

The
Burgate

School & Sixth Form

Christmas Newsletter

2020



Greetings from the Headteacher

I hope you are all well and looking forward to Christmas and a new year. Over the past nine months, as a country, as a school community and as individuals we have all been tested. There have been some periods of challenging separation, but also great ingenuity in communication and great acts of humility and kindness. As a society, we have become more united through new friendships, and many have found neighbours we had not connected with before.

This term we welcomed our whole school back onto site and introduced our new Year 7 to The Burgate for the first time. Engagement in the return to school has been a real push for the pastoral team and our Main School attendance up to the last week of term was at a stunning 96%, whilst the national average was around 89%. This excellent attendance is a result of the hard work, commitment and kindness of the tutors and the pastoral team. It also undoubtedly reflects our ethos of students enjoying being at school and the fact that they and their parents value the education we provide. The pastoral team have also been working hard to reengage our students' awareness of how they can lead positive and healthy lives through tutor lessons and the wider curriculum. We are really excited by our Wellbeing Journal, which was designed and created by a sixth form student during the partial school closure. (This journal is available to all students, parents and staff for a recommended minimum donation of £2.)

Staff have worked tirelessly since September to ensure a high standard of teaching and learning is taking place within the classroom. Teaching in year group bubbles has been challenging at times, particularly for the creative subjects, who have not had access to specialist rooms for Years 7 and 8 and have therefore had to adapt their curriculum whilst still ensuring enjoyment of learning. In light of this for January 2021 we will be looking at ways in which these year groups can get greater access to specialist facilities whilst still ensuring that year group bubbles and high levels of hygiene are maintained.

We have aimed to include as many sixth form and main school students in extra-curricular opportunities despite the restrictions. So, there has been a focus on internal enrichment and engagement in school community initiatives. The school has spent two weeks in Remembrance activities culminating in a whole school Remembrance service. The Spitfire projects and poppies made by students were then used as part of a display for the school and wider community. There has also been Arts Week that stretched across the school, as well as art, poetry, debating and photography competitions. Students participated enthusiastically and outcomes were shared throughout the school and on our social media feeds. The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme has maintained student engagement and participants continue to make progress toward their awards. As we entered December, students and staff created a huge Christmas mural on the windows at the front of school, various fundraising campaigns were undertaken for our local charities and Christmas cards were written for senior citizens (especially because we were unable to hold the annual community Christmas lunch this year).

Although we have not been able to go on the usual trips and visits, we have brought the destinations to Burgate, for example with 'Live at the Lords' and an online Sociology conference. Likewise, we have still been running the Young Sports Ambassadors Programme remotely with most of our Cluster Schools, which has given the children something to focus on and be able to achieve whilst they are missing their competitive sport.

Traditionally at this time of year we celebrate achievements and successes of the term in our year group assemblies, as well as holding carol concerts, the Christmas church service and prize-giving ceremonies amongst many other festive treats.

Unfortunately, many of these activities were not possible for us this year or for the rest of our communities. With the effect of the coronavirus it is easy to see what we have lost or what continues to be withheld from us due to restrictions. However, it is in these very moments that we truly have the opportunity to see what is both in front of us and what is important to us.

As this term draws to its conclusion, I would like to thank you again for all your ongoing support with the routines and systems we have put in place to ensure that everyone is kept as safe as possible. I would like to thank all of the students for their perseverance through the last few months, their teachers for their desire to still deliver the best possible lessons, and parents for their support of both their children and the teachers. It has been, and still is, a real team effort – we are, by very definition, a cohesive school community.

Finally, on behalf of everyone at The Burgate I would like to wish you and your family a very safe, happy and enjoyable Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming students back to school, on Tuesday 5 January 2021 and hope for a positive and successful new year ahead.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all,

Mr David Pover

Headteacher

Our Year 9 students were asked to reflect on their experiences of the last year and here are some excerpts of what they wrote:

“During lockdown I have learnt that masks are the new normal. And I made new clothes out of old ones! I also found a new love for baking and have been judged on the outcomes by my family. So from something being considered one of the worst years, it has actually been very beneficial to finding new things that I love!” Maisie

“We were born before Covid. We knew LIFE before Covid. We were born before “lockdown” “Social distancing” and “put your mask on” were used and heard every day. “Bubble” used to mean the liquid you blow and watch float away. What does it mean now? Groups of people you can mingle with. I have been able to connect to my family – my parents who I live with and doing Zooms or face-time with my sisters.” Katie

“A new way of learning took over: students working from home, Teams calls. Then came summer the restrictions lifted to 6 people, 2 metres apart. We got back to school and were met with new rules; masks and year group bubbles. But then light shone through, and here comes Christmas! This year has been hard but there are many benefits; I got closer to my family, I improved myself and became more confident.” Lydia

“This year, what a year it’s been. Human contact – only possible through a thick plastic screen. A time to get closer but not too close. A time of Zoom videos and screens that have frozen. A time to care. A time to share and remember the hardships we have all been through this year.” Joshua

News from the Chair of Trustees

After a turbulent year, we are all ready to embrace 2021 and put the woes of 2020 behind us. Certainly, it has been a challenging time for most of us, and for some very difficult indeed.

Nonetheless, amongst the challenges there have been some things to celebrate at school. Most importantly, we have been delighted to see attendance for the autumn term remarkably close to the normal excellent level, despite the difficulties faced by many: this is so important – our students are enjoying the return to school routines and are catching up from the earlier disruptions. Staff and students are working hard to assess the learning gap and to determine the extent of catch-up required.

Pastoral care is one of our priorities at The Burgate. The team worked tirelessly through 2020 to try to ensure the well-being of our students, regardless of circumstance. This can often be challenging, but there is nothing more rewarding than seeing the positive impact for a student who might otherwise slip through. It is very much a team effort: the pastoral team works with students and parents/carers in the best interests of each student. Mental well-being has been a particular focus, this year more than ever, given the context of the year and the corresponding anxieties experienced by many.

Financially, against all odds, it was a successful year. We budgeted a deficit of around £100,000 for 2019/20, but were delighted to achieve an operational outturn of around breakeven as a result of very careful management of the evolving situation through the year. For those of you interested in further detail, you can find extensive commentary on the financial details and wider context in the statutory accounts and directors' report which will be published by January.

We have also been successful (subject to final formalities with the DfE) in winning a bid for capital funding for replacement of the heating system in the main school buildings. The original system has long been unfit for purpose: the new system will allow much improved temperature-control, and has been designed to allow future integration of more sustainable heating sources (heat pumps) alongside the existing boilers. Along with our solar panels, which have delivered excellent returns over five years so far, we are steadily progressing sustainable improvements to the school's infrastructure.

My final words for now are to say thank you: on behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you to the staff and leadership team for their exceptional efforts during the past year, frequently working well beyond their obligations to respond to the evolving and unprecedented challenges. I also wish to thank our retiring trustee, Nigel Griffiths, who steps down this month after eight years as a trustee, on top of an earlier eight years in the role: Nigel has undertaken the link-trustee role for health & safety, and has made a substantial contribution in this role for many years. Finally, we wish to thank you, parents and carers, for your patience, resilience, and support during the past difficult year.

We wish you a Happy Christmas, and hope that 2021 brings a very much better context for everybody.

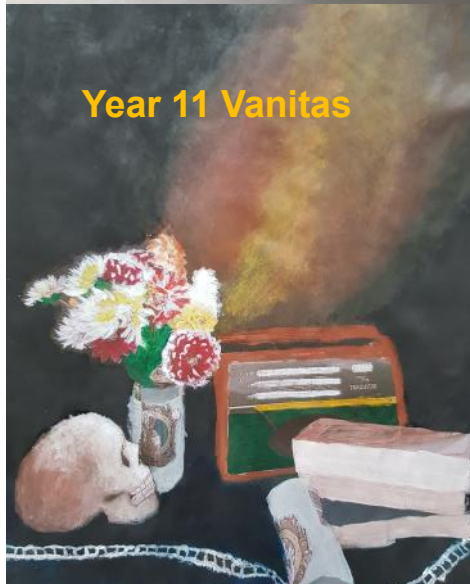
Andrew Cooper, Chair of Trustees



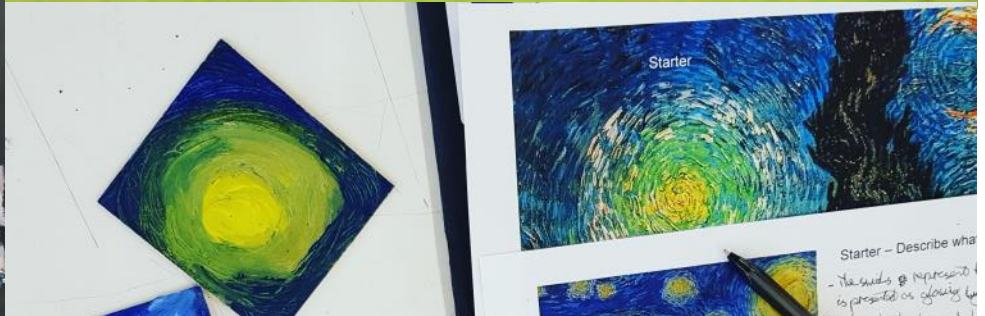
In this SPACE we
breathe



Year 7 students
enjoying lunch on the front field



Year 11 Vanitas



Starter

Starter - Describe what
- The shades of blue and yellow
is presented as glowing light
The brush strokes are thick



OUR FIRST COVID SAFE
PAINTING LESSON WITH
YEAR 12



MRS SHERING CELEBRATES 25
YEARS OF
SERVICE AT THE BURGATE SCHOOL



Year 10 Photographers were delighted to welcome professional photographer Keith Dotson to their class-room via Zoom. Beaming in from Nashville, Tennessee, Keith generously gave us his time and expertise in photographing nature. His input has been invaluable, and his work inspires our exhibition, 'Nature Senses', with images on display in the new Science Block gallery space. The photographs focus our attention on the beautiful details of our natural world, celebrating their quiet power and encouraging peaceful reflection from the audience as they engage with the visual qualities of tone, texture and forms of plants and flowers. We were honoured that Keith joined us for the 'private view' of the work, via Miss Robertson's phone, and families of those whose work is displayed also had the chance to be with us via video messaging.



@keithdotson joined us
from America to
celebrate the beautiful
work of our year 10

*Shunning images
what a wealth of
talent here at the
Burgate!*
Keith
10 Jul 10.



LOVE JAMES

This exhibition is beautiful
and one of my favourite
pieces was the Keith Dotson
Photograph.

A Shunning exhibition - I am
amazed by the talent of
these students. *Ugg Lissan*

All of the Photographs made
the next to each other made them
look be even better

I liked Cotties
the best it
was gorgeous

everyones work
is Amazing
& I especially
love Harry
MacCarthy's! 😊

I like lotteries
one of the
leaf with
a young
the det

I loved ex
but I esp
Grady's



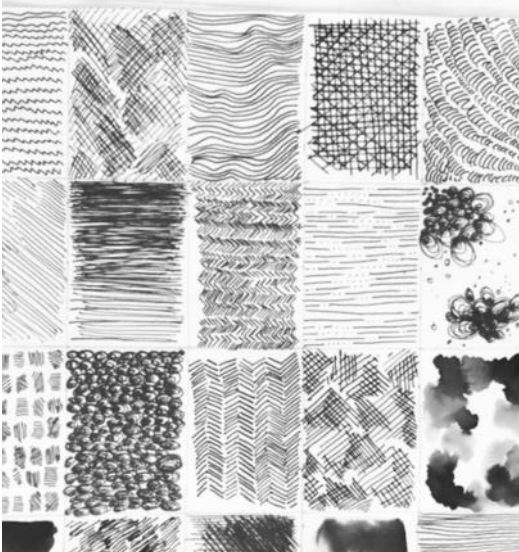
Year 7 Phoebe's amazing fundraiser!

Phoebe came up with the idea to design and produce her own calendars to raise money for Macmillan Cancer.

They are £6 each.

Email: burgate@burgate.hants.sch.uk

for more information



AUTUMN AT BURGATE

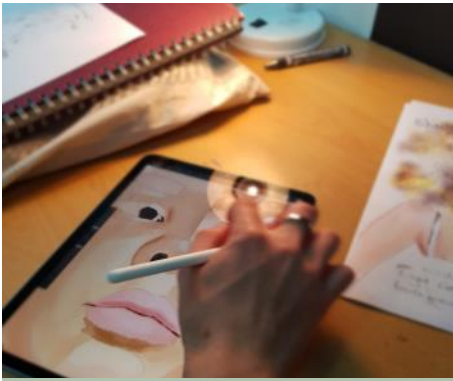


Cranes are a Japanese symbol of hope and peace. For ten years our history students have made origami cranes after studying the impact of the first atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Now our cranes have been made into wreaths and laid at the Children's Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan.

What an honour.







Year 12 digital painting -
comparing digital and
traditional methods



A new set of iPads and Apple pencils in the Art and Design department are aiding our students to create beautiful pieces and have led to a considerable buzz and excitement in the art and design studios.



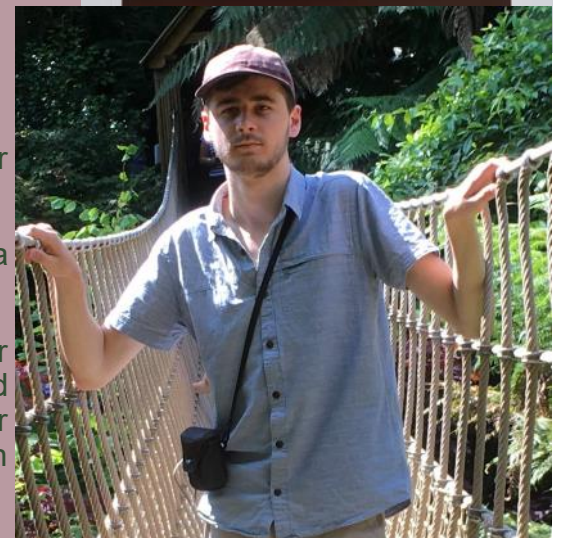
Robert Grosseteste Essay Prize 2020.

Sixth form student, Daniel Hole, has won Bishop Grosseteste University's (BGU) Robert Grosseteste Essay Prize for 2020.

Bishop Grosseteste, was a philosopher, scientist, translator and the first chancellor of Oxford University.

Entrants submitted essays exploring the question, 'Is religion a help or a hindrance when it comes to the issue of racial

equality?' with particular reference to the Black Lives Matter movement. Daniel's paper, titled 'God is my Judge', proposed that rather than a hindrance, religion could serve as a cure for racial inequality. His paper was chosen from a wide selection of entries.





Year 10 Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

In aid of the Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion (FSCI) as well as shoe boxes, Year 10 raised £66 to fund the transport of the boxes.



Year 11 learning how to paint with oils



Year 12

Experimental

Photography

The Window



Smallcalder Award for English

Congratulations to Kitty in Year 8 who was, this term, presented with the Small-calder Award for English.

The award, presented annually, is given to a Year 8 student who showed and demonstrated promise in English during Year 7.

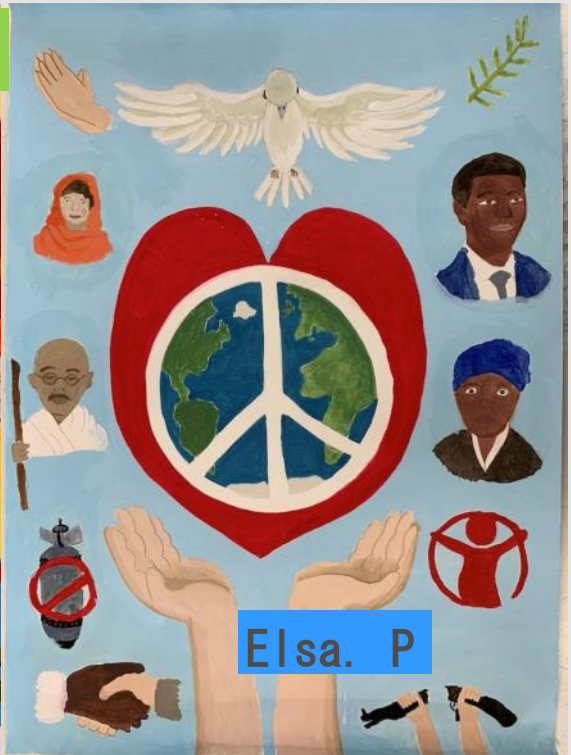
Kitty was awarded the prize as a reward for all her hard work last academic year and was presented with her certificate and prize by Mr Pover and Mr Mallace-Goulbourne, Head of English.

Year 13 Fog Photoshoot





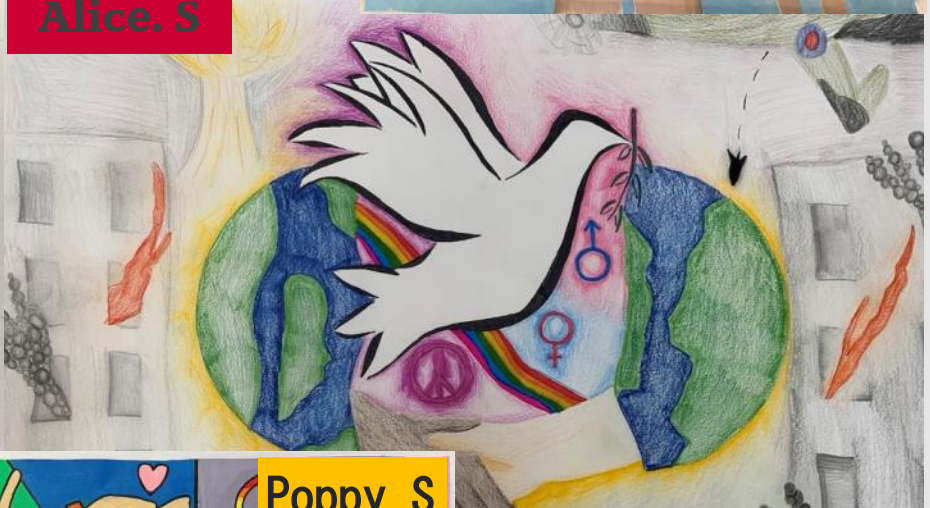
Florence. S



Elsa. P



Alice. S



Cody. L



Poppy. S



Arthur. B



Niamh. B

Year 7 Lion's Club International Peace Poster Competition.

Students created imagery that inspires and evokes world peace. We were delighted to have so many amazing entries, though it made judging very hard!

Our overall runners up were Fletcher Yeates and Florence Watling, with the top prize going to Oli Pistell for his beautiful design.

You can see the winning work exhibited, with other shortlisted entries, in the foyer of main school.

Oli's poster is also on display in Lunn's Store in Ringwood, until the New Year.

We wish Oli lots of luck as he goes on to District Final!

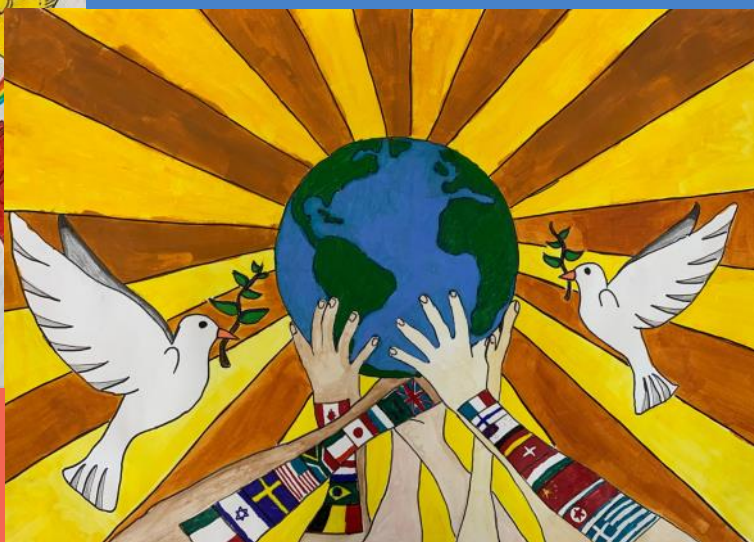


Above: Winning Poster by Oli Pistell.

Below: Third place entry by
Fletcher Yeates.



Above: Second place entry by
Florence Watling.



Higher Project Qualification Charity Events

Amazing charity events carried out as part of their HPQs resulted in over £1000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust and the Trussell Trust. Ellie Patterson was unable to compete in the Tough Mudder so having trained hard, she designed her own course around the New Forest. Marianna Ash's cycle race from London to Paris was also cancelled so she cycled the same distance from home to Beachy Head. There have been some truly fantastic HPQs this year from puzzle games to Baroque musical composition to investigations into Law, Criminology, Social Policy and Engineering.

We are looking forward to their formal presentations next term.



Year 10 artists: their paintings of their favourite place paintings



Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson speaks to A Level Politics students.

Years 12 and 13 had an amazing experience participating in a webchat with the 11 times Gold medal winning Paralympian, Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson. This was organised through the 'Learn with the Lords' program where schools are assigned a Peer from the House of Lords to contact for a Q&A session.

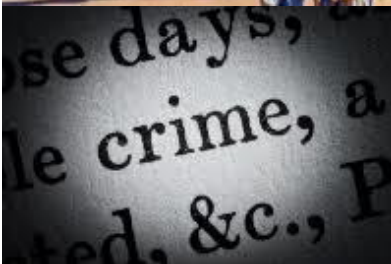
The students were impressed with her record in the Lords, where she actively debates and raises questions, taking an expert role in issues related to welfare, disability rights and the general promotion of sport. She was incredibly honest and open with the students and really helped them to understand the invaluable role of expert Life Peers in our political system. It was only a shame that we couldn't have spoken to her for longer!





WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 



Sixth Form Social Science endeavours

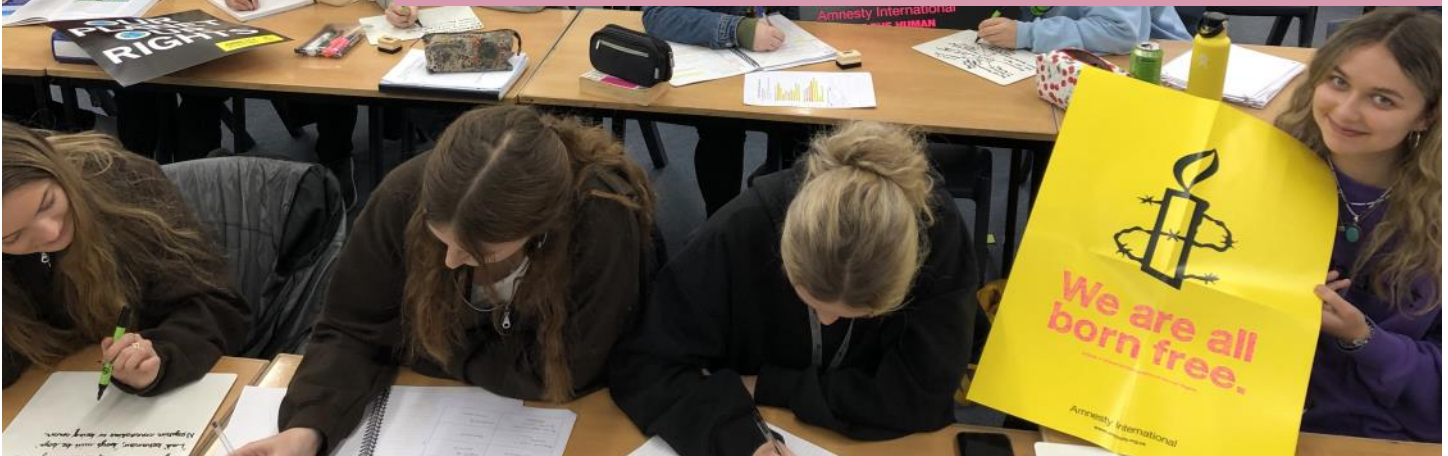
Year 12 Sociologists attended a fascinating online Sociology in Action day where they heard speakers such as Danny Finklestein, Human Rights barrister Dexter Dias and esteemed academic and popular author Danny Dorling spoke about critical current affairs and the importance of sociology in the world today.

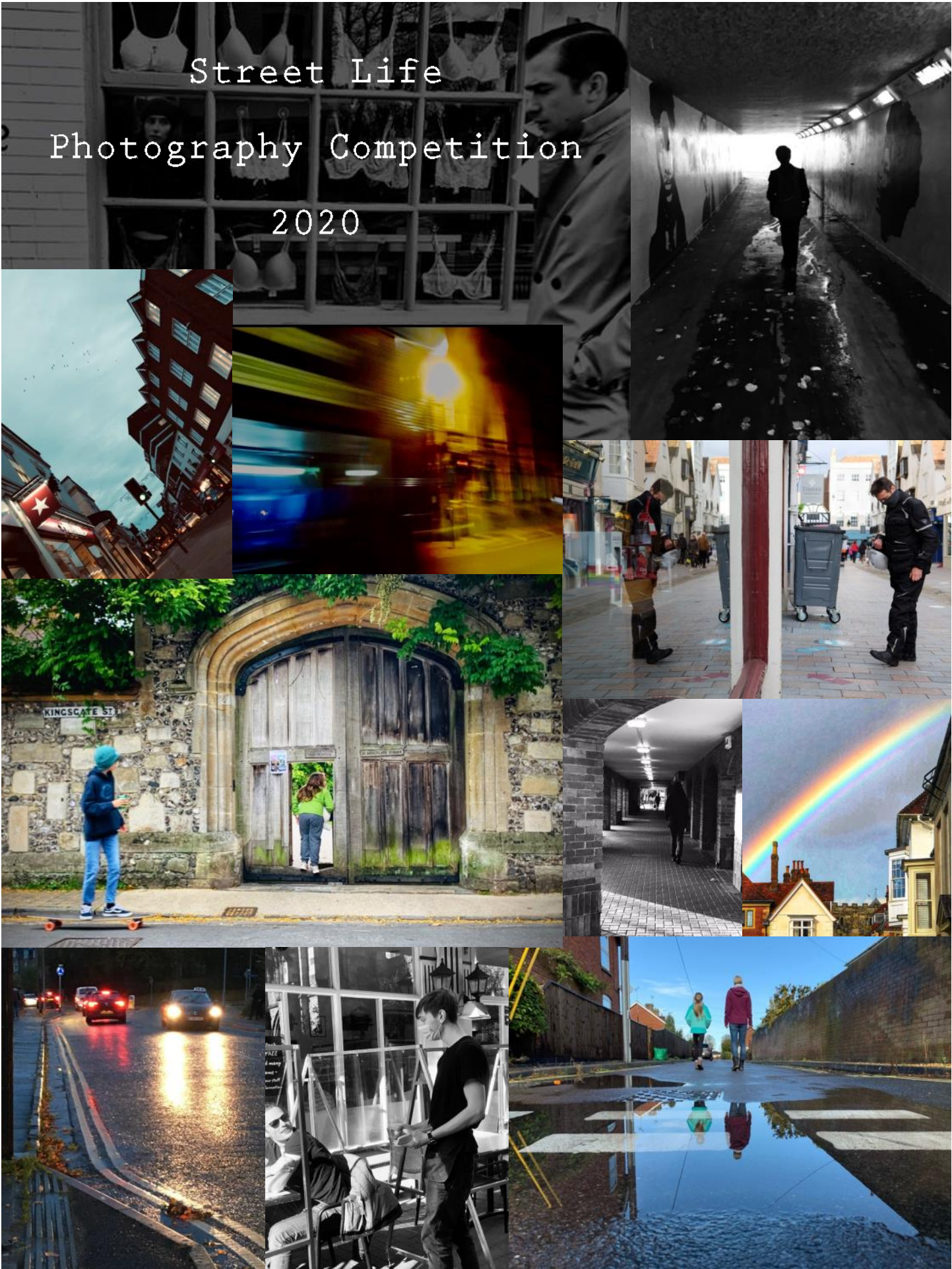
Year 13 Sociologists have recently completed a series of newspaper special editions on crime and deviance from sociological perspectives considering corporate, state and white collar crime. They have demonstrated excellent application skills and secure theoretical understanding.

Year 13 Psychologists recently took part in a series of online webinars to prepare for their exams next year covering topics such as memory and social conformity.

Sixth form students are also working hard to Write for the Rights of those less fortunate and are supporting Human Rights globally through Amnesty International's yearly campaign. We will be sending supporting letters to countries from Saudi Arabia to Barundi, Chile to Pakistan, Columbia to Malta amongst others.

Together we can make a difference!





Years 7, 8, and 9

'Street Life' Photography competition

**Judged by street photographer,
Taylor Coble**

Taylor made a virtual visit to announce the shortlisted and winning entries, joining us from his home in San Francisco and kindly giving feedback about the work he'd so enjoyed viewing. Runners-up were Yasmin Reeves and Felix Jones, with the top prize of a Sony Cyber-Shot camera going to Hana Claridge. Taylor praised Hana's use of light and mystery in her photograph, and awarded the top three photographers a signed, personalised print of his own brilliant photographs.



Taylor said, 'Judging Art is such a subjective thing, but I tried to be as objective as possible.'

I asked the following questions to lead my decision:

Was there originality and creativity?

How did the photographer use light and composition to make me question what I was seeing, or to tell a story?

Did the image have impact, and make me think or feel something?





Thanks to all who supported our Salvation Army Christmas gift appeal.

U6KI (above) with their fantastic range of donated gifts.

Our proposed Admissions Policy for 2022-2023

We are proposing two amendments to our admissions policy for 2022-2023.

There is an amendment of the priority order for 'children of members of permanent staff employed at the school' to priority three within our admissions criteria.

Please note also that we are raising our published admission number (PAN) to 190.

If you wish to view the proposed policy please [click here](#)

If you would like to send any comments pertaining to this consultation please do so in writing before 21 January 2021 to The Admissions Team at The Burgate School and Sixth Form or by email

to: admissions@burgate.hants.sch.uk

WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS