



SIR WILLIAM BORLASE'S
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



THE BORLASE REVIEW

Issue 16
Date 28/03/2024



*Inspire
Empower
Shape The Future*



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Easter edition of The Borlase Review.

In what has been a short half term, it seems that we have simply squeezed a long-half term's events into a shorter period of time! This often feels like the "business" part of the year, particularly as Year 11 and 13 have now received the results of their mock examinations and now have only two weeks of teaching left of their GCSE and A Level courses. While the importance of class learning remains as important as ever, this certainly hasn't been a time when other, wholesome pursuits have been set aside.

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As we move deeper into the 400th year since the school's founding, events to mark this have continued to punctuate the school calendar. We have held the first of the student competitions including Photography and designing a Borlase flag but the most recent event was the annual Dance Show which was performed this week. The final fantastic routine was set to a backdrop of playground chatter, the school bell, and archive footage of Borlase including rowing and a gymnastic competition taking place on the Chapel Lawn. If you weren't able to see it, the routine will be performed again as just one of the many exhibits through our Community Open Day on Saturday 29th June when I hope to welcome many of you into the school. It was lovely to see the joy on the faces of the children in school then (including one particularly cheeky student approaching the camera before giving a big "thumb up" gesture) and I'm glad that the same enthusiasm exists today. Two of our most joyful events this half term have been the Careers Day when we welcomed ten assorted sports cars and supercars courtesy of Ferrari and the Sporting Bears and StarterMotor charities, turning Home Square into a mini motor show, and the Comic Relief "Fancy Dress 1k". Both of these events were student-led (my thanks go to Connor, Natasha and Rahil for their considerable efforts in organising them and to the staff who supported them) and both of them had charity at their heart, encapsulating my oft-repeated mantra "from those to whom much is given, much is expected" but also the school's motto, te digna sequare.



Ed Goodall
Headteacher



Borlase 400 Update

The school has recognised the 400th anniversary year in many ways this half term. The Jazz Night organised by our Tech Theatre students celebrated the story of Jazz and the development of Jazz music at Borlase, with particular reference to Ken Snakehips Johnson, (Old Borlasian 1929-1931). Snakehips and his band performed with the biggest names in Jazz - Basey, Fitzgerald and was considered the father of Swing. Today's Borlase Jazz musicians, juniors and seniors under the direction of Mr Simon Davie reminded us that Jazz is still thriving now and it looks healthy for the future.

The Stem Fayre also picked up the 400 years theme. Mr Manthorpe, Miss Hall and STEM prefects Dilsher Bagri and Julia Koteles organised the Year 7 event where students were asked to present their vision for the next 400 years. Their scientific research and highly creative responses looked ahead to the future of space travel, transport, the food we will eat and so many diverse areas. Borlase students have some brilliant solutions to the biggest challenges we face.

Earlier this week, students Ella Jenkins and Sophie Garnett organised a lunchtime concert supported by the Front of House and Tech Theatre Teams to raise money for charity; this is part of the school's commitment made in its 400th year to support local charities and almost £300 was raised for the All Saints Music Trust.

You will read later in this issue all about the wonderful Annual Dance Show which took place the last week of term and which concluded with an original piece choreographed on the theme of 400 Years of Sir William Borlase's Grammar School.

If you didn't get to see these performances and displays, some of them will be shared again as part of the up and coming events!

EVENTS COMING SHORTLY - Do Join Us!

Saturday, June 29th, 10.00 till 2.00

School Open Day & Exhibition - The school will be open to the whole Marlow Community to see the buildings, old and new, read and hear about the school's history, see some of the current work including sport, music, dance and drama. Do come and join us and bring your friends!

Saturday, June 29th

Exhibition, Dinner and Dance - A wonderful evening with live Jazz and canapes on Cloisters Lawn, a chance to see the Exhibition, three course dinner prepared by SoJo Kitchens; the launch of the Borlase 400 Rebellion Beer and live band for dancing! Old Borlasians, Staff and Parents (past and present!) are all invited to celebrate the past, present and future of the school. Tickets are selling very fast! Visit this [link](#) for details and to book.



"The First 400 Years History Book is now available to pre-order. Go to the Office on the Home page to place your order."



Year 7 Virtual STEM Day – 21 February

On the 21st of February, the year 7 students had the opportunity to participate in a Virtual STEM day aimed at giving them an insight into Maths and Science in practical scenarios and in different careers such as Engineering. The event was hosted by Matt Fox from Business Education Skills and Training (PPMA BEST), a charity established in 2014 by the Processing and Packaging Machinery Association (PPMA). The day was filled with engineering challenges of building a roller loader, Best Pitch challenges and career talks from engineers in different fields to show the pupils the exciting side of STEM subjects.

The day started with an introduction from guest Engineers who talked about their experience in getting into engineering and how the maths and science they learned in school taught them the required problem-solving skills needed for their jobs. They talked about the process of designing different machines and structures that lead directly to a fun activity where the students designed and built an Eco Factory Roller Loader using just straws and paper! The excited year 7 students worked in groups of four to design a structure that will take the longest to roll a marble down. Students discussed how to create barriers and resistance to the marble's rolling path to increase the time taken within the use of limited resources they were provided. Designs were varying from long tracks to spiralling tracks and even designs inspired by Ping Pong Ball games. The best group from each year 7 class was selected and the best among the 5 groups were announced the winning team at the end of the Virtual STEM day. Following a little break, the students were introduced to more guest engineers and the focus was on how important it is for an engineer to deliver exciting presentations of their designs to different investors. This was followed with students having the opportunity to brainstorm in teams to come up with an idea for a new invention or piece of technology and then do a BEST Pitch presentation with a 40 second time limit. The students showed off their creative thinking, product designing, branding and presentation skills with interesting ideas such as "Shoes worth a lifetime", ultimate backpack design, an ice-cream cone that can catch the dripping ice cream and so on. Among these wonderful designs, "Snoozing Sensations", an eco-friendly, solar powered pillow designed to give you the best sleep ever with the help of temperature sensors, music, and in-built fans was chosen to be the best BEST Pitch.

Overall, the students enjoyed the practical nature of the events despite it being organised virtually and were excited to hear how the science and maths they learn at school have a variety of uses in real life and in different careers

Miss N Vijayan
Head of Key Stage 3 Maths



Year 12 Maths Fest – 27 February

On the 27th February a group of year 12 students went to the Royal Institution for a maths filled day. Some of the best maths speakers in the UK spoke about their favourite bits of maths, and celebrated maths as an exciting, useful and rewarding subject. It was highly interesting and thought-provoking whilst also being fun. Over the day many subjects were discussed including mathematical paradoxes, medical statistics and AI. There was also a maths village with stalls from some universities and maths companies. The Borlase contingent got involved in the day, with Nathan knowing the exact size of a piece of A4 paper (to the nearest mm), Dani and Max both winning prizes, and Tom, Joe and Mohit impressed one of the team enough to earn a T-shirt!

Comments from our students collected at the end:

Fab!

Very intriguing indeed, made me want to further my knowledge in AI

Inspired me not to drop Further Maths

Mind blowing

Good variety between exam and professional or real life uses.

Such a great motivator, loved everything

Insightful and eye opening to the countless real world applications of maths.

Awe Inspiring.

Mrs A Topley, Teacher of Maths

Year 12 Chemistry in Action – 29 February

On 29th February, myself and many of my fellow Year 12 chemistry students, had the privilege of spending the day in London, taking part in the Chemistry in Action event.

We spent the day immersing ourselves in captivating lectures delivered by professionals in various fields, including materials science and nuclear chemistry. It was an eye-opening experience that not only deepened my understanding of chemistry but also highlighted potential career paths that align with my A-Level studies.

Throughout the event, we explored exciting topics such as nuclear power generation, sustainable batteries, and efforts to combat global health inequalities. A lecture I particularly enjoyed was one by Alex Baker - an organic chemist. He shared insights on designing medical diagnoses aimed at reducing deaths from snake bites in the developing world. Hearing about how chemistry can be used to craft antivenom that prevents fatalities from regional snake venom bites was incredibly inspiring. It was interesting to see how chemistry can be applied to address pressing global issues and how it can make a positive impact on society.

India Harris, Year 12



Year 10 Maths Competition - 7 February

On Wednesday 7 February, we took 2 teams of year 10 students to the Downs School in Compton for a maths competition. This is for teams of 4 students to work together to try and solve 4 rounds of varied and challenging maths problems. The first round, which proved the most challenging, was based around the theme of TV quiz shows. There were questions linked to Only Connect, House of games, and the 1% club. The most obscure question was to estimate how many pet cats there are in the UK, which took some thinking about! The second round was a calculator cross number (think of a crossword with numbers in each space instead of letters), where both teams managed to complete the grid with full marks. The third round was based on logic, deciding on which selection of white and black hats on a group of people was possible based on various rules. This proved interesting, especially when Monty pointed out to me he had found an alternative solution to the one given as “the answer”, which we then pointed out to the organisers, leading to them having to change the question for subsequent events. Both teams were again awarded full marks. The last round involved trying to fold up pieces of paper into a 3D shape which then were due to be stuck together to make a larger shape. This proved challenging, especially as the tape provided to do the sticking wasn’t exactly up to the job!

Overall the team consisting of Adam Daowd, Sohan Bola, Logan Banfield and Toby Russell was placed 3rd overall, with the other team of Monty Fordham, Katie Boulby, Sahar Feldberg and Ella Chong only a couple of marks behind. Thanks also to Fin Engelberts in year 12 who agreed to come with the teams in order to assist in the running of the event.

Mr Campbell, Teacher of Maths

STEM Fayre - 13 March

On Wednesday the 13th of March, this year’s STEM Fayre was hosted in the Centenary hall, with more than 100 Year 7 students presenting their projects on the chosen theme of “400 Years from now...” The students produced excellent projects showcasing their research in a diverse range of subjects and everyone I asked was amazed at the quality of the work on show that evening.

There were many stand-out projects worthy of awards, with the Old Borlasian Cup for the overall winner going to Phoebe Wood for her CRISPRnator 2424 project where she showed not only creativity with the physical design prototype she had created, but also with the in-depth knowledge she had of the genetic manipulation techniques being used. (not an easy feat according to Mr Blackwell) A full list of winners is shown below.

A huge thank you to the STEM Captains and Miss Hall for helping with the organisation for the evening, to Mrs Walder and the Year 12 STEM leaders that were my awards committee for the evening, and to the Old Borlasians for providing a prize fund for the evening.

Mr H Manthorpe, Teacher of Physics



STEM

Category	Winners
Old Borlasian Cup (Best Overall)	Phoebe Wood - CRISPRnator 2424
Physics	Hazel Phillips- Life in the Cosmos
Biology	Sylvie Martin & Emma Blake - Solar Water Disinfection
Engineering	Sophie Smiley & Abby Thomas - Reclaiming Flood Lands
Technology	Jack Northover & Stan Johnson- Will AI be smarter than us in 400 years?
Global Citizenship	George Smith & Theo Rudd - Sustainable Buildings
Environment & Sustainability	Lauren Pearce - Saving Bees
Creativity	Zac Taylor & Zac Pollard - Valuable Volcanoes Lily Stewart- The Future of Food

STEM Dinner - 15 March

This year, the STEM Dinner was transformed, being even bigger and better than ever before. Relocating to the theatre, the black-tie event had an air of elegance and sophistication, with the classic red carpet welcoming everyone into the venue. The evening began with an exquisite meal, catered by the urban chef with a variety of food options to suit everyone’s tastes. After collecting drinks on the way in, guests were able to enjoy a photo opportunity in front of a sparkling silver and gold backdrop, with the chance to use a wide range of fun Photo Booth props.

Throughout the evening, each subject had awards presented to students who have consistently gone above and beyond both inside and outside the classroom. This really provided a chance for everyone to be recognised for all the hard work that they do and is the true focal point of STEM Dinner. With nearly all of the 6th form doing at least one STEM subject, having the chance to acknowledge the students, thank the staff and most of all celebrate all things STEM is a crucial part of the academic year here at Borlase. The evening concluded with a phenomenal performance by ‘The Fundamentals!’, which w left everyone on a high after such an eventful evening.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this event possible!

Dil and Julia (STEM Captains)





Year 12 Creative Writing trip to Venice - 23-26 February

Late February saw the return of our Year 12 Creative Writing trip to Venice. Accompanied by Mr Robson and Mr Lofthouse, the group visited, and wrote at, a wide range of Venice's sights, including Basilica San Marco, the Accademia art museum, the Ca'Rezzonico and the Doge's Palace. Although heavy rain limited our activities on the first afternoon, Venice always looks beautiful in the rain. The weather was much improved on the Saturday and Sunday, enabling the group to write outside at the Rialto Market, enjoy a traghetto ride across the Grand Canal, eat gelati in the sunshine and sit in the ghetto, learning about Shakespeare and Venice. Fortunately the rain held off until we returned to the airport on Monday afternoon, allowing us to enjoy the Rialto one last time.

Year 7 Geology trip to Aran - 18 March

The Year 13 Geologists went to the Isle of Arran to complete our last practical assignments and see some of the features we've been learning about in theory in the classroom. We had two lovely sunny days of fieldwork, exploring the north and west coasts including visiting some sites of geological importance (Hutton's Unconformity) and historical interest (King's Cave, supposedly the site of Robert the Bruce's legendary encounter with an inspirational spider) and seeing some of Arran's wonderful wildlife (lots of seals, some stags and even an eagle).

The third day was unfortunately not so sunny and was the beginning of a few days of stormy weather. We had to adjust our plans slightly but we put our waterproofs on and found ourselves measuring crystals in a river, clambering over igneous intrusions on the beach and ultimately fording a stream across the beach, ending the day very wet but happy and pleased to have completed our practical tasks. This was not quite the end of our adventure, as we returned to the centre to discover that the main ferry off the island had been cancelled!

After a bit of an adventure, a very long diversion, an unexpected overnight stay in Glasgow and an early start on Saturday morning, we were very glad to be home on Saturday! We now have a good story to tell and will have great memories from our visit to Arran.

Mrs J Addison
Teacher of Geography and Geology



Y10 RS trip to Mosque & Synagogue - 29 February

Despite a very wet day and one of the three buses being 30 minutes late, 150 year 10s headed to Maidenhead for a cultural and religious experience. Grateful thanks go to all the staff who volunteered to help out that morning and set cover for their classes in order to accompany year 10. We split the year group, but both visited the Mosque and the Synagogue with a brief, but rather wet walk in between the two locations. We were very lucky to be able to hear from Rabbi Romain, who is about to retire. He is a very well-respected leader of the Reform Synagogue and can often be heard discussing moral and ethical issues on the TV or radio. He is unusual in being a religious leader who campaigns in support of assisted dying and against faith schools.

We were welcomed very warmly at the Mosque and the pupils visited the prayer hall and found out more about Islam, practices and beliefs. A very kind donation had been given for food for visitors and so year 10 was invited to eat cakes, biscuits and crisps. We also left with 10 copies of the Qur'an that were gifted to the school. The contribution to the community and the cohesion between Muslims and Jews was clear. Rabbi Romain told students that in response to the events of 7 October, he had joined with the Imam and a local Vicar to pray for peace.

It is good to be able to show year 10 religious communities living in harmony and rejecting the division that is often seen in the media. Year 10 were very well behaved, they asked interesting questions and undaunted by the rain, they seemed to enjoy a very different school day.

Mrs K Nicholas,
Teacher of Psychology and RS



MFL Update- UK Linguistics Olympiad

In February, 30 of our year 11, 12 and 13 students took part in the UK Linguistics Olympiad, a challenging, 3 hour exam, which tested their linguistic capabilities and determination!

We were delighted to find out 6 of our students received an award:

Fin Engelberts (year 12)- Silver	Isabella Ashton (Year 11)- Bronze
Ruth Groffman (Year 12)- Bronze	Naomi Haldane (Year 13) - Bronze
Ellie Leamon (Year 11)- Bronze	Amy Smith (Year 11)- Bronze

Year 12 & 13 trip to Stuttgart

Our A level Germanists enjoyed a weekend away in Stuttgart and Heidelberg, a huge thank you to Miss O'Riordan and Frau Pettigrew for leading the trip. Our students have put together a few words outlining the highlights of the trip.

During our weekend trip to Stuttgart, Germany, we experienced the wonderful and flourishing culture that Germany has to offer. Having settled into our hostel on Friday, Saturday was dedicated to exploring the historic Altstadt of Heidelberg and marvelling at its iconic castle. On Sunday, we explored automotive history at the Mercedes-Benz Museum, where we were presented with some of Germany's most beautiful cars. Later we immersed ourselves in local culture at the Stuttgart Regional Museum, concluding the day with a captivating play, "Der Besuch der alten Dame." On Monday we visited the beautiful Staatbibliothek of Stuttgart before returning to Heathrow. This experience provided insights into German heritage, innovation, and artistic expression.

As we head into the Summer term, we want to wish our year 11 and 13 luck in their exams, starting with their oral exams shortly after the Easter break.

Mrs Colville,
Head of MFL



Question Time - 5 March

I We were delighted to host our very own BBC Question Time at Borlase on Tuesday 5th March 2024. With the budget taking place the next day, it was a brilliant opportunity to discuss political and economic affairs. Starting with a student panel of Vivek Edulakanti, Hannah Hobbs, Maisy Mathieson-Spires and Odette Foley, it set the bar for a high standard of polite and disciplined debate, encapsulating the idea of ‘disagreeing agreeably’, setting the standard for the main panel coming afterwards. They debated standards and funding in education, the need for educational reform and even the concept of Grammar Schools themselves, while also veering into the rather tense climate of parliamentary procedure in light of the Gaza Vote. They also provided first-hand accounts of the struggles to encourage youth participation in Politics.

The main panel represented the governing party, the main opposition party as well as the Lib Dems. We were delighted to have Mr Martin Mctague OBE, the Chairman of the Federation of Small and Medium Businesses (FSB) to bang the drum for small businesses on the eve of the budget.

We were delighted to invite Thomas Broom, Buckinghamshire County Cabinet member and member for Gerald's Cross and a senior parliamentary researcher for our trustee and local MP Joy Morrissey. We were also lucky to have Sunil Sharma join us, Sunil is CEO of the Conservative Friends of the Commonwealth, as well as working in finance outside his broadcasting responsibilities on GB News. From Labour, we had Mark Skoyles, a local primary school governor for 7 years, and previously stood for labour in local elections. For the Lib Dems, we were proud to host the parliamentary candidate for our constituency Anna Crabtree

The whole event could not have come together without the measured and composed meditation of our chair of the main panel Air Vice-Marshal Ian Durguid CB OBE. And as ever, such events cannot go ahead without months of planning and execution by hardworking students and teachers. In particular, special thanks to Vivek for creating and managing the event from July 2023, and Mrs Pryor for pulling it all together and as ever the tech team led by the brilliant Jenny Chislett.

Vivek Edulakanti
Year 13



Geography Trip to Cranedale - 4-8 March

The A level geography field trip to North Yorkshire began at 6.45 am at the cold and windy layby at the bottom of Spinfield Lane. A head count revealed we were one person short after the coach had been loaded up with our luggage – the final student arriving, panting with one minute to spare before the official departure time. This rather set the tone for the whole week – cold & windy but ultimately everyone was punctual and everything was done.

We arrived at the Cranedale Field Centre in the tiny hamlet of Kirby Grindalythe at midday, and, after an introduction to the field centre and a quick change into field work clothes, set straight off in minibuses for the Holderness coast. One of the fastest eroding coastlines in Europe due to its soft boulder clay composition, the students measured beach profiles and sediment characteristics at Hornsea before visiting a road leading off the end of a cliff at the collapsing village of Skipsea.

Tuesday was a day for human geography field work in Scarborough. A survey of food outlets was used as a measure of globalisation, and then environmental quality and land use surveys were carried out comparing the regenerated upper High Street and sea front with an unregenerated area. Conflicts of interest were considered as local artists liked the older slightly run-down harbour buildings and the local fishermen wanted space to land their catch rather than more bistros.

The North York Moors were the location for Wednesday's investigation into carbon sequestration. Vegetation surveys were used to estimate the carbon storage in the moorland plants and then tests on the nearby stream provided evidence of losses in runoff. The moss-covered Dalby Forest was subject to the same testing in the afternoon to provide a comparison.

Thursday was spent in sand dunes near Bridlington surveying plant succession. The focus of the week was to introduce different field work methods sampling strategies to prepare the students for the planning an execution of the individual investigation (their Non-Examined Assessment or 'NEA') which will account for 20% of their A level grade. Thursday afternoon was spent back at the field centre carrying out the 'NEA in a Bucket' exercise. Students are given a random set of field work equipment in a bucket and must come up with a testable hypothesis, collect data within the hamlet of Kirby Greenalite or the field centre grounds and then write up their results, carry out some appropriate statistical analysis and reach a conclusion all within two and a half hours.

Friday morning was spent at Flamborough Head studying the caves, arches and stacks viewed from the wave-cut platform, all observed by a seal swimming just off shore. Midday saw us board the coach for the return to Marlow, leaving behind the table football, hot chocolate machine and table tennis tables of the common room, the toaster and cappuccino queues of the dining room and the worksheets and calculators of the classroom. Lots of fresh air, lots of work, lots of food, lots of character building bitterly cold winds, and excellent preparation completed for the NEA.

Mr King, Head of Geography



Poetry Evening – 20 March

Following the success of last year’s inaugural event, Wednesday 20 March saw our second Borlase Poetry Evening in the drama studio, a celebration of poetry at the school. The first half of the evening saw the finals of the Key Stage 3 Poetry by Heart competition, to select winners for each year and the 3 students to be entered for the national competition. The capacity audience was treated to some fantastic performances, including Year 7 Elizabeth Rayner’s engaging recital of Wordsworth’s Lines Written in Early Spring, Year 8 Rachel Townley’s heartfelt The Bluebell and Year 9 Eloise Whyte’s captivating recital of Rossetti’s Cousin Kate. After lengthy negotiation, the judges, Mr Goodall, Ms Harris and Ms Holmes managed to agree on winners and runners-up:

Year 7

Winner: Aurora Taylor
Runner-up: Dexter Seaton

Year 9

Winner: Thara Paidipati
Runner-up: Oliver Bridgen

The three Year winners will be entered for the national competition which will be judged in April, for the chance to compete at the national final event at the Globe Theatre on 1 July.

After the interval, the audience was treated a recital of Browning’s macabre Porphyria’s Lover by Year 10 Ella Barford and two choral recitals by Year 8 students - Mia Mills and Anna Cilliers gave an animated performance of Blake’s The Tyger and Shreya Telfer, Jenna Elliot and Zeynep Cosan gave a powerful rendition of Dorothea Smartt’s Shake My Future, showing just how effective a choral performance can be at bringing a poem to life.

The spotlight then moved onto the school’s own poets, with the final of the Bard of Borlase poetry competition. Finalists Kieran Clayton, Allegra Sprankling and Anabelle Rayner read their poems on the theme Borlase before Mr Goodall and Ms Harris announced the results and Anabelle Rayner (Year 10) was awarded the Bard’s chair for 2023. Her poem is printed below, and, as Bard of Borlase, she will be writing more poems during the year.

The evening ended with performances by our entrants into the ESU’s Performing Shakespeare competition, Shreya Telfer and Aarisha Band (Year 8), performing a scene from King Lear, and Oliver Bridgen (Year 9) who rounded off the evening with a rousing rendition of Henry V’s Once more unto the breach, dear friends.

The whole evening was a delightful celebration of poetry and performance at Borlase. Thank you to all our brilliant performers and to Ms Lewington-Chislett and the Year 12 Tech Theatre team who staged the event efficiently and effectively.

Year 8

Winner: Poppy Pleming-Evans
Runner-up: Jack Berry

Borlase

The walls do talk here,
Cracked stone and marred brick,
Constant, yet ever changing,
As they sit, observers and storytellers,

The song they whisper holds
Names lost to time, but not to earth,
And the triumphs of their days,
They sing their gift,
The gift of life preserved,

They wear remains
Of past and present,
Old imperfections, new stories,
A crumbled cracked construction,
Broken with life,
Of those no longer,
As they announce what was

But inattentive eyes,
Leave only dull recognition,
Of the familiar;

We are lucky to have that honour,
To see the mundane in the beauty,
When beauty becomes constant,
But still, souls recognise each other,

So,
If you hold your heart to the buildings,
It will beat back,
And your senses know the privilege,
To be guided by yesterday,
Onwards to tomorrow,
And to follow something as worthy as before

Anabelle Rayner

Bard of Borlase 2024



ARG Theatre trip to Duchess of Malfi

On Wednesday 13th March, Year 12 & 13 English Advanced Reading Group students went to see John Webster's 'The Duchess of Malfi' at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. The production, directed by Rachel Bagshaw, seamlessly combined the knotty, gory Jacobean drama set in the candlelit theatre with the portrayal of themes in the play still relevant to today, from the use of projection and adlib. The play effectively showed the relationship between the Duchess (Francesca Mills) and Ferdinand (Oliver Johnstone), and the transition from the loving relationship of brother and sister, to the twisted, perverse, incestuous relationship enforced by Ferdinand onto the Duchess. Throughout the play, I was particularly impressed by Mills' performance as the Duchess, and her ability to show the simultaneous authority and restriction placed on the Duchess' character, as a result of the gender politics present in the play. Indeed, the modern dress production expanded further on these gender politics than in Webster's original version, by the change of the Duchess and Antonio's son to a daughter, and having the daughter (Poppy Kunorubwe) speak the final lines in the play. Overall, it was an impressive production, and amazing to see the refreshed interpretation of the script.

Ella Jenkins (Year 12)

Oxford Debating Competition

In January, three Year 12 debating teams took part in the regional round of the Oxford Union's Schools debating competition online. The competition consisted of teams of two debating in two separate, unprepared debates. One of our teams, comprising India Harris and Gabriel Andlauer-Turner, placed 4th out of 48 teams competing and progressed to the National Finals. These took place in Oxford on Saturday 9th March at the historic Oxford Union with 148 teams from schools across the UK and around the world taking part. We had the honour of engaging in four debates, with topics ranging from 'This House, as the environmental movement, would dissociate themselves with the de-growth movement' to 'This house believes that parents should not teach children their own concepts about the afterlife'. I was particularly pleased with our performance in the latter debate, in which we secured first place, although we still managed to get second place in the first motion. Although we weren't one of the 8 teams which progressed to the semi-finals, it was a fantastic experience and the feedback we were given by the judges was extremely valuable for our future debating endeavours.

India Harris, Year 12



ARTS

Jazz Night - 22 February

On Thursday 22 February, we were treated to a superlative evening of Jazz in the Mountfield Theatre. The 'Jazz Night' at Borlase is, for many, a favourite event on the Borlase calendar, and this year it held extra significance as a part of the school's continued 400 anniversary celebrations. We therefore aimed to make the evening as entertaining as we could by transforming the theatre into a relaxed Jazz Club and creatively renaming the event 'The Borlase Jazz Night'. We took the opportunity to present some of the school's musical history, in particular telling the story of the Jazz legend and band leader Ken "Snakehips" Johnson. Johnson was a Jazz conductor and dancer who was born in the West Indies but moved to England and was educated at Borlase in the 1920s/30s. He eventually set up his band - The Aristocrats (or Emperors) of Jazz - in London. Sadly, Snakehips died in the blitz in 1941 but much of this evening celebrated his legacy and the audience marvelled at his achievements and popularity.

The evening was led by the hugely popular Jazz Orchestra, conducted by Mr Davie, who expertly performed numbers such as Tuxedo Junction, Treasure, and Hip to be Square. They were joined on stage during the evening by the increasingly popular and vibrant Y7-9 Jazz Band, who performed Milestones by Miles Davis and Bessie's Blues by John Coltrane.

We also had some excellent group performances from Madriguys, Gospel Choir and Sax Ensemble, as well as some excellent solo/duo performances. Congratulations in particular to Ruby Sharma, Alex Pitt and Lauren Bull, as well as alumni student Cormac Diamond for putting on some excellent performances.

Overall thanks go to Mr Davie, Mr Hartley and Ms Chislett, and the Y13 Technical Theatre team who organised the evening. It was great to be joined by volunteers from the Friends of Borlase too, who were on hand to offer refreshments throughout the evening.

Tom Hughes, Year 13

ZoieLogic Boys' Dance Performance - 12 March

On Tuesday 12th March, Boys Dance travelled to the Corn Exchange Newbury to perform in the show: 'Manmade'. Having participated in a workshop facilitated by ZoieLogic Dance Theatre on the 10th and 11th of January to create the piece, this was their opportunity to finally showcase what they had worked extremely hard on since. Alongside Miss Ramnarine, Miss Lidgate and Miss Pi, boys from Year 7 to Year 12 made the trip to dance in a performance including 6 other schools. This all-male show intended to 'push the boundaries of male dance', which it certainly did. This project first launched in 2010, and since then has brought together over 1,400 students and has helped develop physical skills, performance skills, creative expression and choreography. Overall it was a fantastic opportunity for the boys and we can't wait until next year!

Max Bignall, Year 12



Momenta, Maidenhead Drama Festival - 22 March

This year Lauren Bull and Flo Morgan set up a theatre company at Borlase called Momenta. Throughout the year we have devised and rehearsed ideas, before casting and building a piece which we recently performed at Maidenhead Drama Festival on Friday the 22nd March. Throughout the year we have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the hard work each of the students have put into the group, and watching all the actors grow in confidence and really get into their characters.

For Maidenhead Drama Festival, we, along with the five other brilliant actors in our company, put together an original piece called Se7en, focusing on the seven deadly sins. We got to perform this piece on the Norden Farm Stage, which was a brilliant experience for both the actors and the amazing tech team who helped to put the piece together. We are excited to be performing our piece again at school on the 8th April, so please do come and support the group.

Lauren Bull and Flo Morgan, Year 13



ARTS

Dance Show 2024 - 26 & 27 March

Tuesday and Wednesday's performances are an opportunity to celebrate 400 years of Borlase and 19 years of the Dance department. Each performance showcases students' creativity and involvement in all aspects of the dance department.

We have continued our training with the rowing team, all year 8 students competing in the Strictly Come Dancing heats, and our KS3 students participating in Dance one hour a week. Students have shown leadership and collaboration being at the forefront of every rehearsal.

We are proud that our Boy's Dance Company had the opportunity to work with two professional dancers from ZoieLogic Dance Company. They went on to perform at the Corn Exchange in Newbury earlier this month. Our game changing extra curricular Rambert Grades (alongside Ballet lessons) has doubled in numbers. Students study technique, creative and partner work.

This evening we are presenting a variety of pieces ranging from demonstrations of exam work by our A Level & GCSE exam classes to performances from our numerous extracurricular clubs. I would like to thank all of our Dance leaders for supporting these clubs each week.

Miss Ramnarine
Head of Dance

A performer's perspective

My dance show highlight was when I performed the two dances that we created during rehearsals for the boys dance company. There's no better feeling than the clap at the end of a dance. It puts a smile on everyone's face and I loved sharing those moments with everyone. The backstage experience at the Borlase dance show is such a great one. The fact that you can all have fun chatting and laughing with your best friends right before you go on stage to perform is so great. There's something so nice about sharing those moments with people you go to school with every day. One of my favourite pieces from the show is the key stage 5 dance club piece to circus by britney spears. I love how full out and energetic the dance is, it looks so fun and makes you want to join in! It captivated the audience with its different formations and movements that were performed with explosion and synchronicity.

I was so lucky to have taken part in the ZoieLogic workshop that consisted of a two day intensive including lots of fun choreographing and dancing. It resulted in a professional piece that we were able to perform on stage to a big audience. My dance highlight of the year has got to be winning Strictly come dancing in december! Lifting that glitter ball was a feeling like no other, the whole experience was one that I will never forget. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and into learning new styles of dance such as Cha Cha Cha (the style I competed with). I was so grateful to be given the opportunity to be exposed to this side of the dance world. And of course it was so much fun learning from the absolute best latin and ballroom dance teacher Miss Ramnarine!

Syd Rackard
Year 8



A performer's perspective

My highlight from the Annual Dance Show this year was being a part of the A-Level Quartet with the three Year 13 A-Level dancers. Joining in, due to the minimum number of dancers being 4, I have learnt a lot from the older members, and find them inspirational and a pleasure to work with. Another dance that I have enjoyed being in, is 'Rooster - a celebration of the 60s'. This dance was inspired by the performance of 'Sympathy for the devil' choreographed by Christopher Bruce, which we study during A-Level dance theory. During the creation of this, we took snippets from the original choreography combined with creating new choreography ourselves with Miss Ramnarine.

My experience backstage during the shows was very wholesome, as I feel as though all of the sixth form dancers are friends, no matter what friendship groups or backgrounds they come from. We all had an amazing time, having so much fun performing with each other. My favourite piece in the show which I wasn't in was the key stage 3 dance. Although I (along with Sarah and Harriet) choreographed the piece, it looked so fun to perform and dance, and I love the high energy that the students give. Creating the piece for Key Stage 3 was a very fun but also educational experience. I thoroughly enjoyed it, especially because the students we taught were so amusing and funny - we had lots of fun!

Izzy Ambrose
Year 12

Spring Chamber Concert – 21 March

This term's chamber concert was one of the largest turnouts to date, with nearly 30 students performing. We heard a fantastic range of performances - from musical theatre to Beethoven - with the concert being the first for some, and the last for others. The night started with year 13's Ruby Sharma performing a Poulenc Sonata, which was performed with great maturity and flair, immediately followed by an impressive piano performance from year 7's Nikolas Hargreaves. We then heard from lots of talented singers, as well as various groups, such as Junior Violin Ensemble and the Cambiata boys. The night ended with Year 13's Bobby Norris performing Try a Little Tenderness, a 1930s classic performed with great sensitivity and control. The night was a great appreciation of the talented musicians within the school!

Naomi Box
Year 13

Beechview Musical Production – 20 March

Beechview Academy performed their spring musical Beauty and the Beast in the Mountfield Theatre on Wednesday 20 March. The cast prepared the musical as part of their after school clubs provision and were delighted to be back at Borlase for a second year for their performance. Borlase students from the technical theatre group ably assisted the Beechview cast and crew with stage management, lighting and sound.

Impressive performances were given by Victoria (Belle), William (Beast), Daniel (Gaston), Akshita and Georgia (Lumiere and Cogsworth). This was Beechview Academy's second school musical production at Borlase and this year the entire school came to watch the show, as well as many parents and other guests. It is a fantastic opportunity for the young students to perform in a dedicated theatre space and, although it was a bit daunting at first, they all rose to the challenge and created a great musical spectacular for their audience. Choreography was by Ms Parry, Technical Theatre by Ms Chislett, Musical Direction by Mr Harker and Direction by Ms Tarbuck and Mr Harker. Beechview Academy are already looking forward to coming back next year for their next show!

Mr R Harker
Drama Teacher



SPORTS

Sports Update

It's been a busy six weeks since February half-term, with competitive fixtures or tournaments for the majority of our age groups. The BU14s and BU18s have both played their final England Hockey matches of the season, whilst the BU16s are still involved in England Hockey's Tier 1 Plate, and the BU12 and BU13 squads have all played in district, county and regional tournaments. The GU12 to GU18 squads have also been involved in district, county and regional tournaments over the last few weeks.



District Tournaments

All of our girls' teams have been involved in district or county tournaments since February half-term. The GU12 B&C teams travelled to Amersham and Chalfont Hockey Club at the beginning of March for their district tournament hosted by Dr Challoner's High School. Both teams can be pleased with their progress this season as they finished in first and second place!

The GU13 B-D teams also displayed plenty of progress in their district tournament towards the end of the month - the mixed-ability teams worked hard throughout the day at Marlow Sports Club. To field three teams in the tournament at the end of the season is an achievement in itself.

The GU14s were excellent at the end of their first year of 11-a-side hockey, as they finished unbeaten throughout their district tournament, also held at Marlow Sports Club. Despite conceding the first goal of the day to Beaconsfield High School, the team went from strength to strength to recover and keep a clean sheet for the rest of the day. A 2-0 win in the final was a fitting end to a successful season.

The GU16s enjoyed their day at Wycombe High School for their district tournament. It was great to see the Year 10 & 11 groups mixing and integrating throughout the day, evidence of a successful season. It can be difficult to join forces in the U16 age group, but this team has developed on and off the pitch, and they can be excited about the future.

The GU18s finished off a quiet second half to the season with two excellent performances in the inaugural Bucks' 6s tournament, also held at Wycombe High School. The two teams, named after Old Borlasians, Tilly Crampsie and Mila Welch, finished in first and second place respectively. Both teams remained unbeaten until they played each other - Team Crampsie prevailed to take the top spot!

The BU12 B-D and BU13 B&C teams have also been involved in district tournaments over the last two weeks. Both tournaments have been hosted by RGS, High Wycombe, and it's been great to see so many Year 7&8 students enjoying their hockey. The BU12 tournament was postponed until the end of March, but this didn't impact the quality of hockey on display, as the three Borlase teams competed well throughout the day. The majority of the students involved in the tournament picked up a stick for the first time in September, and they can be incredibly proud of the progress they have made over the last six to seven months.



The BU13 B&C teams travelled to RGS a couple of weeks before the BU12s, and they can also be pleased with the progress they have made this season. The Old Borlasian teams, Turner and Ferguson, experienced mixed fortunes on the day, but the team that worked the hardest came out on top, remaining unbeaten and finishing in first place.

It has been a busy six weeks for all the students involved in district tournaments, but it has been fantastic to see so many different groups enjoying their hockey, and displaying their development across the course of the season.

County Tournaments

The U12 and U13A teams, and the BU14 B team, have all played in county tournaments since the last newsletter.

The BU14 B team were in action in February as they travelled to Stowe School for a very wet Tier 2 county tournament. Despite the conditions, the team progressed throughout the day, securing a win against RGS, HW, and a draw against eventual winners, John Hampden GS, in their final match of the day. Unfortunately, the team narrowly missed out on qualification to the next round, but they can be pleased with their progress, both on and off the pitch.

The GU12 As played in their first-ever county tournament in early March, and they can be pleased with their performances as they finished in first place without conceding a goal. A goal difference of more than +40 only tells half the tale - some fantastic team goals led to seven wins from seven matches to qualify for the South Central finals at Reading HC.

The GU13 A team were also excellent at the Bucks county tournament held at MSC in late February. The team improved throughout the day, winning all seven of their matches with a goal difference of +23, to become county champions for the second year in a row. The pick of the matches was an entertaining 3-1 win against runners-up, Piper's Corner. The team also qualified for the regional finals at Reading Hockey Club.

The BU12 A team can be pleased with their performances at their first county tournament in Borlase Hockey colours, as they were unbeaten throughout the day to finish second by one goal. After a last-minute draw against RGS, High Wycombe, in their first match, the team went from strength to strength to record 5-0 victories against The Beacon and John Hampden Grammar School, before drawing 2-2 against eventual winners, Dr Challoner's Grammar School.

The BU13 As have also been in action since February half-term, as they hosted their county tournament at Marlow Sports Club. A battling 2-1 win against JHGS in the first match was followed up by the best performance of the day against RGS in the following match.



Despite a 2-1 defeat, the strong performance left the team feeling confident ahead of the final two matches of the day, and 4-0 and 5-1 wins secured the county title. The team can be incredibly proud of their development this season having finished fourth in the county round last season.

Regional Tournaments

After the success of the U12 and U13 A teams in the county tournaments, all four teams qualified for the South Central finals, held at Reading Hockey Club.

The U13 A teams were up first as they travelled to Reading Hockey Club for the South Central finals in the middle of March. Whilst both teams will be disappointed not to have progressed to their respective finals after two narrow semi-final defeats, they can be incredibly proud of their performances and conduct throughout the day. The GU13s went into the tournament with high hopes after winning the U12 South Central tournament the previous year, but they couldn't overcome a strong Cheam team in an end-to-end semi-final, having finished top of their group with three wins from three. A narrow 2-1 defeat left the team with plenty to ponder for next season, but this exciting group will come back stronger as a result of the disappointment.

The BU13A team finished second in their group after two wins and one defeat from their first three matches, which set up a semi-final match against the winners of the other group, Hall Grove. Having displayed excellent character to recover from losing the first match of the day, the Borlase team went toe to toe with the eventual champions in the semi-final, but couldn't quite get across the line after losing on penalty strokes. A fantastic year for both teams as they secured top-four regional finishes - there is plenty to be excited about with these groups.

The U12 A teams can also be pleased with their performances in their South Central finals towards the end of the month. The GU12 As started their tournament well, scoring within two minutes of their first match against eventual champions, KES, Southampton. The team from the south coast came back strongly though, as they scored a late equaliser to leave the final score at 1-1. One win and one defeat followed as the GU12s narrowly missed out on second place in the group, and a spot in the cup semi-final, on goal difference. The plate semi-final against Piper's Corner ended 1-0 to Borlase, before another 1-0 win in the final meant the GU12 As finished as plate champions, and in fifth place overall.

The BU12 As eased their way into the tournament with two draws to begin the competition. A 0-0 draw against Abingdon in the first match, was followed by a 1-1 draw against eventual champions, Dr Challoner's Grammar School.



The team then went from strength to strength as they recorded two 1-0 wins and a 3-1 win to leave them challenging for the top spot. Unfortunately, an overtime penalty stroke in the final match meant the team lost their unbeaten record in the county and regional rounds, but they can be pleased with their third-place finish. Both U12 A teams can be incredibly proud of their first season in Borlase Hockey colours - they have made excellent progress over the course of the year and we're looking forward to supporting their development over the next few years.

The BU16 B team has also been involved in a regional competition since half-term as they travelled to Reading Hockey Club for the South Central Tier 3 competition towards the end of February. The team were joined by several BU14 B team players and they were placed in a tough group against the eventual winners, King's High, and Bradfield College. However, they can be incredibly proud of the hockey they played, and their work rate and attitude throughout the day. The Year 9s stepped up confidently and were competitive against players who were two years older in some cases. It's great to see the development of all the students throughout the season, both on and off the pitch.

National Cup

Having beaten local rivals Stowe School in round one and St. Edward's School in round two of England Hockey's Tier 2 Cup, the BU18s made the short journey to Oxford Hawks Hockey Club to face rivals MCS, Oxford, in round three. The team felt confident that they could overturn the results of the previous campaigns, and they started the match in the ascendancy. However, the school from Oxford were a threat throughout, and scored the first goal against the run of play. The BU18s responded immediately but found themselves 3-1 down at half-time, which quickly moved to 4-2 minutes into the second half. The final 4-3 scoreline was tough to take for the SWBGS squad as they played their best match of the season.

The BU16 As have extended their competitive season with an excellent run in England Hockey's Tier 1 Plate. Having been drawn in a tough Tier 1 Cup group, the team has enjoyed their last two matches against Langley Park and Dean Close in the last 16 and last 8 respectively. A close 2-1 victory against Langley Park was followed by a comfortable 3-0 win against Dean Close - a semi-final spot was the reward for their best performance of the season. A trip to Kent to play Sir Joseph Williamson's School will decide who travels to Lee Valley for the Finals Day on Wednesday 23rd April.

The BU14 As also faced a long journey in England Hockey's Tier 1 Plate, as they travelled to Felsted School in Essex for their quarter-final. Having beaten RGS, High Wycombe, 6-0 in round three, and Oundle School on penalty strokes in round four, the team quickly turned their attention to the next challenge.



Despite a good journey and positive warm-up, the BU14s found themselves 1-0 down in the first two minutes of the match. However, they showed excellent character to recover and score minutes later to level the tie. The match remained at 1-1 until the final whistle, and, unfortunately, the Borlase team couldn't replicate their win on penalty strokes in the previous round only days earlier.

All three teams can be extremely proud of their progress and performances this season. Good luck to the BU16 As as they continue their quest to reach England Hockey's BU16 Finals Day this week.

Friends of Borlase Hockey

Thank you very much again to everyone who supported the FoBH Music Bingo and Quiz Night at the end of February. We raised nearly £2500, which is incredible considering it was our second event of the year! We wouldn't be able to offer as many opportunities for the students without your support, so we really appreciate everything you do for Borlase Hockey.

As mentioned previously, and on the evening itself, the money raised will help pay towards coaches' costs, the usage fee at Marlow Sports Club, and to support parents / students financially.

The next fundraising event is the Borlase Golf Day on Wednesday 5th June, and we need your help!! Your support went a long way last year - your donations helped create over 20 hampers for the raffle and prizes.

The Borlase Golf Day provides much-needed funds for Borlase Hockey and also helps pay towards the usage fee at Marlow Sports Club.

How you can help.....

.....**Sponsorship** - can you or your company support by sponsoring in one of the following ways:

1. Sponsor an individual hole - it is just £50 to have your company's name associated with a hole on the course for the day - provide a banner or board which can be placed on the hole.
2. We would be thrilled if you would be prepared to take one of the premier sponsorship roles at this event. The key sponsorships still available are:
 - **Nearest to the Pin – Sponsorship is £350.**
 - **Gambling Hole – Sponsorship is £350.**
 - **Longest Drive – Sponsorship is £350.**



.....Matched Funding - in previous years, we have managed to secure matched funding for the Borlase Golf Day through an ex-parent who worked for Microsoft. Unfortunately, the ex-parent has now left the company and we are without the additional source of fundraising that matched funding provides. We would very much like to secure matched funding again, if possible, so we'd really appreciate it if you could explore this option at work.

.....Prizes - we would also very much appreciate any golf equipment that you can get your hands on at work. I know some companies / businesses produce branded equipment such as golf balls, tees, umbrellas, pitch mark repairers, gloves etc., and we'd appreciate any items that might be kicking around! Finally, we generally award bottles of alcohol as part of the main prize - please let me know if this is something you can help with.

Rugby 7's

The U13 Squad have continued their rugby season at Borlase with their first exposure to 7's, having taken part in the Northampton Saints and John Hampden tournaments. The boys did outstandingly well throughout the day finishing 4th out of 15 schools with wins against RGS High Wycombe and Aylesbury Grammar. There was more brilliant rugby on display at the John Hampden round robin 7's with wins over: Claires Court, Great Marlow, Aylesbury Grammar and John Hampden, resulting in the squad finishing 2nd on points difference. The squad are looking forward to their remaining tournament - The GMS 7's later this term.

Rowing

Junior Inter-Regional Regatta Trials

On Friday 8th March the Year 10 and 11 rowers took on the regions best for the honour of representing Thames Upriver at the Inter-Regional Regatta in April. In really tough water conditions on the day the crews squats themselves admirably in what was for many the first race in quite some time. Congratulations to Finley Corby, Sam Vinall, Bo Ridley, Amy Clarke, Bea Hunt and Immy Palmer who all gained selection to the regional team.



Schools Head

Schools Head of the river is one of the biggest and most prestigious winter races on the circuit. Held on the university boat race course but in reverse from Chiswick to Putney, with crews coming from as far as Aberdeen to race the famous course. Borlase had two "Championship" level boats represented by Will Wingrove, Sam Furley, Kristian Moreton and Ishan Faulkner for the boys and Kat Finney, Amy Clarke, Immy Palmer and Katie Wright for the girls. The crews cemented themselves well in to the mix with the top schools and clubs with 9th and 11th place finishes respectively.

Junior Sculling Head

The Junior Sculling Head held at Dorney Lake is a chance for crews of all ages to get a taste of national level competition. Completing two 1800m legs of the famous Olympic course against the best junior crews in an iconic location. With crews ranging from Year 9 to 13 Borlase had over 60 rowers competing at this level and for many of the Year 9s it was their first chance to represent the boatclub at a race. Lots of commendable performances to build on as the rowers move into regatta season where racing becomes, shorter, faster and hopefully more frequent now the weather is improving!

Inter House Sport

During the past half term, all students in Years 7-10 have represented their house in three different sports competitions, all contributing towards the final year group placings for inter house sport. It has been fantastic to see the versatility and team work on show as students move from one sport to another each fortnight. Placings and points have all been combined for each year group to produce the final results which will be published at the start of next term. Congratulations to everyone for the effort you have put in!



Netball

The end of the netball season has arrived! What an incredible effort from so many athletes at training and matches each week. It has been so wonderful to see the improvement in skill but also the fun and enjoyment the girls have had from their sessions and competitions throughout the season.

To summarise, the District League placing are:

U18A - District champions, U18B - 4th place. Borlase were the only school to have a B team in the league at this age group!

U16 - District runners up

U15A - 3rd place, U15B - 4th place

U14A - 4th place, U14B - 4th place

U13A - 3rd place, U13B - 3rd place, U13C - 5th place

U12A - 3rd place, U12B - 5th place (in the A league!) and U12C - 5th place

All teams also competed in the end of season District tournaments hosted by Wycombe Abbey or Great Marlow School. The highlights from these results were: U18A, U16A, U15B District Runners Up and U13A finishing in 3rd place.

To give a few statistics. During the season, Borlase netball has competed in 81 matches and 12 tournaments. Over 120 players have scored over 1200 goals and we are looking forward to continuing this in September! Thank you to Mrs Wilson for all her support throughout the season

Comic Relief Fun Run

Sports Captain Natasha Rasmussen took it upon herself to get the Borlase community out of the classroom and working together to raise funds and awareness for this international charity. On the afternoon of 15 March, we saw students and staff dressed up in an incredible range of costumes all completing a 1km fun run around the school site. Thank you to all for the efforts in the amazing costumes and to the donations made towards Comic Relief.



Football – Senior XI Boys

The senior boys entered the plate competition and it was an away trip to Denbigh School in the semi finals to get started. In a great battle, the boys came out victorious with a 5-3 win. This set up a final at Arbour Park in Slough. In a highly anticipated final against Princess Risborough, the game hung finely in the balance as expected after the first quarter of the match. Captain George Rackstraw took a hold of the game and opened the scoring with an excellent demonstration of leadership as he took the ball beyond several defenders before striking into the bottom corner. This set the boys up brilliantly as they pressed aggressively to put Risborough under pressure and this was rewarded on many occasions. The game ended with a 6-1 win, goals combining from Oatut x3, Rackstraw x2 (POM) and Coombs finishing off proceedings. Great to finish the year with a trophy and this will hopefully be the platform for more success in the coming seasons.

Senior XI Girls

The senior girls had their cup run ended at the semi finals stage to CGS. This group of girls were a privilege to coach and as usual fought until the very end to try to progress to the finals day. LLoys had the girls 1-0 ahead at half time in a physical battle as these games have previously been played. CGS did well to find the equaliser and after extra time the game required penalties. On this occasion the girls lost out but they will no doubt look to recover from the setback and go secure glory next year.



Girls U16

The u16 girls kept good to the word of bringing back 2 County Cups in a row as they defeated CGS 3-1. Played on a beautiful day in Arbour Park, Pillai brought the score back to 1-1 after CGS found themselves ahead early on. Not to be denied, the ever present energy provider of A Marden pushed the team forwards and from a dead ball situation, 25 years out Marden found the top corner of the net to get Borlase the lead. The willingness to play and find the gaps behind the defence of CGS was again rewarded when Ainscough found the bottom corner after her short deflected of the defender and the keeper was unable to recover to make the save. Persistence, hard work and desire to play put the girls on the driving seat and their lead was not to be disturbed as they secured the trophy. McDiarmid was awarded POM and this was a well deserved honour for the captain as she has led this team to success twice and contributed to the senior squads push and she will no doubt be back for more. A team that has a never die attitude and they are reaping the rewards of the efforts as they will look to go for the three in a row next year.

Boys Football

The boys football season kicked off in January and this allowed the u12/13s/14s/15s to get underway. The u12s found their first season to be very much a learning experience as they faced tough matches across the season and will look to build on this next year under the guidance of Mr Roberstson and his wealth of football knowledge. The u13 boys who entered the County Cup got the opportunity to recover from their defeat at the QF stage and to enjoy their football as they played the schools in the local area. The team did brilliantly and if the opportunity arises they will look to try and give the County Cup another crack in the 24/25 season.

Under the guidance of Mr Heppner Logan, as I write this the u14 boys have their final game of the season away to GMS today. They have competed similarly to the u13 across the local schools, however they entered and won the 6-a-side tournament at JHGS to optimise their strength as a team. Hopefully the boys can finish with a win away to the local rival.

The u15s have had a very good development season as they move towards year 11 where they begin to play at senior level. The boys had some great performances and also play GMS this coming Wednesday to round off their campaign. The lads have worked hard to showcase their talents and will hopefully make the transition to senior football by working hard and trusting in their great ability as footballers.

STAFF FEATURE

A conversation with Mrs Caroline Wingrove, Careers Lead

By Rory Shaffrey and Daniela Yakubovich, Year 13

Background and life before Borlase:

I got my degree in business from Bournemouth University, specialising in Marketing. After this, I worked with logistics at Wincanton. Then I took a year out where I worked at Southampton University teaching computers to students with disabilities ranging from dyslexia to being bed-bound. Then I did more logistics work for Accenture, before becoming a swimming and rowing instructor. I was even the ladies national champion for life saving! Finally, I joined Borlase in 2020 after being interviewed during lockdown and even having my role handed over in Higginson Park!

What are some highlights and the best parts of your position:

The biggest positive about my position has to be working with students. I love how the students challenge me: I don't think there's been a single week where a student hasn't come to my door with a new, interesting topic that I have to research. However, that leads to another great aspect of our school: our alumni. The range of careers that our students are interested in pairs well with our cohort of helpful alumni. It is amazing how helpful and willing our past students can be, helping students with interview skills or writing their CV. There will always be someone in our alumni or parent network to support students with career advice and that is just phenomenal!

What advice would you give to students who are uncertain about their career paths:

My one-word answer to this is Research. Utilise platforms such as Unifrog and the UCAS website. On Unifrog, you can find potential careers from the university degree you would like to do and vice versa. I would start with the work-place, interest and personality quizzes, then do further research to accompany the results from these quizzes to narrow down future paths that may be suited to you. I would also recommend talking to teachers and asking them what they think your strengths are and what paths these strengths would be suited to. Other people you could talk to include your peers, parents, myself or our career advisor Tim

Swithenbank, who comes into school every Thursday. Finally, you can also find your course if you know what particular university or hobby you are interested in. For instance, if you are interested in rowing, find a university that you like and is good for rowing, then look at the best courses available at that university.

What are the best qualities that students should develop to thrive in their future careers:

I think the biggest thing nowadays is soft skills. Employers are starting to look not just at academic grades, but your ability to communicate well not just with peers, but with complete strangers. They also want to see that you can work well within a team and that you have the ability to think creatively and critically, even when exploring topics you may not be familiar with.



ENRICHMENT

National Careers Week -wk/c 4 March

As part of National Careers Week (4-8 March), on Wednesday 6 March, Year 9 had a fantastic opportunity to visit the Bucks Skills Show which is an exciting skills and careers event for students in Buckinghamshire. The show is Buckinghamshire's largest and most interactive careers events with over 120 different businesses and organisations aiming to inspire the next generation of engineers, accountants, educators and many more. Exhibitors included: Cisco, Pinewood Studios, Morgan Sindall and even hospitality from local chef Tom Kerridge!

Students were given the opportunity to meet and be inspired by employers looking to find future talent and to gain an insight into careers they were interested in but also to inspire them to perhaps look into something they had never considered before (and of course to pick up some merchandise on the way around!). Being able to walk around, visit different industries was extremely beneficial for our students as it allowed them to also gain an understanding of different skills needed for specific careers and how they could gain experience in particular industries. It was great to see the students engaging in activities with virtual reality headsets, changing tyres and even controlling diggers!

"The Bucks skills show was a really immersive event where we got to talk to different companies and groups spanning many different industries. We were provided the opportunity to talk to people with existing careers in exciting jobs, many offering apprenticeships, the experience was very enjoyable and educational!"

Aleeza Yahya, Year 9

Year 13 Guest speaker Alan Broadbent, Financial Director

Alan Broadbent delivered an interesting and thought provoking presentation to the Year 13 Business Studies pupils. He is about to become the new Financial Director of the UK Football Association having worked his way to this senior position working for BT, Vodafone and Sky. He spoke about his enjoyment of the academic side of things: A Level Business Studies and his degree at Manchester University, as well as the skills he had to develop when he found employment. Working as part of a team was an area in which he thrived and he enjoyed the challenge of problem solving and building a plan around people's strengths. He also supported the idea of learning a language as a way to stand out from the rest of the crowd when it comes to exploiting new opportunities - you cannot expect the rest of the world will want to speak your language!

The Borlase pupils asked him about what he studied at university, the exciting projects he was involved with and the softer skills of psychology and managing relationships he has to apply on a daily basis.



Year 9 & 10 Maths in Curriculum

A few weeks ago, Alan Broadbent kindly came to Sir William Borlase to talk to us about his journey through his career in finance starting from his education at the University of Manchester. After university, he did a three-year finance graduate scheme at BT where he worked as an Openreach Support Unit business partner and a retail billing and management accounts analyst for BT until 2008 when he became a Senior Finance Manager. The next step in his career was working for companies such as Vodafone and Sky, where he had various roles such as Commercial Finance Business Partner for Vodafone and then Head of Finance (TV and Cost transformation) for Sky before becoming the Director of Finance at Sky. Since his three-year finance graduate scheme, he has worked for over 16 years in his career in finance. He has recently started a new job working as the Director of Finance for The Football Association, where he has combined his passion for football with his experience in finance and leadership. Seeing how Alan could go so far with his career and have such an aspiring future really inspired us and changed our mindsets to how your future doesn't entirely depend on decisions made right now. Alan was very clear that your subject choices should include things you are good at but also that you enjoy. It was really helpful for me to hear Alan's story of someone who didn't take study maths at university or even A' level maths yet has had a very successful career in finance.

Ella Ramdeen, Evie Puddephatt and Annie Munro, Year 10

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Year 9 Practice Expedition

It was great to see 112 of our year 9 students brave the chilly weather and set out on their practice expedition from White Mark Farm in Watlington on Thursday 7th/8th March. The experience certainly taught them key skills such as learning to navigate, cook, work as a team and how to keep warm! Cuisine varied from the ubiquitous pasta and sauce, to hot dogs, to a delicious looking stew and teams did well to cook in cold temperatures and wind. After a cold night, teams were up early making porridge and pancakes and hot chocolates before packing their kit and setting off on their day hike around the beautiful Ridgeway. Thank you to The School of Outdoors and also to parents who unfailingly ferry their (and other's) children around the countryside, even with the end results of tired and very hungry children, muddy boots and dirty kit! It is much appreciated.

We are looking forward to the Bronze qualifying expeditions in March and April in Wallingford, and keeping fingers crossed for warmer weather! Silver and Gold practice and qualifying expeditions are also coming up throughout April, May and June.

Ms Holmes
Assistant Headteacher



Eco Conference - 14 March

After nearly a year of planning, 12 local primary schools and both the Marlow secondary schools came together at Great Marlow School for an Eco Conference. This was a fantastic showcase of the many local initiatives that exist to look after and promote our environment; this included the Chiltern Rangers, Wild Marlow, Releaf Marlow, the Marlow Wombles, Next Day Solar and the Florence Nightingale Charity Shop. Students from the Borlase Eco Committee attended and spent the afternoon talking to the stall holders to gain an insight into what they do and how they can get involved. We were also accompanied by a Year 12 photographer, Katy Butler, and a Year 10 journalist, Nikolai Meintjes, who captured the event for us. Nikolai has written the following report

Firstly, I meet Nicholas Horlsen, a founding trustee of Wild Marlow. With a background in chemistry, Nicholas believes there is a strong connection between science, people, and the environment. He tells me about Marlow’s peregrine falcons nesting on All Saints’ Church and swifts, known for their impressive wingspans and flights south to the Congo with no stops. Nicholas emphasises the importance of environmental education in supporting the plants, insects, and birds that in turn support our local environment. ‘Plants and animals were here before us, and they’ll be here long after we’re gone.’ He advocates for shared prosperity, better planetary management, and people’s welfare.

Next, I meet with Johnathon Slack, from Transition Town Marlow’s Releaf project, who shares his lifelong passion for trees. He also tells me that Releaf Marlow plants hedgerows and street trees, and gifts trees to local families. ‘The favourite part of my job is taking trees to families and seeing their faces. It’s wonderful’. Johnathon says that to combat the climate crisis and rising temperatures, governments need to think more long term and collaborate for our own mutual benefit.

Debbie Farmfield of the Marlow Wombles litter-picking group talks about how she enjoys her group’s sociableness. ‘We have like-minded people, and our group keeps getting bigger.’ She talks about the problem of plastic packaging in the wild: ‘We’ve got plastic in the fish that we eat.’ However, according to Debbie, the Government can help massively, by enforcing regulations on how much plastic packaging supermarkets can use.

Lastly I ask SWBGS students Colin Miles and Jack Berry about their thoughts. ‘I find it very interesting how there’s so many small companies here, who all have big interests.’ Colin also talks about Marlow Energy Group’s promotion of solar panels and other green energy, as well as Releaf Marlow’s support of the Marlow community, and that ‘it has free trees!’ Jack appreciates the variety of companies, especially the

Marlow Energy Group and the High Wycombe Bee Association, with whom he talked about SWBGS’s nature-area project. Overall, the event was very popular among students, with a wide variety of environmental groups.

To find out more about Wild Marlow, Releaf Marlow, and Marlow Wombles, you can visit their websites.

Nikolai Meintjes, Year 10

School Chess

The school chess team has again been active over the past half term. There was a team quickplay event at Harrow school for teams of 4, where we sent 2 teams. This proved to be a very enjoyable event for all the 9 students participating (especially Ben Norris and Harry Makepeace who agreed to play at very short notice!). Our A team drew and won the first 2 matches against Harrow and Bishop Douglas, meaning we were in 5th place, and in contention for qualifying for the next stage. Unfortunately we faded slightly, losing our last 2 matches to St Pauls and another Harrow team to finish in 13th place. The B team performed very creditably, including an excellent 4-0 win over Northwood, after which they were only just behind the A team but overall finished in 19th place out of 22. Special mention should go to Calvin Chris Biju who was undefeated in his 4 games on board 1 against some very strong opposition.

In addition we had our regional semi final against Eton College, which involved travelling there and playing 1 long play game (roughly 2 hours duration) against some very experienced opponents. Unfortunately, despite some very close games, the results didn’t go our way and we lost the match, however we do have 1 final chance to qualify for the national stages via an online event next term, so we shall try our best!

Mr Campbell
Teacher of Maths



ENRICHMENT

“400 Years in Marlow” Photography Competition

In the dark months at the beginning of the year and the Thames bursting its banks, most people (quite sensibly) will have been keen to hunker down indoors and wait (and they’re possibly still waiting) for better weather to come. So in some ways this was both the best and worst time to encourage members of the school to go out with their cameras and their phones to take the best photographs they could to capture the theme “400 years in Marlow”. Some hardy souls braved the cold, the dark, and the damp and entries were received from across Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 and the Staff.

Our winning entries were:

Junior

Winner: Lekha (Year 7), “The Blur of Higginson Park”

Runners Up: Aurelia (Year 7), “Sunset by the Thames”

Lana (Year 7), “Just the Beginning”

Noah (Year 7), “The View from the Lock”

Intermediate

Winner: Edward (Year 10), “Flood in the Thames”

Runners Up: Ellen (Year 11), “Marlow Bridge and All Saints’ Church”

Samantha (Year 10), “Shadowed Trees”

Senior

Winner: Maddy (Year 13), “The Thames”

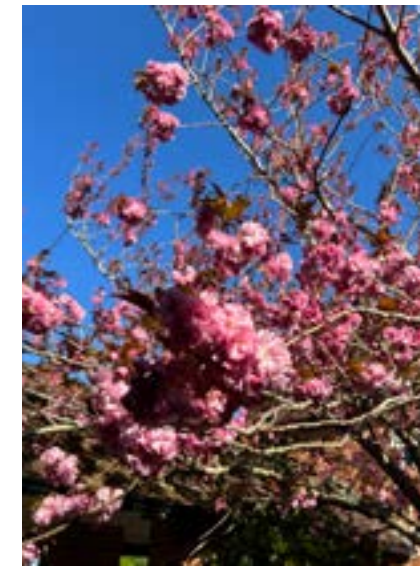
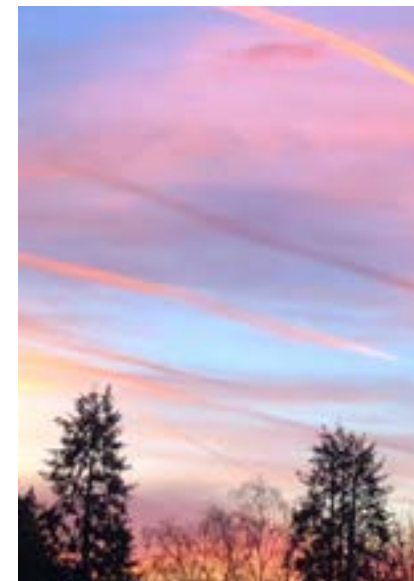
Runner Up: Sonia (Year 12), “A Passage Through Time”

Staff

Winner: Mrs Chambers, “Blossom and Bloom in Marlow”

Runner Up: Mr Blackwell, “Borlase Blossom”

The winners’ and the runners up’s printed and framed works will be on display after Easter.



HOUSE SYSTEM

House Debating & Public Speaking Competition

The second half of Spring Term has seen our annual House Debating and Public Speaking contest. In the first round of the Public Speaking competition, over 300 students either solo or in pairs delivered a 1 or 2 minute speech on a matter close to their hearts. The eclectic array of topics - including the pros and (mainly) cons of school uniform, whether Jaffa Cakes are cakes or biscuits, and why Daddy Pig needs to get fit - made for an enjoyable competition, especially given the enthusiasm with which many speeches were delivered, and made judging a pleasure. Our finals judges, Mr Goodall, Ms Harris and Mr Robson, however, had very hard time selecting the winners from these worthy finalists:

Key Stage 3:

Abby Barford - Britons - Autism is a spectrum
Jack Berry + Colin Miles - Danes - The environment (WINNER)
Aurora Taylor + Lily Lithgow Smith - Danes - Beauty standards and stereotypes
Poppy Pleming-Evans - Romans - Washing powder
Elizabeth Rayner + Freya Daly - Saxons - The voting age should be lowered to 12
Shreya Telfer - Saxons - Football is overrated (RUNNER-UP)
Hannah Young + Isla Lombardo - Saxons - Superheroes should pay for the damage they do

Key Stage 4:

Thara Paidipati - Danes - Animal cruelty
Amelie Riddle - Danes - School bathrooms
Krishan Sandhu - Danes - The Jallianwala Bagh massacre (RUNNER-UP)
Jessica Dale + Ava Barry - Normans - The gender pay gap
Edward Bunting - Normans - Politics
George Clarke - Saxons - Why we need to colonise Mars (WINNER)

Key Stage 5:

Aaliyah Cain - Britons - Time is the greatest asset (WINNER)
Nima Firdoose - Danes - Can money buy happiness?
Fin Engleberts - Danes - How to argue badly
Gabriel Andlauer-Turner - Romans - Palestine (RUNNER-UP)
Freddy Smith - Romans - Australia and criminals
Leo Tardiff - Romans - Prisons and petty crime
Joe Cockroft - Romans - The stupidity of the platypus
Zara Yates - Romans - Rebuilding trust in public life (did not compete)
Holly Rawlinson - Saxons - The Barbie Movie
Alexander Hill - Saxons - Board games
Toby Dickinson - Vikings - How privatisation failed
Lara Fox-Hill - Vikings - Buffy the Vampire Slayer
Calvin Chris-Biju - Vikings - Hiring on merit rather than diversity (RUNNER-UP)
Fin Engleberts - Danes - How to argue badly



For the Inter-house Debating competition, each house put forward a team of three students, one from each Key Stage. Houses competed with each other over three days, either proposing or opposing a motion. In the first debate, Normans defeated Danes, proposing the motion 'This house would re-instate capital punishment in the UK.' In the second debate, Saxons narrowly beat Britons proposing the motion 'This house would abolish the House of Lords.' And in the final debate Romans defeated Vikings proposing the motion 'This house would ban generative AI in the UK.' Ultimately, our judges, Mr Simpson and Mr Robson, selected Saxons and Romans to go head to head in the Grand Final, debating the motion 'This house would abolish the charitable status of independent schools,' with Romans proposing the motion. All speakers made powerful and persuasive arguments for and against the motion and the standard was very high. Joining the judging panel Ms Mary Brooke, the former Head of English, praised the students' logic and attention to detail before presenting the Borlase House Debating trophy to the winners, Romans.

The overall competition was won by Saxons with Romans 2nd and Danes 3rd. Thank you to everyone who took part and made this such an engaging competition.

Mr Lofthouse, Literacy Coordinator

House Chess Competition

The house chess competition this year is running in 2 stages. The online mass participation was run from the 11th - 15th March house on the chess.com website. This enabled many games to be played between people from competing houses. There quickly emerged 2 competing divisions, where Normans, Vikings and Saxons battled for the top 3 spots and Romans, Britons and Danes fought between them for the bottom 3 places. There were around 60 different students who took part in the lunchtime sessions over the week, many several times and around 350 individual games were completed. The added element this year (as requested by some of our chess team) was of qualifying, via a top 3 finish each day, for an over the board knockout round which is taking place over the last 2 weeks of term for the top 17 qualifiers. The daily house winners were: Monday- Vikings, Tuesday - Normans, Wednesday - Vikings, Thursday - Vikings and Friday - Normans and Vikings. Individually the top scorers each day were: Jacob Cooke, Jack Barry, Charlie Palmer (twice) and Andrew Freedman. The standings after the online stage are 1st Vikings, 2nd Normans, 3rd Saxons, 4th Britons, 5th Romans, 6th Danes. This is subject to change due to bonus points for the over the board stage where there are 7 Vikings, 5 Normans, 4 Saxons and 1 Roman participating. Thank you to all those who took part, I hope everyone enjoyed it and are looking forward to next year's event. Finally, I'm looking forward to declaring an individual house chess champion in the last week of term.

Mr Campbell, Maths Teacher





FRIENDS OF BORLASE

The Friends of Borlase – Parents helping Students

In the spirit of beginning as one means to go on, the first three months of the Borlase 400 year have been busy for the Friends of Borlase (FoB)! We worked hard at the Friends Bar during the four-night, sold-out run of this year's **Senior Musical: Jesus Christ Superstar** in early February. (What a thrill to have the show's lyricist Sir Tim Rice in the audience on Opening Night – it was delightful to see the awe and excitement of the cast and crew as this esteemed artist favoured us all with a few words and posed for photos after the final bows.)

In late February our Friends Bar volunteers got the rare chance to be in the thick of things, slinging drinks inside the Mountfield Theatre at the **Borlase400 Jazz Night** – we had the best seats in the house! And we were also proud to help refresh the thoughtful and engaged audience at **Borlase400 Question Time** to kick off March.

As we career into the Easter break – after I've submitted this piece, though no doubt all will go to plan, she wrote confidently – the FoB will have donated soft drinks and snacks for sale by the students at the **Borlase400 Student Concert** featuring West Street, Offbeat, Incognito and The Fundamentals AND have run the Friends Bar at both **Dance Nights**. As I said: busy times!

We'll also have held a FoB meeting on 25 March to vote on funding requests for a variety of green initiatives and STEM projects at the school – look for updates on our socials next term. (Follow us on [Instagram @friends_of_borlase](#) and on [Twitter/X @FriendsSWBGS](#))

PLUS: we'll have started assembling FoB volunteer teams for the **Borlase400 Dinner and Ball** on 29 June – come help with Décor, Bar, Coat Check, or Clear-Up! Expertise is most welcome, but no experience is required – please drop a line to friends@swbgs.com to volunteer or for any other reason. (In fact, this author will be returning to Canada in early July, so any parents interested in **joining the FoB in the role of Secretary, or to assist with Communications and Friends Bar logistics**, please sing out...)

The proceeds from all FoB fundraising goes to enrich the lives and support the learning of all our Borlase students.

Happy Spring!

By Adrienne Blair – Friends of Borlase Secretary

