hours, the conference began. The talks began with a sombre introduction as the hall paid tribute to the late great Tony Benn. After a relatively gentle introduction by 'Mr Speaker' John Bercow MP, who talked largely about his efforts to reform the House of Commons, things began to heat up as William Hague MP took the stage. The light from the chandeliers shone on his head and his inimitable voice boomed around the chamber, while the soon-to- retire Hague defended the Conservatives with vigour and condemned the opposition. But then the day's undeniable climax, the arrival of Nigel Farage MEP, UKIP leader, who was greeted (in his own words) with a combination of "cheers and jeers"; hard-hitting questions ensued, criticising Farage's anti-establishment stance and the possible ramifications of UKIP. Nevertheless Farage spoke with his usual charisma, and aroused chuckles from all, including the typically professional and solemn Mr Cross. Further speakers included the dashing young Tristram Hunt MP, shadow Education Secretary; Simon Hughes MP, Minister of Justice, who boldly spoke in support of the EU; Rachel Reeves, Labour MP; and Nadine Dorries, famous for being the first voted out on I'm a Celebrity 2012. Although the sheer size of the audience, and time constraints, prevented the Burgate Crew from challenging any of the political figures, all students were deeply and intensely involved in the action. Pupils soaked up the knowledge that was on display, and took full awareness of the discussions, often with a strong understanding of the current political context. It is safe to say that all present did The Burgate School and Sixth Form proud.

The  
**Burgate**  
School & Sixth Form



## WORLD WAR ONE PROJECT

This term Max Humphreys in 9X3 created a really impressive model of a trench, and the attention to detail was astonishing. It included all the main features of trench warfare: artillery guns, zig zag trenches, shell holes, duck boards, fire steps, machine guns, and the remains of trees to show the devastation of the landscape. There was even a model soldier representing his great great-grandfather who was injured and stranded out in no-mans-land for three days during the Battle of the Somme. This was by far the best trench model we had ever seen. Mr Pover was very impressed when he came to see it, he particularly liked the aircraft that Max had suspended above the battlefield; one of which was the famous 'Red Baron'. Well done to Max, who also brought in a copy of his great-great grandfather's diary which was fascinating to read.



## DOFE EXPEDITION

Over the weekend 18th-19th October, Burgate students successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh bronze level expedition! This was a huge achievement and was the result of many months of hard work, learning skills such as navigation, map reading, nutrition, camp craft and first aid. A massive well done to the students for their drive and determination, and a big thank you to the staff members who made it possible.



## A2 MUSIC VISIT FORDINGBRIDGE DAY NURSERY

A2 musicians Eleanor Farmer, James Francis, Rebekah Moffat and Martin King visited Fordingbridge Day Nursery this week to perform popular cover versions and some traditional Christmas carols for the little ones. The children aged from 1- 4 years were really excited to hear them play and joined in with their

sleigh bells and other instruments. The climax of the performance was a stunning rendition of 'Silent Night' which brought Nursery manager Catherine to tears. They did a fantastic job, as always!



## YEAR 7 RUGBY

The year 7 Rugby squad came together in a very short space of time from being a group of boys, many of whom had not played Rugby before, to being a team which works well together and is beginning to show the makings of another promising Burgate Rugby team. Having spent twenty minutes together before the first New Forest CVL competition we were unsure of how we would get

# The Burgate School & Sixth Form



on, but the players instantly took to each other and to the game and finished in the runners up spot. This qualified them for the higher tier of the second round of New Forest competitions where a win and a draw saw them qualify for the New Forest final. The team travelled to Hounslow to play the strong Totton side for the fourth time during the season. Unfortunately their strength in depth proved too much for us and we had to contend with a very creditable second place in the New Forest. We then travelled to Eastleigh to take part in the Hampshire County competition. Unfortunately the boys came up against Hounslow yet again but with good wins over Regent's Park and St George's, and a hard fought draw against Mountbatten the team qualified for the top tier and a play off for the top spot in Hampshire. A narrow (last minute) defeat to Kings Christ school from the Isle of Wight unfortunately denied us a place in the final and after playing Hounslow for the sixth time in the season we had to be content with competing in the the 3rd place play-off match. The boys were determined to finish on a high note and lifted their game once more to comfortably beat Wyvern by two tries to nil and therefore taking the 3rd spot in the county rankings.



## NICOLE SHERING SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

Early this term Nicole Shering represented The Burgate School at the British Independent Schools Indoor Ski Racing Championships at the Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead. A total of 116 Secondary and Sixth Form pupils- male and female- took part in this 2 run slalom race. Nicole was racing in the U16 female category. Nicole's talent shone through and she took 1st place in this category and was also crowned fastest female and was 2nd fastest out of the total male and female 116 racers. Mr and Mrs Shering were particularly grateful to the school for letting Nicole compete: "Thank you again for allowing Nicole time off school to attend this race and the loan of the hoodie Mrs Williams. Will wash and return in a few days!"



## LIONS DEN

Burgate students were victorious in the annual battle with Ringwood School for Lions charity funding this term. An Upper Sixth team won the top prize of a £700 donation to Bournemouth's Youth Cancer Trust, while a Year 10 team came second with £400 for Brain Tumour Research. "All four Burgate teams were outstanding," commented a delighted Mrs Bradfield. "The whole school can be very proud of them." Two teams from Ringwood came joint third, with £250 respectively for Diabetes Children of Dorset East and the Ringwood Skate Park project. The Lions judges were unilaterally impressed by the

outstanding quality of the presentations. Mayor of Ringwood, Mrs Barbara Woodfield declared herself "humbled" by the young people she encountered. Mayor of Fordingbridge, Mr Malcolm Connolly congratulated the winners on the professionalism of their presentation and their commitment to the YCT, saying "We were especially impressed to see that the students had actually visited Tracy Ann House to see the work the of the charity for themselves." The winners,

The  
**Burgate**  
School & Sixth Form



Lauren Stevens, Luke Bruton and Charlotte Boyd are all members of the Sixth Form Student Council, and have a range of fundraising events planned for the New Year. Runners up Amy Pugh and Rebekah Wild were inspired by a friend with brain cancer to put together their campaign. Their video received widespread acclaim and they have a "Wear a hat day" planned for the whole school in March. Miles Davy, Rui Simpson, Jamie Hiles and Adam Robertson were worthy and able competitors in a fantastic and inspirational evening. Next year's competition will be staged at home and Burgate teams will be competing to retain the Lions Den crown!



## OAP XMAS DINNER

At the beginning of December Mrs Bradfield and her team played host to the senior citizens of Fordingbridge with a Christmas lunch and performance from the school choir. As usual, this annual event was a great success and much appreciated. Thanks go out to all those involved in making the afternoon so special.



## CHRISTMAS JUMPERS AT BURGATE!

Students and staff of the Burgate School donned their Christmas jumpers on the penultimate Friday of term to fundraise for "Save the Children", a children's charity that was holding a national Christmas Jumper Day here in the UK. The event was a success with students and staff parading down the Burgate halls as if they were on a Christmas catwalk! It was great to see so many students getting into the spirit of the day and wearing their Christmas jumpers! Many thanks for helping us to raise £150 for a wonderful charity!

