



16 September, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Update

Having completed week two in September, I think we are all getting into the swing of being back at school. I have enjoyed visiting lessons and seeing how engaged our students are in their learning and it is lovely to hear from our new staff how impressed they are by the Borlase attitude to learning.

Wider school life is also thriving. On Saturday, the school Hockey Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. It was great to welcome so many alumni and parents to the alumni versus current Borlase first XI matches and to the celebration dinner in the evening. The alumni teams comprised some of our best players over recent years, still playing at a high level. The girls' and boys' matches were competitive and entertaining but although our alumni are enormously supportive of the school's hockey programme, they weren't prepared to hold back on winning goals in their matches!

Fixtures have started already with Rugby and Netball - do check our [sports website](#) for results of fixtures. This will be a busy space to watch.

The Societies Fayre this week was a lively affair with hundreds of students signing up for ac sox - MedSoc and ChemSoc; EngSoc and Maths Soc - History...MFL..Polsoc..FemSoc...Debating Socand many more.

This week there have also been workshops for the Senior Play and it has been exciting to see so many students joining Dance and Music ensembles.

We encourage everyone to get involved in activities outside the classroom as it is a great way to make new friends and to switch off from work for wellbeing. And on that note, if there are parents who would like to join the Friends of Borlase, their first meeting is **Wednesday, 28 September** at 7.00 p.m - 8.30 p.m. in The Wethered Room (there will be signs and a welcoming party - just come through the Archway). This is a chance to talk over a glass of wine about social events for parents which also support the school. And don't forget to book the Comedy Night on www.ticketsource.co.uk/Borlase

I would like to ask for parental support too in another key area. On the whole our students look very smart in their school uniforms and the sixth form suits look smart and allow some individuality. However, we have had to speak to a number of Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form students about skirt lengths this term. It is clear in our policy that skirts should be knee length - we have explained to students that our flexibility on this is that it should be no more than a credit card's width (3 cm) above the knee. KS4 skirts are available from Hawkinsport and there are many very reasonably- priced black/ navy suit skirts (not stretchy fashion skirts) available in shops such as ASDA, Tesco, New Look. As we move further into September, students are asked to wear opaque

black tights with their skirts. Students will be reminded in next week's assemblies. We ask you as parents to support us in this matter. We do have a quantity of skirts at school that we will sign out to students

Medical Update

We have received some advice from the Bucks Medical Team relating to influenza and other respiratory illnesses that may circulate this Autumn/ Winter. This information is posted on our website alongside this letter. We will be advising staff and students to follow these guidelines on hygiene and ventilation. You are advised to keep your child at home if they are unwell with a temperature; we would always expect students who are unwell to be at home. The most important precautions everyone should take with these infections is to be vigilant about personal hygiene - Please ensure your child always carries tissues/ handkerchief to school.

A couple of reminders on dates - We have our Parent Information Evenings for Years 9 and 10 on **27 September**

Year 12 on **20 September**

Separate letters have been sent out.

Years 11 and 13 are later on **11 October**.

We have our Open Evening for Year 6 children on **Wednesday**; school will finish at **2.30 p.m.** to allow staff and students involved to set up the school.

Going into the weekend I would just like to remind you that on Monday, the school will be closed to mark the State Funeral of the late Queen.

Thank you as ever for your support,

Very best wishes to everyone - have a lovely weekend,

Kay Mountfield
Headteacher