

The Burgate

School & Sixth Form



Summer Newsletter

2024

Summer Greetings from the Headteacher

It has been an exciting and busy Summer Term here at The Burgate School and Sixth Form. This is always a time of year that is rather bittersweet as we wave goodbye to students and staff, who have been with us for many years, and say hello to our new joiners on their induction days. Please enjoy our newsletter, which has recent highlights of school events. I would also like to thank all parents who have taken part in our recent surveys; we very much appreciate your feedback and use it to help improve our school.

As we come to the end of this academic year, the educational landscape is ever changing. A new government, and therefore a new Secretary of State for Education, and a new Chief Inspector at Ofsted will undoubtedly bring changes and new ways of thinking for schools to adapt to and take onboard. Here at The Burgate, we seek to be open and innovative in our approach to education and look forward to hearing about any incoming changes.

The opening of the school's new Artificial Grass Pitch took place this term, which was a wonderful occasion for the whole school community. We were delighted to welcome Harry Redknapp to the official unveiling and to see displays of sporting prowess from Fordingbridge Turks, Fordingbridge Rugby Club, and our own sporting teams. The pitch is already in heavy usage, providing a wonderful resource for our students and the wider community of Fordingbridge. I would like to extend my thanks to all those who worked so tirelessly to achieve this fantastic resource for the school.

The school's electrical installation project continues at pace. This project will provide the school with a new fire alarm system and an opportunity to refresh and refurbish our classrooms. As you may imagine, extensive wiring work on a live site poses some logistical challenges and I would like to thank our staff and students for coping admirably with classroom changes. We are hopeful the project will be completed by the end of next academic year.

Our students have been able to partake in many wonderful extra-curricular events this term. With better weather (mostly!) trips have taken place to France, Munich, as well as fieldtrips to the New Forest and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to name but a few. We were wowed at Creative Arts Evening by the artistic talents of our students and marvelled at their sporting achievements at Sports Day. I would like to encourage all students to take part in our extensive extra-curricular programme of study next academic year if they do not do so already.

On the topic of talented students, we have now waved goodbye to our Year 11 and Year 13. With our GCSE and A Level exams concluded, I would like to give thanks for the hard work of all our staff and students in preparing for these exams, not just over recent months, but over many years. The way our students conducted themselves during the examination period was exemplary. To celebrate their hard work our Year 11 Formal Event and Year 13 Leavers Ball took place recently; both were fantastic events where students could share an evening together for the last time as a year group. We look forward to results days in the summer and to welcoming our Year 11 students into our Sixth Form. We wish our Year 13 students all the very best in the next phase of their journey.

As we say goodbye, we also prepare to welcome our new Year 7 students to The Burgate. Our students joined us for their Year 6 Induction Day to meet their tutors, Head of Year and their new classmates. The Burgate draws students from a wide geographical area and many different schools, so it is lovely to see children making new friends which may last for life. Similarly, our Year 12 Freshers Day was a chance for students to experience our Sixth Form, the opportunities it brings and the exciting next step in their education.

We also have a small number of staff who are leaving for pastures new and some who are beginning their retirement. It has been a pleasure to work with these colleagues, and we wish them all the best for the future. Our new staff joiners are becoming familiar with the school and will become known to our students very soon.

I do hope that all our staff and students enjoy their well-earned summer holiday, take time to see family and friends and to come back refreshed for the new academic year. By way of reminder, Year 7 and Year 12 return on 3 September and all other year groups 4 September. On the topic of next September, please note that our school day will begin at 08:30 from the first day of the Autumn Term. This will allow tutors more time to set students up for the day ahead.

Have a wonderful break.

David Pover
Headteacher

Message from the Chair of Trustees

It is a true saying that you never stop learning no matter what age you are. It is a lifelong process, which underpins how we as individuals handle changes in our lives and respond to opportunities and challenges. Our school motto of "Learning for life" is in recognition of this process and specifically how the time spent at The Burgate School and Sixth Form is a key transformative pillar which aims to give students the tools and abilities such that they can shape their future. At this time of year, some students have been taking key exams as part of this shaping process, spurring them onto the next stage. I wish all students every success in this, and I hope that they can move on to creating the model of the future which they are aiming for. At the same time, we are preparing for a new intake of students who will naturally be wary and nervous. I know all staff and students will welcome them and ensure that our vision for every student to enjoy their learning and feel valued for who they are is a truly lived experience within an environment of safety, respectfulness and learning.

The Trustee Board leadership has seen significant and unexpected changes this year with four Chairs in the same academic year; two having to step away for personal reasons and the untimely death of Bob Milsted. In his period of tenure as a Trustee and Chair, Bob contributed greatly to the debate and provided strong challenge and inciteful suggestions. We are grateful to Bob for his leadership and our thoughts remain with his family. I would also like to pass on my thanks and appreciation to David Millar and John Whitmell for their work as Chair of Trustees. I was appointed to the position of Chair in March 24 having served as a Trustee since 2022. We exit the year with a strong Board of Trustees having had an excellent response to our advertisement for new Trustees. Four new Trustees will join this term bringing extremely relevant and complementary skills and experience. A warm welcome to the new Trustees, Nicola Harrington, Ciaran Thompson, Blaire Edwards and Michelle Cooper.

The Trustees Board's key role is ensuring good governance of the school; specifically ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, holding the leadership of the school to account in areas of performance, overseeing financial performance and ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard. Despite the changes, I believe the board has been effective and is well placed as we enter the new academic year.

Reflecting back over the year, a key highlight has to be the opening of the new Artificial Grass Pitch. This was the culmination of many years of work. The school now has a wonderful asset which strengthens further our links and relationships within the local community. My thanks go to the many people (staff, students and community) who have worked tirelessly on the project. The opening ceremony was such a happy occasion, and it was wonderful to see students taking front and centre with local celebrities. I would also like to pass on my thanks for the excellent work the entire school has carried out to ensure the neighbouring housing development and the work associated with the All-Weather Pitch did not adversely impact the delivery of education. This was no easy feat to achieve and only happened because of detailed and flexible working by everyone acting as a team. Another key highlight (but one not easily seen by people) is that the school has started extensive electrical work to the site (including the fire alarm system, detection and emergency lighting) following receipt of a large grant.

You will all have been aware through the various recent communications that the Trustee Board has been considering joining the Delta Education Trust and moving from our current single academy trust status. Our work in this area has been extensive over many months. We created a project working group which considered five key areas: Vision, Education, Finance, Communication and Implementation. A twenty-five-page report was submitted to Trustees and discussed at the most recent board meeting. A resolution was adopted to apply to the DFE's Regional Director for the school to join the Delta Educational Trust.

Additional due diligence work will now be carried out and the Board will make a final decision in the Autumn Term. It is the Board's view that the educational landscape is evolving towards the Multi Academic Trust (MAT) model for a variety of reasons. If we are to join a MAT, it is important to join one with a similar vision and ethos to our own and also to join one in which we can have a significant influence. It is felt that the Delta Educational Trust is aligned with our vision and ethos, and being the first school in the Trust's secondary sector will enable The Burgate to take a lead in shaping this secondary sector, which affords many benefits to the school, staff and students. We continue to work in this area and more will be advised in due course. The Board remains committed to ensuring the best outcomes for the school, both current and future.

The Trustees continue to challenge the Leadership Team and themselves in many ways. We have an ongoing audit programme performed by an external auditor under way. The output of this programme is reviewed termly and actions to improve implemented. Additionally, we have had a different auditor from the National Governance Association carry out an external review of governance. The review was proactively requested as part of the Board's positive approach to self-evaluation. It has evidenced that the board has much effective governance practice in place and a good understanding of its core functions. This report has only just been received but it will form a key part of a development workshop planned for Trustees this term, in which we will review our structure to see whether it can be improved further and reduce duplication.

The school's Leadership Team and Trustees have formed a further working group to prepare for a future Ofsted inspection. Inevitably, any inspection by Ofsted is short in duration and challenging on data and evidencing. It is important therefore that the school is prepared to ensure messaging and data supporting the school is in place.

The Board of Trustees greatly values feedback as this does influence Trustees thinking, discussions and direction. I would encourage all parents to use the various communication methods issued by the school throughout the year to provide feedback and comment. Alternatively, the Trustees can always be reached via our clerk's email address; clerktrustees@burgate.hants.sch.uk. We also encourage parents to involve themselves with the school where possible. The shaping of a student's future is most effective when parents and school leaders are seen to work together.

Finally, I would like to thank all students, staff and parents for their diligence and hard work over the last academic year. I hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Jim Mowbray
Chair of Trustees



This academic year began in Sixth Form with a welcome BBQ for our new Year 12 students.



In September, Daisy was selected for the DWAA (Dorset and Wiltshire Archery Association) Junior County Team.

World Number One, Tom, travelled to Mexico and cemented his position in the world rankings by winning gold at the World Youth League Final.



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



Sixth Form Photographers had the opportunity to learn from the professionals!



Our sixth form ladies started their netball season with a fantastic 40-10 win at home against Brockenhurst College!





Also in October, Year 7s enjoyed weaving during 3D design lessons and this work formed part of a wider school collaboration to create an eco-based art installation along our school fence, using donated material that students recycled and repurposed.



The Burgate Sixth Form hosted a fantastic 7s Tournament with netball and rugby U18 teams from local colleges, competing in an amazing event that resulted in an incredible display of both sports. The event created a huge buzz in Sixth Form and now looks set to be a regular event!



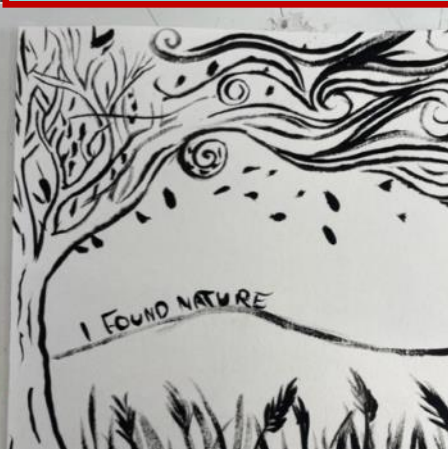


In September, some Year 11 students attended the official opening of the Community Orchard in Fordingbridge.

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.

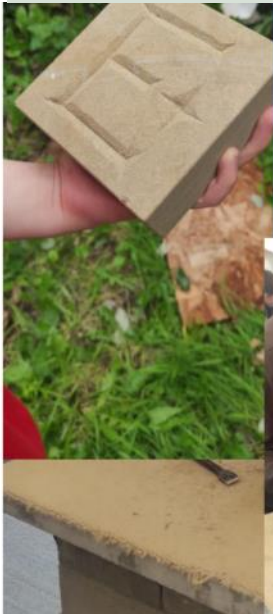


In September, our 3D designers were lucky enough to be trained to cut stone by the amazing stonemasons at Salisbury Cathedral.

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



Year 13 Clothing Challenge 'Recycle'



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!



Remembrance 2023



Year 12 Tutor Group cookie decorating competition in December produced some hilarious designs and fierce competition!



The Christmas Showcase 2023. A talent packed evening with music from our Burgate orchestra, bands and choirs.



Year 12 Sociologists were inspired in December by a visit to the Sociology in Action Conference where they saw world famous Professor Ann Oakley unpick gender, Professor Jason Arday explore racism and intersectionality, and were challenged to use their sociological skills to make a difference by Dexter Dias KC.

Burgate social scientists 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.





Eloise G in Year 13, who last year was accepted into The Hampshire County Youth Orchestra to play flute, achieved a distinction at Grade 8! Outstanding achievement!



12CO raised money for the charity 'Crisis' through their festive sweet sale to help people experiencing homelessness so that they may be offered dinner, a safe place to stay, companionship and year round support with employment, education, podiatry and other health treatments.



Our Years 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 Grayson if they could design and make him a dress and he agreed!



The Drama Department welcomed 'Paper Puppets' for a workshop with Year 10s on using Bunraku puppets as part of a devised piece.

With dual French nationality and having won the French Cup in December and the Venice World Youth League, Tom was selected to represent France at the European Championships in Georgia, where he reached the final and came away with the silver medal. Tom left the English Karate Federation and joined the French one which has led him to incredible opportunities.





In February Year 9 student, Stevie, became England under 15 weightlifting champion having lifted brilliantly in Maidstone to claim her first weightlifting title. Stevie showed huge determination and achieved two personal best lifts.

At the end of February, Our Year 10 Netball Team competed in the New Forest Tournament. With no substitutes, they played fantastic netball in awful weather and won many of their games. They narrowly missed out on taking the title but really did themselves proud.



Set design creations by our Year 9 Drama students

During Careers Week in March, Year 8 students took part in a Photography GCSE taster session. Students loved playing with shutter speed and movement, and exploring the school's single-lens reflex cameras!

In the under 16 Girls football fixture vs Ringwood School, the match began with Phoebe C picking up a loose ball from kick off and, having spotted the Ringwood Goalkeeper off her line, she struck an amazing lob from inside her own half! The girls continued to battle and despite losing the match, both teams were smiling and laughing with one another at the end. Special mention also to Eadie from Year 7 who was on the team and playing with students three years older than her!





'Future Pathways' Careers Night 2024. An event to inspire and excite our students about their post-16 options. It was also great to welcome back ex-Burgate student, Nia Nicholls, who has forged a successful career as a music artist, playing and recording in Nashville and to crowds on both sides of the pond.

Do check out her music on Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/artist/2fnS7BOFuxbb9fMDaSMjQf?si=3hxPX6QWScA2D7B9eLb5xA&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR1vG-Q0X1cWSq9qfK_uMizRMxS386pWHWj5lXtYhgUGGD2hn9tXpKfDwKa_aem_p1Wpl8jCMGf2HCUg09Ca9g&nd=1&dlsi=9c5ebdda2ada45d2



Our under 16s girls' hockey team travelled to Priestlands School for the last match of the season, where they came away winners and unbeaten across the whole season. A fantastic achievement!



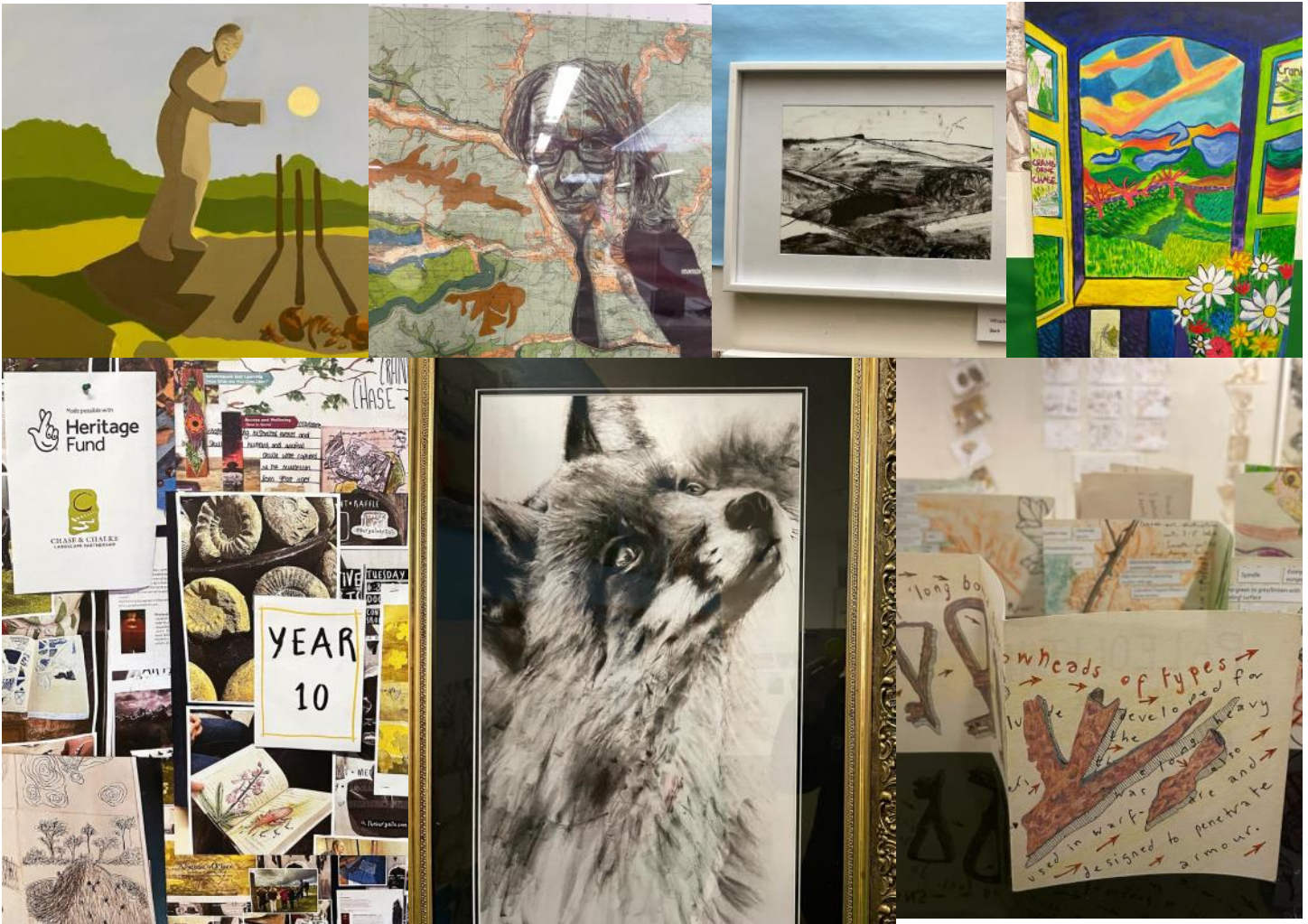
Year 8 students studying real WWII artefacts up close in history and comparing the tactics and technology used in WWI and WWII.



Year 10 student Beth, our 2024 Prospectus Graphic Design Prize winner!

Year 7 Geographers studied the impacts of the Fashion Industry on the environment and made posters to remind us all to consider the impact of fashion and the benefits of recycling clothes.





In April, some of our Years 10 and 12 Artists exhibited alongside professional artists, at Young Gallery in Salisbury.

During the Easter break, Tom travelled to France to take part in the biggest French competition of the year where he was crowned French Champion after 6 tough rounds. Congratulations, Tom!



A Sense of Place: Cranborne Chase
Martha Waters

Darkness. Downfalls of heavy droplets, lande
contrast of the empty landscape. The trees v
the wind enlivened the tall grass, bendi

Words in the Landscape
An exhibition of new writing inspired by Cranborne Chase National Landscape.
Works produced by communities and individuals visiting and living in the landscape, and new works by Community Poet Akelah Agbami. Displayed along the Level 3 corridors of Salisbury District Hospital.

ArtCore, Salisbury District Hospital, SP2 8BJ
www.cranbornechase.org.uk

Imogen Carter

Fifty feet ahead, the trees dance around the bi
secrets are told yet I cannot understand, but s
Fifty feet ahead, the ever-lasting blues spread b
and centre. Does it ever change?

Elsa P of Burgate School

A whispering spring breeze danced playfu
rainy filtered through shifting clouds. Th
joined one another, swishing



In April, our Year 7 cohort enjoyed a multi-activity team building day here on the school site. It was a fabulous day full of sunshine, smiles and laughter.



Years 12 and 13 sociologists enjoyed unpacking their cultural exchange materials from our friends at Linn Mar High School in Iowa, USA. This is the second time we have produced educational materials to share, including information on British values, traditions, demographics, music and food!



AUB 'Atmosphere' Photography Competition recognised and celebrated Amy, Tom, Cam, and Maddie for their stunning photographs.

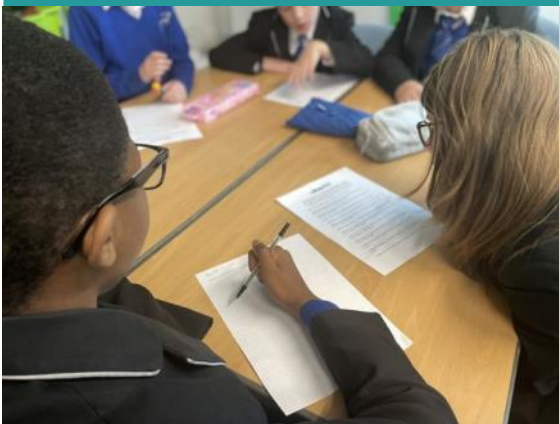
In April, social scientists enjoyed a day of workshops from UEL lecturer and true crime tv presenter Dr Honor Townshend, discussing criminological theories such as rational choice, strain theory and double deviance in the context of real life cases. Students enjoyed the opportunity to test and expand their knowledge.



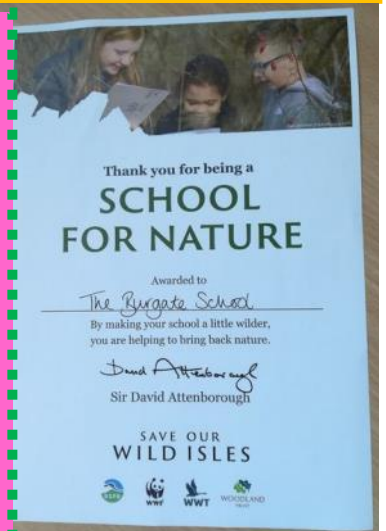
WaterAid came to speak to our Year 7 Geographers about the importance of access to clean water and sanitation. They discussed some of the issues surrounding gender inequality and sustainable solutions for locations around the world.



Our under 13 girls' cricket team played their first ever pairs cricket fixture in May at Moyles Court School. This was an amazing learning experience, which allowed the girls to quickly develop their tactical awareness of the game. On this occasion we finished second, but the girls had a lovely time and enjoyed a post match tea!



The Burgate School is a 'School for Nature' and we were delighted to receive this certificate in recognition of some of our Eco Club's work this year. For more information on the WWF role in encouraging young people to play an active role in creating the future they want to see in their world visit: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/philanthropy/education>





Our new AGP facility was officially opened in April! Huge thanks again to the @premierleague, The FA and @dcmsgovuk's @FootballFoundation for helping to make our dream a reality and to all other partners involved for their support. We were very grateful also to @harryredknapp for officially opening the pitch and to AFC Bournemouth player @tyler.adams and AFC Bournemouth legend, @stevefletcher33 for also joining us to celebrate and support grass roots sport in our area. This new facility is fantastic for our local area and for grassroots sport.



In May, our Year 12 Politics students had a day exploring Westminster, to reflect upon their learning about where political power in the UK lies. They visited the UK Supreme Court and toured the Houses of Parliament, sitting in on a court case and a debate in the Commons. The students enjoyed the opportunity to put forward some searching questions to our New Forest West MP, Sir Desmond Swayne.



Our Year 12 Biology students spent a day at the River Piddle in Kimmeridge Bay and the dunes at Studland to experience a range of ecosystems and ecology techniques as part of their A Level course. Epic rainstorms did little to dampen their enthusiasm!





At the end of June, Year 10 student, Amber, competed at the Street Dance International Event with her team where they won first place to become South Coast Champions and taking them through to the British Championships this July! An incredible achievement and a result of many hours of training and rehearsals.



Year 9 student, Vincent, competed at the start of June in a Level 2 swimming competition in Dorchester and has now qualified to compete at the regionals next season.

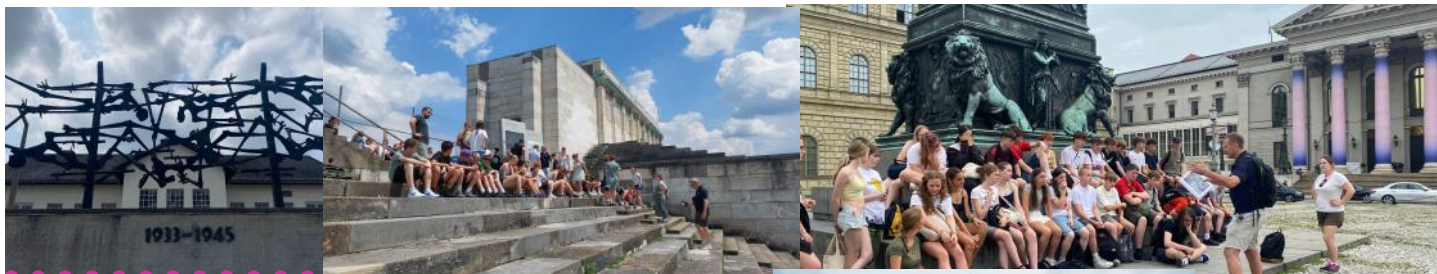


Our Year 10 Rounders Team competed in and won the New Forest Rounders Competition on 11 June. They played very well in the field, showing excellent teamwork and communication skills.



Year 8 students enjoyed an epic trip to France where they visited the Eiffel Tower, took a boat trip on the Sein, visited the Sacre Coeur, went to Montmartre for crepes, as well as visiting a market where they bought cheese, having day at Disneyland Paris and much more!





History students recently enjoyed a trip to Munich and Nuremberg, where they visited historical and cultural sites and enjoyed plenty of ice cream!



Creative Arts Evening 2024. Another outstanding showcase of incredible student art, design, music, photography, textiles, media and hospitality.



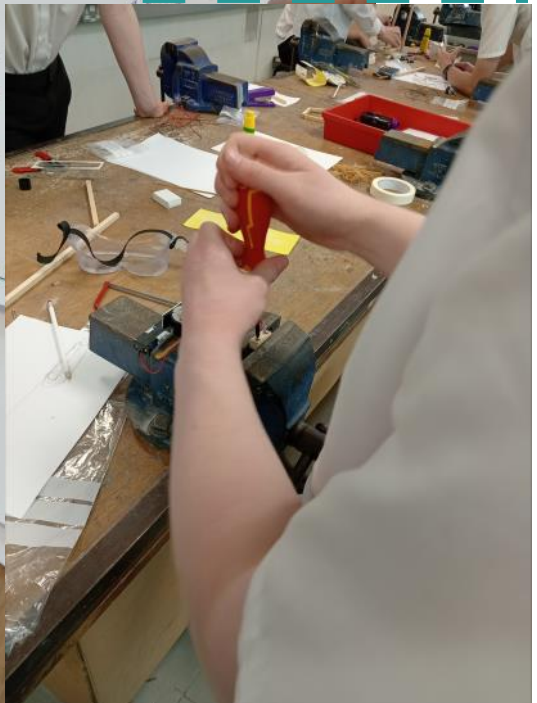
Year 7 students had a great few days in the New Forest week investigating the impacts of tourism in Lyndhurst and at Bolderwood.



Sports Celebration was a brilliant event celebrating sports success across our four houses and revealing the winning house for this year. Congratulations to FOLLOW House!



STEM day 2024 was an incredible event. Many thanks to Fordingbridge Rotary Club for providing such a wonderful opportunity for our students.



**Wishing you all a safe
and happy
summer!**

**We look forward to welcoming our new
Year 7 and Year 12 students on Tuesday 3
September 2024.**

**We look forward to welcoming all other
year groups back to school
On Wednesday 4 September 2024.**