



11 November 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and students,

Headteacher's Update

Today the whole school gathered to mark Remembrance Day with the roll call of the Borlase fallen and the 2 minute silence. This is always a moving occasion and this year, more than ever an opportunity for us all to remember everyone living in fear due to war around the world.

My thanks to our readers, musicians, cadets led by Andrew Linley and our trumpeter Freddie Smith for making this a special occasion.

This has rounded off a week of music of very diverse genres and quality; the House Music Heats are an opportunity for every individual student and staff member to perform solo or in small ensembles to gain points for their House. Mr Miall has had the privilege of listening to everything from rapping to recorder playing to diploma level instrumentalists - a record number of students participated this year. The final and whole House songs will be in January.

On Monday evening we were treated to an excellent evening of academic presentations and discussion. Year 13 students gave presentations on their Extended Project research. The depth of knowledge and understanding across so many subjects was very impressive. Subject specialisms were diverse ranging from Politics, Medical Research, Economic theory to Creative Writing and fashion design. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the students with challenging questions.

Tuesday evening Miss Holmes and Mr Stevens launched an opportunity for our Year 10 students to take part in a trip to Cambodia in the summer of 2024; this will include a sustainability project working in the community. Earlier in the day on Tuesday, the Te Digna Sequere Award was launched to Year 7 and 9 students. We are piloting a new award which will recognise the wider achievements and contributions of our students to be shared with parents in the summer. Our children are involved in so many activities inside and outside school, including community work, that we don't really capture. Miss Holmes will send more information out next week to parents.

Thank you too to the parents who attended the workshops on Thursday evening. The double bill of Online Safety and Relationships and Sex Education opened up discussion on some of the most challenging issues facing young people and parents. Mr Robertson introduced the professional external experts who supplement the teaching of these topics through PSHE who talked about the way these subjects are approached in school and shared advice with parents. Years 7 and 8 had workshops on Online Safety on Thursday and coming up next term, we have full day of age appropriate workshops on Relationships and Sex Education for Years 8, 10 and 12.

It was lovely to hear the feedback from Year 11 students and parents after Wednesday evening's sixth form evening who were clearly appreciative of the opportunity to hear more about the subjects they are considering for A Level. Thank you to our Heads of Department and current sixth

form students who gave presentations and answered questions on their subject areas. Students will be supported in completing their applications in PSHE.

Next week is anti-bullying week and we will be reminding all students of the importance of showing kindness and respect to others, not just for one week but always. We'll be reminding them to talk to you, us or friends if they are experiencing unkindness from others. Please do let us know if you have any concerns parents@swbgs.com.

There is a lot coming up in the next few weeks. These are a few event dates for your diary:

Wednesday, November 16th Dr Lucy Foules workshop on Adolescent Mental Health

Thursday, November 17th, Autumn Concert. We will be live-streaming this event on our YouTube Channel as it was not possible to have tickets for all families. It starts at 7pm, and the link is here: <https://youtu.be/jlx-shXDuwQ>

Thursday, November 24th - tickets are available on [ticketsource.co.uk/borlase](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/borlase) for our Rocktober Rock concert (in November!) And there are many trips and sports fixtures as we lead into December.

And the **hot tickets** which have just gone on sale are for this year's senior play, *A View from the Bridge* on **December 6th, 7th and 8th**. Please go on the website and book your tickets early as these will sell. The play looks fantastic!

A reminder too from the Friends of Borlase - the Christmas Parents event has been replaced by a bigger social event in February..watch this spacedetails are coming soon.

Thank you everyone for your continued support as ever,

Best wishes,

Kay Mountfield,
Headteacher

Celebration of events and achievements will follow in The Borlase Review December 2022