



Tern Ends, 1pm  
Thursday 19 December

Term Resumes  
Monday 6th January

Year 12 Parents Evening  
Wednesday 8th January

Strictly Come Dancing  
Thursday 16th January

Futures Evening (Sixth  
form)  
Monday 20th January

Year 11 Parents Evening  
Wednesday 29th January

Dear all

We have reached the end of a very long, very wet term and I would like to congratulate and thank all our staff and students for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout; I think everyone is ready for a good rest. I for one, will be looking forward to seeing the scaffolding coming down in the cloisters this week. The bright new tiles on the clock-tower roof do look impressive and should stand us in good stead for another couple of hundred years, but the casing of steel and clutter of skips has made the old part of the school feel very crowded. But, hooray, it will be gone when we return! But before we rest, we have a Borlase Christmas to celebrate. We have started well with a baroque Christmas concert, German Christmas biscuits, Christmas Candy Canes delivered to classrooms, Christmas jumpers for charity and of course, a Christmas mock election! And this evening, I have just driven home after a beautiful and moving carol service at All Saints Church. Listening to almost two hundred choristers singing such beautiful repertoire is a privilege we are all able to enjoy at Borlase. It was lovely to see so many parents on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday we will welcome over fifty Alumni singers and a further hundred or so alumni to our carol service. But perhaps the biggest privilege of all will be the Thursday services, when we are able to walk the whole school through the streets of Marlow to celebrate Christmas together in the church. Nothing beats hearing the whole school sing Hark the Herald Angels Sing then spontaneously wish each other a Merry Christmas as their holiday starts.

In my Christmas message in church I spoke to everyone about the power of stories, and that Christmas stories in particular tend to lift the spirits in the bleak midwinter months. Christmas stories often remind us of the values in life that are important - that above all the world is a better place if we are kind to each other and kind to ourselves. We live in a school community that is made up of over a thousand different individuals, staff and students, all with our own passions, our own talents and our own flaws. But that is what makes us all interesting and we should value each others' differences all year round.

I'd like to sign off my newsletter by sharing the closing section of my Christmas message, because it references a story which I think will resonate for us all. In a fast-moving, high-pressure, sometimes stressful world, Charley Mackie's little book advocates the need for - quietness, gentleness, kindness, qualities that don't get too much recognition in the cut and thrust world of The Apprentice or Talent Show Culture. "The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse" is beautifully illustrated - a philosophy book rather than a story book. It's an allegory - that shows an unlikely friendship of four very different animals, coming together as friends and understanding the importance of difference and of kindness.

The boy is lost and lonely and is befriended by the Mole - a creature we might see as small, blind, and insignificant but he is shown to have wisdom and insight, together they rescue an angry fox, trapped in a snare ..... His anger stems from his fear because he has been treated badly by life, and finally they are joined by the horse, the biggest, and strongest creature who is also the most gentle. Mackie says of them in his prelude - they are all different as we are all different, and each has their own weaknesses. And the series of illustrations that run through the book show them going on a journey together through the wild - a metaphor for life - sometimes frightening but also beautiful. It reminds us to be brave and not be hard on ourselves if we get things wrong:

"The greatest illusion" said the Mole, "is that life should be perfect."

"What is the bravest thing you've ever said?" asked the boy. "Help" replied the Horse.  
contin over...

### Useful Addresses

Enquiries from parents : [parents@swbgs.com](mailto:parents@swbgs.com)  
Ticket Box Office : [YourBoxOffice.co.uk](http://YourBoxOffice.co.uk).  
Finance Payment system: [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)  
School Reception 01628-816500

### Articles Please

Thank you to everyone who contributes to this newsletter. For the next issue please send all articles and notices by the end of Wednesday 15 January .

And it reinforces - like Scrooge, and the Selfish Giant and the Christmas Story that what the world needs above all things, is a little more Kindness.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" asked Mole. "Kind" said the boy. "Nothing beats kindness" said the Horse. "It sits quietly beyond all things."

What a lovely message for any time of year

So at this Christmas, remember - be kind to yourself and others, and of course -kindness is not just for Christmas .

Merry Christmas everyone

Kay Mountfield, Headteacher



## Parent Survey Feedback

In November we ran a parent perception survey. Many thanks to all of you who responded to this - we had a strong response rate across all the different year groups. Overall, the findings were really positive and it has been lovely to share the good news with the staff.

Overall, 94.9% of respondents agreed (37.7%) or strongly agreed (57.%) that their child is happy at Borlase. Parents are also really happy that the school has high expectations (89.8% agreeing or strongly agreeing) and that their children do well here. 90% plus positive response rates were also given for the range of subjects available at Borlase and the provision of clubs and activities. Overall, we were delighted that 95% of you said that you would recommend to another parent that they should look to send their child to Borlase.

There were some areas where it is clear we can improve. We have already brought in some changes in response to the feedback we have received and we will continue to look to improve in the areas identified by the survey. For example, whereas 75.3% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that "Borlase lets me know how my child is doing", nearly 15% disagreed or strongly disagreed. We have recently introduced a parents app, School Gateway, to make communication with parents more effective and we hope to provide a wider range of up-to-date information on students' progress using this app over time. Similarly, while 76.1% felt that "the school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year" we want to improve this. We have redesigned our website and now include information about the KS3, KS4 and KS5 curriculums that departments follow on academic department subsites. Please do log onto the website and have a look!

Many thanks for all your support and the feedback that you have provided to us.

Mr Simpson  
Deputy Headteacher



## Senior Play receives rave reviews!

This year the Senior Play was 'An Enemy of the People' written by Henrik Ibsen. The plot follows a character called Dr Stockman who discovers that the main water source of the town is contaminated. Dr Stockman tries to publish his findings in the local newspaper, however he is shut down by the mayor of the town, his brother. The play was described as 'thought provoking' as it strongly related to our current political climate; this made the play even more interesting for the audience.

Audiences each night loved watching the show and the drama department received some amazing feedback. Viewers also loved the detailed set design as they found the moving walls, to create different locations, very clever.

Another interesting aspect of the play was the directorial decision to change the gender of three key characters; Dr Stockman, Chris Stockman and Hovstad. This meant the play had a strong independent female lead, Dr Stockman who was performed by Beatrice Lofthouse.



All the performers, the tech team and the drama department put a huge amount of effort into the production to create an amazing show. The play was directed by Miss Anderson who decided to add some physical theatre into this show. This created some interesting movement sections which separated the other naturalistic scenes. The physical theatre was mainly performed by the ensemble, the ensemble worked tirelessly to create these slick sections of movement.



On behalf of everyone who was part of the play, we would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Hartley and Miss Lewington-Chislett, along with the tech team, for creating a fascinating set, lighting and sound design. We would also like to thank Mrs Ashby and Miss Yazdi-Davis for choreographing the movement in the show. Finally, we would like to say the biggest thank you to Miss Anderson for directing an incredible production and putting in so much effort to make everything possible. She worked us all very hard!

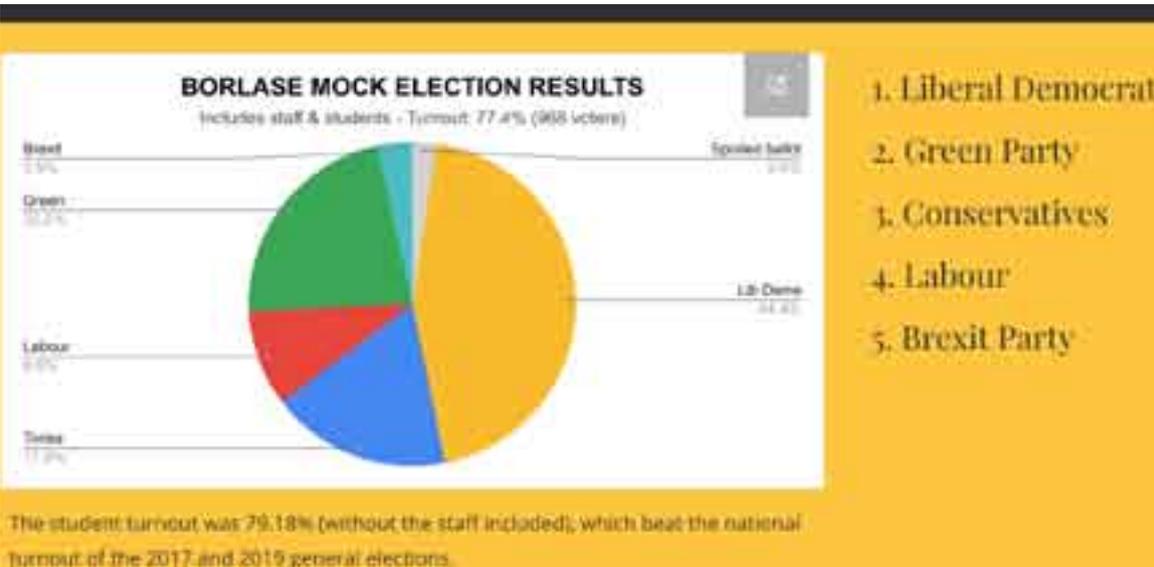
By Maddy Hill and Tom Mccorie



## Borlase Mock Election

Borlase's whole school mock election has tracked the country's General Election, being kick-started by Dominic Grieve's visit on Nov 8; parliament had just been dissolved to allow campaigning to take place. He was then followed by Joy Morrissey, now elected Conservative MP for Beaconsfield, Alexa Collins, Labour and Zoe Hatch, Green candidate. We appreciate all candidates providing Q & A forum's to students. During this period, the school's own candidates have launched their manifestos to all year groups and on Dec 9, a hustings was held and filmed for the whole school. All of this has been supported by the Election Team, with a stream of news shared via the school's Sequere Election News Page. Various polls conducted throughout, the debate and final election on Dec 12 are detailed here, with analysis. The outcome was 44% vote for the Lib Dems, followed by Green, Conservative, Labour and the Brexit Party. Turnout exceeded the national turnout by over 10% at nearly 78%-968 votes cast-a remarkable display of interest, engagement and respect for diverse opinion.

Mrs F Pryor  
Subject Lead for Politics



## UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

We are extremely proud of our two year 10 students, Joel Taylor and Alex Stephens who achieved outstanding results in the 2019 UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. Joel and Alex's results have placed them among the best in the country, and as such, have been invited to the second stage of the Bebras challenge, which is being held in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Oxford on Saturday 8 February 2020.

The day will include academic lectures and the chance to explore Oxford College, as well as participation in the second stage of the Bebras challenge and an awards ceremony.

Congratulations to Joel and Alex for this exceptional achievement, we wish you all the best of luck with this next stage of the challenge.



## Year 8 trip to Imperial College Christmas Lecture

On Wednesday 4 December a small group of Year 8s were fortunate enough to attend the Children's Christmas Lecture at Imperial College, London. We travelled to London after school through dark streets sparkling with Christmas lights and got there just in time to listen to the lecture "A Journey into Space" by Helen Sharman.

Helen Sharman is Britain's first astronaut and she gave a very inspiring and interesting talk, all about her career and her space mission. She described first hearing the advert - "Astronauts wanted" and making the huge decision to apply. She talked about her training and preparation, the launch, how weightlessness feels and what it is like living and working in space. We saw pictures of several of the experiments she conducted in space, with amazing and unexpected results! It was incredibly interesting and opened our eyes to the value of space exploration for all areas of science and medicine. There was plenty of fascinating science mixed in with lots of funny stories of life in space - how you sleep, eat and yes, use the bathroom! We saw lots of great pictures and memories of her time at the International Space Station.

We all came away inspired and amazed, with lots of ideas for future career opportunities. Helen Sharman's talk made you feel that you can do anything in life, given the will and desire to succeed - the possibilities are endless. Scientists believe that the first astronauts to walk on Mars have been born, and are currently at school, and as Helen Sharman said, could have been sitting there in the audience at Imperial College!



Fin Engelberts, Yr 8

## Autumn Term update on the MFL Hub

Since our successful MFL Hub Summer conference, where we hosted MFL leaders and teachers from 15 schools in the region, our work this term has continued unabated. Our two Specialist teachers Mrs Hopper and Sra Roman have led training courses for colleagues in our four hub schools on key aspects of the new MFL teaching pedagogy. Highlights have included some exciting new options for 'CALL' - computer aided language learning, as well as developing much more confident use of target language in the classroom by all students. New schemes of work designed by the NCELP (National Centre for Excellent for Language Pedagogy) are in use for our Year 7 French students and beginner German students, where a much greater emphasis is placed on phonics, the active manipulation of grammar and practical use of language for everyday purposes. We and our hub schools, Chiltern Hills Academy, John Colet School, Highcrest Academy and Holmer Green Senior School, are both evaluating and creating resources for the national project. The new schemes of work look and feel different from many standard topic-based schemes of work, but they really are showing signs of delivering more confident language learners capable of manipulating and reusing core language and high frequency vocabulary in a range of different contexts.

It is particularly exciting to be part of this project at a time when the government has announced plans to make MFL more accessible:

- A review of marking of GCSE French and German which have been found to be 'consistently harder' than other GCSE subjects
- An independent review of the content of GCSE MFL with a review to making the subject more attractive to increase both take up and success.

Members of the independent review panel are our senior colleagues on the NCELP project so we fully expect to see elements of our current work filter into the new GCSE qualifications.

We continue to receive enquiries on the hub work from both secondary and primary schools and are following these up. But a key date for our diaries is 24th June 2020, our summer conference, when Rachel Hawkes, co-director of NCELP, will join us to update schools directly on the project progress. She is no stranger to SWBGS, as she was guest speaker at July's prize giving evening.

Ms J Hopper,  
Head of Modern Foreign Languages/ MFL Hub Lead

## German Debating Competition - Goethe Institut

This year SWBGS has been one of a handful of schools selected to take part in the German Debating Competition for secondary schools run by the Goethe Institut. On Thursday 12th December, four of our students (Toby Tremelling from Year 11 and Reuben Bignell, Elenor Vockins and Izzy Foley from Year 12) went to Hampton School in south-west London to take part in the first round of the debate. Our students had the challenging task of arguing against the proposal "Should school pupils be given permission to participate in climate strikes?". The team put in a fantastic effort but on this occasion the other school were deemed to be the winners. Nevertheless, all those involved very much enjoyed the occasion and we are hoping to have the opportunity to participate again next year!



## Christmas Turkey

If you are buying turkey for Christmas, please consider buying from COPAS and quote code SWB19. They will donate up to £10 to the School for every turkey ordered!. Their website is [copasturkeys.co.uk](http://copasturkeys.co.uk)

Happy Christmas!  
Borlase PA



## The German Christmas party

On the 5th December, the year 8 German students had an amazing German Christmas party organised by the incredible language teachers. It was a great experience to socialise and try the traditional food that they had to offer.

We were split into two groups, each group decorated delicious cookies, that Mrs Colville with help of Vanessa (the German assistant) and Camille (the French assistant) spent the whole night before making. Next, we made beautiful Christmas cards to send to a German school. We then indulged in a variety of German party food and sang traditional German Christmas carols.

A big thank you to the staff who made this amazing Christmas party possible.

By Gracie Runcie and Joe Cockroft



## Festive Food Technology

Food Technology is part of the rotation of technology opportunities our students experience in years 7 and 8. It includes exploring a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions, looking at the functional and chemical properties of ingredients and making sensory evaluations to explore choices in food. We aim to develop safe and effective practical skills in our pupils through demonstration and instruction; we also debate and discuss relevant food issues. Underpinning this are delicious recipes which students are encouraged to make at home once they've trialled them in the Food Technology kitchen.

Our last 2 lessons have taken a festive turn, with year 8s making 3 mini Christmas cakes which were cooked in baked bean tins! The second lesson saw some adventurous experimentation in festive sugarcraft, with delightful results which I hope the bakers' families will enjoy over Christmas.

Ms J Beswick



## Year 10 visit to Sky Sports

Sky Sports hosted a masterclass for a large group of students from the south east, and Borlase students were fortunate to be allocated 15 places. The day was hosted at the Sky Sports studios in London, and our students were welcomed by the CEO Rob Webster. Hannah Wilkes then shared details of her exciting career path, working her way up through a variety of Sky Sports departments to become one of their current TV presenters.



Sports expert Mike Wedderburn took to the stage, and inspired students with his personal story about his route to TV presenting via professional rugby with Harlequins.

The Masterclass format mixed students from different schools to form small groups of 8-10, to rotate between different departments including digital, social media, and operations, as well as a 10 minute chat with Rob Webster.

Pupils later talked of being interested in how his career changed from practicing law to working for Sky Sports; some said it piqued their interest in career opportunities, apprenticeships and work experience at Sky Sports, as well as become more future-minded. On the way home in the minibus we talked about how we can translate this long-term perspective into their motivation and work ethic in the classroom.

A super trip and as ever, a pleasure to take our immaculately behaved students out of school for the day.

Ms J Beswick

## Lost property update

Due to the increasing piles of belongings we have in lost property and the number of items that remain unclaimed. we have decided to allow parents on to the school site every Friday from 3.30pm to search with their child for any items that their child may have missing.

We understand that many students do not have the time or opportunity to go down to Lost property when its open on a Wednesday so really hope this will open up another opportunity when items can be looked for and reclaimed.

Following on from Ms Mountfield's words in the previous newsletter, we make another plea for all items to be clearly named and labelled - first name and surname - using a sharpie or indelible pen. Just putting a child's initials will not help us identify who it belongs to.

Thank you for your co-peration in helping us tackle the mountain of lost property.



## Mr Robson's Chamber Concert

On the evening of the 10th December, a small audience gathered in the Wethered room for Mr Robson's annual chamber concert. The evening began with a fantastic solo on the harpsichord played by Tommy Kershaw with 'Courante and Minuet' by Handel, followed by an impressive orchestral piece, several solos, duets (including violinists Raphael Conte and Callum Kunchur returning with 'La Forqueray') and readings by members staff including: Mrs Birkett, Mrs Bungey, Mr Cross and Dr Parsons. The first half ended with the duet 'O Lovely Peace' sung by Georgia Tuke and Elenor Vockins. In the interval, guests were treated to mince pies and mulled wine which complimented the cheery, festive atmosphere. Highlights in the second half of the concert included the flute duet of Allegro in C Major (Bach) played by Lucy Barnes and Evie Harper, L'autor d'ogni Mio bene' (Alessandro Scarlatti), beautifully sung by Poppy Murray and 'Alma Redemptoris Mater' (Zelenka), sung by Amy Harris. The concert concluded with an outstanding rendition of 'Concerto for Two Trumpets in C Major' (Vivaldi), featuring Mr Robert Vanryne and Mr Simon Davie. This was then followed by a selection of audience carols, ending on the popular favourite: 'God rest you merry gentlemen'. Overall, the concert was a great success and many thanks are owed to Mr Robson and all the staff and students involved for organising such a wonderful evening to welcome Christmas to Borlase.

Elenor Vockins, Y12



## Year 9 Trip To Aachen

The year 9 German students, all woke up very early in order to get to Sainsbury's by 6.15am, where we all met, to be greeted by our coach driver Martin. After the 9 hour coach journey, obviously improved by the fact there was tinsel put up around the bus, we arrived in Aachen. At 4pm German time our coach arrived at the youth hostel and we all went into our pre-chosen rooms, but not for long, as the markets awaited. We met in the lobby, ready for the walk to the city centre where the markets were. We had 2 hours to wander through the Christmas markets of Aachen, where we all used our German knowledge to order the food we wanted, which included, Bratwurst, Pommes, or heiße Schokolade! As the moon rose, our time in the markets came to an end, at 9.15 we made our journey back to the Jugendherberge. The next morning we all woke up at 8am for a traditional German breakfast at the youth hostel. We packed our bags and put them into the coach. We then made our way to the markets again for another day. The markets awaited us, the same, but this time, in the light. We had 4 hours to explore so we all made our way around the town to buy souvenirs, to get our lunch and dinner for later on the coach! At 2.30 we visited the Aachener Dom, a UNESCO World Heritage site. At 3 o'clock we made our way to the Lindt factory where we all bought chocolate for the coach and for our families. At 4pm, our time in Aachen ended, as we got back onto the bus, ready for the journey home! A fantastic trip had by all. Frohe Weihnachten!

Oscar Bennett, Year 9





## Christmas Carol Concert - All Saints Church

The All Saints Church provided a historic and magnificent setting for our 2019 carol concert. The evening began with an atmospheric, candlelit church as the Year 13 Vocal Ensemble performed a truly resonating rendition of 'O Magnum Mysterium'. Cantorum choir then set a joyful celebratory tone for the rest of the evening with their performance of 'Ding Dong Merrily on High'. The evening continued with a varied and enchanting programme of well-loved carols. The junior choirs sang flawlessly throughout the evening. Our Cambiata group gave a moving performance of the 'African Crib Carol' while the junior girls performed an impeccable arrangement of 'The little road to Bethlehem'. Out student led choirs were beautifully coordinated as the melodious harmonies of the Chapel Choir echoed around the church with an angelic 'Child of the Stable's Secret Birth'; Gospel Choir then followed with spiritually uplifting performances of 'The night that Christ Was Born' and 'Joy to the world' that delighted the whole audience. Madriguys then took our breath away with the truly moving performance of the Welsh song 'Suo Gân'. Their pronunciation, we were reliably informed by our Head, Ms Mountfield was executed perfectly. Adding to this multicultural theme, the Youth Voices sang 'Ríu, Ríu, Chíu' in Spanish, their musicality was glorious and solo performances within the piece showed a maturity and talent that was startling. The audience were then given another treat, Cantorum's 'O Holy Night' which left them feeling truly ready for Christmas. Finally, the service ended with the mass choir performance of 'Sans Day Carol', closing the concert with a cheerful and merry atmosphere. A huge thank you to the pastor of the church for allowing us to use the church for such a wonderful and inspiring evening; Dr Parsons for all the help he has given towards this performance and to Mr Robson for his extraordinary organ accompaniments, he brought the heart and soul to the evening.



An enormous thank you to Mr Miall for his endless levels of commitment and enthusiasm which is reflected by the students he brilliantly conducted throughout the evening. Finally, thank you to all of the performers who continue to impress and close the year with the wondrous spirit of Christmas.

Imogen Baguely, Yr 12



# Safeguarding



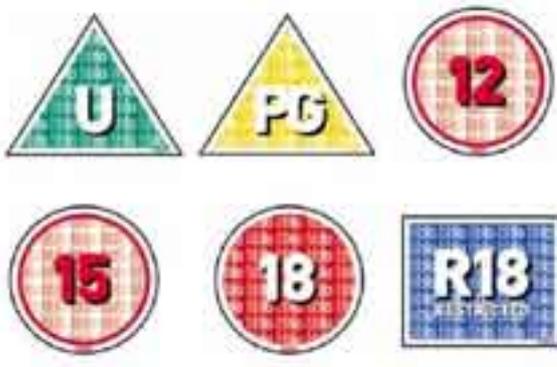
Rhian Williams  
Assistant Head, DSL, Sendco



## Are you guilty of Sharenting?

'Sharenting' is when we post too much information about our children online, such as photos, funny moments or key milestones. The following article discusses the top six things parents should be thinking about before they post such as what information you include when you upload photographs (child's school, age or location). We tell our children to think before they post but maybe as parents, we need to too. You can access the article via:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/CDT1p7qHZxjrGLsw1xh7Pg/sharenting-six-things-parents-should-think-about-before-hitting-post-on-social-media>



## Age ratings

The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) has launched new digital age rating symbols designed for digital streaming platforms such as Netflix. More and more children are choosing what they watch, so talk to your child about the different ratings so they can make the right decision about what to watch.

More information available here: <https://bbfc.co.uk/about-bbfc/media-centre/don't-call-us-boring-generation-conscious-want-make-better-decisions-ever>

## 12 Smartphone Safety Tips of Christmas

Christmas is nearly upon us which means children up and down the country will be writing out their Christmas lists and hoping to receive the latest mobile phone or smart device. Whether it's their first experience of mobile technology or a seasonal upgrade, it pays to make sure children know how to use their device safely and responsibly. The National Online Safety organisation have created this guide just in time for the holiday period so that children are aware of how to keep themselves safe and secure and ensure they use their phone in the healthiest way possible.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

# 12 Smartphone Online Safety Tips

## FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

**Tip:** Christmas season has finally arrived and soon many of you will be opening your presents in the hope that Santa has listened to your request for the latest mobile phone or smart device. Owning a mobile phone can be fun, but it's important to use it safely and responsibly. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that you set up your phone securely, keep your personal information private and enjoy using your phone in the healthiest way possible.

- 1 ALWAYS SECURE YOUR PHONE WITH A PASSWORD**  
This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your phone without your permission. Make sure your password is memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share it with your parents just in case you forget it.
- 2 DISABLE LOCATION SETTINGS**  
This can usually be done from the device's privacy control settings. Disabling location settings means that your phone can't be tracked by others and strangers can't tell where you are when you're using it. It also helps to save battery.
- 3 ALWAYS USE A SECURE WIFI NETWORK**  
When you use your WiFi at home usually it is a secure network that only you and your family know the password to. Public networks, like those in coffee shops, can be accessed by anyone which means that people could potentially hack into your device and access your personal information without you realising.
- 4 ONLY PAIR WITH BLUETOOTH DEVICES YOU KNOW**  
A Bluetooth connection with another device means that you can send and receive data wirelessly. For example, you could listen to music wirelessly or receive pictures and videos from your friends. However, pairing your phone with a device you don't know means that you could be sharing personal information with a stranger or could leave your device open to receiving viruses.
- 5 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE**  
Before downloading any new apps, always check the age-rating of the app. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain things that aren't safe for you to see.
- 6 BEWARE OF BECOMING ADDICTED TO YOUR PHONE**  
Before downloading any new apps, always check the age-rating of the app. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain things that aren't safe for you to see.
- 7 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME**  
Using your phone for too long, particularly in the evenings, can make you feel tired at school, affect your concentration and make you lose interest in other things in life. Only use your phone at certain times of the day and don't use it close to bedtime. You can set a 'screen time limit' via the settings on your phone. This will help you stay fit and healthy and means that you will still be able to focus and perform well at school.
- 8 THINK OF OTHERS WHEN TAKING PHOTOS**  
Don't take embarrassing photos of other people on your phone. If other people get access to the photo and share it with more people, it could make that person really upset and treated as a form of bullying. Always be mindful of the photos you take using your camera and who you share them with.
- 9 MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'**  
This means that you will be able to use your phone safely and securely and won't accidentally do things you shouldn't do. The best time to do this is when you get a new phone or device so that you're protected from the very beginning.
- 10 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR PARENTS IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE**  
Sometimes, even though your phone is really secure, you might see something you don't like, or someone might contact you who you don't know. If this happens, always tell your trusted adult like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and advise you on what you should do next.
- 11 DON'T TEXT AND WALK**  
This might seem like a strange thing to say but it can be dangerous to stare at your mobile phone whilst walking outside alongside busy roads or bicycle paths. In some cases, children have been knocked over by cars or cyclists because they haven't been aware of their surroundings whilst texting or playing games on their mobile devices.
- 12 DON'T SHARE YOUR NUMBER OR YOUR DEVICE WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW**  
Never feel pressured into sharing your phone number with people you don't know and don't lend your phone to strangers to keep it safe where others could get hold of it. Look after your device and always keep it hidden from sight to avoid it being stolen or broken into.

# Safeguarding

## Seasonal Netiquette: 5 new parenting rules for screen time and tech when families gather

### 'Tis the season to be a thoughtful sharent

That picture of your little nephew wrapped in tinsel may be adorable – but check before you post on social media. His parents might have a different view on posting images of their children than you do. Older children may also have their own views on whether they want awkward images of them in ill-fitting Xmas sweaters splashed all over their Facebook wall.



If you are part of a blended family and some of your children are staying with the other parent, also be mindful about posting any family snaps that might make them feel excluded.

### The host's rules apply

If you are staying with relatives or friends over the holiday period, you may have to relax some of your own rules around screen time and access. If your host's kids are allowed unlimited access to their iPads, you may have to let your rules slide while you are guests in their home. It's also bad form to insist that your hosts apply monitoring and blocking software to their home broadband if it's not something they want to do.

If you are concerned about your children accessing inappropriate content while you are away from home, then ensure that you adjust your devices accordingly.

For advice about setting parental controls on your family devices see the Tools section on the online version of the current Digital Parenting magazine. You can click on live weblinks to individual apps and platforms to find out how to set controls.



### Ipads for dinner?

It depends on what kind of a meal you all want. In the spirit of fairness, aim to reach a consensus with other parents and dinner guests at the table first, so that the same rules apply to everyone.

If you decide that digital technology is off-limits for the occasion, then have some ideas of table games or arts & crafts that could keep them entertained.

### Pay attention to the people you are with

It can be tempting to spend even more time on social media over the Christmas period – posting images of comedy Christmas presents, wobbly trees and woefully undercooked turkeys – but guests could get upset if you are constantly checking devices rather than engaging with them, so save the postings for quieter times when you are alone. And, as an adult, it's very difficult to tell children to cut down their device use if you're constantly checking your phone yourself.

Make sure any games and tech gifts you give are age-appropriate. If you are giving computer games as Christmas presents make sure you check the PEGI ratings.

There is a lot of Virtual Reality gear doing the rounds this Christmas too – be aware that there is an upper age limit of 13 for most headsets.

# Sports News



## Rugby

There have been a number of rugby matches in recent weeks.

The 1st XV rugby team concluded their season with a 31-12 defeat vs an RSGHW team, it was another good performance from the team with a number of players playing well. The team have played well over the course of the season with a lot of improvement over the whole season. Well done especially to the Year 13's who have concluded their Borlase rugby careers and we thank them for their commitment and effort over the years that they have been at Borlase.

The U15's concluded their season with a close 10-5 loss to Dr Challoner's. The boys were unlucky not to steal the victory late in the game. They have had a great season, playing 9 games, securing 2 victories and being close to victory in a number of other games.

The U14's played some excellent rugby to secure a victory vs Dr Challoner's before playing very well vs Desborough and Lord Williams to conclude their season. Over the course of the year, the team secured 3 victories from their 7 games scoring 166 points along the way. .

The U13's have had a great few weeks, defeating Dr Challoner's and Lord Williams before losing vs a very strong Claire's Court team to conclude their season. The team only lost 2 games over the season, winning 5 and drawing 2 games. Attack was a feature of the season, with the team scoring 260 points across the season.

The U12's have continued their rugby development with fixtures vs John Hampden Grammar, Royal Latin and Lord Williams. The team beat JHGS B team and followed this up with a victory vs Royal Latin. The team concluded their season with a fine 10-5 vs Lord Williams. in very muddy and wet conditions. It has been a great first season for the team, winning 5 and securing a draw, in the 11 games over the season.

A big thank you to all the students who have represented the school over the season. Playing 44 games across the different age groups. It has been an enjoyable, where the players have learnt alot along the way whilst having a lot of fun. A big thank you to all the staff who have helped with the various teams, Mr Mead, Mr Holloran, Mr Stevens and Mr Hill.



## Netball

The U18 netball teams recently played against Wycombe High. The A team lost 30-20, with the B team also losing. It was another encouraging performance from the girls, with lots to build on for the remainder of the season.

The U13B team played some excellent netball, winning vs Highcrest School and vs Sir William Ramsey School in the District League.

## Football

The U13 Girls team have had a great few weeks. They finished second at the Wycombe Wanderers Cup competition.

The U14 Girls have continued to have an impressive season, with a 5-1 victory in the National Cup vs Grey Coat Hospital before then losing agonisingly 1-0 to Shenfield High School to exit the competition in the 5th round.

We would like to say a HUGE congratulations to Millie, in Year 9 who has been selected for the England Women's Under 15's Lionesses Squad, in December. Fantastic achievement for Millie, we are incredibly proud and happy for her.

Well done to our U12 Girls football team who came first today at the District SGO tournament. The girls were undefeated during the tournament, beating GMS A and B, Pipers Corner before securing a 0-0 draw vs Wycombe High.

The 1st XI Boys football team have had a great few weeks in the U18 Bucks Cup. They secured a 2-2 draw with Aylesbury Grammar in a very competitive game between both teams. They followed this up with a fine 3-0 victory vs Chesham Grammar School.



## Squash

Well done to the U14 squash team who won the Mixed District Squash tournament at Wycombe Squash Club. Well done to the team for some excellent squash throughout the tournament



## Miss Lewis

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, we bid a sad farewell to Miss Lewis who is leaving Borlase to move to Australia. Many students have benefited from her support and excellent knowledge of a number of sports and activities. We wish her well for her future and thank her for all her hard work, support, camaraderie and commitment over her time at Borlase



# Borlase Hockey News

## Week 11

Last week began with a busy fixture day for our U12 teams on Monday - the GU12s came away with one win and one defeat from their two games against Beaconsfield High and the BU12s performed well despite three defeats against Reed's School. The A team played out a cracking game that could have gone either way.

Also on Monday night, a number of GU14s joined the GU16/18 indoor team and performed extremely well to take a 7-4 victory. There were lots of positives to take from all on Monday's fixtures.

A combined GU13 and GU14 team then played against Piper's Corner GU16s on Tuesday and came away with an impressive 1-1 draw, whilst the BU16 B team beat Kingston Grammar School 3-1 in a shortened 30 minute game.

The GU13s enjoyed competitive fixtures against Headington School on Wednesday with the A team winning 3-0 and the B team losing a close game 3-2. The BU13s travelled to Reeds for A-C team fixtures and they can be very proud of their endeavour and improvement, despite the scorelines. The A team were the pick of the bunch in an even game with a good performance against a strong Reed's side.

The U14s all played in fixtures on Thursday to finish the week, with the BU14 A team playing their part in a great game, despite losing 4-3, whilst the BU14 B team and the GU14 A team both played competitive fixtures against good opposition.

Finally, this week began with the GU16 indoor team playing in the indoor Regional Finals on Sunday at the impressive new sports facility at St. George's College in Weybridge.

The team started slowly in their first game against Cranleigh and were extremely unfortunate to concede a goal with the last play of the game to lose 2-1. They picked themselves up though to record an excellent 2-2 draw against St. Teresa's and a 1-0 win against Kingston Grammar School to secure third place in the group.

Unfortunately, other results didn't go their way so third place wasn't quite enough to qualify for the semi-finals but they can be proud of their achievements, especially as St. Teresa's went on to become South Regional Champions.



## Week 12

A slightly quieter one last week with the first fixtures only taking place on Wednesday. The GU18s lost a closely fought National Cup game 5-4 against St. Edward's after going 3-0 down in the first 15 minutes. The BU18s and BU16s had fixtures against local rivals John Hampden GS, losing 6-4 and winning 1-0 respectively.

Thursday was the busiest day of the week with fixtures for the BU13s, GU14s, BU14s and GU16s. The BU13s lost both games against Whitgift but they improved throughout and the BU12 players that stepped up put in some strong performances. The GU14s and GU16s travelled to Kingston Grammar School together, with the U16s winning 3-0 and the U14s drawing 1-1. The BU14s also played a beneficial fixture against West London Free School BU16s, despite losing 7-3.

The BU16 indoor squad then travelled to Whitgift on Sunday to play in their indoor Regional Finals. In a tough group of four containing St. Lawrence's College, Trinity School and Cranleigh, the team finished in second place after two wins and one defeat to qualify for the semi-finals, and leave them one game away from qualifying for the National Finals.

Unfortunately, a defeat against a good Whitgift side left them in the 3rd/4th playoff against Lingfield and, after a 2-2 draw in normal time, the team came out on top in the penalty stroke competition. The team can be extremely proud of their third place finish in the region, especially considering the level of competition they have faced along the way.



## Congratulations.....

.....the Marlow HC GU12 team that travelled to Barcelona at the weekend to compete against club teams from a variety of countries in Europe in the Inmaculada Hockey tournament. After a storming 5-0 win in the semi-final against a team from Lazio, the team went on to match that scoreline to win the final comfortably. Well done to Amy Smith, Jess Clayton and Mei Babes who were all part of the team.

Also to Gareth Menezes who has also been selected to represent Berkshire County Hockey this season but didn't make it onto the list in the last newsletter. Well done!





## Borlase Logo Towels

### House Colour Towels:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Hand</b><br><b>50x100</b><br><b>£17.00</b> | <b>Bath</b><br><b>70x135</b><br><b>£22.00</b><br><b>(also avail in white)</b> |
|---|---|

Danes = Yellow  
 Romans = Purple

Britons = Blue  
 Normans = Green

Vikings = Orange  
 Saxons = Red

### Order Form

Parent and Student Name (s):

Email Address:

| Towel Type         | House or Colour | Quantity | Sub-Total |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|
|                    |                 |          |           |
|                    |                 |          |           |
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|                    |                 |          |           |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |                 |          |           |

**Please make cheques payable to the 'SWBGS Parents' Association', and return the form and cheque to Reception in an envelope FAD 'PA Towels'**