



Letter from the Headteacher: Friday 22nd September, 2023

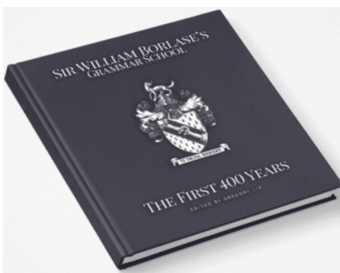
Old Gym Building Investigation

Following inspection by a structural engineer, we have been able to confirm the presence of RAAC in the construction of the Old Gym roof. RAAC was not used elsewhere in this building and we are, therefore, able to re-open safely the DT and Theatre corridors, PE changing rooms, music teaching rooms, and the immediate peripheral area. The school will be taking delivery of a marquee which will provide a further indoor PE area and wet-weather space for students at break and lunchtime as we move into the colder months.

NB Students no longer need to come into school in PE kit when they have Dance, Games, PE, or an after-school fixture.

Upcoming Events

Tue, 26 September	All day	In School	Flu Vaccinations
Tue, 26 September	6.45pm	Theatre	Year 9 GCSE PE Parents Information Evening
Wed, 27 September	5 to 8.30pm	School	Open Evening (early closure 13.40)
Fri, 29 September	All Day	Higginson Park	Whole School Cross Country
Wed, 4 October	4.30 to 7pm	Theatre	Parent workshop about Resilience; letter
Sat, 7 October	7.30pm	All Saints'	Borlase Choirs & Ascot Brass Concert (tickets here)
Fri, 13 October	7.30pm	Theatre	Friends' Comedy Night (tickets here)



Sir William Borlase's Grammar School, The First 400 Years

Compiled and edited by Dr Greg Lim, President of the Old Borlasians Club, the book is available [here](#) for a limited time at the discounted price of £32.50 (RRP £42.50), (not including postage & packaging) and advance subscribers will have their name listed in the back of the book. While it may not be on your child's Christmas list, the book will make a great token of their having been part of the school as it celebrates the 400th year since its founding.

Information and Reminders

Whole School

- **Next week is Timetable Week B**
- **Open Evening Helpers:** If your child is helping at Open Evening on Wednesday 27 September and requires in-school supervision between 13.40 and 16.45, please let us know via parents@swbgs.com.
- **Sex Education (PSHE/RSE):** Please read this [letter](#) and complete the linked Form if you wish to withdraw your child from these classes for the 2023/24 academic year.
- **Parent Workshops:** The Calendar of workshops is [here](#) and the sign-up Form is [here](#).

Key Stage 3

- **All parents:** Wed 4 October, Parent Bounce Forward Resilience workshop in theatre; [letter](#)
- **Year 8 Open Evening Guiding:** Please read the recent mailing letter [here](#) and complete the Google Form regarding Year 8s acting as guides on Wednesday 27 September.
- **Supporting Aspiration and Progress (SAPs):** Will begin from next week 3.30pm-4.30pm, Year 8s on Mondays, Year 7s on Wednesdays in M10U (Literacy suite).
- **Year 7 trip to see A Christmas Carol** at Alexandra Palace Theatre, 14 December: [Parents/Carers Letter](#)

Key Stage 4

- **Year 9 parents:** Weds 4 October Parent *Bounce Forward* Resilience workshop in the Theatre; [letter](#)
- **Year 11 Drama Trip to see Metamorphosis in Guildford:** 22 November - [Parent and Carer Letter](#)
- **Year 11 GCSE English Set Text - Macbeth:** [Parent/Carer Letter](#)

Key Stage 5

- **ID Cards:** All Sixth Form should tap their ID card on the reader in the main arches as they enter school in the morning. Students should also tap out and back in when leaving school at lunchtime.
- **UCAS personal statements:** Year 13 students should be discussing these with mentors now.
- **16-19 Bursary:** This is available for eligible students in the Sixth Form. Please contact the school if your child may be eligible. The general criteria for eligibility are:
 - *Vulnerable students* - those in local authority care, in receipt of Income Support, Universal Credit, Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment.
 - *Discretionary Bursary* - Students from economically or socially disadvantaged backgrounds (household income <£20k pa), disability, medical conditions and/or learning difficulty, asylum seekers, or whose family circumstances impact upon their ability to complete their education.
- **Year 12 and 13 Drama Trip to see the View from a Bridge:** 8 November - [Parent/Carer Letter](#)
- **A Level Art Trip to the Spanish House of Bernarda Alba:** 7 December - [Parent/Carer letter](#)

The Week at Borlase

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Thanks to all of you who have negotiated the various road works and other disruptions to Marlow's transport network to continue getting your children to school before 8.40am this week. For my own part, I'm pleased and relieved to be able to say that, 3 weeks in, Marlow Bridge and its traffic-calming (driver-petrifying) fixtures still do not bear any of my car's paintwork on them.

Congratulations to all of the Borlase rowers who completed a combined total of 880,000 metres at the Marlow Carnival under the supervision of Mrs Hanson and Miss Halliday, "rowing" from Marlow to Paris to raise funds for the new boat house. You can see the adventure on the Borlase Rowing Instagram page. If you missed them in Higginson Park and you'd like to donate, follow the QR Code on the left.

On Monday, 'The Canadians' from Britons were announced as the winners of the annual London Challenge event having used their research and planning skills to navigate their way around the capital. In Chapel assemblies to Britons, Danes and Normans, Mrs Walder reflected on Global Citizenship and the virtuous reasons which may have prompted three of last year's Year 13 cohort to read Global Sustainable Development at university.

Three weeks in and it feels like we are now settling into the rhythm of the school year. Over the last fortnight I have enjoyed meetings with the KS3, KS4, KS5 and Safeguarding Teams which have left me comprehensively briefed and absolutely confident of the pastoral teams' knowledge of and care for your children

Ed Goodall
Headteacher